



SCRANTON RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT & MASTER PLAN



CITY OF
SCRANTON

OCTOBER
2021

Acknowledgment is made to the following individuals and organizations for their management, advice and information provided during this project.

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The development of a successful park system is directly and equally tied to administrative oversight and park maintenance staff, as well as, public support through usership and programming. Special thanks is extended to the over 800 people that took the user survey and provided their assessment of the value of City parks, the current needs of the parks and their wishes for the Scranton Park System moving forward. There is clearly support and interest from the community.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scranton is 25.52 square miles. It has a population near 77,000 people and a density of 3,024 people per square mile. The Electric City also has 31 recreation areas classified as parks, and over 15 defined neighborhoods that city residents associate with. Several of these communities have undergone changes over the last 20 years, including shifts in population, age structure, community mindset and diversity.

Significant changes in community demographics often requires a reassessment of recreation areas to assure these public spaces are still adequately meeting the needs of the community. The City of Scranton recognized this need and they are preparing this document to assess and guide future decisions regarding.

Purpose of Study:

- To complete a comprehensive needs assessment (PHASE I) for all city-owned parks. This includes site inventory & analysis, development of site recommendations, preliminary designs & conceptual renderings with budget estimates and phasing.
- Phase II includes preparation of grants, securing funding, final park designs, and implementation of conceptual plans and recommendations.

National Averages:

- Typical Park Staff for populations with 50,000 to 99,000 people have a median staff of 49.8 FTE (26.5 on the low end). In Scranton, park maintenance responsibilities are shared between Parks & Recreation and DPW. Without detailed documentation, it was not possible to calculate an exact FTE for the city. However, with only 6-7 seven dedicated Parks workers, Scranton is not adequately staffed.
- On average, communities have 1 park for every 2,266 residents. Scranton currently has 1 park for every 2,485 people. However, the City is above average (approx. 1 per 1800) when other recreation spaces used by youth sports, or when the non city-owned parks (county, schools, LHVA) are considered.
- On average, communities have 9.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The 31 formal city parks occupy 233.60 acres, which equates to 3.03 acres per 1,000 residents and below the national average. However, this does not include the other recreation spaces used by youth sports or the non-city owned spaces. Once accounted for, Scranton is meeting national standards.
- Based on the Trust for Public Land, 76% of Scranton residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is above the National Average of 55%. However, there are a few void spaces within central South Side, the Hill Section and the low density perimeter near Montage Mountain and towards the Viewmont Mall.
- Based on comparison with national statistics from NRPA, Scranton is on par with other municipalities regarding number of provided facilities like playgrounds, basketball courts, dog parks, and community gardens. However, the City is below average for tennis/pickleball courts, and skate parks. Conversely, the City is double the average in the number of youth baseball/softball fields provided.

Site Inventory & Analysis:

All sites were visited in multiple seasons and in both dry and wet weather. The current level of safety, the amount of maintenance required to meet public expectations, infrastructure condition, value

of park to residents, programmed events and public involvement, storm water and drainage issues, number and type of play elements, site access and ADA circulation were assessed.

How to Rank or Compare Parks:

The City wanted an overall ranking list to compare parks and dictate proposed and priority improvements. However, in our opinion, ranking the 31 parks against each other did not make the most sense for this study. The parks are so different and ranged from simple open spaces to fully-developed regional parks. The chosen strategy was to identify short-term needs and long term improvement strategies for each park, as well as, identify park-wide needs. This ultimately identified phasing and strategic approaches to improvements. For example, high/critical short-term needs.

Public Outreach:

The new administration is focused on transparency and making park-related decisions based on supporting data, determined needs and public opinion, rather than via politics or favoritism.

Public outreach, in the form of meetings, key person interviews and a survey, was used to learn about and to better understand current park problems and needs. The online survey had over 850 responses and provided valuable data.

- Eighty percent of respondents were within Scranton zip codes.
- Most respondents believe the parks are good to well-maintained.
- The most common maintenance issue was trash/litter, followed by broken play equipment and vandalism.
- The need for a skate park was evident within the surveys.
- 70% of respondents stated there were not currently any special events or festivals in their neighborhood park.

Recommendations:

It is important to first establish a solid base and foundation before trying to improve the Parks & Recreation System. Several key questions must be addressed at the outset. For example: How will the Department ultimately be managed?; What are the expectations of the Park System by the public and the administration?; What are the full responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Department? Is the current interaction of the Parks Department and DPW healthy - should there be more of less coordination?

Several suggestions and discussion topics were presented that may improve the organization of and the efficiency within the Parks & Recreation Department. These topics will also initiate dialogue and start to address the complex questions listed above.

- Fully defined the Parks & Recreation System: The city lists 31 areas recognized as parks. However, all city-owned land that is used for recreation under lease agreements should be recognized under the Park System umbrella. Additionally, all city-owned parcels used for storm water management (basins), green infrastructure, riparian buffers and greenway land should be part of the Parks and Recreation System. This will lead to more consistency and less gaps.
- Are all recreation areas needed? A few parks like Jackson Street Park, Central City Little League and Powderly Park are not heavily utilized and/or need significant investment to make them more of a draw for city residents. The City should actually considering selling these parcels, which will add them back onto the tax rolls, or seek a new public/private partnership.
- Maintain annual maintenance schedule and budgets: Moving forward, the Parks & Recreation Director must keep track of all expenses throughout the year and make timely edits and updates

to the current Annual Budget, so the following year's budget will become more comprehensive and accurate. The director should prepare charts/graphs that explain how resources are spent, including the allocation of maintenance dollars within each park. Each year, the director should analyze the data, identify any anomalies and reevaluate maintenance and short-term planning recommendations/budgets for each park.

- **Long-Term Planning:** The City has several facilities that are overdue for reassessment and long-term master planning, which can help identify a clear vision on how each park ties into its respective neighborhood. This plan does provide some conceptual planning for the 31 city-owned parks. It is important to realize, these concepts and ideas are preliminary and are not finalized. Additional public input is required before any plan moves from concept to construction. The provided plans are included to initiate discussion, which is a first step towards consensus.
- **Additional Assessment:** An additional study is also needed to survey all little league fields throughout the City, most of which are not within formal City parks; however, are on City-owned land. With documented drops in youth participation, there is a real likelihood that the City has too many baseball fields.
- **Park System Organization:** The ideal scenario is having a stand-alone Department that oversees the Parks & Recreation System. That does not mean there will no longer be coordination between or cooperation with DPW; however, the Park System should have its own dedicated staff and leadership to oversee park improvements, maintenance and programming.
- **Additional Staff & Training:** There is a lack of available staff-hours for maintenance, and a lack of budget-driven oversight which leads to inefficient maintenance. Only critical maintenance items like mowing, leaf removal, and trash removal are completed; thus, additional improvements are not possible. The City should consider hiring more dedicated park staff and providing more training. Additionally, the duties and job requirements of the Parks Director (programming, office, meetings, etc.) prevents evaluation and oversight of the park crews. A dedicated Park Supervisor position may be considered to bridge a gap between the Park Director and staff and assure park maintenance is efficient and acceptable by City and the public.
- **Park Programming:** The current administration has made programming a focal point for the Parks & Recreation Director. Increasing park programming facilitates increased park usage and is a sound technique.
- **Contract out Specialized Work:** The City should consider contracting out specialized tasks and/or time-consuming tasks that a contractor can complete more efficiently than the City.
- **Better Control over Park Usage:** Consistent and structured oversight is needed for non-standard usage of park facilities. This includes any reservations or rentals of park pavilions, shelters and buildings. This also includes more formal MOU's, leases, concession permits, etc. for buildings, and fields in City parks or on City land. The City has initiated a full review of past agreements and is working on new legal documents to gain better control and protection moving forward when park lands are used by youth associations and other organizations.
- **Increased Accessibility and Inclusive Play:** A few city parks are run down and have ADA and safety issues that need to be addressed. During this study, the current administration was proactive and closed play grounds at Chic Feldman Field, Oakmont Park and Robinson Park. The City is dedicated to fixing ADA and safety concerns and is even in early planning of a fully inclusive play area, at a focal park like Nay Aug.

- **Park Standards:** Parks should have basic standards including park signage (entrance, directional, safety, rules), adequate restrooms (indoor, vault, portable), electric and internet access.
- **Public & Park Safety:** Installation of cameras linked to the Scranton Police Station and Parks and Recreation should be standard practice at park facilities. Signs stating cameras are in use are a deterrent for vandalism and crime. Increased policing/security for Parks, through partnership with the Scranton Police Department, should be explored.
- **Time of the City's First Concrete Skate Park:** The public clearly stated their wishes for a skate park in the public survey and at public meetings.
- **Create Multi-Functional Parks - Green Infrastructure and Environmental Benefits:** All parks should be assessed with a holistic approach. Incorporate green infrastructure within parks wherever possible to help with City MS4 requirements.

Implementation:

A transition from planning to implementation is the ultimate goal.

- A justifiable approach to project phasing includes the following sequence in order of importance: Fix safety & accessibility issues first; Listen to the people (outreach and survey data); Concentrate on the regional parks; and then Focus on parks with the highest park assessment rankings.
- Increase park programming to encourage more, invested park users.
- Increase community involvement. Ongoing public interest in City Parks is crucial for the Park System to reach its full potential and grow into a source of neighborhood pride (Mayor's Volunteer Corps, Park Ambassador Program)
- Use a mix of federal, state, local, private, CDBG and capital funding to renovate and maintain the parks. Be creative with funding and strive to maximize grant funds. During the preparation of this report, the City already applied to seven grant programs (PA DCNR, PA DCED, PEC, ..) for five parks. Funding for a pump track at Connell Park was already awarded.

Despite room for improvement, the Scranton Park System is currently a major asset to City residents and the Greater Scranton Area. With smart investment and staffing, the Park System can take another step forward to realized potential. This plan is the first step to guide park improvements and create a more sustainable Park System.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1-1 Study Need
- 1-2 Purpose of Study
- 1-3 Study Goals
- 1-4 Consultant Team Responsibilities



1.1 STUDY NEED

» 1.1.a Changing Communities

Most communities are fluid and dynamic. They undergo changes - positive and negative, dramatic and slight, and at a local and regional level. The City of Scranton is no different and it has several changing communities and neighborhoods within its city-limits.

Changes can include shifts in population (increase/decrease), shifts in age structure ratio (number of children, teens, adults, seniors), new or more prevalent ethnic groups (park use and facility needs may vary), and community mindset (pride, engagement, apathy).

Changes within communities often require a reassessment of existing facilities, infrastructure, safety, as well as, a review of administrative efficiency and objectives. It is also important that any reassessment includes an investigation of the current state of parks and recreation facilities and a determination as to whether these facilities still meet the present-day recreation needs of the community.

Parks and recreation spaces must be safe, well maintained, and provide a variety of play options - from active recreation like playgrounds, swings, trails and courts to passive facilities like gathering areas and open lawn. Well-maintained parks increase the appeal, property values and wellness of neighborhoods.

» 1.1.b Elevating the Park System

The City of Scranton leadership is committed to providing Scranton residents and its changing communities with dedicated places to play and relax that are safe and maintained. This includes, active and passive features, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, fields, courts, natural areas, wellness trails, river access and green space.

Despite having room for improvement, the Scranton Park System is already a major asset to City residents and the Greater Scranton Area. With smart investment and staffing, the Park System can take another step forward to reached a higher standard. The previous business administrator, and the current administration under Mayor Cagnetti, understands that a full park wide assessment with strategic goals and long-term thinking is needed to move the City Parks System forward. This plan is the first step to guide park improvements and create a more sustainable Park System. With proper planning and community involvement, the City's Park System can be improved to meet the needs of all residents, young and old.

1.2 PURPOSE OF STUDY

- To complete a comprehensive needs assessment (PHASE I) for all city-owned parks. This includes site inventory & analysis, development of site recommendations, preliminary designs & conceptual renderings with budget estimates and phasing.
- Complete public outreach to learn about and understand current park problems and needs.
- Identify opportunities and recommendations that upon implementation can help the Park System run in a more sustainable manner.

- The study will review current park maintenance budgets and develop an annual budget and new strategies for more efficient management.
- Through this project, the City of Scranton now has a recreation consultant team on hand for planned and impromptu collaboration and to facilitate with prioritization and implementation of park improvements and renovations over a 5-year period (PHASE II). These services will include assistance with grant applications, adaptive management, preliminary design, construction drawings, bid documents, and construction oversight.
- During the preparation of this report, the consultant team has already dived into PHASE II and assisted the City with seven grant applications (PA DCNR, PA DCED, PEC, ..) for five parks. Funding for a pump track at Connell Park was already awarded. The team is also working on construction plans for basketball court renovations/new pavilion at McLain Park and the new pump track at Connell. Having a team in place, is already helping to expedite construction goals.
- Refer to project management flow chart on the following page for more information.

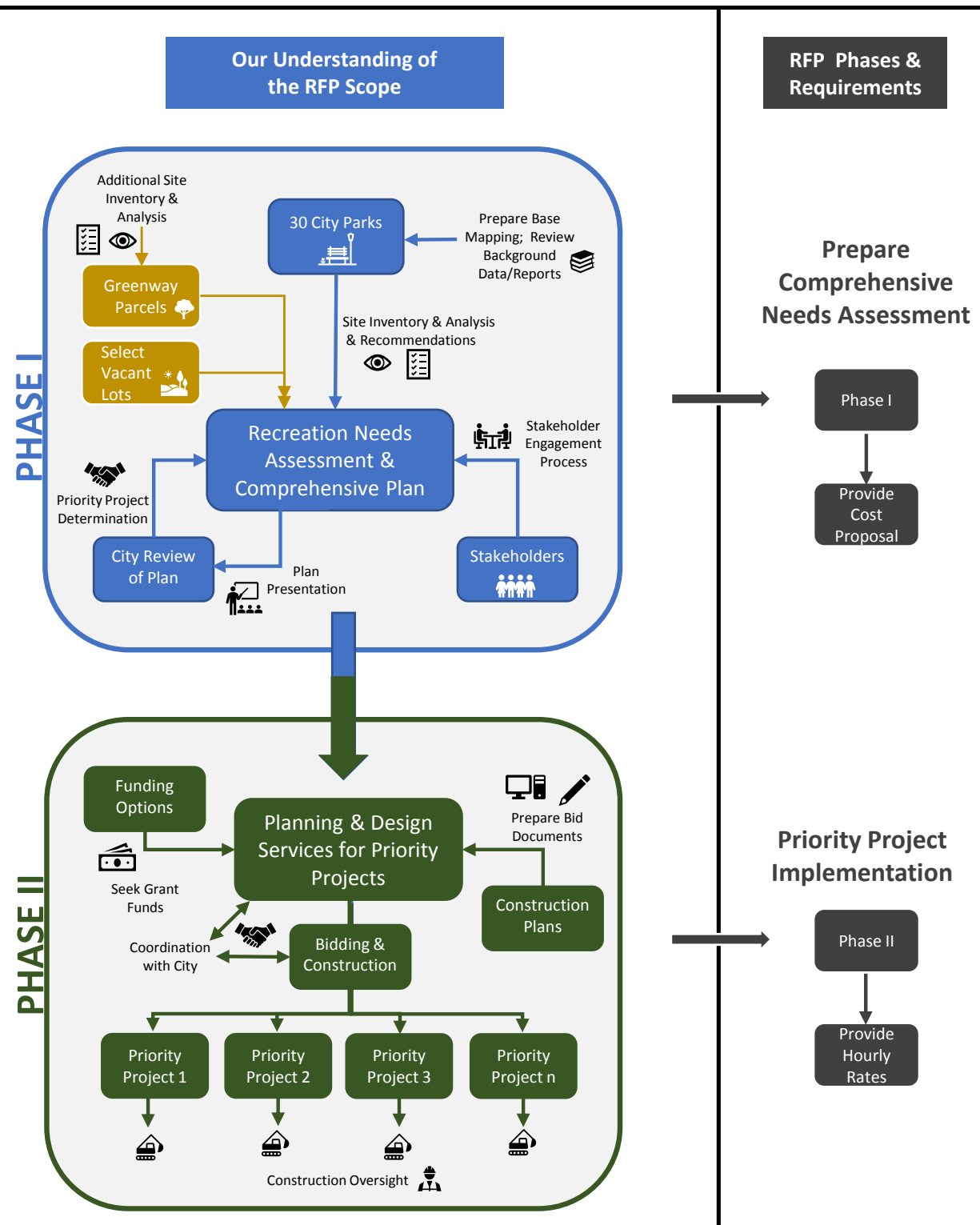
1.3 STUDY GOALS

The City of Scranton had eight primary goals for this planning document:

1. Define a clear vision for individual parks, as well as, strategize an approach for the overall Parks & Recreation Department to help the City more efficiently address recreation and maintenance needs within the park system.
2. Undertake public participation as part of the park planning process to define resident recreation interests and needs.
3. Evaluate the conditions of all existing parks, related to safety and accessibility. Recommend necessary improvements to bring any parks into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
4. Develop updated master plans for each park that illustrates the proposed recreation and infrastructure improvements, as well as, natural area enhancements.
5. Define the future uses for each park and new innovative programming initiatives.
6. Unify the park's system's exterior lighting, security and site amenities and equipment purchases.
7. Determine maintenance and operations requirements for the improved parks.
8. Determine capital improvement costs and define a phased implementation plan for the proposed improvements.

There are 31 primary City parks. Twenty (20) parks have active recreation facilities, whereas, 11 are more passive areas or open space. Refer to the map at the end of this Section for the location of each park.

Figure 1. Project Management Flow Chart



Flow Chart Key

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Site Inventory & Analysis; Site Recommendations | Coordination with City | Needs Assessment Scope per RFP (within cost proposal) |
| Discussions with Community Leaders/Stakeholders | Project Funding / Grant Assistance | Additional Assessment Scope Proposed (within cost proposal) |
| Presentation of Conceptual Plans/Park Renovations | Project Construction | Future Projects Scope (covered by provided hourly rates) |
| Preparation of Construction Documents | Construction / Project Oversight | RFP – Proposal Requirements (total cost or hourly rates) |
| Review Background Data & Report / Research | | |

1.4 CONSULTANT TEAM / RESPONSIBILITY

- Thomas J. McLane and Associates (Landscape Architecture, Ecological Restoration)
 - Overall Project Management; Assessment of site conditions and play grounds; Review of landscaping and vegetation; Conceptual Renderings and Design; Budget development; Recommendations
- Colwell-Naegele Associates (Civil Engineering)
 - Assessment of storm water and drainage concerns; Traffic & circulation patterns; Site infrastructure review
- Peters Design Group (MEP Engineering)
 - Assessment of Mechanical, electrical and plumbing in buildings and pools; Adaptive reuse of structures
- Fancy Parsley Architecture (Architecture)
 - Assessment of Buildings & Structures; Adaptive reuse of structures; Suggestions for park continuity; Building facade improvements

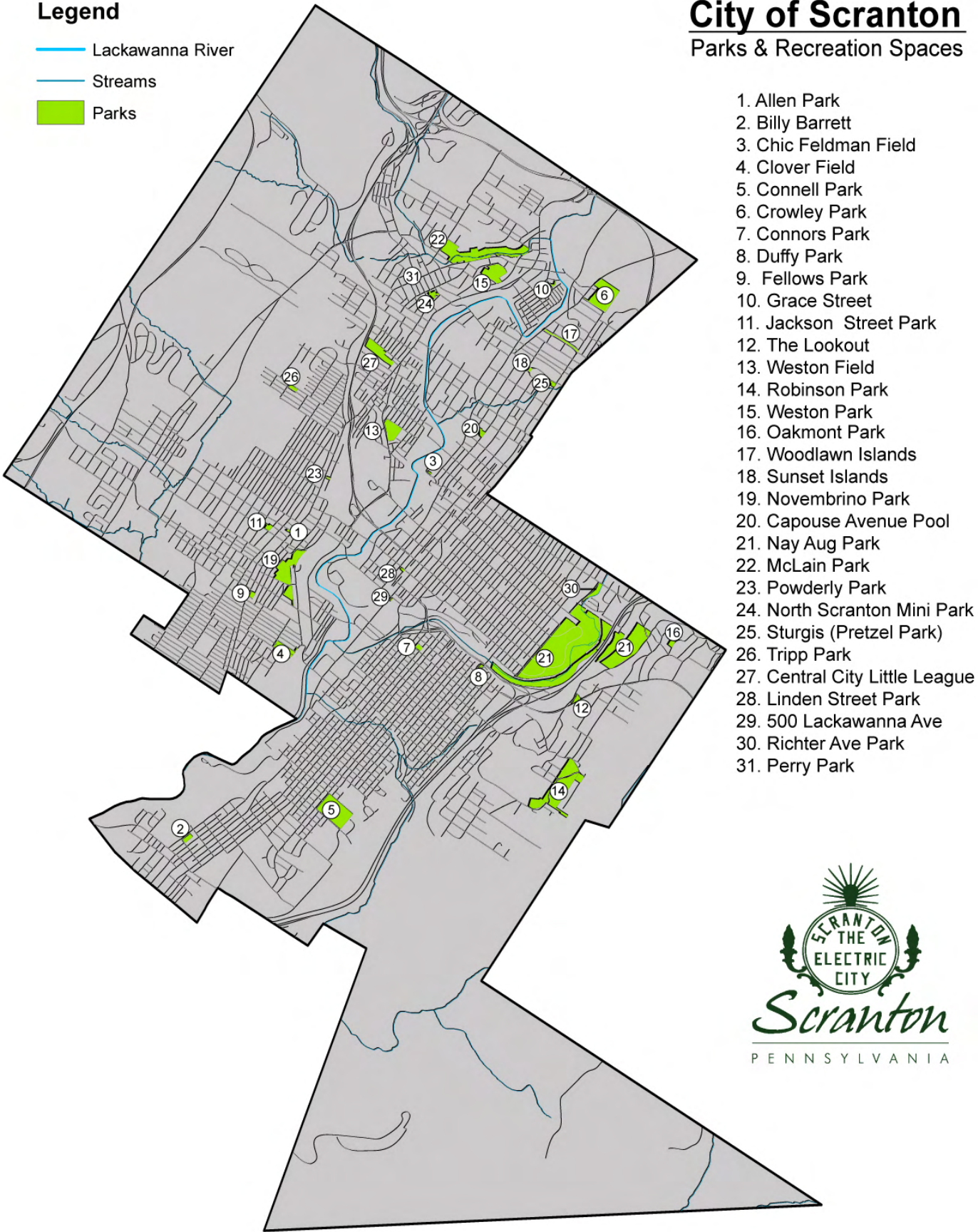
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Figure 2. City Park Locations



2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The City of Scranton
- 2.2 City Demographics
- 2.3 The City of Scranton Parks & Recreation System
- 2.4 National Standards & Resources
- 2.5 Past Planning Documents



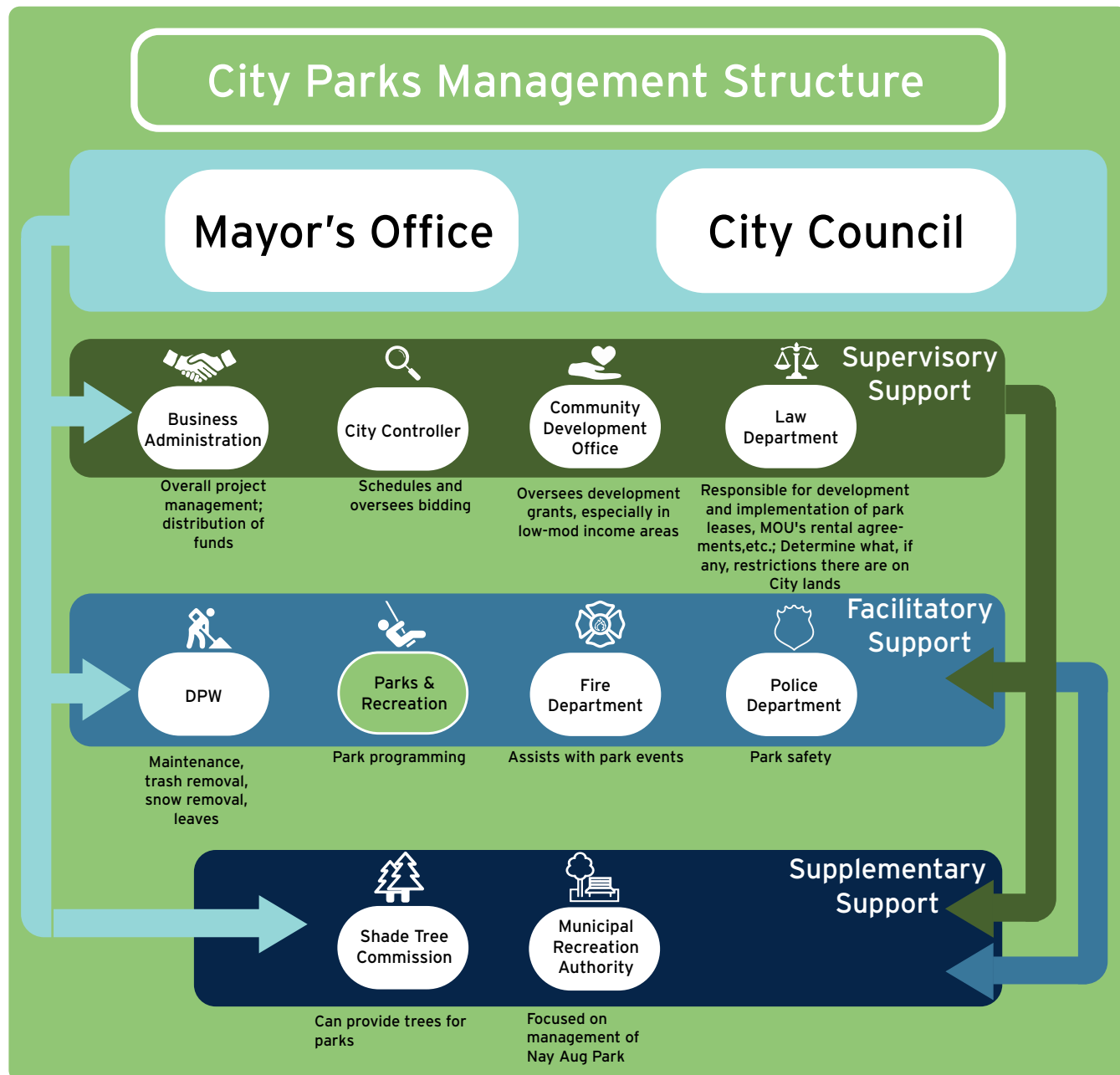
2.1 THE CITY OF SCRANTON

Scranton, the Electric City, is the sixth-largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is the county seat and largest city within Lackawanna County and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

2.1.a Hierarchy of City Government

Ultimately the Mayor and City Council govern the City of Scranton. The organization, collaboration and need for City Departments depends upon the current administration. The Parks & Recreation Department has fluctuated in its perceived need for autonomy through various administrations. It is currently a stand-alone department focused on programming and public outreach, whereas, in an effort to increase efficiency, park maintenance is run through the Department of Public Works.

Figure 3. City Management Hierarchy



2.1.b Multiple Ways to Visualize the City

The City can be strategically broken down in several ways, depending upon the need: for example, zip code, neighborhood affiliations, zoning designations, school districts, political boundaries and polling places, crime data, population density, and even low-mod income areas which can be eligible for specific funding opportunities.

» Zip Codes

There are ten zip codes within the City, six of which contain parks: 18503, 18504, 18505, 18507 (no parks), 18508, 18509, 18510, 18512 (no parks); 18515 (no parks), 18519 (no parks).

Table 1. Park Locations within City Zip Codes

18503	18504	18505	18508	18509	18510
Linden St. Park*	Allen Park*	Billy Barrett Park	Bill Gerrity Park	Capouse Avenue Pool	Nay Aug Park
Renaissance Park*	Clover Field	Connell Park	Central City Little League	Chic Feldman Field	Richter Avenue Park*
	Fellows Park*	Connors Park	McLain Park	Crowley Park	
	Jackson Street Park	Duffy Park*	N. Scranton Mini Park*	Grace Street Park	
	Novembrino Park	Oakmont Park	Weston Field	Sturgis Park*	
	Powderly Park*	Robinson Park	Weston Park	Sunset Islands*	
	Tripp Park	The Lookout*		Woodlawn Islands*	

(*) - Indicates parks with only passive recreation opportunities, such as lawn, seating, and open space.

» District/Neighborhood Breakdown

The City of Scranton is comprised of multiple tight-knit neighborhoods. The primary neighborhoods and/or districts that residents associate with are: The Hill Section, South Side, Minooka, North Scranton, Pine Brook, Downtown, Green Ridge, West Side, Tripp Park, Bulls Head, Lower Green Ridge, South Side Flats, Oakmont, Petersburg, East Mountain, Providence, Hyde Park, West Mountain, Bellevue, Keyser Oak, Morgan Manor and Keyser Valley.

» Low to Mod Income Areas

The following parks, listed by zip code, are located within low-mod income areas. These are more available for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding (See Figure 5):

- 18503 - Linden Street, Renaissance Park;
- 18504 - Clover Field, Novembrino Park;
- 18505 - Connell Park;
- 18508 - McLain Park, North Scranton Mini Park, Weston Field, Weston Park;
- 18509 - Capouse Pool, Chic Feldman Field

Figure 4. City Zip Codes

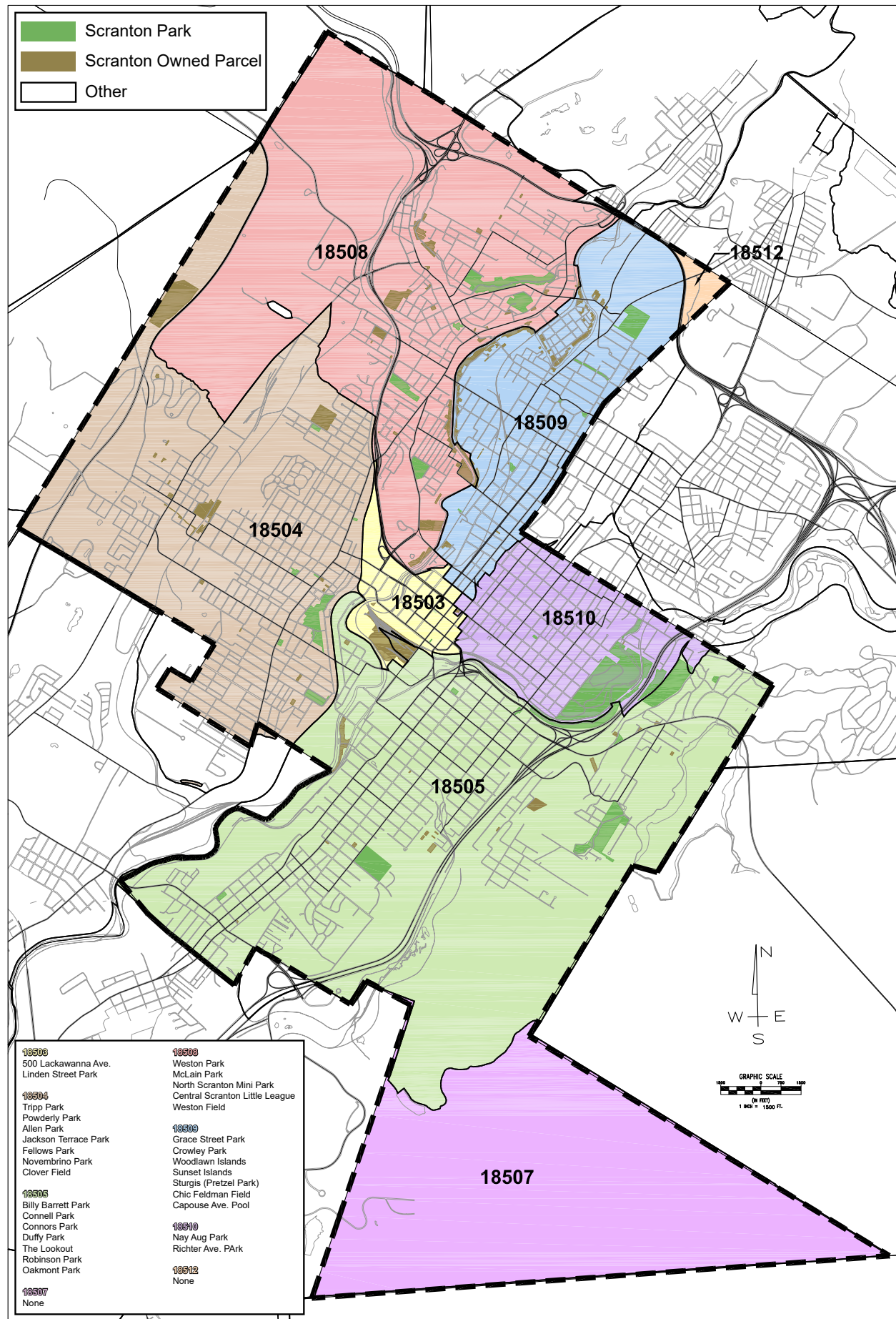
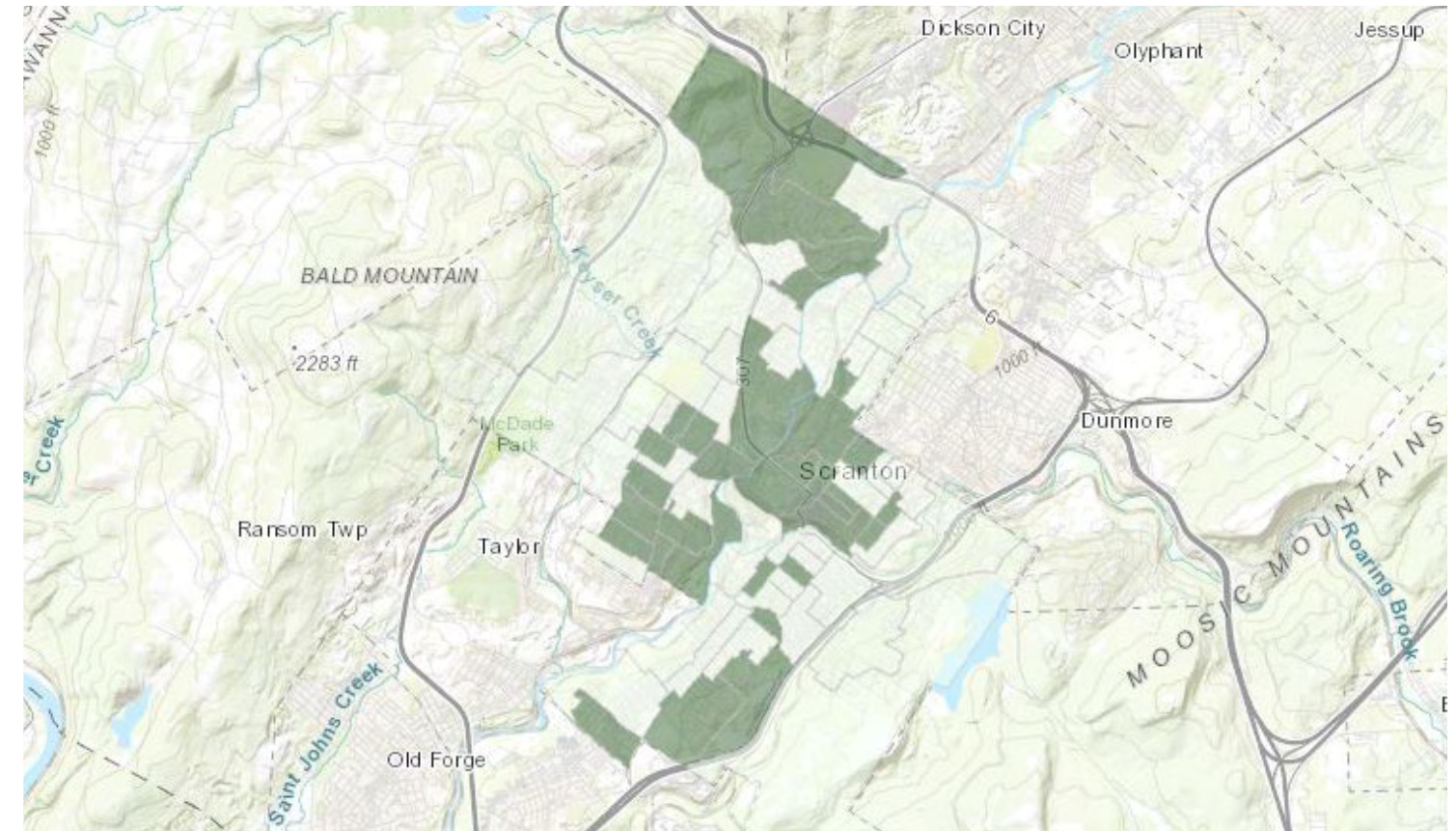


Figure 5. Low to Mod Income Area



2.2 CITY DEMOGRAPHICS

2.2.a Population Change

- » At its peak Scranton's population was 143,000 in the 1930 census. Like many other former industrial cities, Scranton's population significantly declined when industries, like coal mining and silk mills, closed. The population was 76,000 in 2010. However, after decades of decline, the population has stabilized and growth has actually, been marginally increasing since the 2010 census.
- » The most populous zip codes are 18505 and 18504 with 16,060 people and 15,959, respectively. Zip Code 18505 covers the South Side Flats, South Side, East Mountain and Oakmont from the Lackawanna River to Montage Mountain and Lake Scranton. Zip Code 18504 covers West Side, Tripp Park, Bellevue and Hyde Park from the Lackawanna River towards West Mountain and the City limits.

2.2.b Income

- » The median Income in Scranton is \$40,608 a year, which is \$21,136 less than the state median income. It is \$15,201 less than Bethlehem, PA, a nearby city with a similar population size. With annual income being below the state averages, the importance of the Scranton Parks System to provide free recreation is important.

- 2.2.c Ages

- » The top three zip codes with the largest percent population under 5 are: 18505 (1,512, 7%); 18508 (824, 6.5%); and 18510 (797, 6%), Zip code 18504 has more children within its jurisdiction than 18508 and 18510 (1093,5.3%).
- » The top three zip codes with the largest population between 5-9 are: 18505 (1,512, 7%); 18504 (1,216, 5.9%); and 18508- (6.4%). Within zip code 18509, the second highest age group under 19 is 5 to 9 (708 ,5.1%).
- » The top three zip codes with the largest population between 10-14 are: 18507 (394, 7.6%); 18512 (832, 7.1%); and 18505 (1300) and 18508 (757) both representing respectively 7% of the total population.
- » The top three zip codes with the largest populations between 15-19 are: 18510 (1953, 14.6%,); 18503 (147- 11.8%); and 18509 (1031, 7.4%)
- » It is important to note that these numbers reflect the current ages of children under 19. The city should project these populations to shift over the years as they plan for parks and recreation improvements. If the City is planning for park improvements beyond the next five years it should be projected that these percentages will shift up one or more age groups.

Should the City propose a facility based on a target age, it is important to properly prioritize projects. For example, if a tot lot is proposed within a zip code based on number of children within that community, it should be constructed as a short-range project to assure the neighborhoods 'family' dynamic will immediately benefit from the facility. Alternatively, longer-term planning may require analysis of statistics and interpolation of projected age groups.

- » Other growth factors like proposed development should be considered by the Parks & Recreation Department. For example, although the downtown zip code of 18503 has the lowest percent of young people under 18, it is important to consider current revitalization efforts to address the current availability of housing and whom the housing is designed to attract. The Downtown may benefit from a playground should population numbers continue to grow. The playground may be used by grandchildren and/or age groups under 18 if that age group starts to increase.



- 2.2.d Race

- » Scranton has a predominantly white population but it is important to note that 21.17% is Latin American or Hispanic. Coupled with statewide trends, people of races and ethnicities other than white make up a large part of the growing population. In addition, residents who languages other than English in the house hold is 17.6%, significantly higher than the state average of 11.4%, nearing the national average of 21.6%. Heritage does impact recreational needs within a community. For example, a higher percentage of people with South Asian heritage have been playing Cricket in empty parking lots and parks within the city. Thus, accommodating this group, and others, with adequate recreational facilities that meet their interests is a responsibility of the city.

- 2.2.e Health*

- » Individuals under 65 with a disability in Scranton is 13.4% of the population, which is higher than the state average of 8.6 % and the national average of 9.8%.
- » Scranton teen births is 16.9%, compared to 15.1% for the Commonwealth.
- » Current smokers in Scranton is 24%, where as, the Commonwealth is 18%.

* Statistics from Lackawanna County Health Profile (pa.gov)

- » This data can support the value in and the merits behind Mayor Cagnetti's push toward enhanced wellness programming and facilities. Current success of ADA-accessible wellness loops at Crowley Park, Nay Aug Park and other facilities like the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is observed. A grant for new wellness loops at Weston Park and Connell Park have been recently submitted to PA DCNR.

Multiple studies and agencies, like PA DCNR, cite the important connection between park/ recreation access and a communities health and wellness. One recent study entitled, "The relationship between parks and recreation per capita spending and mortality from 1980 to 2010: A fixed effects model" from Preventive Medicine Reports (Mueller et. al, 2019), concluded that *"although not commonly viewed as a form of healthcare spending, increased government funding for parks and recreation services had a significant association with decreased county level mortality. Our results suggest higher levels of per capita spending on parks and recreation may lead to lower levels of mortality."*

• 2.3.a Organization

- » Currently, the Parks & Recreation Department is run by a stand-alone Director, whose focus is on programming and public outreach. Park maintenance, including work directives and scheduling, is run through the Department of Public Works Director. There is ongoing coordination and collaboration between both Directors.
- » The headquarters for the Parks and Recreation Department is located at Weston Field House. There is also a Parks maintenance garage.
- » There are currently 6 full-time 'Parks' staff within the union.

• 2.3.b Budget

- » Based on a review of the 2020 Scranton Annual Budget, it appears the budget for Parks & Recreation is 1.1 million dollars, which mostly includes salary. However, money spent within parks is included in several areas of the budget including DPW. The City was not able to provide any detailed budget data for the parks. Unfortunately, without documentation that shows the allocation of resources (expenses) for each park, the consultant team was not able to provide a thorough review of park-related spending.
- » The consultant team did prepare a new annual maintenance schedule and operating budget that can be utilized and tweaked for accuracy moving forward. Tasks, hours spent and potential staff rates were estimated. The City was not able to provide any data regarding average hourly rates, fringe benefits, utility costs, etc.; nor did they share any typical hours spent mowing grass, or on other standard park-related tasks. The prepared spreadsheet is provided in Appendix C.

• 2.3.c Overall Parks System

- » Scranton states it has 31 official parks, with Nay Aug Park being the largest and most recognized regional park. These parks range in size, and level of active versus passive recreation.
- » Using a 1/2 mile radius around these parks, which corresponds to a 10-minute walk, it is apparent the park system provides good coverage throughout much of the City. Void spaces are in the south and the northwest areas of the city where residential populations are lower and where commercial, transportation and industrial corridors dominate. However, there are also gaps in the Hill Section and South Side. See following page.
- » There are also many other formal and informal recreational opportunities and facilities on city-owned land and along the Lackawanna River Greenway. For example, multiple fields are maintained and managed by youth sports programs, but located with permission on city lands via leases.
- » The Scranton School District and the University of Scranton allow certain facilities for public use, as well.

Figure 6. Void Spaces within the Park System

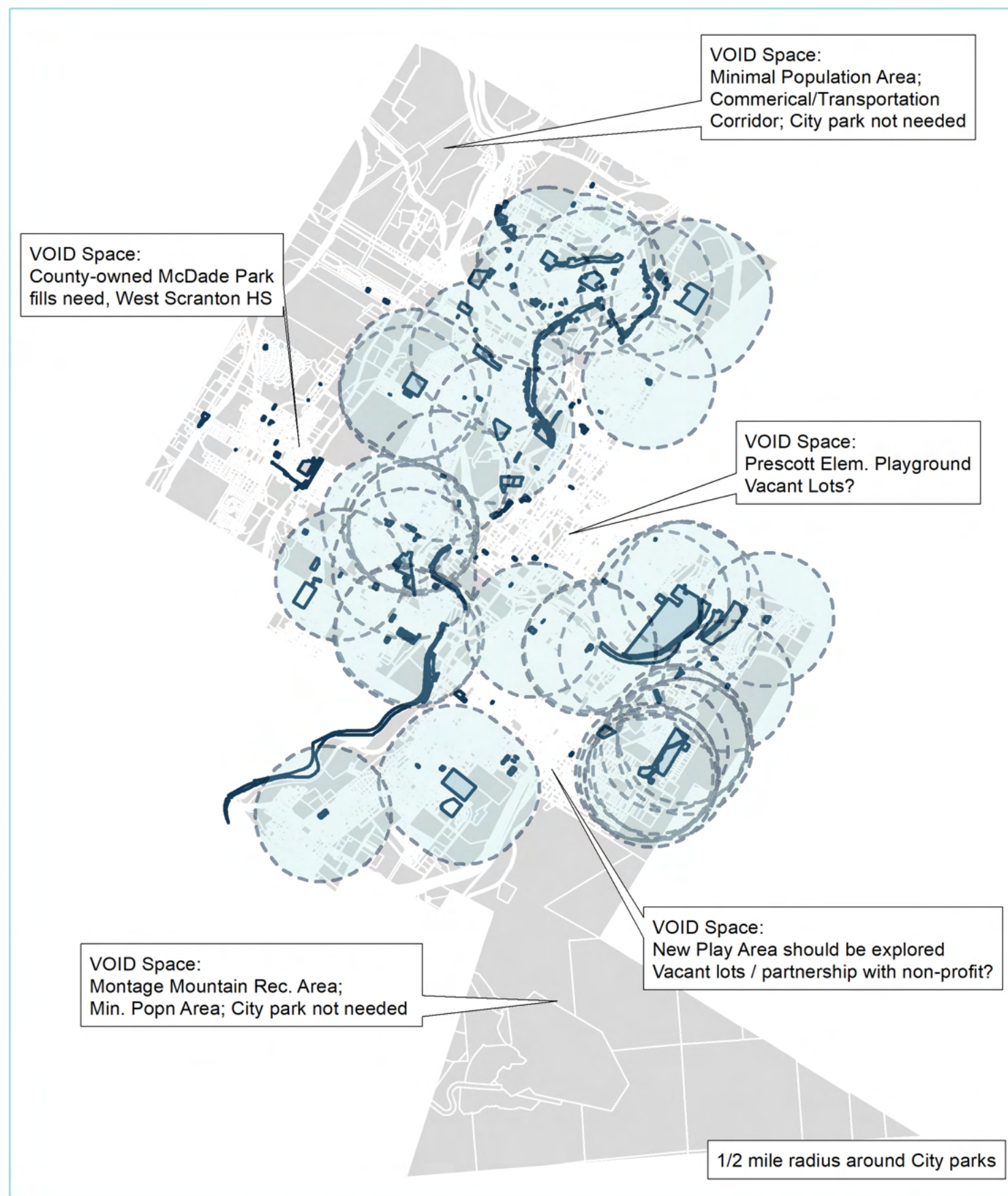


Table 2. Recreation Facilities available through City Partners

Facility / Opportunity	Owner / Operator
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail	Lackawanna Heritage Valley
Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area	Lackawanna Heritage Valley
Sweeney's Beach Recreation Area	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy / LRCA
McDade Park	Lackawanna County
Various sports fields	Varied youth sports associations

- » Vacant Lots: The most recent parcel data was provided by Don King, City Planner. Vacant lots should be examined because they can be assets for the City. They can be sold to add to the tax rolls, used for riparian benefits, MS4/CSO credits, off-street parking or pocket parks.
- » Use of City Lands: Currently, the City has multiple, varying leases and agreements in place with youth sports associations, and non-profits for use of City lands. This process needs to be streamlined and well documented. The City legal department has started the process of reviewing and rewriting legal documents like leases and MOU's to create standards that better protect the City. This is an important step.

• 2.3.d Park Supplemental Support

- » Scranton Shade Tree Commission
The Shade Tree Commission was established to supervise, manage and regulate the planting and seeding of shade trees throughout the City of Scranton. Current members include Anthony Santoli, Tom McLane, David Wenzel, Joseph Riccardo, and Norma Jeffries.
- » Scranton Municipal Recreation Authority (SMRA)
Per the City of Scranton website, the Authority is responsible for all amenities at Nay Aug Park. Specifically, the Authority runs, operates and maintains the Nay Aug Park Pool and all related amenities including setting all rates which may or may not be charged in the Authority's discretion. The SMRA runs, operates and maintains all concessions at the Park including but not limited to executing and administering all leases or other legal arrangements therefore.

The Authority runs, operates and maintains all the pavilions and bandstands, the playgrounds, the zoo and surrounding areas, the groves, including but not limited to Hanlon's Grove. All general open areas of the Park, whether paved or green space is maintained by the SMRA using its own personnel or personnel of the City of Scranton as may be necessary from time to time. The Authority runs, operates and maintains all trails, including but not limited to the Davis Trail and all activities which may or may not be developed related to the gorge and surrounding areas. The SMRA maintains all internal park roadways as well using its own personnel or personnel of the City of Scranton as may be necessary from time to time. They organize and oversee the Light Show during the holidays, as well.

2.4 NATIONAL STANDARDS & RESOURCES:

• 2.4.a Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- » **Parking:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires all parking lots, regardless of size, to have the proper amount of handicapped-accessible parking stalls. These stalls should be sized properly with blue and white pavement markings as well as metal handicap signs at each ADA stall. PA DCNR also requires at least one stall be van accessible. Typical ADA requirements call for one handicapped parking stall per 25 regular parking stalls.
- » **Site:** ADA accessible walkways strive to stay less than 5% longitudinal slopes (1 foot rise over 20 feet run). Steeper slopes can be used, like 8.3% slopes (1 foot rise over 11 foot run), however proper landings and railings are required.
- » **Buildings:** Existing structures were inspected for compliance with the 2015 International Building Code, 2015 International Existing Building Code, 2015 International Mechanical Code, 2015 International Plumbing Code, and NFPA 70-2014 National Electrical Code. The structures' accessibility was inspected for compliance with Chapter 11 of the 2018 International Building Code and ANSI ICC A117.1-2009.

Codes require that any new renovations to existing buildings within city parks will follow Pennsylvania State building code generally known as the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). Enforcement of the UCC began in April 2004. The codes applicable to work for which a construction permit is sought on or after October 1, 2018, are the 2015 International Codes issued by the International Code Council (ICC), and the provisions amended by the UCC Review & Advisory Council (RAC). Only these codes as first published and their errata are applicable in Pennsylvania. <https://www.dli.pa.gov/ucc/Pages/default.aspx>

• 2.4.b U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Public Playground Safety Handbook

A safety surface is important beneath every piece of play equipment. Safety surface needs to be adequate, without signs of wear or weeds. Safety surface should be the appropriate height to play equipment that meets ASTM Playground Safety Standards.

Most common safety surfaces are Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF). EWF is a wood product that looks similar in appearance to landscaping mulch, but EWF is designed specifically for use as a playground safety surface. EWF products should meet ASTM F2075: Standard Specification for Engineered Wood Fiber and comply with ASTM F1292. Rubber mulch products must also be tested and comply with ASTM F1292. Municipalities should refer to Section 2.4.2.2 of the Public Playground Safety Handbook for more surfacing requirements.

• 2.4.c Parks For Inclusion. National Recreation and Parks Association. NRPA. 2017

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) defines inclusion as Removing barriers, both physical and theoretical, so that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of parks and recreation. Parks for Inclusion supports the creation of additional resources, professional development opportunities and technical assistance that will aid park and recreation professionals to serve every member of their community. The report is supported

by a survey of agencies across the United States to research how members of the community can enjoy parks and recreation. The survey asked how agencies are currently meeting the needs of individuals in their jurisdiction and what tools they could need to better support an inclusive parks and recreation infrastructure and programming.

The Rights of All Persons to Recreation Services

- Individuals have the right to choose recreation and leisure activities that are personally satisfying and of interest to them.
- Individuals have the right to choose activities that occur in settings that are non-discriminatory in practice, policy and attitude.
- Individuals have the right to participate in a diverse choice of recreation and leisure activities with their peers that allows for, promotes and encourages full inclusion of all participants.
- Individuals have the right to be treated with respect and supported in age-appropriate programs and services in a manner consistent with how people without disabilities are treated. Individuals with disabilities have the right to request and receive support and accommodations in programs and services to the degree that it does not fundamentally alter the intent and nature of the program design as defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Program providers have the right to request that all participants, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, meet the minimal eligibility requirements of their program service and that the safety and wellbeing of all participants are insured in the delivery of recreation services and programs.

• 2.4.d National Recreation and Parks Association - Agency Performance Review 2021

The NRPA Agency performance Review provides recreational professionals with up-to-date data with the intent to inform current and future decisions while equipping leaders with insights that could help them justify greater funding for parks and recreation. The report does not promote any sort of standards but rather provide current benchmarks in performance for agencies to review. The tabulation nationally is comprised of every type of jurisdiction, be it rural, metropolitan, urban, suburban or county level.

Nationally, there are 2,277 parks per resident across jurisdictions and 3,607 residents per playground, with an average of 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Typical parks & recreation agencies manage 21 parks comprising 458 acres. The website for the data provides a deeper breakdown of statistics by individual jurisdiction types. This is a great resource for the Parks and Recreation Administration of Scranton and should be references to see statistics relating to the city's population size and demographics. It has a detailed breakdown of budgetary and capital expenditures, costs of operation, facility upkeep related to park staff responsibilities, and so on.

	<u>NRPA Study</u>	<u>Scranton</u>	<u>Comparison</u>
Parkland (acres per 1,000 residents)	Median 7.9 ac	4.28 ac	adequate
Residents per park	Approx. 2,400	2,484	adequate

One of the most striking statistics from this report comes from deferred project maintenance costs. According to the review, on average, park and recreation agencies have \$17.4 million of deferred maintenance projects on their books.

This study also discusses the wide range and variety of facilities and features within recreation areas and park systems. Some of the more prevalent outdoor recreation facilities based on population are as follows:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>NRPA Study</u>	<u>Scranton</u>	<u>Comparison</u>
Playgrounds	21	17	meets average if including playgrounds on other City land like Little League Fields
Basketball Courts	9	8	adequate
Tennis Courts	13	3	below average; add pickle ball
Youth Baseball/Softball	16	33	well above average
Youth Soccer	6	3	adequate, including fields in non-park land
Multi-purpose/Adult Soccer	8	3	adequate, including fields in non-park land
Dog Park	1	1	adequate
Skate Park	1	0	residents want a skate park
Swimming Pools	2	6	focus money on a few well done pools; more splash pads
Community Gardens	2	>2	several within city; not in parks

• 2.4.e Recreation for All, 2020-2024 Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan. DCNR. 2020.

The report builds on the previous, 2014 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, through which the 2020 plan sets forth the following goals: Elevate the importance of outdoor recreation, build on the success of the 2014-2019 plan and action items use collaborative relationship through partnerships to identify common priorities, promote an inclusive plan, satisfy the federal park service requirements and develop long range visions. Topic Priorities of the plan include: health and wellness, recreation for all, sustainable systems, funding and economic development, and technology.

The goal of Pennsylvania's 2020-2024 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is to help all Pennsylvanians achieve greater access and enjoyment from experiences in the commonwealth's abundance of local and state parks, state and national forests, trails, rivers, lakes, game lands, and other recreation spaces.

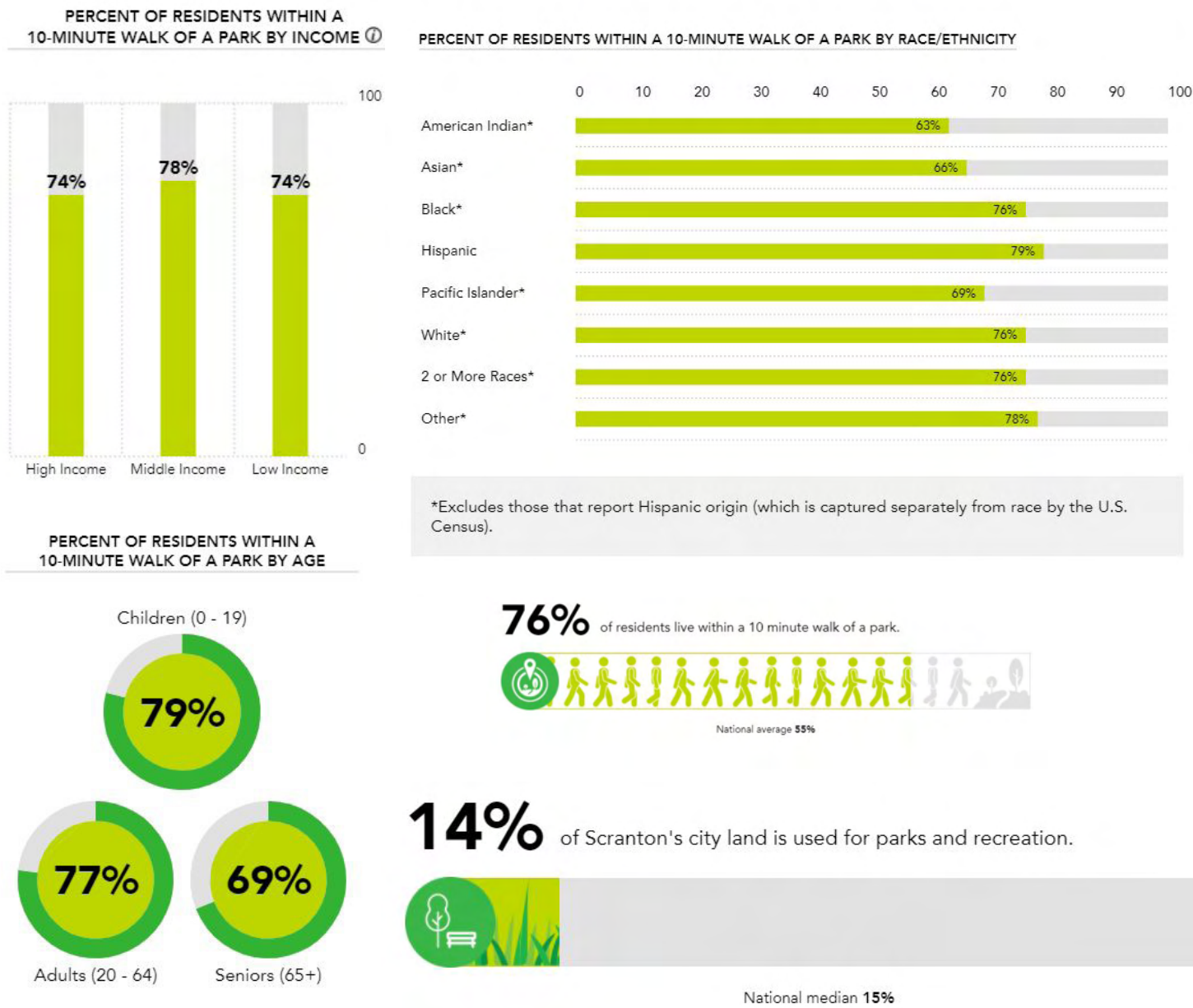
Some key findings are that Pennsylvania's population is aging, meaning there is a growing need for outdoor recreation suitable for aging adults. The study found, the growth rate of Pennsylvania's elderly population from 2010 to 2017 was over 20 times that of the state's general population – an increase of 16.3%. Similarly, the report stated that though the state is less diverse than the national average, a growing segment of the population is increasingly

more diverse and it is critical for planners to account for how different races and ethnic groups use outdoor spaces to create inclusive and welcoming spaces that have been traditionally used by White people. Pennsylvanians are active, with 9 out of 10 people claiming they have participated in some type of outdoor recreation activity in the past year.

• **2.4.f Trust for Public Lands**

This initiative and website provides valuable information and identifies the availability of recreation opportunities within select communities. Data specific to the City of Scranton was searched and some key data is provided below.

Figure 7. Data Specific to Scranton from the Trust for Public Lands



2.5 PAST PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- » **The Lackawanna River Watershed Conservation Plan**
2001. Lackawanna River Corridor Association: This plan highlights the need for watershed protection, riparian conservation, and restoration, as well as, the need for trails and recreation spaces that provides interaction with local waterways. The Scranton Park System is important for the Lackawanna Watershed and the implementation of this Conservation Plan. Examples include: the use of City-owned land for the Sweeney's Beach Recreation Area, Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area and the proposed Parker Street Recreation Area; partnership with the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail; implementation of green infrastructure; and protection of riparian areas.
- » **The Open Space, Greenways & Outdoor Recreation Master Plan**
Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania (2004): This document, which was completed in 2004, focused on the importance, conservation, and development of open space, greenways, trails, parks, and other features and the connections and potential connections between them on a bi-county scale. The work being completed by the City of Scranton, regarding park improvements, more accessible and inclusive play, wellness trails, and better connectivity to open spaces and recreation areas compliments this study.
- » **The City of Scranton & Scranton Sewer Authority Storm Water Management (MS4 & CSO) System Review**
A Phase One Assessment and Recommendation Report for Efficient Management & Sustainable Infrastructure (2013); This plan identifies the need to address both Combined Sewers and MS4 systems and highlights the need to consider using park land and City property to address storm water. It highlighted several parks in Scranton that could work for green infrastructure (Connell Park, Clover Field, Sweeney's Beach, Weston Field) and even furthered the designs for the Scranton Sewer Authority beyond the plan, like Arthur Avenue at Nay Aug Park.
- » **The Scranton-Abington Planning Association (SAPA) Comprehensive Plan (2009)**
It is the SAPA area's intent to maintain existing community recreational facilities for their use and enjoyment by area residents and, as required, to develop these facilities further to keep them up-to-date and appropriate for the needs and interests represented in the population. In addition, over the planning period, the SAPA area will provide new accessible parks, playground, and other recreation facilities, both active and passive, to serve the existing and projected population. It highlights the need for Mixed-use centers with civic square, pocket parks and green space and the benefit of trails for health, wellness and connectivity.
- » **West Scranton Neighborhood Plan (2020)**
The planning process was led by NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania. The plan highlighted the importance of recreation spaces, and specifically highlighted Allen Park, Novembrino, Fellows Park and Clover Field. One plan goal is to provide a more diverse range of outdoor and community open spaces for all users, and better connections to neighborhood parks and open spaces.
- » **Pine Brook Neighborhood Plan (2021)**
A similar study is being completed in Pine Brook. This plan highlights the importance of short and long-term planning at Penn Ridge Swim Complex and Chic Feldman /Sweeney's Beach Area.

- » [Bicycle and Pedestrian Study for the Central Business Districts of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre \(2020\)](#)
This study focuses on alternative pedestrian and bicyclist transportation by identifying a safe, efficient, and equitable bicycle and pedestrian network within the cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. These bike routes may be important to help bicyclists get to City parks; however, this study was more specific to Downtown Scranton.
- » [Green Infrastructure EPA Iron Arts District \(2014\)](#)
This plan was funded by EPA's Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance Program. The plan described concept designs and provided examples of how green infrastructure can be used to reduce the impact of storm water runoff and catalyze additional green infrastructure projects throughout Scranton. Implementation of this project within the Iron Arts District will provide valuable data for the SSA to measure and assess impacts of green infrastructure on a neighborhood-wide scale that can also be applied to expand green infrastructure across the City of Scranton.
- » [Recreation, Conservation & Restoration Plan; A Cursory Review of the Leggett's Creek Watershed. 2020](#)
Lackawanna River Conservation Association: This Plan is an abbreviated and hybrid version of a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway plan. The priorities for this plan focused more so on Conservation, Restoration and Recreation, in the form of a multi-use connecting trail. This plan provides several initiatives and recommendations, including: Increased land conservation, especially in the ridge tops and the upper and lower Leggett's Creek Greenways; Restoration of riparian areas and in-stream habitats; Creation of an EAC or comparable group to better oversee impacts of land use; Regulations and watershed-level reviews of land development with incentives for redevelopment and green infrastructure rather than impacts to wooded and greenlands; Park improvements and a new technical trail network. This plan highlights the importance of recreation along watercourses in the City of Scranton and connections between existing recreation areas using trails.
- » [Scranton Storm Water Management](#)
The City of Scranton Storm water Management Ordinance (Council File #76, 2012) requires a detailed storm water management plan (which may require the construction of storm water infiltration BMPs) for any project which involves over 5,000 sq ft of earth disturbance. Can the City exempt itself from the requirements of this ordinance to avoid spending money on detailed storm water analysis, infiltration practices, etc, and instead use the available funds for facilities, amenities, etc.? Note that projects which involve over an acre of earth disturbance will require an NPDES permit for storm water discharges from PA DEP (likely just reviewed at the County Conservation District level). On a related note, storm water discharges to the combined sewer required a peak rate reduction where post-development flows had to be not more than 75% of pre-development flows.

3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- 3.1 Public Outreach
- 3.2 Outreach Techniques
- 3.3 Park User Survey



3.1 PUBLIC OUTREACH

The administration is focused on transparency and making park-related decisions based on supporting data, determined needs and public opinion, rather than via politics or favoritism. The City of Scranton understands the importance of obtaining public feedback when developing a plan, especially one that will guide the future direction of the Scranton Parks System. During this park planning process, the City used several public outreach techniques, like online survey with social media, community meetings and key person interviews to answer the following questions:

- What would be in your ideal playground?
- What can the City do better regarding park maintenance?
- What is your favorite park?
- What do you like to play and are these facilities available?
- Do you have a new vision for a recreation space?
- What is important to you?

• *Internal Discussions*

The consultant team had several meetings with City personnel at City Hall and at various parks to discuss progress, current findings, pressing needs, park shortcomings, schedule, grant opportunities and strategies.

McLane Associates also had weekly correspondences with Brooke Newhart, Parks & Recreation Director during the preparation of the plan in Spring/Summer of 2021.

3.2 OUTREACH TECHNIQUES

• *Key Person Interviews*

- » NeighborWorks NEPA completed a recent planning initiative within West Scranton that included ideas and future beautification designs for Clover Field and Allen Park. The consultant team was provided a copy of the West Scranton Neighborhood Plan to review (October 2020, WRT). McLane Associates even assisted Neighborworks with a grant application in 2020 for improvement to Clover Field and the parking lot at Allen Park.
- » United Neighborhood Centers is finalizing a planning initiative in the Pine Brook section of Scranton. A portion of the plan discusses the future goals of Capouse Avenue Pool and Chic Feldman Field. Despite interest in renovations to the pool complex, this plan identifies the better use of the site is a small play area with a pavilion that can become a hub for UNC-sponsored programming. A 365-day/year facility has more value in the revitalization of this neighborhood.
- » Scranton Tomorrow is the primary group behind the proposed pocket park at Linden Street in Downtown Scranton.
- » Scranton Housing Authority may be an important partner during renovations to Connell Park. The consultant team met with SHA staff (Gary Pelucacci, Executive Director and Mike Palmitessa, Maintenance Director) to discuss the proposed Connell Park Pump track

and potential for a hiking/mountain biking trail network on both city and SHA property. Any funding provided by SHA must be spent on SHA land. There is also potential to work with Friends of the Poor, which is often a liaison between the Housing Authority and the community, for programming.

• *Meetings with Neighborhoods*

- » Mayor Paige Cagnetti announced the kickoff of “Scranton Together Neighborhood Initiative”, a program to improve quality of life in the neighborhoods. The city set up pop-up stations (every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of August 2021 from 9am to 2pm), in designated locations, within neighborhoods to connect residents to available services.



These outreach sessions made available department representatives from Licensing, Exceptions & Permits, the Fire Department, the Office of Economic and Community Development, DPW, Parks & Recreation, as well as, Scranton Neighborhood Engagement Interns. The locations were West Side, Bellevue, South Side, Green Ridge, North Scranton, Plot section, East Mountain, and the Hill Section. These pop-up events included an opportunity for residents to discuss current recreational facilities and other health and wellness needs in their neighborhoods.

The consultant team also spoke with park users and neighbors, if present, during completion of their on-site site inventory & analysis. McLane Associates visited several parks during the evening to pass out hard copies of the Park Survey and discuss needs with actual park users.

- » During preparation of the PA DCNR and DCED GTRP grant applications, public meetings were held on site at the following locations:

- Oakmont Park: Jesse Rozelle, president of the Oakmont Neighborhood Association was present and explained this park is a priority. The public explained there grandkids like to use scooters, so a tyke trail similar to Nay Aug Ave Natural Play Area would be a nice addition. The basketball court is still used. People have been trying to use the park for cricket. Wish list items included seesaws, grills, horseshoes and ground games like 4-square and hop scotch. A need is updated parking and a redefined streetscape. Learned about an interesting programming initiative completed by Kathleen Madzen that centers around reading in City Parks.



- Robinson Park: A very large contingent of residents attended the outdoor meeting (58-60 people). The East Mountain Neighborhood Association is involved and currently growing its membership and their flagship project will be park renovations. McLane explained the park is large and needs to be examined in phases or stages. Safe connections to Mountain Lake are important. Key items to address are ADA access, storm water runoff and a safe, new play ground.

3.3 PARK USER SURVEY

The consultant team prepared a Park User Survey to identify and quantify the perceptions, the needs and the desires of City residents regarding local park facilities and recreation programming. Survey Legend software was used to create an online, digital survey with multiple questions (multiple choice, drop-down, etc.) focused on General Information, Importance of Parks, Current Use of the City Parks, Other Regional Parks, need for New Park Spaces & Features, and Interest in Helping. The link to the digital survey was <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/3351>. The survey provided the users with options to share via social media and to view the live data results. The survey was shared through social media and via existing databases, kept by non-profit organizations and community leaders. The survey was also available in paper, hard-copy form at City events and for those not comfortable using a computer. Thus, the project team is confident community involvement and engagement was attained that prioritized diversity, equity and inclusion. Over 850 responses (863, representing 1432 people within the households) were received. To avoid stacking the results, the survey is setup to disallow multiple submissions - basically, only one survey per IP address or device (one survey per phone, computer, etc.).

The survey techniques helped ensure the feedback and recommendations are comprehensive, appropriate and accountable.

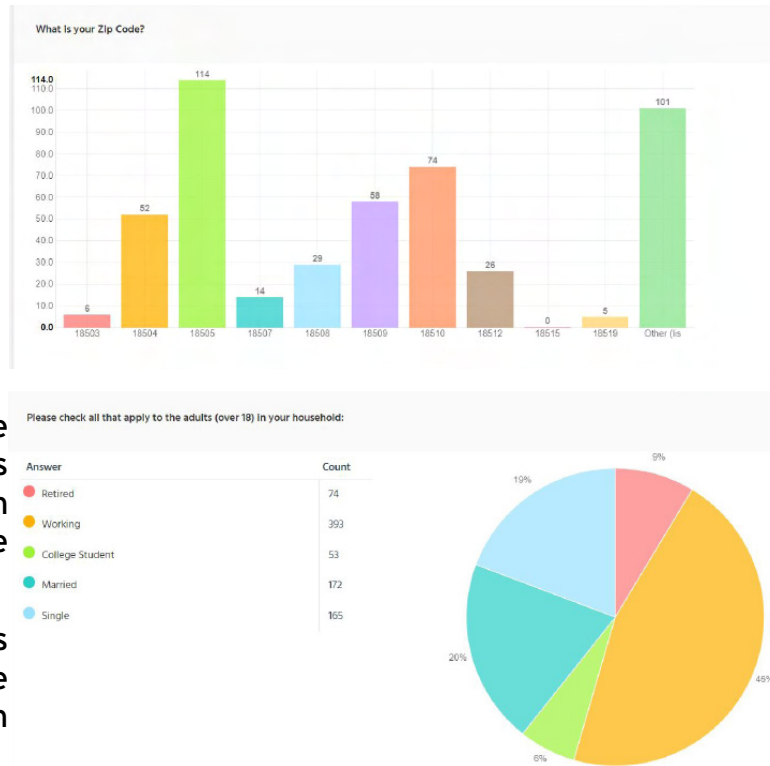
3.3.a Public Survey Results

In March of 2021, the consultant generated a series of survey questions that were issued to the public on-line. The survey was designed to generate data based on public input in regards to City parks. The 29-question survey garnered 529 responses. All of the Survey questions and answers can be found in the Appendix of the report. In this section, certain questions and responses are highlighted to profile the public's perception of City parks and also to help generate pragmatic action items and recommendations accommodating to their wants and needs.

Overview

The top local responses came from Zip Codes: 18505, 18510, 18509, and 10504 and 21% of respondents claim to live in locations beyond the Scranton Zip Codes. When asked, Do you have children under the age of 13 living at home?? The survey results show that 33% of respondents have children under 13, reflecting double the percentage of current age demographic statistics for the city. This result could suggest that families with children within Scranton are proactive and eager to engage with city parks.

Approximately 50% of respondents said they live in a home with 3 or more people, with 30% living in a home with 2 people and 18% living alone.



Of the 484 people who answered, Please check all that apply to the adults (over 18) in your household: 398 responded working, 172 responded married, 165 responded single 74 responded retired, and 53 responded college student.

Activities

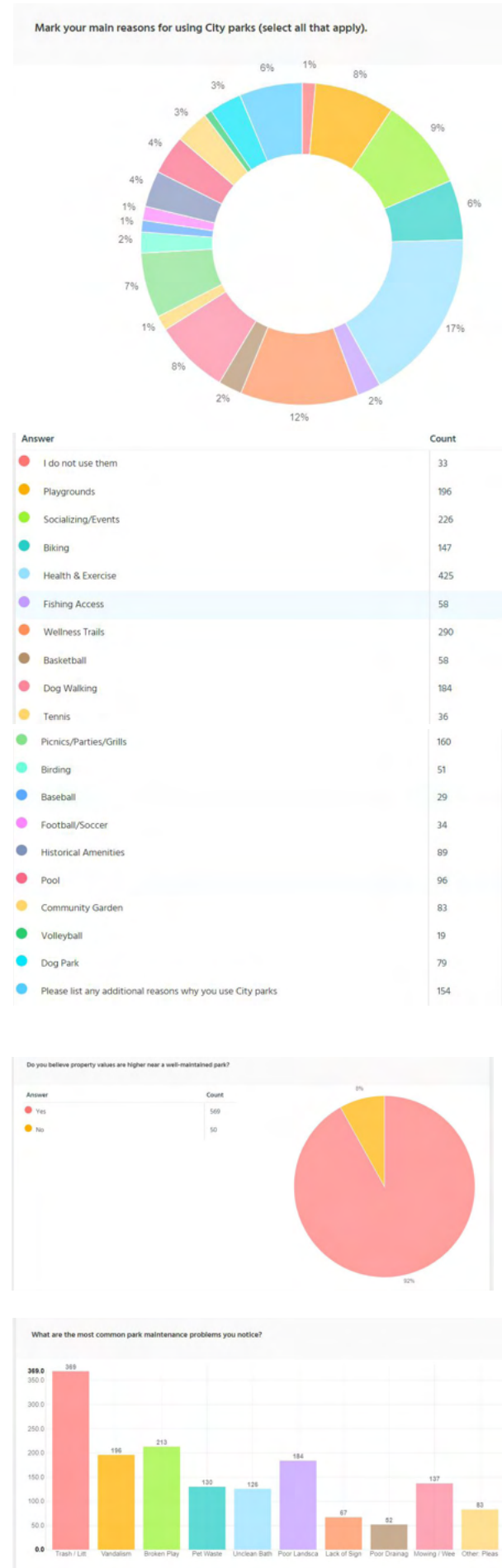
69.2% of respondents say they use City Parks. The top response for activities users participate in while using City Parks are: Health & Exercise (17%), Wellness Trails (11%), Socializing and Events (9%), Playgrounds (8%) Dog walking (7%), Picnics/ Parties/ Grills (6%) and Biking (6%). There was a large contingent of survey respondents that requested a skate park in the city. It is important to note that Skating was not included in the list of responses, and represents 52% of the 154 responses that survey takers could fill in on their own.

Maintenance

A number of questions within the survey relate to perception of parks, maintenance issues, and how people perceive parks beyond usership. An overwhelming percent of participants believe property values are higher near a well-maintained park (92% of responses). And 63% of participants considered having a near by park an important factor when deciding where to live. Most of the respondents believe City Park are good to well-maintained, with a quarter of survey takers stating parks are poorly maintained & neglected. When asked, What are the most common park maintenance problems you notice? The general response was across the board of selections, with a quarter of complaints being Trash / Litter / Illegal Dumping, followed by broken play equipment (14%), Vandalism (13%)

Programming & Events

Outside of Nay Aug Park, there is a lack of consistent park programming. 70% of respondents stated there were not currently any special events or festivals in their neighborhood park that they enjoyed attending.



Pets

37% of respondents are dog owners. Nay Aug Park, Connell Park, Robinson Park, and McDade were among the top written responses of favorite locations to bring a dog. Interestingly, Nay Aug and McDade were the top two locations although neither offer an off-leash dog park.

- One respondent wrote, they bring their dog to another location outside of Scranton,
- Response: "Clark summit dog park. The city park is not kept up with and there is only 1"
- Another respondent was unaware where they could bring their pet to a park in Scranton
- Response: "Not sure where I can near me"

Also, Dog walking is the 5th top response from asking participants to select the main reasoning for using City Parks.

When asked What are the most common park maintenance problems you notice? 130 participants responded pet waste being a common problem they notice (8%).

• 3.3.b Specific Park Issues

The consultant reviewed individual responses to question 18, please list any specific parks with maintenance problems. Of the detailed responses, the most mentioned parks are Nay Aug Park, Robinson Park, Connell Park, Oakmont Park, Jackson Street, Clover Field and the Capouse Pool. Below is a list of detailed and specific comments generated from the survey.

Nay Aug

- Nay Aug could be more well-maintained with landscaping
- litter, disrepair in Nay Aug's Davis trail and waterfall overlook station, graffiti
- Nay Aug.. fix the pool
- Nay Aug has a litter problem.
- The pool at Nay Aug is in disrepair. I'd love to see a zero-entry pool or splash park and basketball courts replace the pools.
- At the East Gibson entrance to Nay Aug the gravel path has decayed in large sections. It needs to be replenished or converted to blacktop.
- Davis Trail is overgrown and not cared for. Davis Trail is overgrown and not cared for. Litter and trash is a park. Nailed Park pavilions are usually filthy, I often bring a broom to sweep them before use. They are in dire need of weekly
- Nay Aug, garbage and dog waste stations are poorly placed and moved regularly without any real insight.
- The Park roads and paths need to be re-paved at Nay Aug

Oakmont Park

- Fences are broken around Robinson Park and garbage is usually an issue. The basketball courts at Robinson (and Oakmont) are in terrible shape
- Oakmont play equipment is in poor shape

-Oakmont park , it's a great space in a great neighborhood and it's ran down and everything is broke ! We would love to see this park fixed up !

-Oakmont has broken equipment. Dangerous for anyone to play on

-The playground equipment at Oakmont have been unsafe for a long time. The wood is rotten and the screws do not stay in the wood. We are unable to use the playground because it is so unsafe. Robinson's playground equipment is also 20+ years old.

Robinson Park

-Fences are broken around Robinson Park and garbage is usually an issue. The basketball courts at Robinson (and Oakmont) are in terrible shape

-Robinson Park is closest to my home. It is in disrepair.

Jackson Street

-West side skate park (it is not really a skate park but more a basketball court with a quarter pipe, but the property and features have not improved in over a decade, and there are cracks all throughout that make it hard to skate well).

-With the west side skate park it seems like older kids/adults pick up. Not the park. And then park gets closed because it's messy.

Clover Field

-Clover Field has drainage issues and litter often collects around perimeter where industrial businesses are located

-Clover - needs either turf or pavement where park meets road. Sad that a junkyard sits right next door to Clover. Also sad that a bar with alcohol license sits right next to Fellows (Note: this establishment was closed and for sale).

Capouse Pool

-The only park we'd probably use on a daily basis is Capouse Ave pool complex..I believe to be number 20... Recently was cleaned up a bit of litter and old bushes and trees..but still is in need of much maintenance

-Capouse Ave Pool Complex; extreme neglect

Weston Field

-Weston field, track could be made into recycled rubber, currently mud

Connell Park

-Trash cleanup. Connell Park is essentially maintained by the people who go to the dog park at this point

-Bath house at Connell Park

Tripp's Park

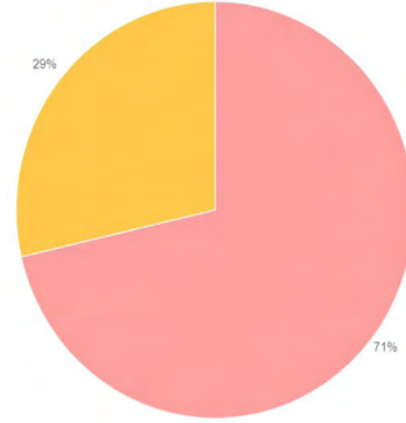
-Please fix the standing water issue at Tripp's Park, last summer you only did one side. It did not fix the problem on the side work was done either. It's disgusting and a safety/health hazard.

Grace Street

Grace st playground has been neglected for years. It is an eye sore to the neighborhood with filth, graffiti and mess

3.3.c Accessibility

71 % of survey takers said they live within a 10-minute walk from their home. 51% of survey takers said yes to needing to drive to access a park. This data suggests that though most people have easy access to a park they may need to drive in order to use a park with facilities they want to utilize or foster activities that can't be accomplished in their local park setting. Additionally, 55% of respondents said they need to travel outside of Scranton to meet their wellness and play needs. When asked, Why do you need to leave the City of Scranton to play? The top answer was, facilities not found in Scranton (26%), followed by Just for something different (25%) and Better maintained parks (20%)



When asked, Are you aware of any parks with ADA accessibility issues (lack parking or proper walkways to site amenities)? Do you have suggestions for more ADA accessible play features or amenities? There were a number of written responses all garnering attention to make efforts to improve access at parks.

- Inaccessibility is an ongoing issue at events
- There should be clearly marked and accessible trails at Nay Aug.
- The path to get to the main playground in Nay Aug is a steep, poorly grade hill covered in gravel.
- Static electricity can become a problem for pacemakers and cochlear implants
- Robinson park has no handicap accessible playground equipment. There are no sidewalks from the parking lot to the playground areas. Poor drainage makes the grass impassable for someone in a wheelchair.
- put in better walking trail around Mountain Lake and improve the parking area, make fishing accessible too
- Playgrounds at Nay Aug are not accessible
- Oakmont Park would be a great park for ADA it is easily accessible from the road, flat surface park, basketball court, gazebo. The only thing needed is equipment and some more benches. Cleanup.
- Need ada equipment
- Nay Aug walkways. Ada access to the pool (roll in entrance), Ada height community garden beds
- More benches needed at Nay Aug Park for "seniors".
- It would be nice to be able to get out to the Nay Aug Gorge
- I'm not aware of any parks in Scranton that have accessible swings and other activities for physically disabled children and adults in our community

- I would love to see handicap accessible playground equipment at Robinson.
- Handicap picnic tables
- Grace st Park not ADA. Mulch drop off. Back gate too narrow and doesn't open
- Fishing pier for ADA access on Roaring Brook at Richter Avenue
- Fellows Park has near zero parking for those unable to walk there. Why a survey is needed to answer this question is puzzling. You need a park director to survey the parks and conduct a site review. Public is not the way to determine such answers.
- East Mountain park has no adaptive equipment even though there was an adult intellectual disability program renting the building. It should be more inclusive and safe for children and adults of all abilities.
- Connors Park the gates with the handicapped walkways are locked with chains
- Bocce courts far from parking. hard for older/ disabled. game can be played by people with limited abilities
- All of the playgrounds at Nay Aug and at Rockwell; Nay Aug pool is inaccessible