

Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey

Executive Summary of Citizen Survey Results

Overview of the Methodology

The Lindenhurst Park District conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during July and August of 2004 to help establish priorities for the future of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the Lindenhurst area. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with Lindenhurst Park District officials in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future system.

In July of 2004, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 1,995 households in the Lindenhurst community and the Village of Lake Villa. Approximately 2 weeks after the surveys were mailed, Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone, either to encourage completion of the mailed survey or to administer the survey by phone.

The goal was to obtain at least 400 completed surveys, with 300 being from Lindenhurst Park District residents, and 100 from Village of Lake Villa residents. This goal was far exceeded with 553 surveys having been completed, including 452 from Lindenhurst Park District residents, and 101 from Village of Lake Villa residents. The results of the random sample of 553 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.2%.

This report contains the following five sections:

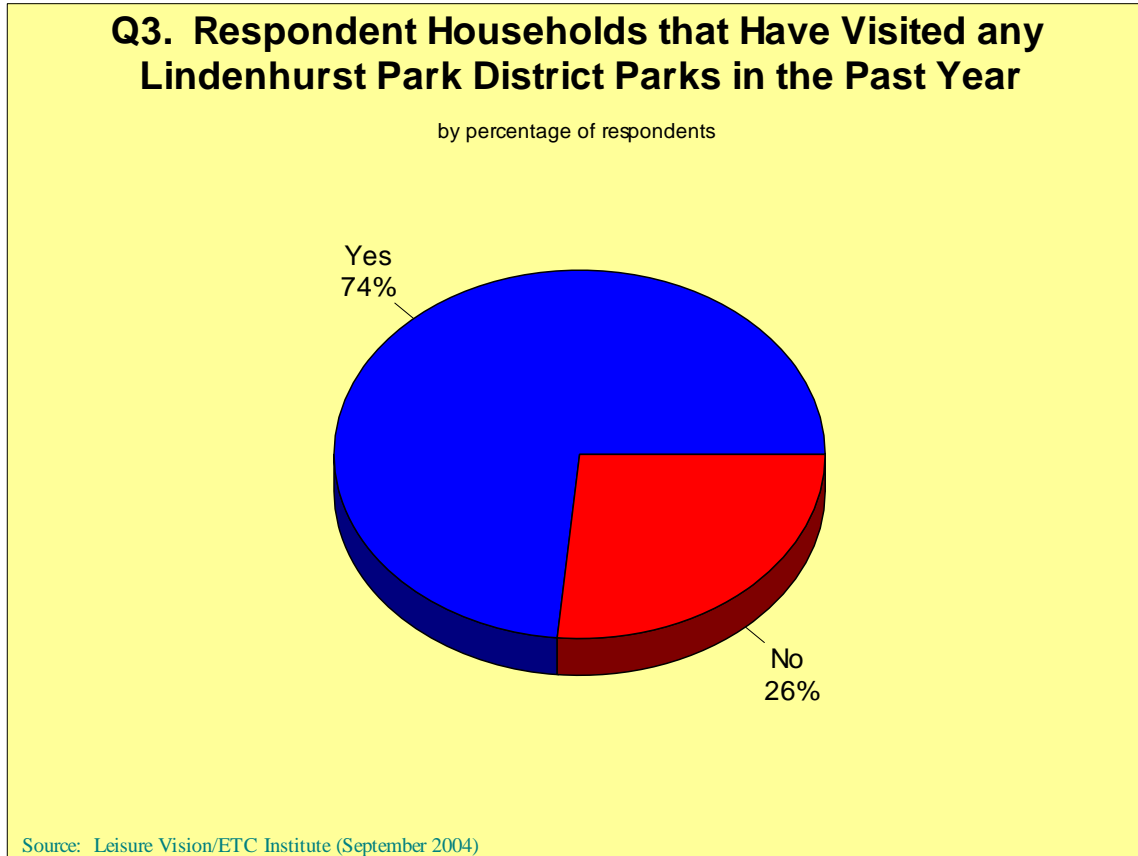
- an executive summary of survey results and National and Illinois benchmarking comparisons to the Lindenhurst Park District
- cross-tabular data by household size, household type, and gender
- cross-tabular data by age of respondents, location of residence, and value of residence
- cross-tabular data by park visitation, program participation, and voting on a bond referendum
- a copy of the survey instrument.

The following pages summarize major survey findings:

Visitation of Lindenhurst Park District Parks

Respondents were asked if they or any member of their household have visited any Lindenhurst Park District parks during the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

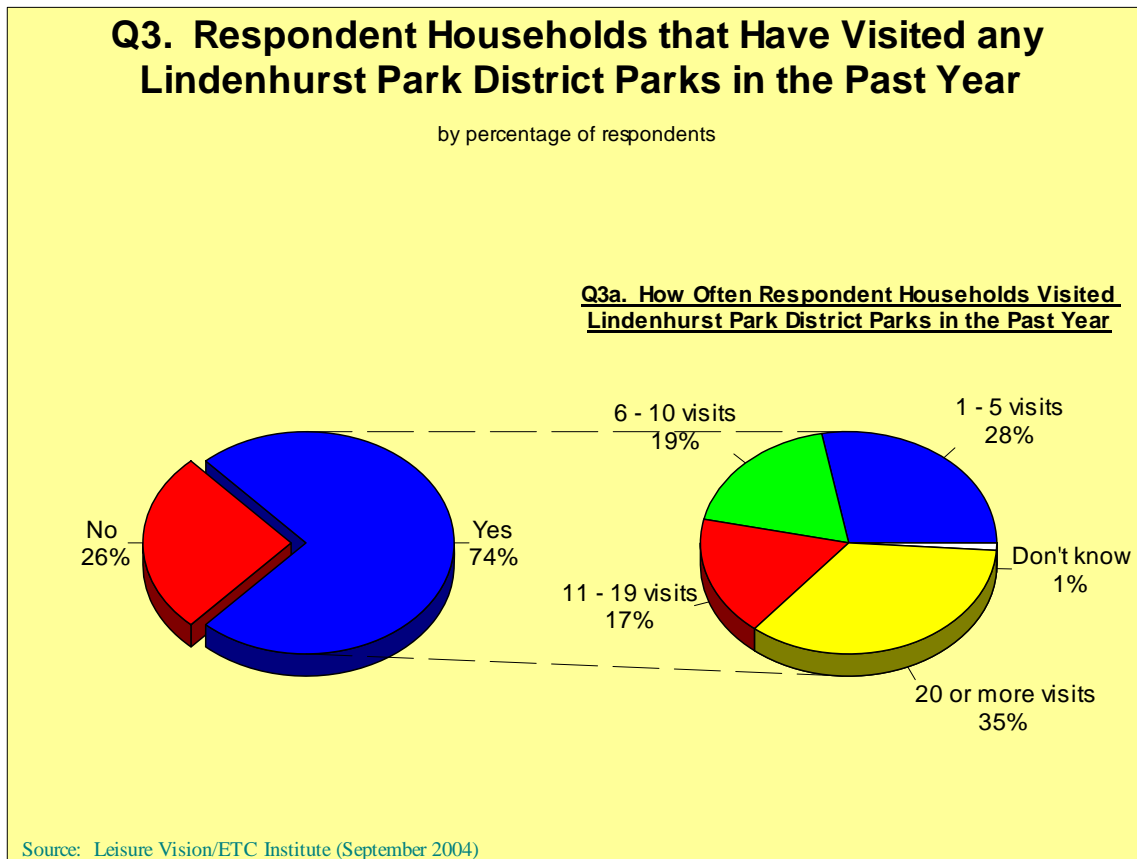
- **Seventy-four percent (74%) of respondent households have visited Lindenhurst Park District parks during the past year, and 26% have not visited Lindenhurst Park District parks.**



Frequency of Visits to Lindenhurst Park District Parks

Respondent households that have visited Lindenhurst Park District parks during the past year were asked to indicate approximately how often they and members of their household have visited parks during the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

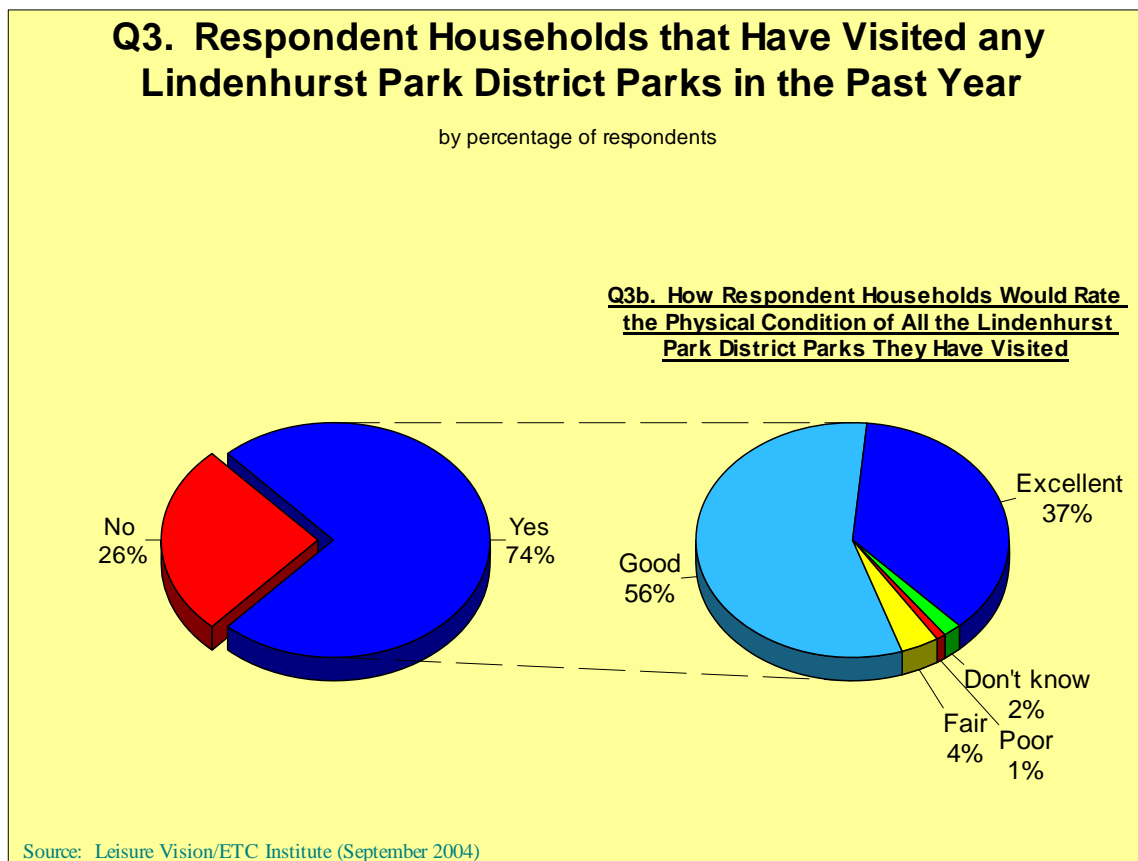
- **Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondent households who have visited Lindenhurst Park District parks in the past year have made 20 or more visits to parks during that time.** An additional 28% have visited parks 1 to 5 times, 19% have visited parks 6 to 10 times, and 17% have visited parks 11 to 19 times. The remaining 1% indicated “don’t know”.



Physical Condition of Lindenhurst Park District Parks

Respondent households that have visited Lindenhurst Park District parks during the past year were asked to rate the quality of the parks they have visited. The following summarizes key findings:

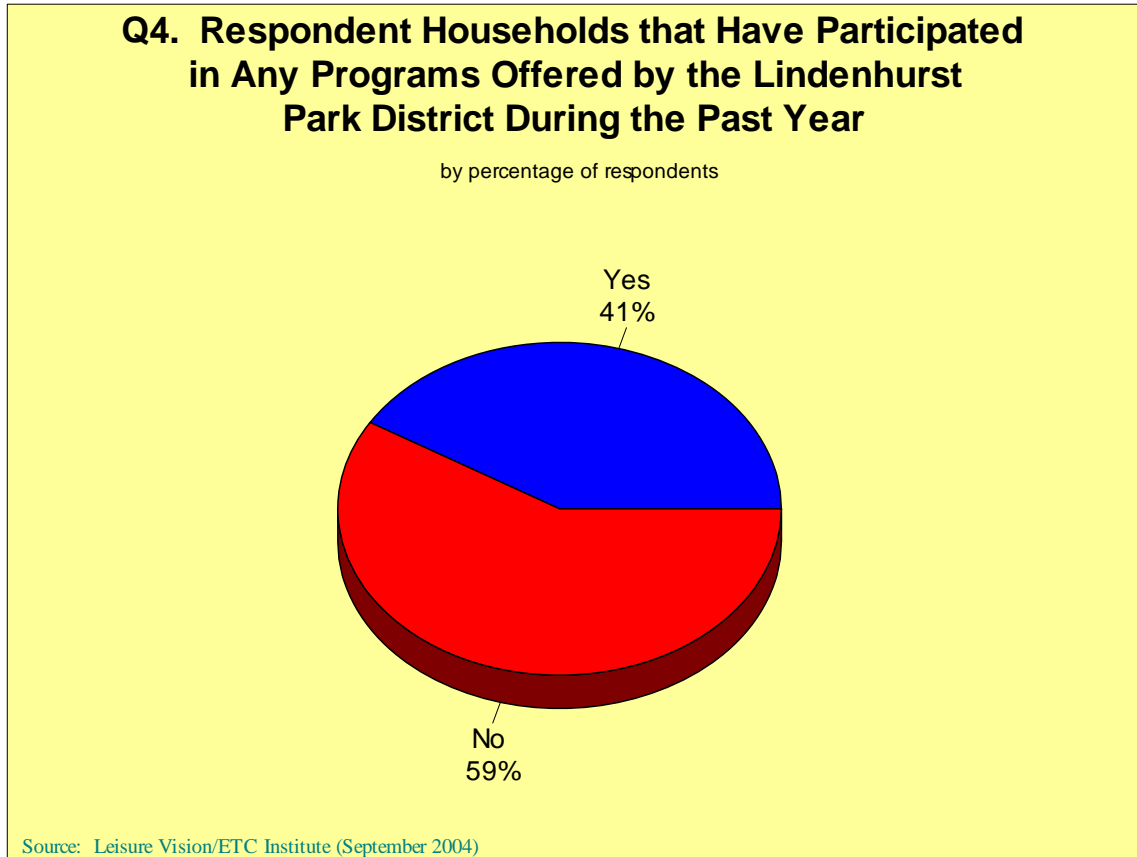
- **Ninety-three percent (93%) of respondent households that have visited Lindenhurst Park District parks during the past year rated the quality of those parks as either excellent (37%) or good (56%).** Four percent (4%) rated the parks as fair and only 1% rated the parks as poor. The remaining 2% indicated “don’t know”.



Participation in Programs Offered by the Lindenhurst Park District

Respondents were asked if they or other members of their household have participated in any programs offered by the Lindenhurst Park District during the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

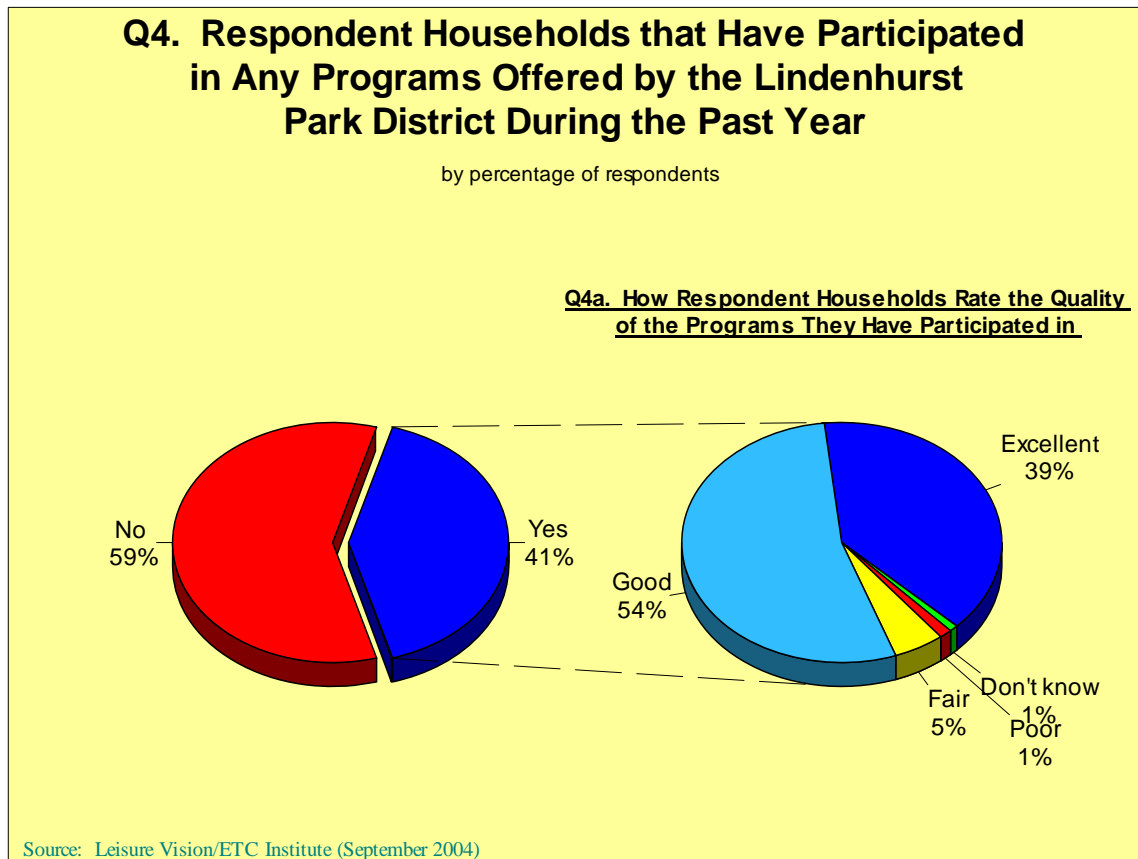
- **Forty-one percent (41%) of respondent households have participated in programs offered by the Lindenhurst Park District during the past year, and 59% of respondent households have not participated in Lindenhurst Park District programs.**



Quality of Lindenhurst Park District Programs

Respondent households that have participated in programs offered by the Lindenhurst Park District during the past year were asked to rate the quality of the programs they have participated in. The following summarizes key findings:

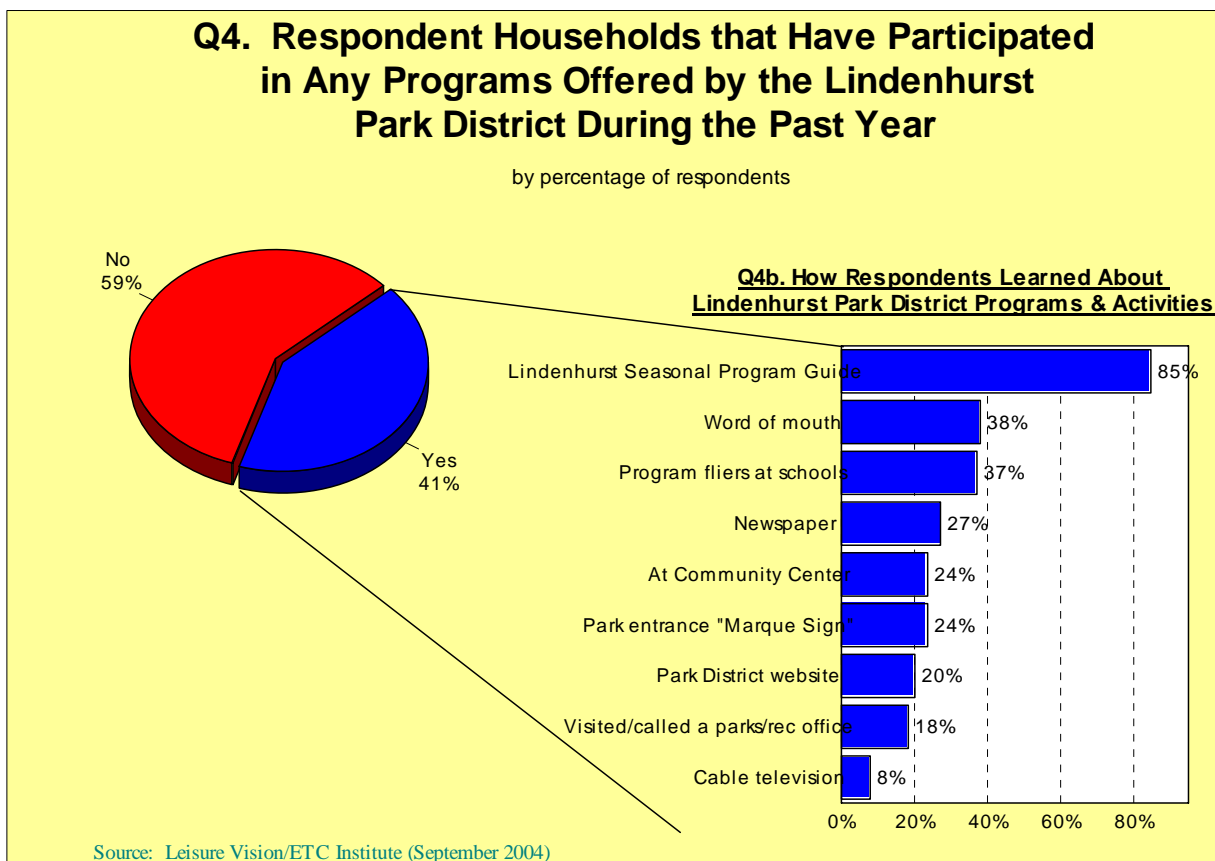
- **Ninety-three percent (93%) of respondent households who have participated in Lindenhurst Park District programs rated the quality of those programs as either excellent (39%) or good (54%).** Five percent (5%) rated the programs as fair, and only 1% rated them as poor. The remaining 1% indicated “don’t know”.



Where Respondents Learned About Lindenhurst Park District Programs

From a list of nine options, respondent households that have participated in programs offered by the Lindenhurst Park District during the past year were asked to indicate all of the ways they have learned about the programs. The following summarizes key findings:

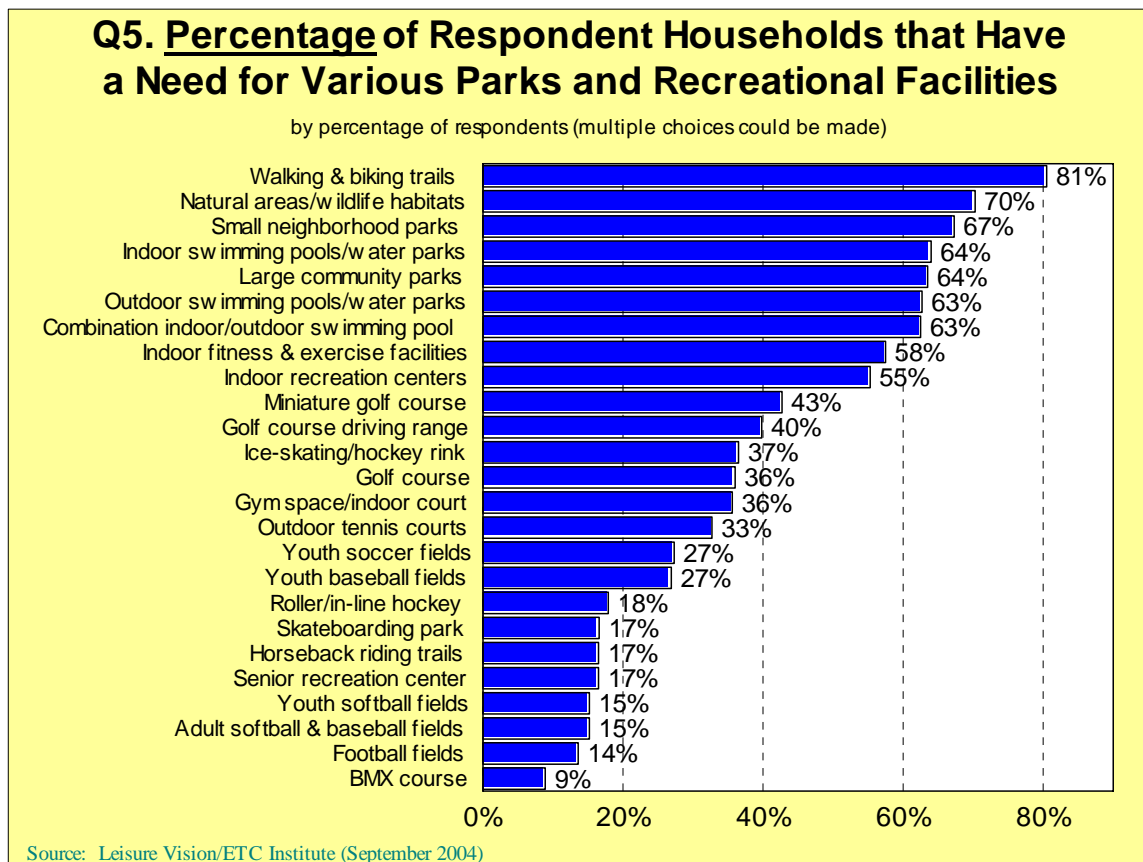
- **Of those respondent households that have participated in Lindenhurst Park District programs, the Lindenhurst Seasonal Program Guide (85%) is by a wide margin the most frequently mentioned way they have learned about programs.** There are two other ways that over 35% of respondents have learned about programs, including: word of mouth (38%); and program fliers at schools (37%).



Need for Various Parks and Recreation Facilities

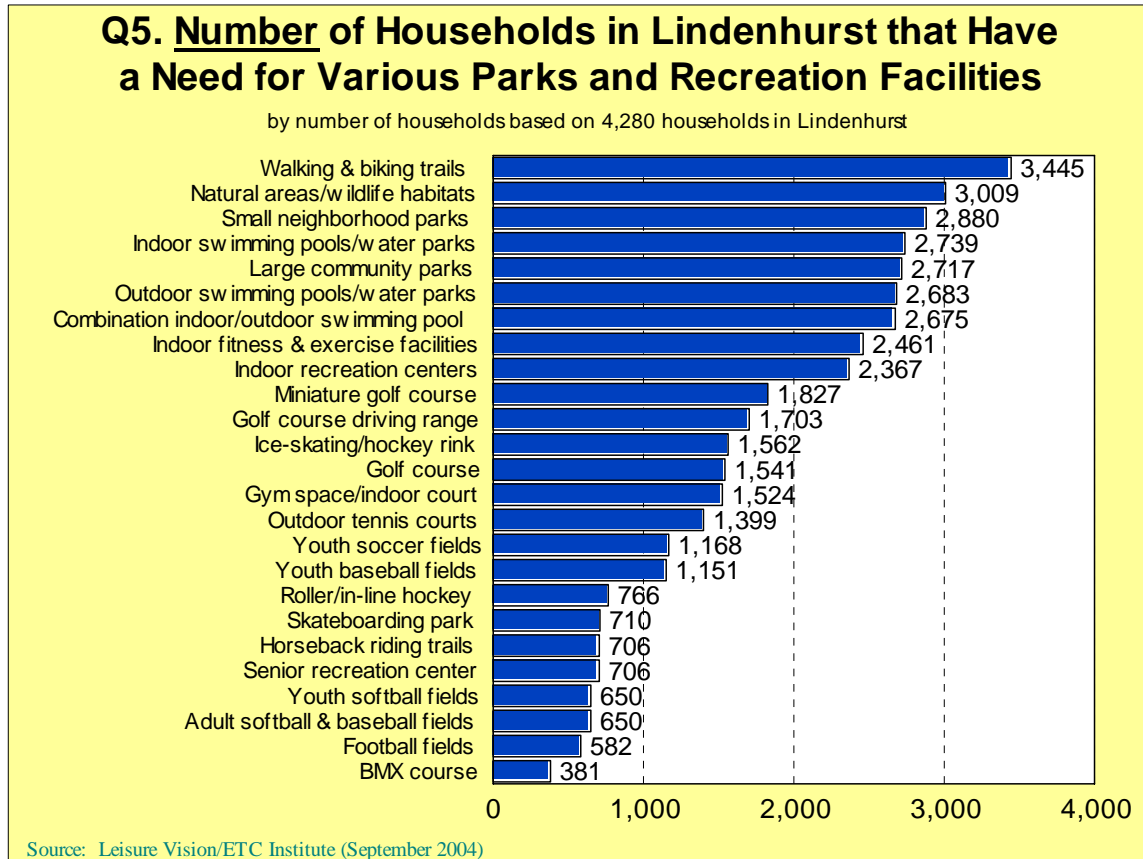
From a list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate which ones they and members of their household have a need for. The following summarizes key findings:

- Seven of the 25 parks and recreation facilities had over 60% of respondent households indicate they have a need for the facility.** The facilities that the highest percentage of respondent households indicated they have a need for include: walking and biking trails (81%); natural areas/wildlife habitats (70%); small neighborhood parks (67%); indoor swimming pools/water parks (64%); large community parks (64%); outdoor swimming pools/water parks (63%); and combination indoor/outdoor swimming pool (63%).



Parks and Recreation Facilities Lindenhurst Households Have a Need For

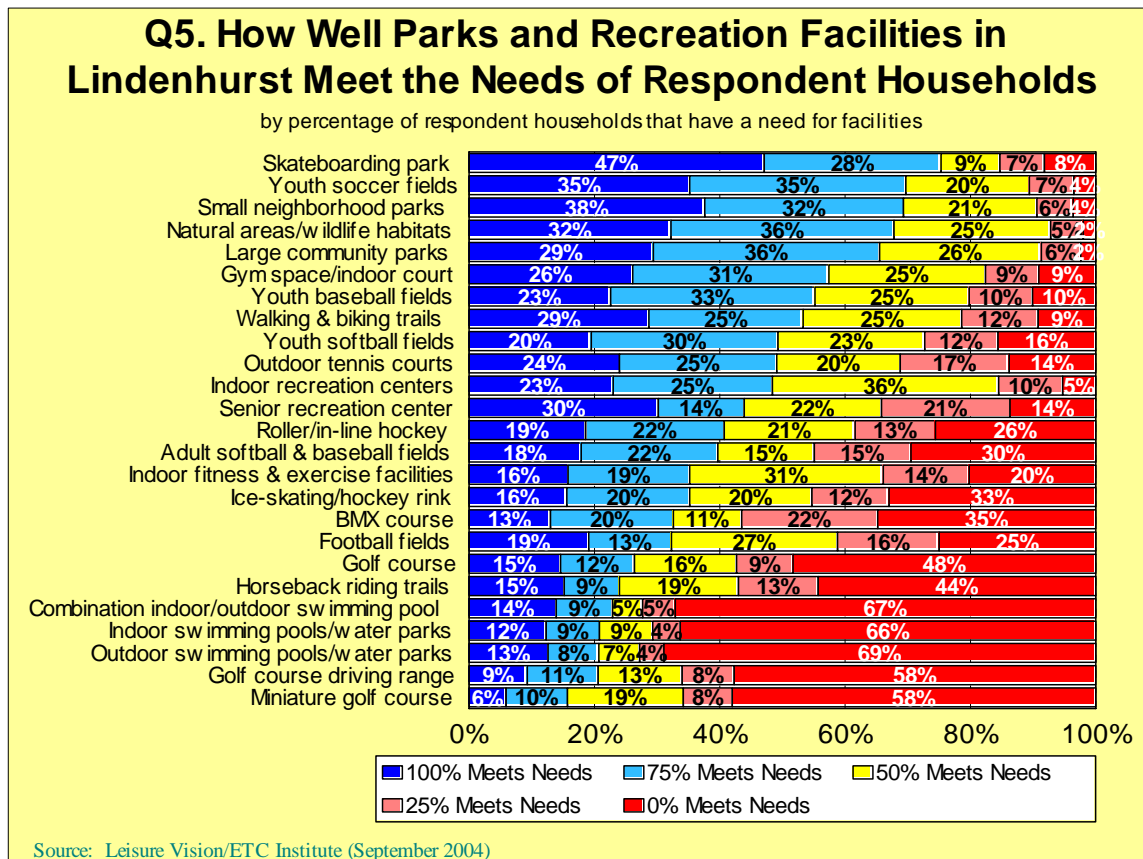
From the list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate which ones they and members of their household have a need for. The graph below summarizes key findings on the previous page by the number of households having a need for various parks and recreation facilities in Lindenhurst, based on 4,280 households in Lindenhurst.



How Well Parks and Recreation Facilities Meet Needs

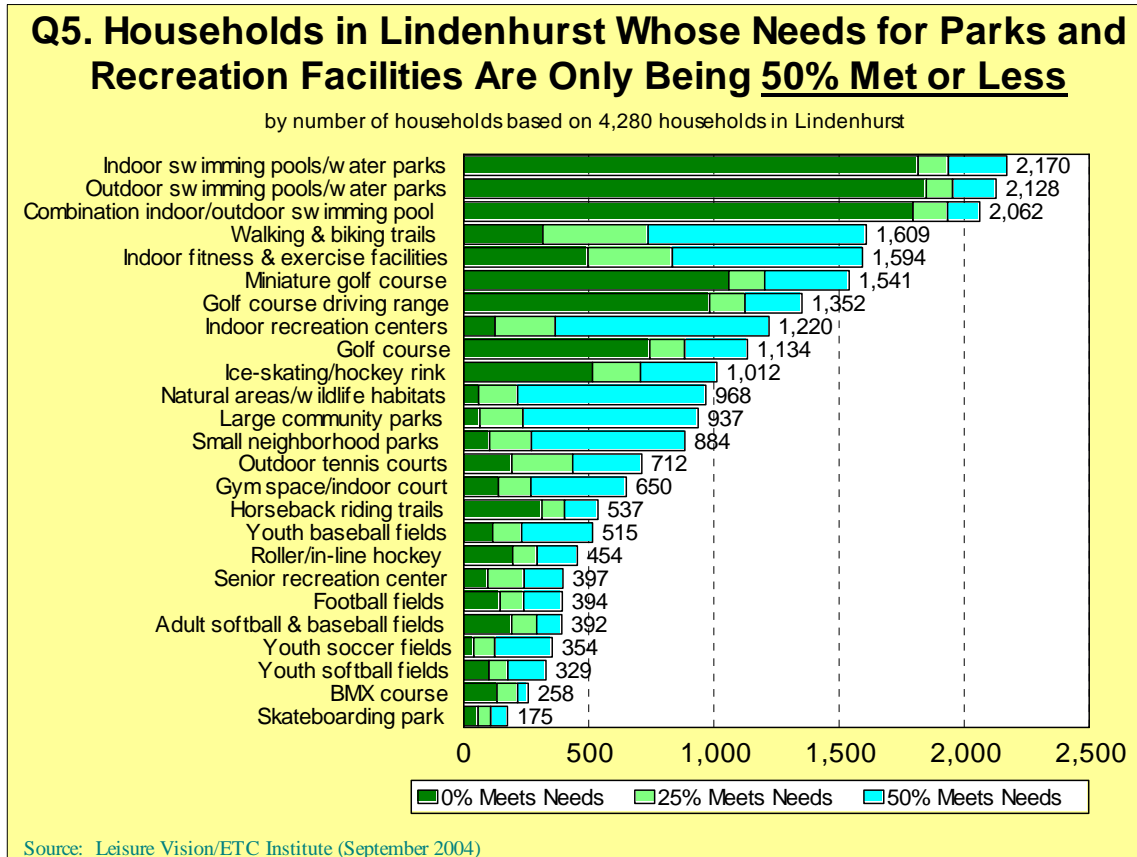
From the list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondent households that have a need for facilities were asked to indicate how well each facility meets the needs of their household. The following summarizes key findings:

- Five of the 25 parks and recreation facilities had at least 30% of respondents indicate that the facility 100% meets the needs of their household.** The facilities that had the highest percentage of respondents indicate that the facility 100% meets the needs of their household includes: skateboarding park (47%); small neighborhood parks (38%); youth soccer fields (35%); natural areas/wildlife habitats (32%); and senior recreation center (30%). It should also be noted that all 25 facilities had less than 50% of respondents indicate that the facility 100% meets the needs of their household.



Households in Lindenhurst with 50% or Less of their Needs for Facilities Being Met

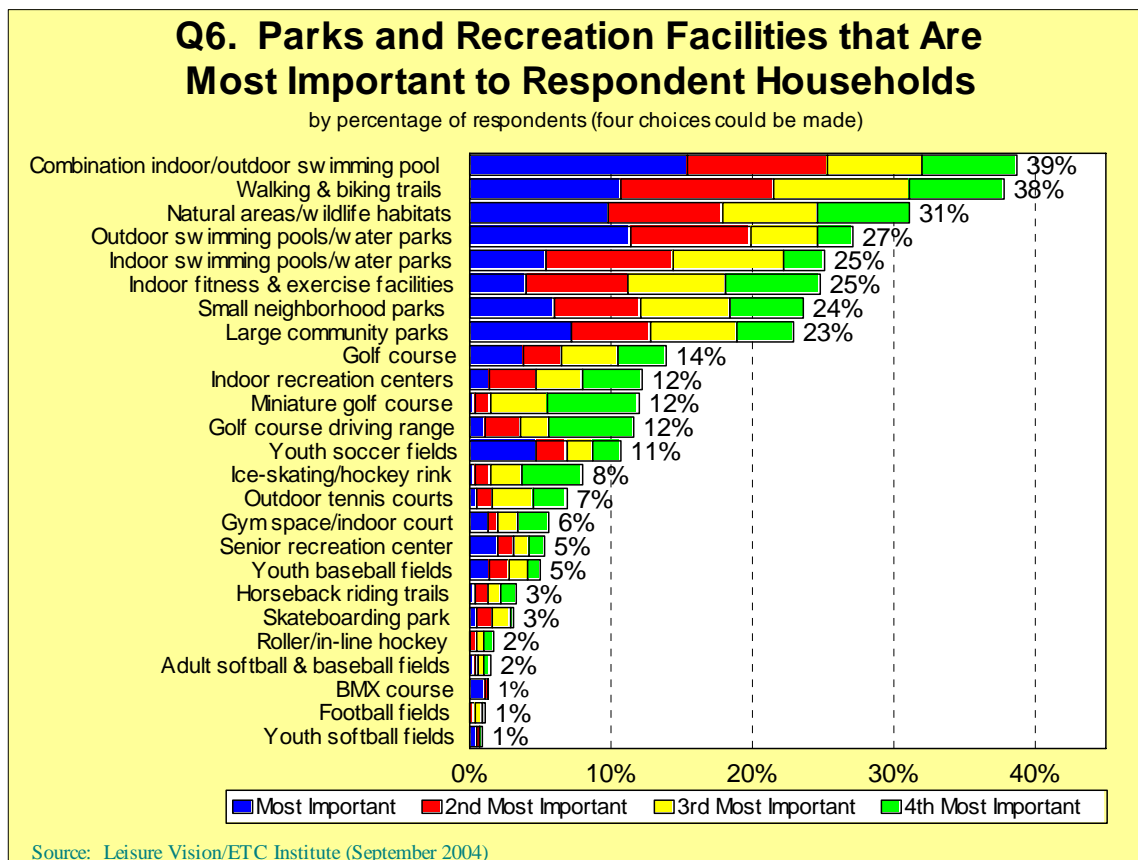
From the list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate how well each facility meets the needs of their household. The graph below shows the number of households in Lindenhurst whose needs for the facilities are only being 50% met or less, based on 4,280 households in Lindenhurst.



Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities

From the list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to select the four that are most important to them and members of their household. The following summarizes key findings:

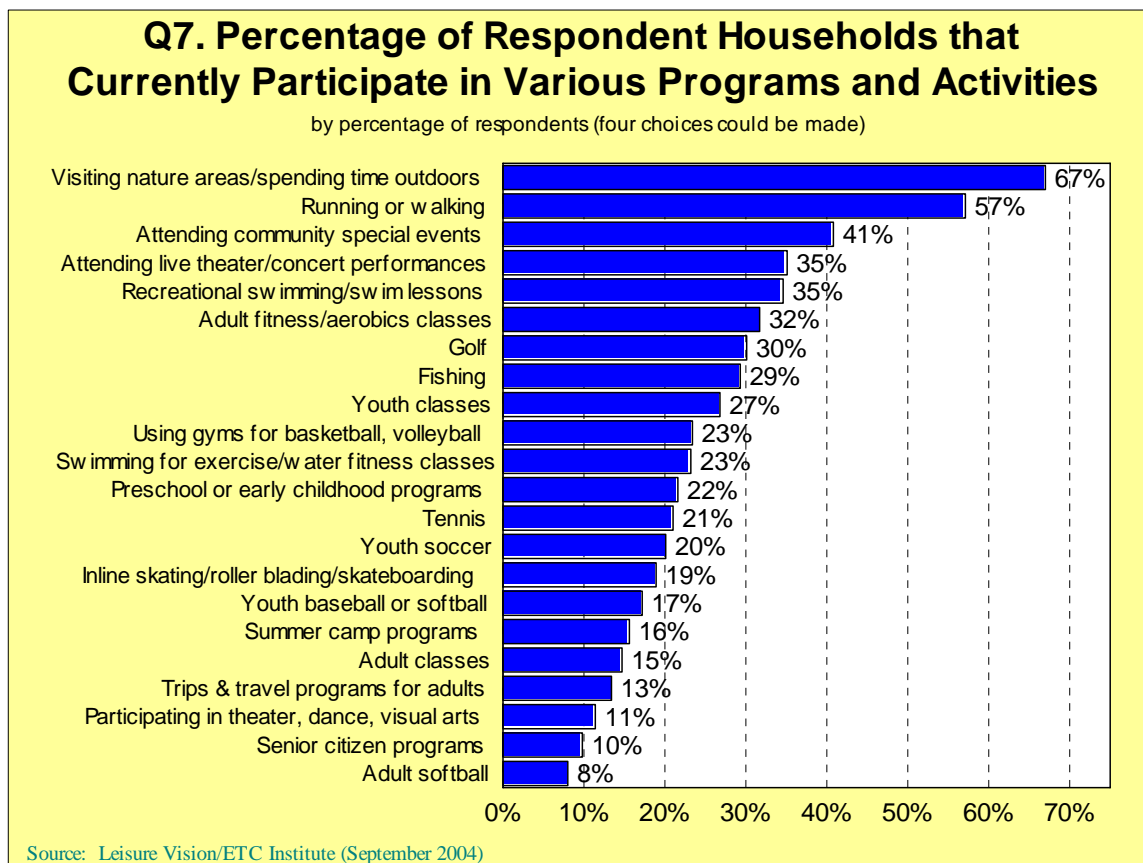
- Combination indoor/outdoor swimming pool (39%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four most important facilities to their household.** There are three other facilities that over 25% of respondents selected as one of the four most important, including: walking & biking trails (38%); natural areas/wildlife habitats (31%); and outdoor swimming pools/water parks (27%). It should also be noted that a combination indoor/outdoor swimming pool had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important facility.



Current Participation in Programs and Activities

From a list of 22 programs and activities available to Lindenhurst residents, listed below are the percentage of respondent households that currently have at least one person in their household participate in a program or activity. The following summarizes key findings:

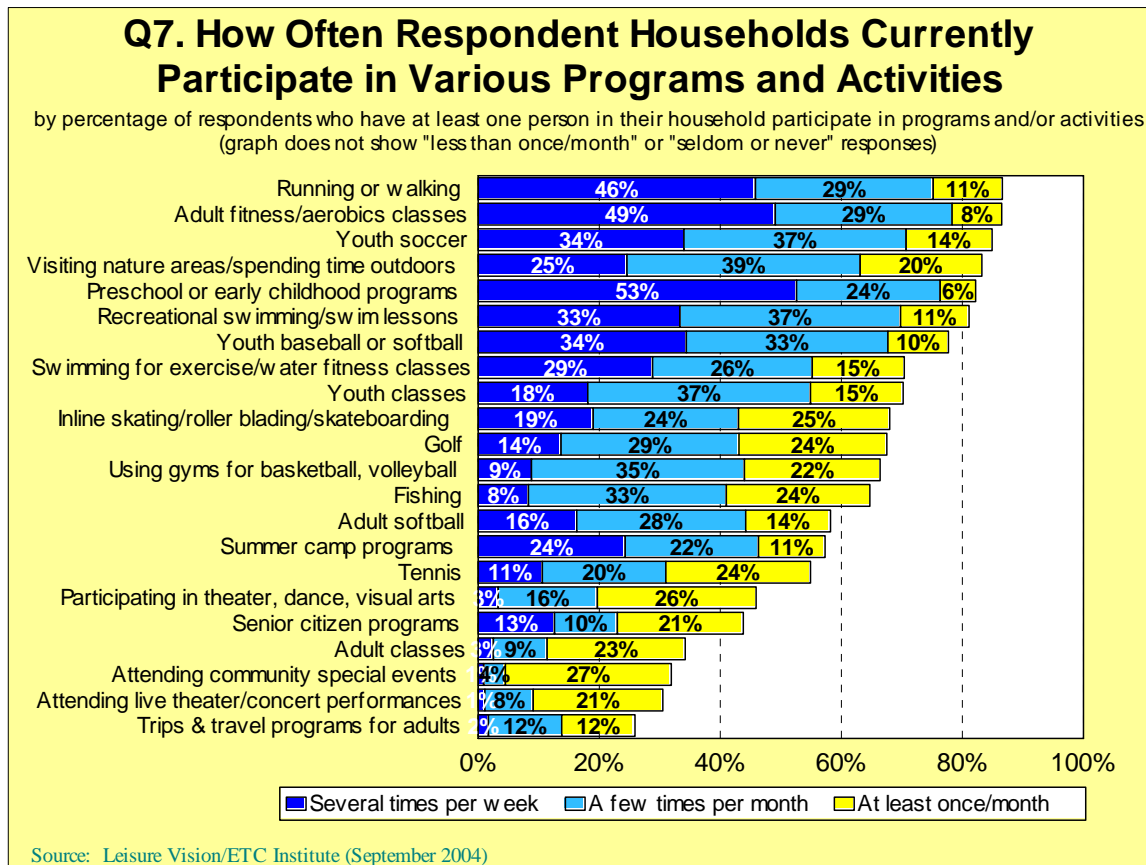
- Three of the 22 programs and activities had over 40% of respondents indicate that at least one person in their household currently participates in them.** The programs and activities that the highest percentage of respondent households participate in include: visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (67%); running or walking (57%); and attending community special events (41%).



Frequency of Use of Programs and Activities

From the list of 22 programs and activities available to Lindenhurst residents, respondents who have at least one person in their household participate in programs or activities were asked to indicate how often they participate in each one. The following summarizes key findings:

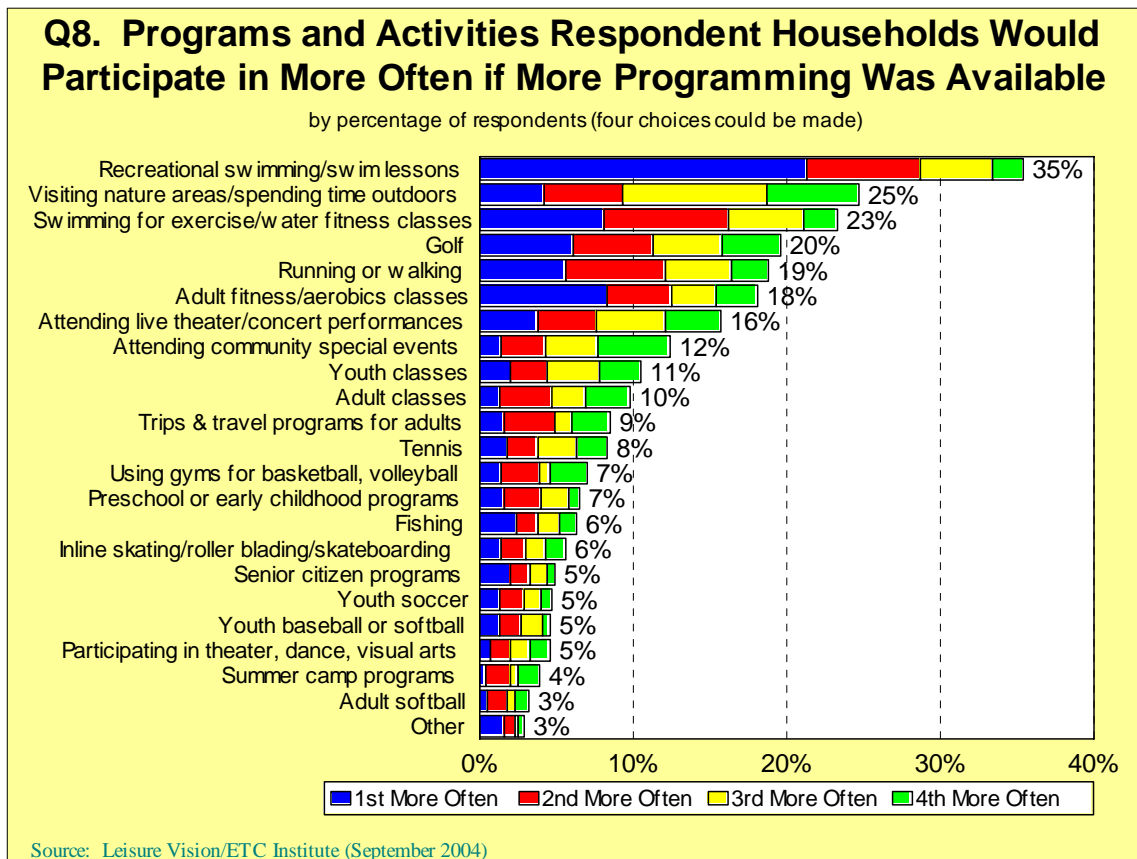
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondent households that participate in running or walking, and adult fitness/aerobics classes indicated that they currently participate in those programs/activities at least once per month.** There are four other programs/activities that over 80% of respondent households currently participate in at least once a month, including: youth soccer (85%); visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (84%); preschool or early childhood programs (83%); and recreational swimming/swim lessons (81%). It should also be noted that preschool or early childhood programs (53%) is the program/activity that the highest percentage of respondent households currently participate in several times per week, based on those households who have at least one person in their household participate in programs/activities.



Programs/Activities Respondent Households Would Participate in More Often

From the list of 22 programs and activities available to Lindenhurst residents, respondents were asked to select the four that they and members of their household would participate in more often if more programming was made available by the Lindenhurst Park District. The following summarizes key findings:

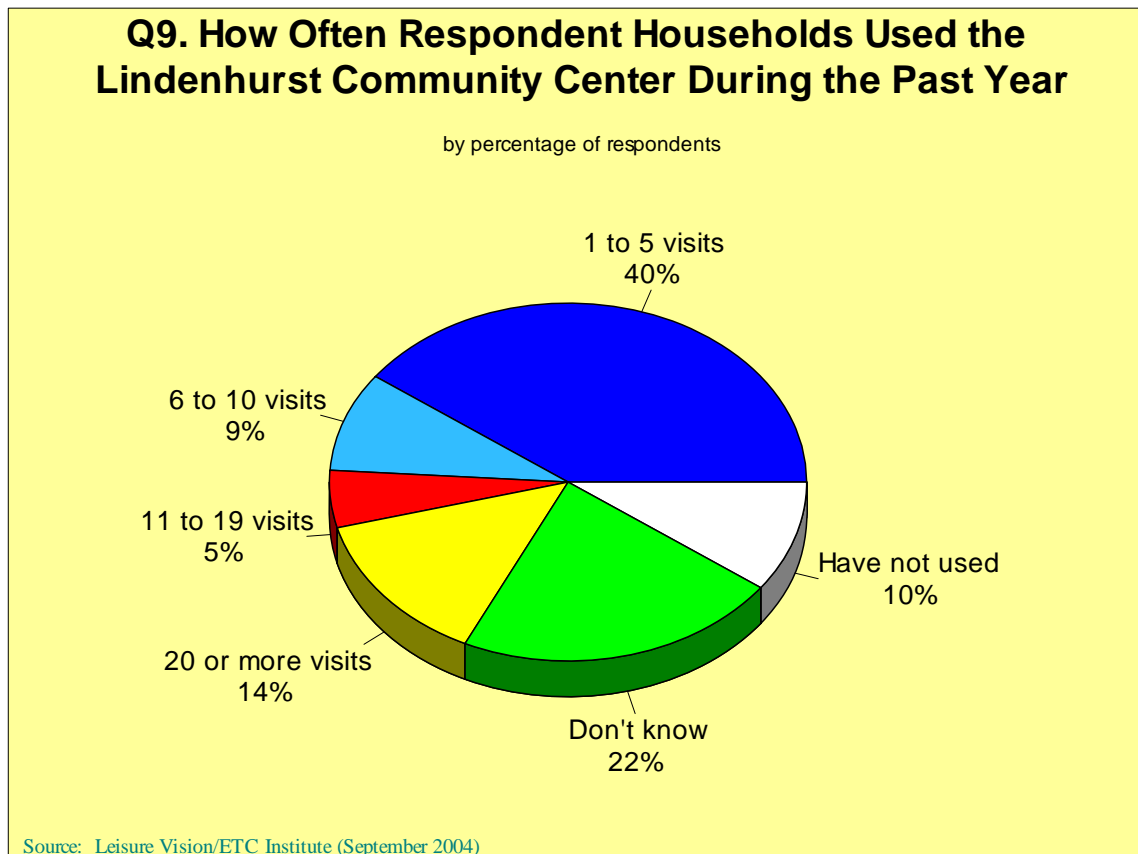
- Recreational swimming/swim lessons (35%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four programs or activities they would participate in more often if more programming were made available by the Park District.** There are six other programs or activities that over 15% of respondents selected as one of the four they would most participate in more often, including: visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (25%); swimming for exercise/water fitness classes (23%); golf (20%); running or walking (19%); adult fitness/aerobics classes (18%); and attending live theater/concert performances (16%). It should also be noted that recreational swimming/swim lessons had by a wide margin the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the program or activity they would participate in more often if more programming were available.



Frequency of Use of the Lindenhurst Community Center

Respondents were asked how often they and members of their household have used the Lindenhurst Community Center during the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

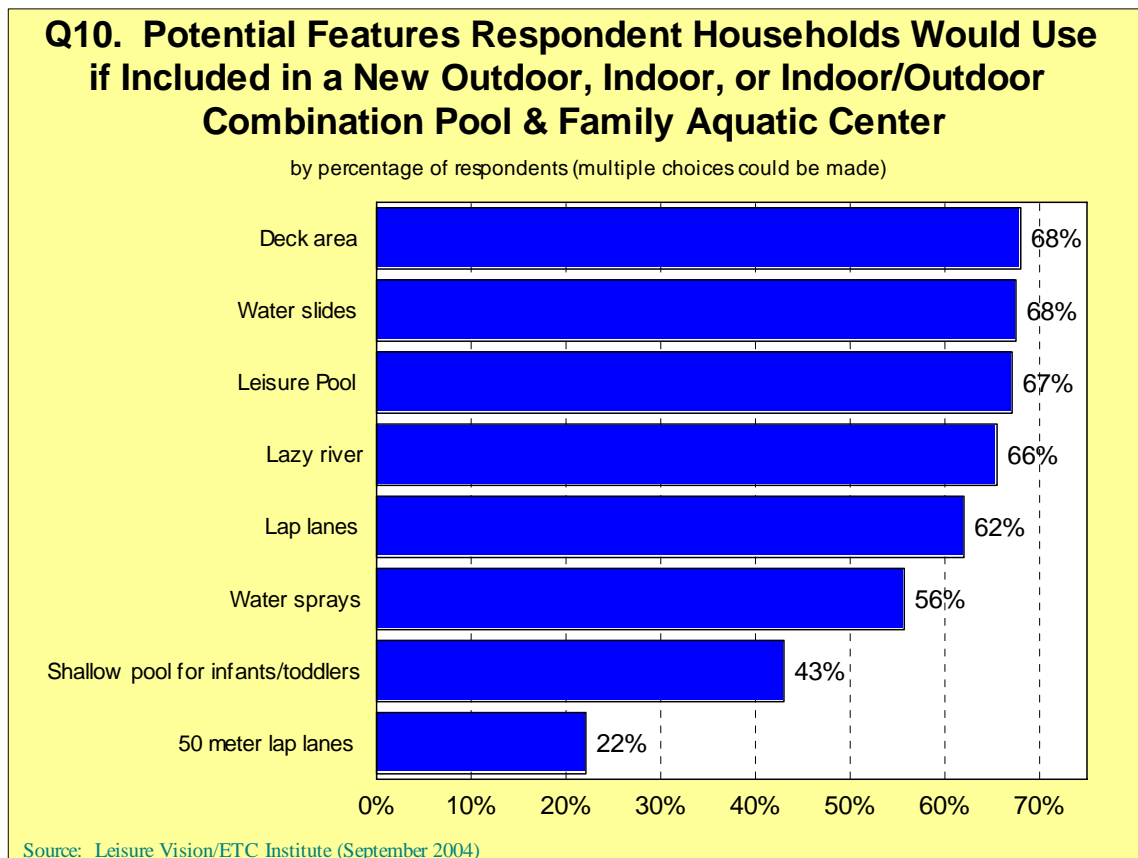
- **Sixty-eight percent (68%) of respondent households have used the Lindenhurst Community Center at least once during the past year.** This group includes 40% who have used the center 1 to 5 times, 14% who have used it 20 or more times, 9% who have used it 6 to 10 times, and 5% who have used it 11 to 19 times. Ten percent of respondent households indicated they have not used the Lindenhurst Community Center during the past year, and 22% indicated “don’t know.”



Use of Potential Features for a New Outdoor, Indoor, or Indoor/Outdoor Combination Pool & Family Aquatic Center

From a list of eight options, respondents were asked to select all of the potential features they would use if included in a new outdoor, indoor, or indoor/outdoor combination pool and family aquatic center in Lindenhurst. The following summarizes key findings:

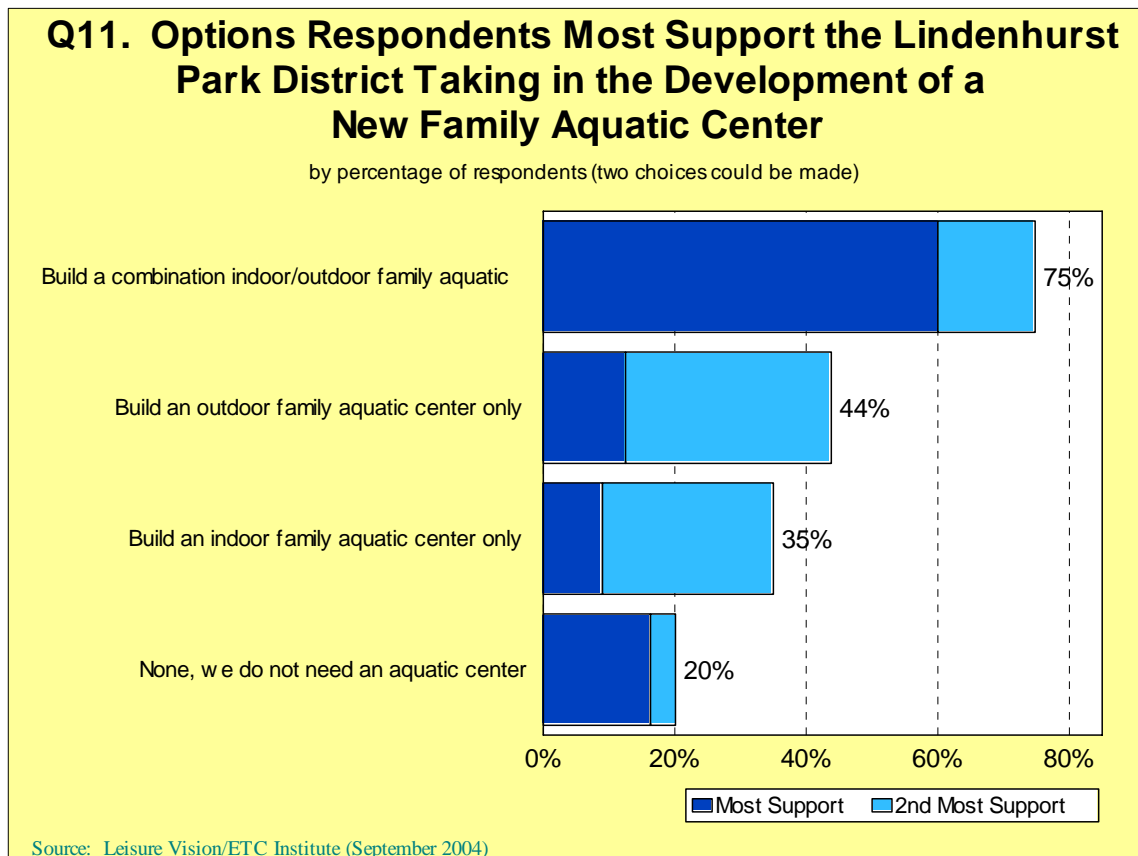
- **Five of the eight potential features had more than 60% of respondent households indicate they would use them if included in a new outdoor, indoor, or indoor/outdoor combination pool and family aquatic center.** The features that the highest percentage of respondent households indicated they would use includes: deck area for sunbathing and relaxing (68%), water slides (68%), leisure pool with gentle slope entry for walking into the water (67%), lazy river that allows you to float on a raft or other floatation devices through a pool of slowly moving water (66%), and lap lanes for exercise, lessons and lap swimming (62%).



Support for New Outdoor, Indoor or Indoor/Outdoor Combination Options

From a list of three options that could be developed adjacent to the Lindenhurst Community Center, respondents were asked to select the top two that they and members of their household most support. The following summarizes key findings:

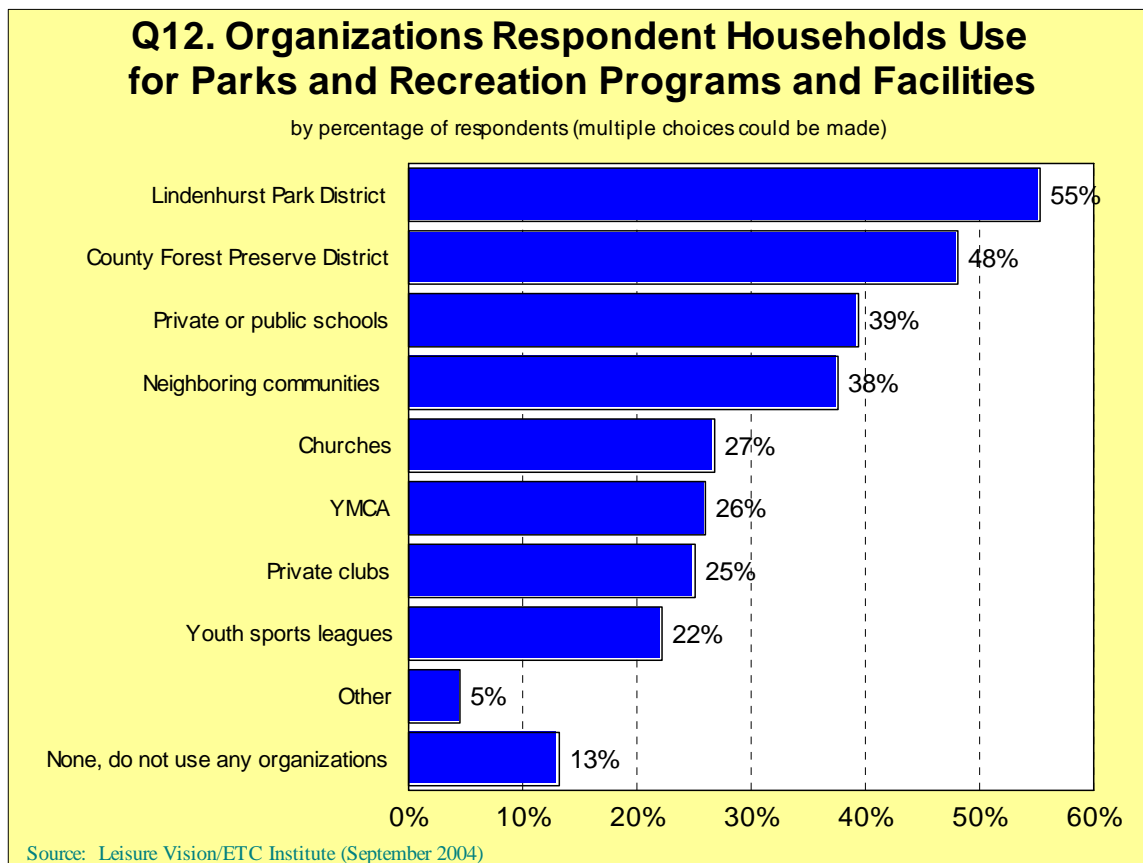
- **“Combination indoor/outdoor family aquatic center” (75%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the two options they would most support.** Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents selected “build an outdoor family aquatic center” as one of the two options they most support, and 35% selected “build an indoor family aquatic center” as one of the two options they most support. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents selected “none, we do not need an outdoor or indoor aquatic center”.



Use of Organizations for Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

From a list of eight options, respondents were asked to select all of the organizations whose parks and recreation programs and facilities they and members of their household use. The following summarizes key findings:

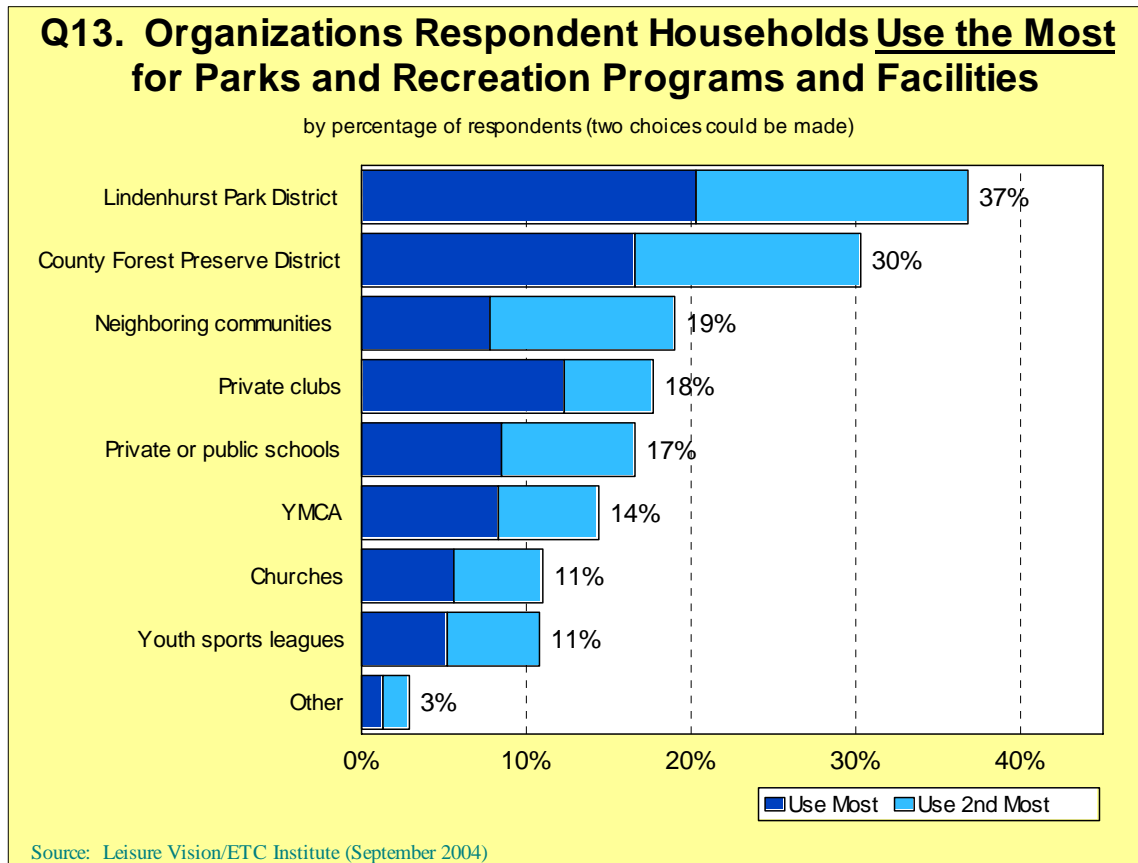
- **The Lindenhurst Park District (55%) is the organization used by the highest percentage of respondent households.** There are three other organizations that over one-third of respondent households indicated they use, including: County Forest Preserve District (48%); private or public schools (39%); and neighboring communities (38%).



Organizations Whose Programs and Facilities Respondents Use the Most

From the list of eight options, respondents were asked to select the two organizations whose parks and recreation programs and facilities they use the most. The following summarizes key findings:

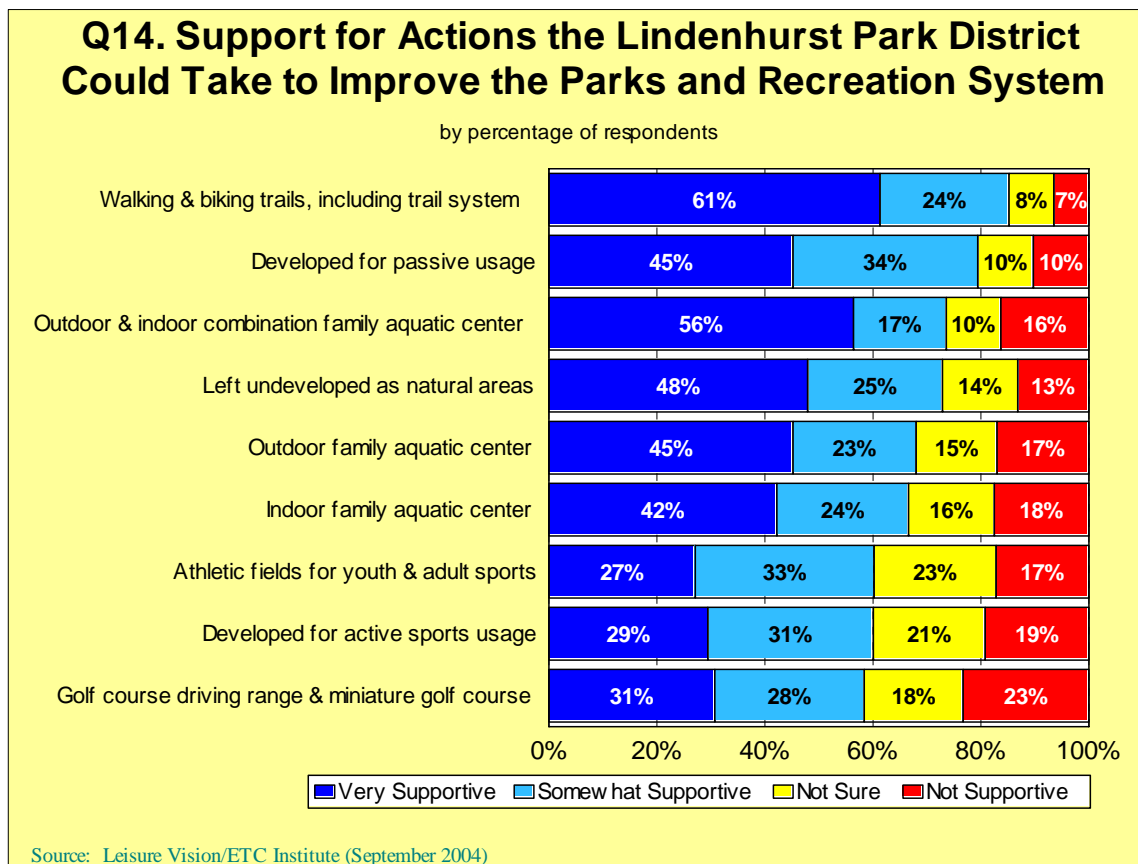
- **The Lindenhurst Park District (37%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the two organizations they use the most.** There are four other organizations that over 15% of respondents indicated as one of the two they use the most, including: County Forest Preserve District (30%); neighboring communities (19%); private clubs (18%); and private or public schools (17%).



Support for Actions to Improve the Parks and Recreation System

From a list of nine actions the Lindenhurst Park District could take to improve the parks and recreation system, respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for each one. The following summarizes key findings:

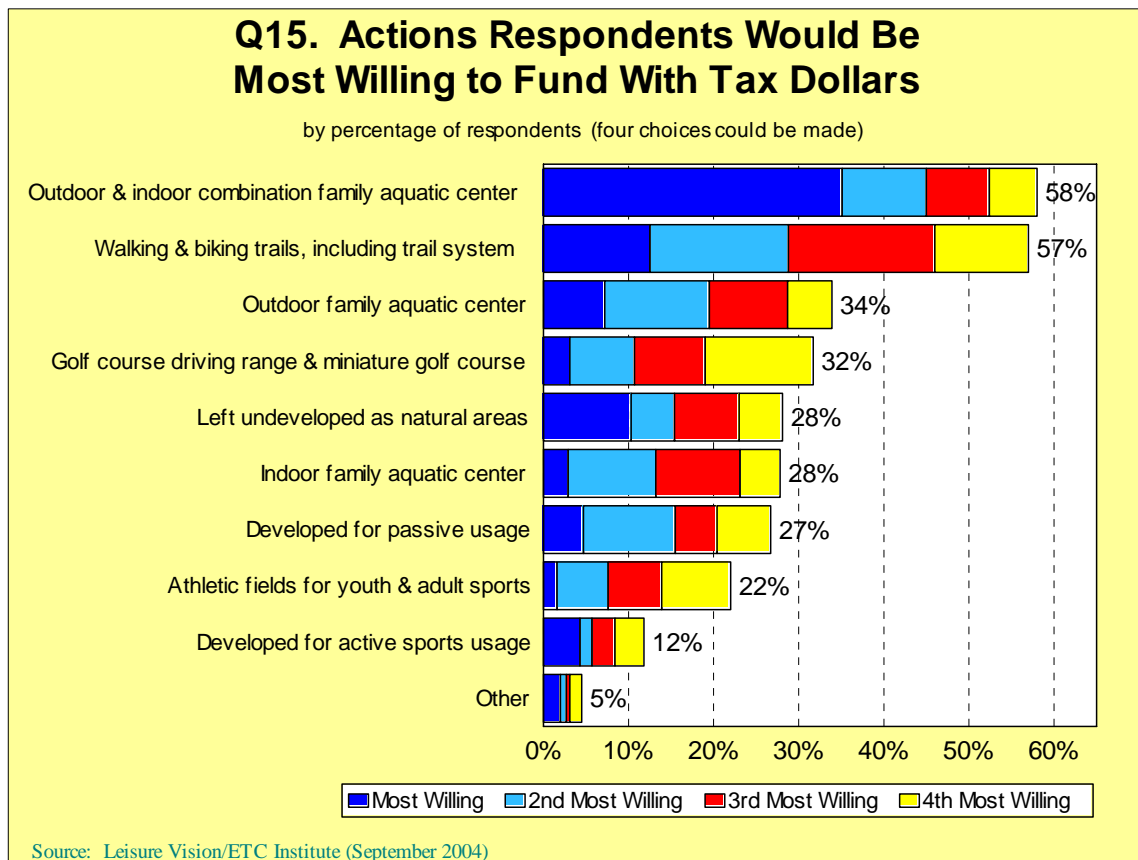
- Two of the nine actions had over 50% of respondents indicate being very supportive of them.** The actions that received the highest very supportive ratings are: walking and biking trails, including development of a trail system that connects to parks and other areas throughout Lindenhurst (61%), and an outdoor and indoor combination family aquatic center (56%). It should also be noted that all of the nine actions had over 50% of respondents indicate being either very supportive or somewhat supportive of them.



Actions Respondents Would Be Most Willing to Fund with Tax Dollars

From the list of nine actions the Lindenhurst Park District could take to improve the parks and recreation system, respondents were asked to select the top four they would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars. The following summarizes key findings:

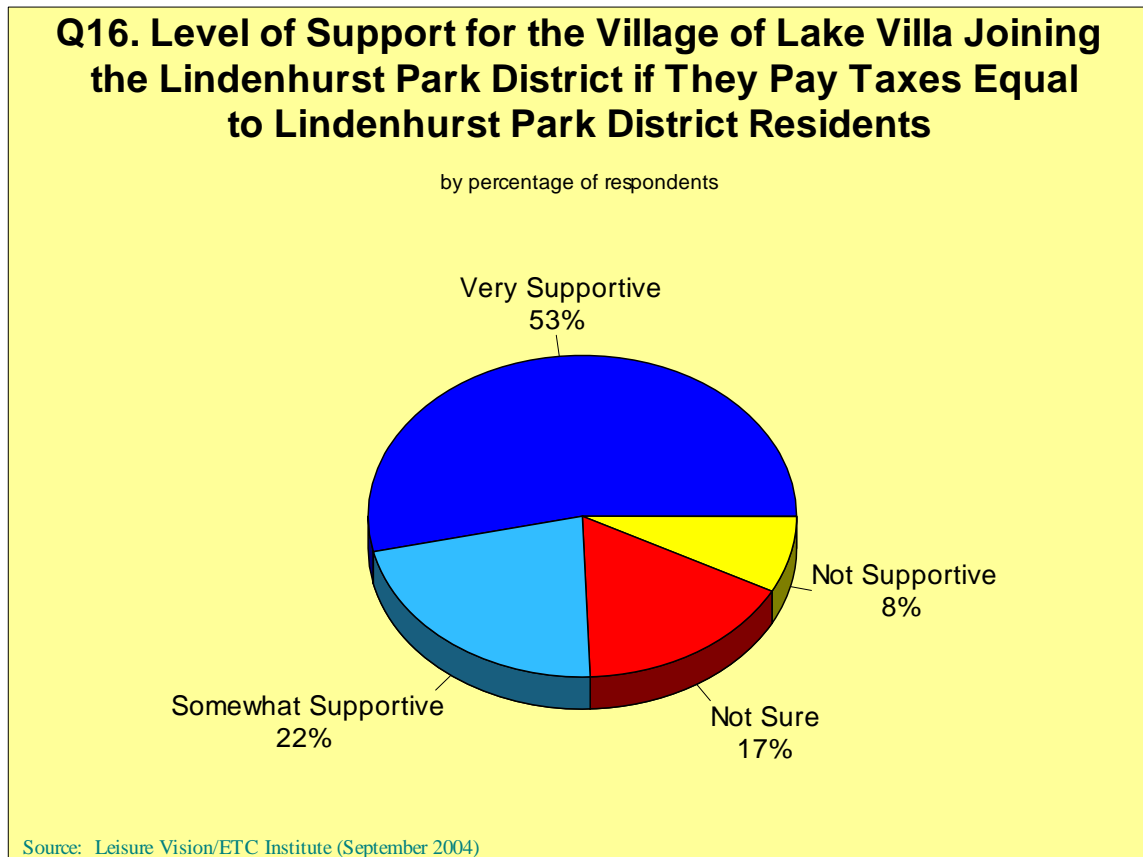
- An outdoor and indoor combination family aquatic center (58%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four actions they would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars.** There are three other actions that over 30% of respondents selected as one of the four they would be most willing to fund with tax dollars, including: walking and biking trails, including development of a trail system that connects to parks and other areas throughout Lindenhurst (57%), outdoor family aquatic center (34%), and golf course driving range and miniature golf course (32%). It should also be noted that an outdoor and indoor combination family aquatic center had by a wide margin the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the action they would be most willing to fund with their tax dollars.



Support for the Village of Lake Villa Joining the Lindenhurst Park District

Respondents were asked how supportive they would be of having the Village of Lake Villa join the Lindenhurst Park District and pay taxes equal to Lindenhurst Park District residents. The following summarizes key findings:

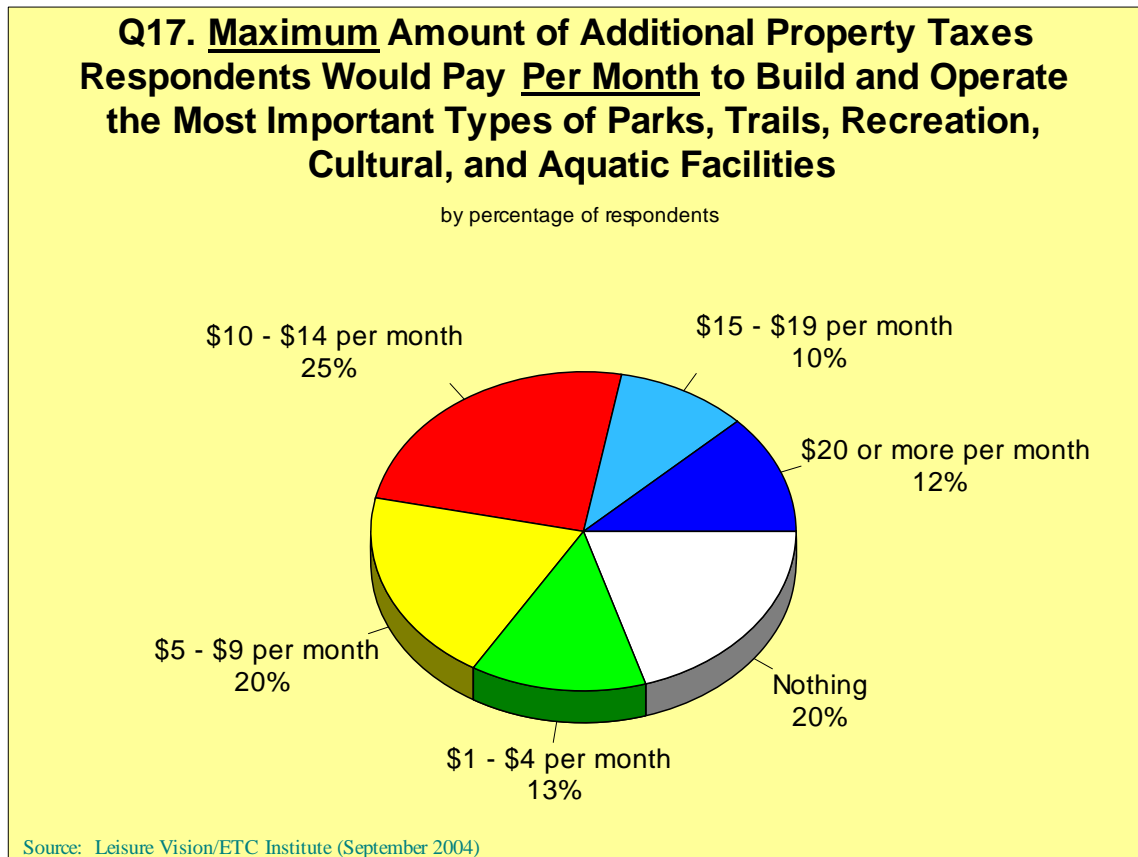
- **Seventy-five percent (75%) of respondents indicated being either very supportive (53%) or somewhat supportive (22%) of having the Village of Lake Villa join the Lindenhurst Park District.** Eight percent (8%) of respondents are not supportive, and the remaining 17% indicated “not sure”.



Amount of Additional Property Taxes Willing to Pay Per Month

Respondents were asked to indicate the maximum amount of additional property taxes they would be willing to pay per month to build and operate the types of parks, trails, recreation, cultural, and aquatic facilities that are most important to them and members of their household. The following summarizes key findings:

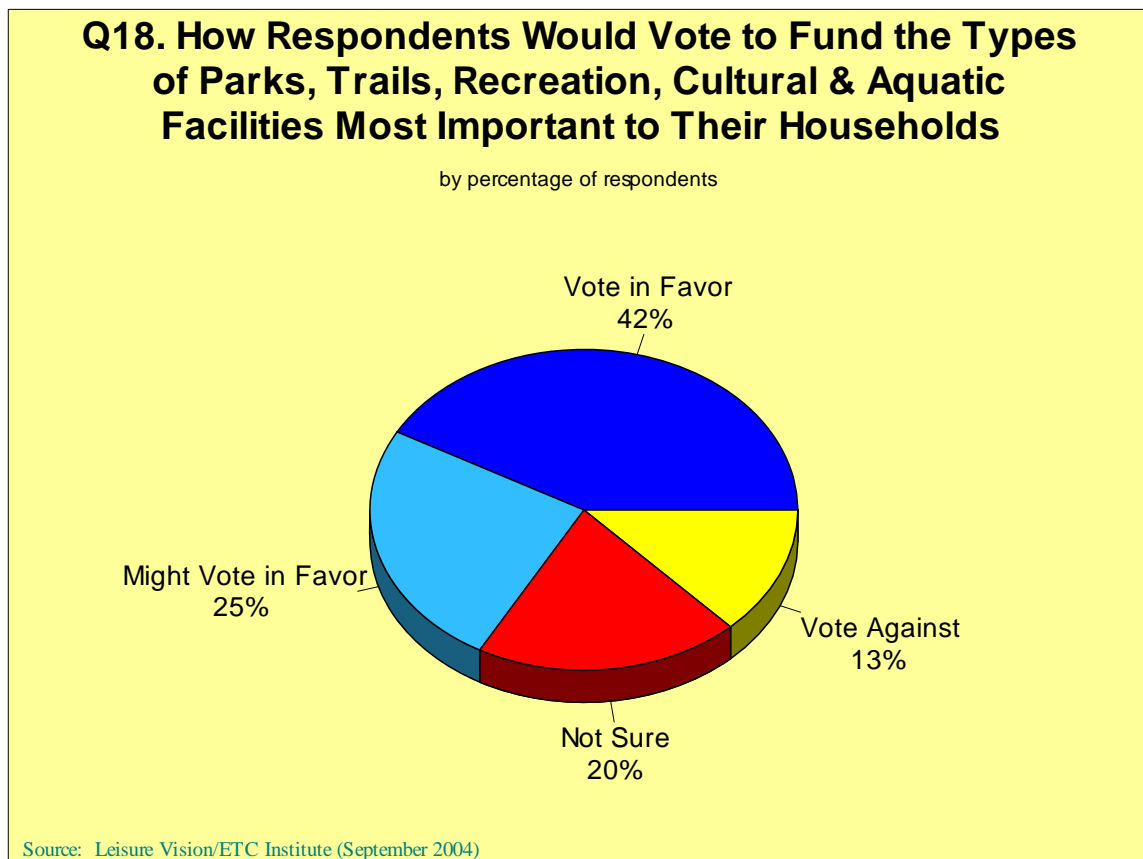
- **Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents indicated they would pay at least \$10 per month in additional property taxes to build and operate the types of parks, trails, recreation, cultural, and aquatic facilities most important to them.** This group includes 25% who would pay \$10-\$14 per month, 12% who would pay \$20 or more per month, and 10% who would pay \$15-\$19 per month. An additional 20% of respondents would pay \$5-\$9 per month, and 13% would pay \$1-\$4 per month. It should also be noted that 80% of respondents would be willing to pay some amount of additional property taxes.



Voting in an Election to Fund the Most Important Parks, Trails & Facilities

Respondents were asked how they would vote if an election were held to fund the acquisition, improvement and development of the types of parks, trails, recreation, cultural and aquatic facilities most important to them and members of their household. The following summarizes key findings:

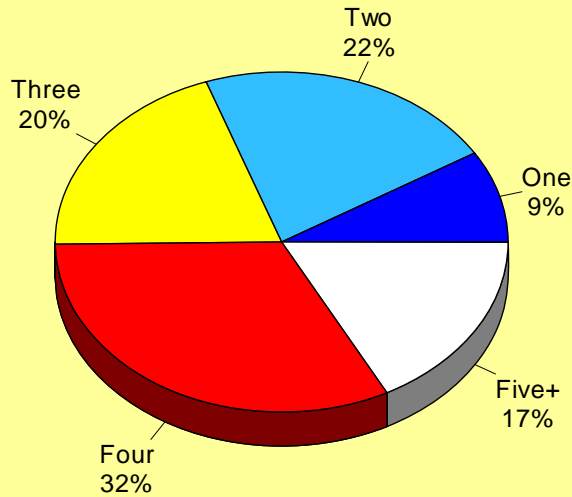
- **Sixty-seven percent (67%) of respondents indicated they would either vote in favor (42%) or might vote in favor (25%) of the bond referendum.** In addition, 13% of respondents indicated they would vote against the referendum, and the remaining 20% indicated they were not sure how they would vote.



Demographics

Q1. Demographics: Number of People in Household

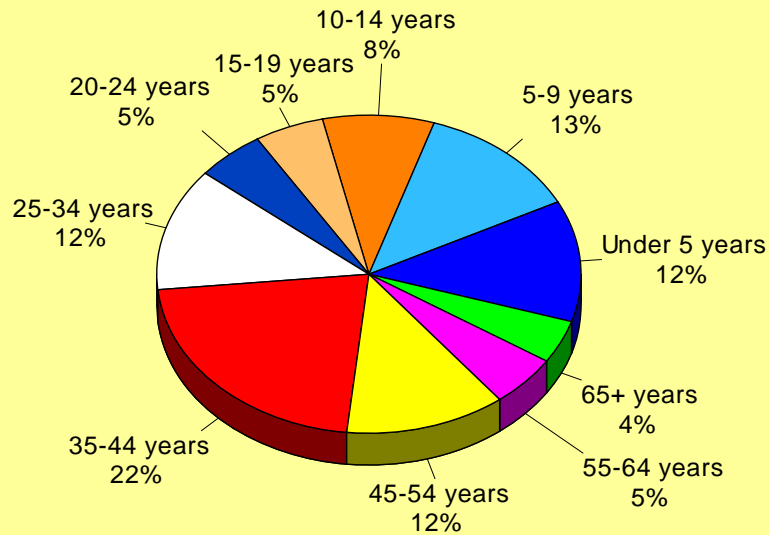
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2004)

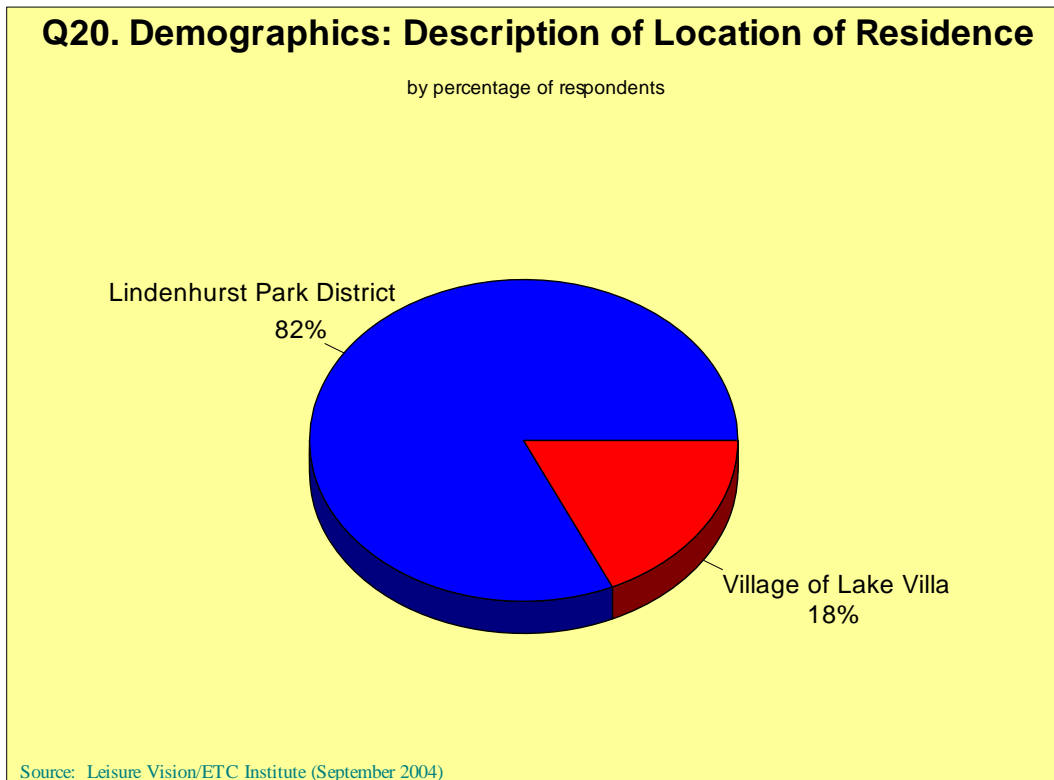
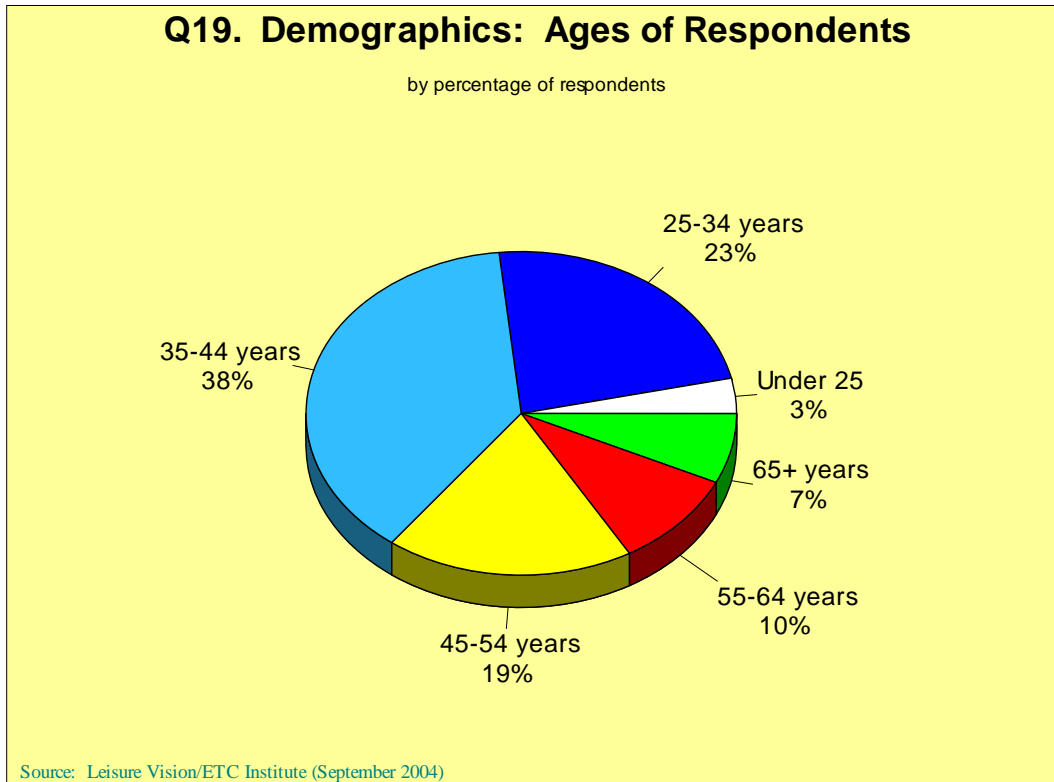
Q2. Demographics: Ages of People in Household

by percentage of household occupants



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2004)

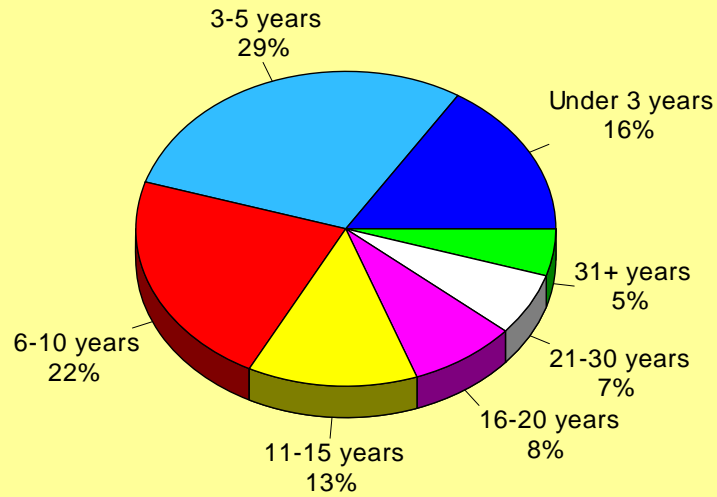
Demographics (Continued)



Demographics (Continued)

Q20a. Demographics: Number of Years Lived in the Lindenhurst Park District

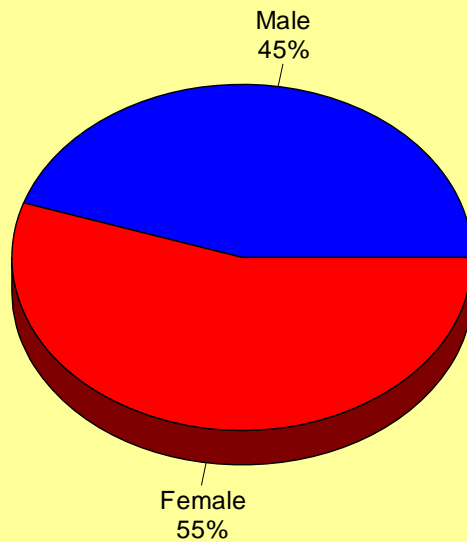
by percentage of respondents who indicated they live in the Lindenhurst Park District



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2004)

Q21. Demographics: Gender

by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2004)

Demographics (Continued)

