



# *Village of Blissfield Michigan*

## ***Community Recreation Assessment***

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## Executive Summary

Overall, a majority of respondents were female middle aged adults with a median household income ranging from \$50,000-\$54,000 who spend under \$1,500 annually on recreation services and activities. In regard to recreation programming respondents reported greatest interest in opportunities for youth, lifelong athletic activities, enrichment and self improvement, health and fitness, and travel and tourism. In regard to specific recreational activities a majority of respondents reported greatest interest for themselves or their families in reading, natural environment education, landscaping, gardening, photography, biking, hiking, in-line skating, walking, intermediate aerobics, water aerobics, and low impact aerobics, choir, music lessons, theater movies, and home movies. In regard to sports (i.e., basketball, baseball, golf, soccer, volleyball, tennis, softball) respondents reported little interest except for sporting opportunities for youth.

Further, respondents indicated that 4:00pm to 8:00pm, Monday through Friday, and 8:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday were the times most convenient for them and/or their families to participate in recreational services or activities. Respondents also indicated they preferred to receive information related to recreational services and activities via direct mailings and local newspaper advertisements, and if constrained from recreation participation, constraint was due to personal time constraints or lack of service and activity information. Respondents also indicated most frequently that they utilized village recreational facilities and programs one day a week, primarily during the summer months.

Overall, respondents agreed that Village recreational areas and facilities meet their recreational needs; they felt safe using facilities, programs and services; that the Parks and Recreation department had a satisfactory image; that park and recreation areas and facilities were well maintained; and that facilities for recreation compare favorably to those of surrounding communities. In regard to opportunity for public input on Village recreation decisions, respondents were split in regard to agreement. In regard to park acreage, respondents agreed that park acreage was adequate in their neighborhood and the Village. In contrast, less than a majority of respondents found the Village to be responsive to community recreational needs or an important recreation provider to themselves or their families.

Respondents also indicated that the Village should collaborate extensively with local businesses to sponsor recreation opportunities and that the Village should provide more recreational activities for youth, adults, women, seniors and the family. Further, respondents indicated that the Village does a good job of marketing and advertising recreation programs and services and that they receive timely information about Village recreation programs and services.

Related to finances, respondents indicated they were not sure if the Village was spending an adequate amount of money on recreation or if the Village should increase recreation-related spending. Further uncertainty was reported in regard to whether or not developing new facilities for recreation should be a Village priority. While not a majority, respondents did advocate for improving current facilities for recreation. Further respondents advocated for increased recreational programs and services. Respondents indicated user fees and charges are adequate and affordable for recreational programs and services and that non-Village residents should pay higher recreational user fees and charges than Village residents. Respondents also advocated that fees should not be collected on a sliding-scale based on household income. When asked if they were willing to pay increased user fees to support recreation program and/or service expansion, respondents were almost evenly split in terms of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty. Further, respondents indicated they were unwilling to pay increased taxes for the improvement of Village park and recreation areas and facilities or the development of new Village park and recreation facilities. Finally, respondents indicated an almost even split in terms of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty in regard to the Village hiring a full-time park and recreation director.

In regard to future facility planning respondents indicated the Village should develop a paved river walk trail, an indoor community / recreation center, a community trail system, areas along the river more extensively, educational trails along the river, and improve or expand support facilities. While less than the majority, respondents did advocate for the updating of all existing park and recreation facilities, the development of an indoor pool, and the development of more playgrounds and play areas. Further, respondents disagreed the Village should invest in an indoor ice rink and the expansion of the skate park. Respondents were almost evenly split in terms of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty in relation to the development of a fine arts center and the installation of digital information signs within the community.

### Overview

The provision of park and recreation service is an essential function of municipal government. Organized park and recreation services satisfy significant community needs and provide numerous benefits to communities and community residents such as: improving quality of life, attributing to personal development, improving environmental attractiveness, reducing juvenile delinquency, improving intergroup relations, strengthening community ties, maintaining economic health, enriching cultural life, and promoting health and safety.

The Village of Blissfield’s Park and Recreation Department understands that quality of life is vital to the residents of Blissfield and Village recreation facilities and programs contribute directly to the health and well-being of the entire community. Further, the Department strives to offer fun, affordable, year-round activities for all ages, while responding to community needs and moving forward in the development of new programs. The Village Park and Recreation Board is administratively positioned as follows:

#### Village Organization Chart Elected/Appointed boards



Park and Recreation Department recreational facilities include Ellis Park, Clara Bachmayer Memorial Park, Bachmayer Little League Park, O. W. Farver Little League Park, and the Downtown Mini-Park.

**Ellis Park**

Classification	Acreege	Facilities
Community Park	17.5 Acres	Baseball and softball diamonds, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, basketball coats, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, playground, picnic tables, shelter houses, boat launch, and community swimming pool



**Clara Bachmayer Memorial Park**

Classification	Acreege	Facilities
Community Park	6.9 Acres	Picnic shelters, playground



**Bachmayer Little League Field**

Classification	Acreege	Facilities
Neighborhood Park	4.4 Acres	Baseball, picnic shelters, playground



**O. W. Farver Little League Field**

Classification	Acreege	Facilities
Neighborhood Park	6 Acres	Baseball



Other Village recreational facilities include:

Downtown Mini Park		
Classification	Acreage	Facilities
Neighborhood Park	0.2 Acres	

Blissfield High School		
Classification	Acreage	Facilities
Community Park	70 Acres	Football, baseball, soccer, track, exercise

Blissfield Middle School		
Classification	Acreage	Facilities
Community Park	1.7 Acres	Playground

Blissfield Elementary School		
Classification	Acreage	Facilities
Neighborhood Park	2.0 Acres	Associated with High School Complex

In addition to operating community and neighborhood parks, the Parks and Recreation Department is involved in the provision of recreation-related programming including: soccer, flag football, tackle football, cheerleading, tennis, walking, and numerous special events annually including a safety city and Junior Olympics.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the current community assessment was to identify resident perceptions related to recreational programmatic preferences; individual recreational activity preferences; service and activity scheduling preferences; advertising and marketing preferences; barriers constraining resident recreational participation; current facility use rates; and personal opinions related to current recreational facilities, programs, and services; and future recreational planning. Specifically, the current assessment was conducted to provide the Village Park and Recreation Board with information pertinent to future recreational planning and in partial fulfillment of the Village’s required park and recreation plan, which makes the Village eligible for State of Michigan funding.

**Methods**

**Procedures**

On behalf of, and in cooperation with the Village of Blissfield’s Board of Recreation (BBOR), the University of Toledo’s Division of Recreation and Leisure Studies (UTDRLS) conducted the current community recreation assessment. Based on meetings between the UTDRLS and the BBOR it was decided that the community assessment would consist of a self-administered survey to be distributed to a random sample of Village of Blissfield households. Specifically, it was decided that the community assessment would focus on identifying community resident’s recreational interests and perceptions related to current and future park and recreation services.

A two-wave mailing procedure was instituted to maximize response rate. Solicitations to all study participants were sent via US mail and included: a personalized cover letter indicating participant identification procedures, confidentiality procedures, and information pertaining to the study’s purpose (**See Appendix A**); a copy of the survey questionnaire; and a coded self-addressed, pre-stamped, envelope for survey questionnaire return.

## *Subjects*

Using a systematic sampling design, a random sample of 676 households were identified and solicited to participate in the current assessment from residential addresses on file with the Village. Of the 676 households solicited to participate in the study 55 households were removed from the sample due to the solicited residence being vacant or the address on file undeliverable resulting in a sample size (n) =621.

The two-wave mailing procedure resulted in the return of 214 surveys, yielding a 34% response rate. Of the 214 surveys returned 10 were omitted from data analysis as a result of incomplete datum, yielding a usable response rate of 33%. This response has been cited as typical, and acceptable, within community based recreational research.

## *Instrumentation*

The survey used in the current assessment was developed by the UTDRLS based on three community focus groups held to identify current and future recreational issues and trends most pertinent to Village residents, insight and recommendations from the BBOR, and the review of previously developed and administered community assessment measurement instruments. The final survey consisted of 196 content items addressing recreational-program interest areas, specific recreational-activity interests, service and activity scheduling, advertising and marketing, constraints to participation, use-rates, personal opinions related to the provision of park and recreation services, and personal opinions related to future recreational-facility planning. In addition, the final survey included 7 demographic questions addressing gender, computer ownership, household income, recreational expenditures, and size and characteristic of household. All scaled-content items were tested using a test-retest procedure. The survey instrument was found to have acceptable reliability using a Person r correlation measure ( $r = .87$ ). **See Appendix B**

## *Statistical Design*

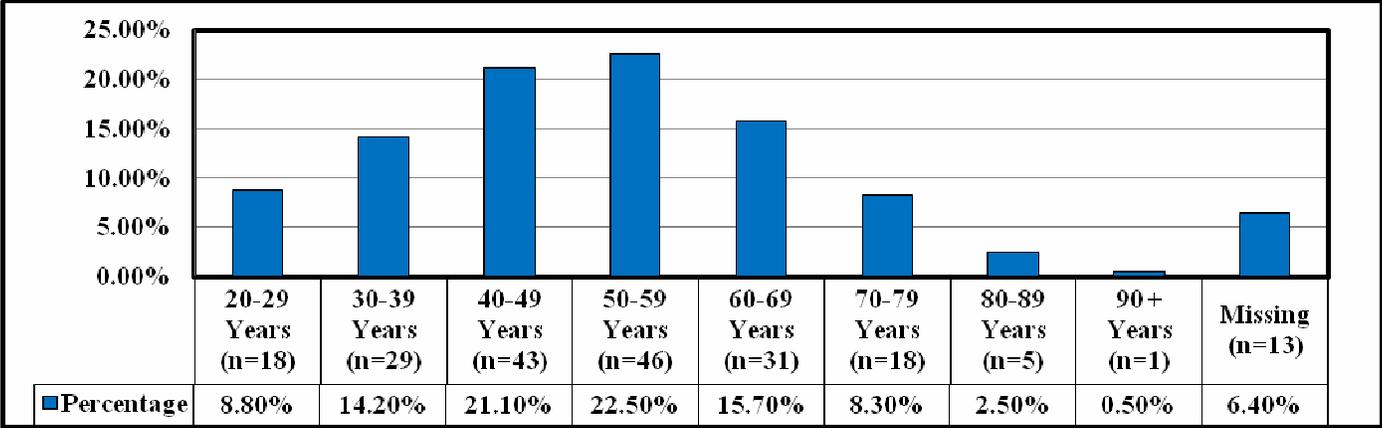
Survey instruments were analyzed using SPSS. All datum reported were analyzed and reported as grouped data. Not all households responded to all applicable measurement items, resulting in some points of missing data. As such, the total number of respondents per item is noted within results, where applicable. Data analysis was done using standard descriptive statistical methods.

**Results**

**Demographics**

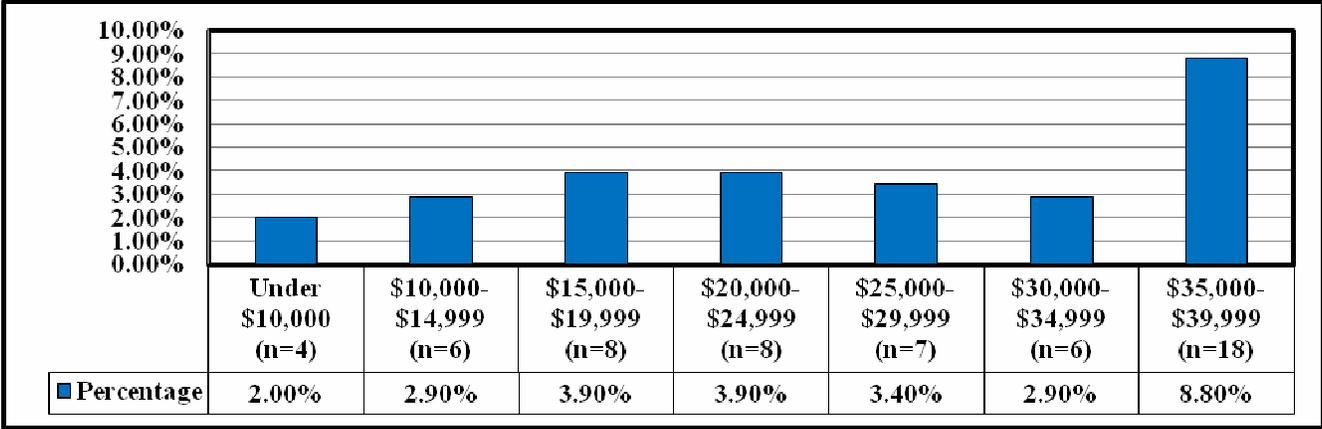
Overall a majority of assessment respondents (n=204) were female (74%) and owned a personal computer (69%). Further, a majority of respondents were middle aged adults (See Figure 1), reporting a median income ranging from \$50,000-\$54,000 (See Figure 2), with an overwhelming majority reporting an annual expenditure on recreation below \$1,500 (See Figure 3)

**Figure 1: Respondent Age Range**

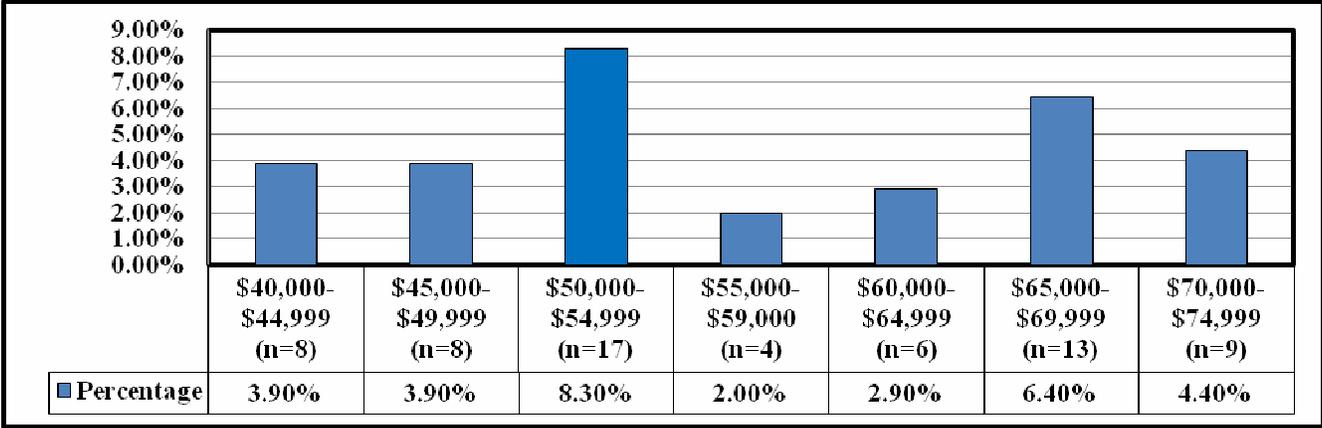


n=204

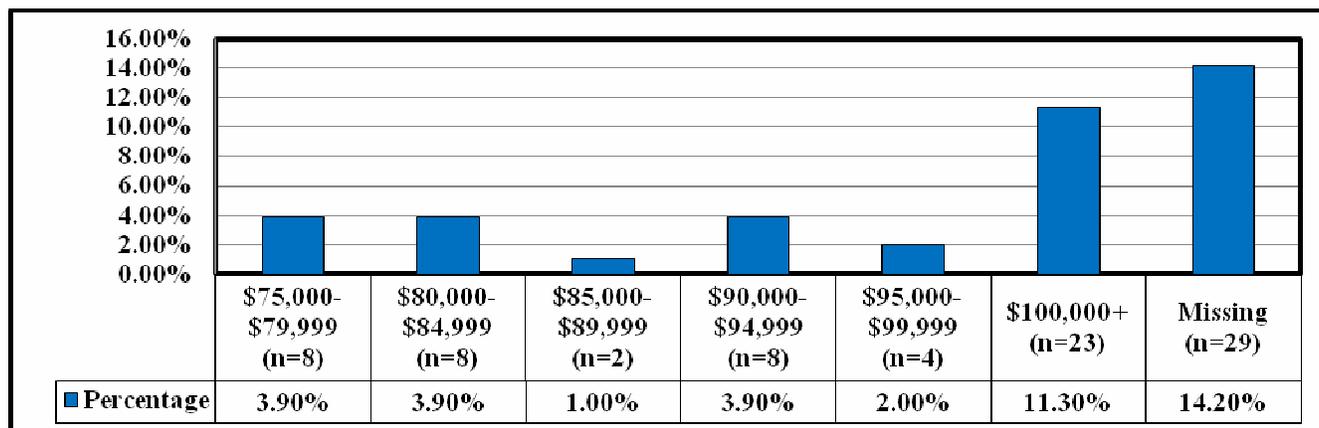
**Figure 2: Annual Household Income**



**Figure 2: Annual Household Income (Continued)**

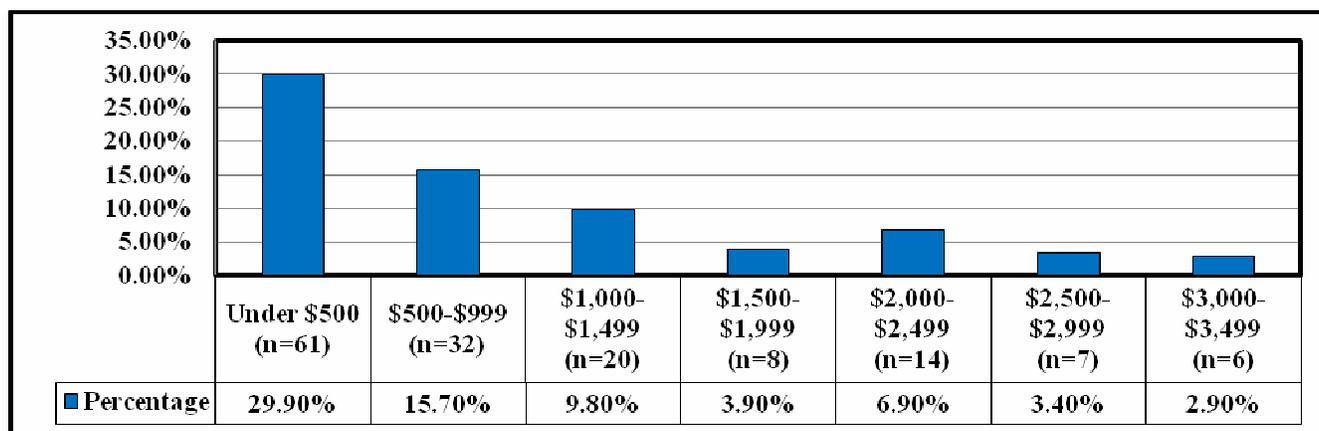


**Figure 2: Annual Household Income (Continued)**

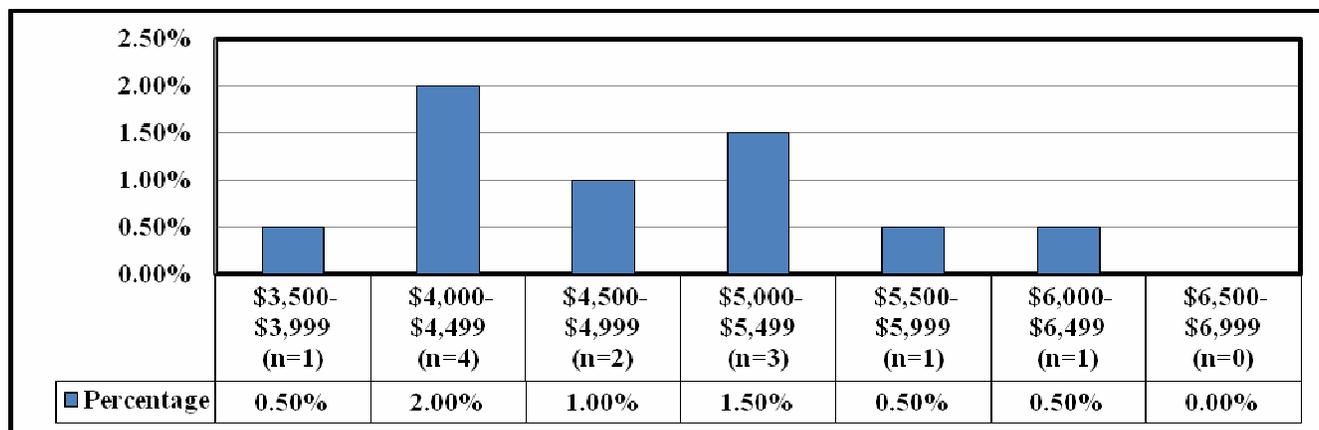


n = 204

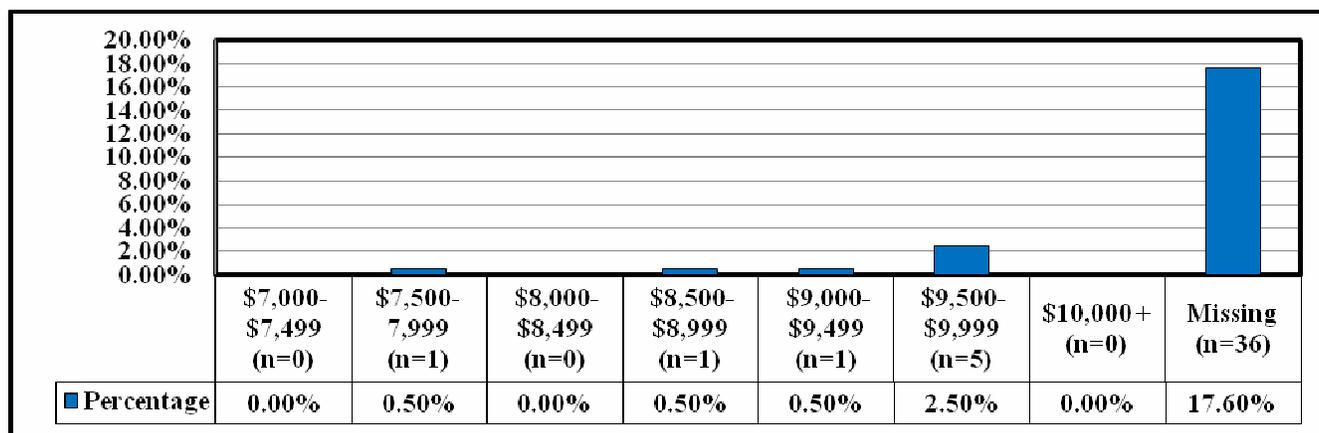
**Figure 3: Recreation Expenditures**



**Figure 3: Recreation Expenditures (Continued)**



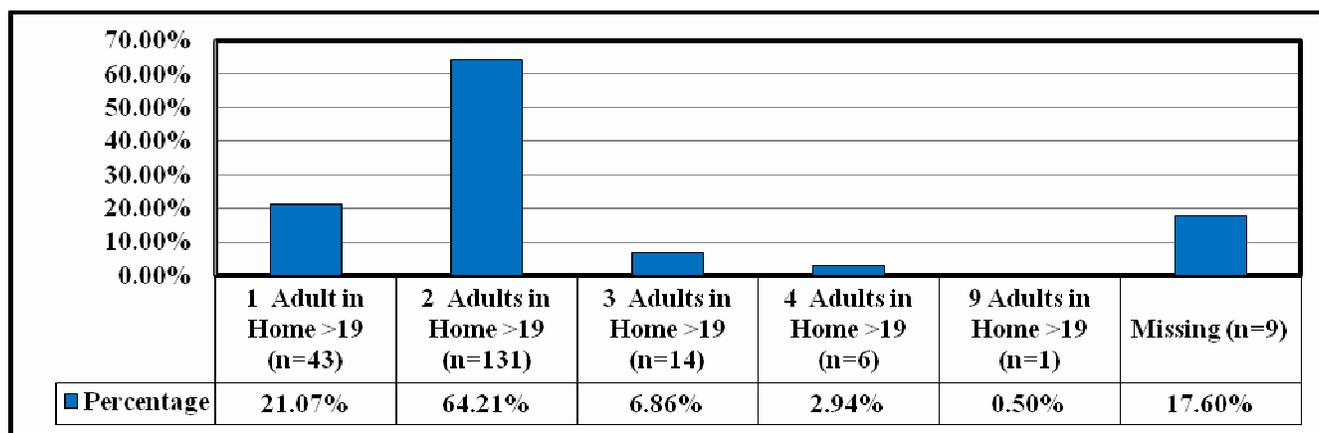
**Figure 3: Recreation Expenditures (Continued)**



N= 204

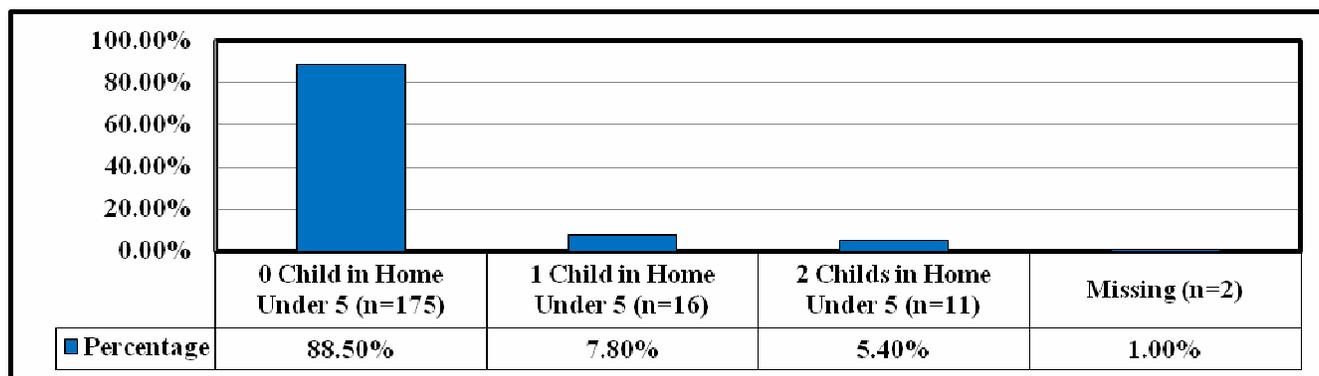
Data on respondents households indicated a majority of respondent households had 2 adults over 19 in the household (See Figure 4), and that an overwhelming majority had no children currently residing in the household (See Figures 5-8).

**Figure 4: Adults in Household Older than 19 Years of Age**



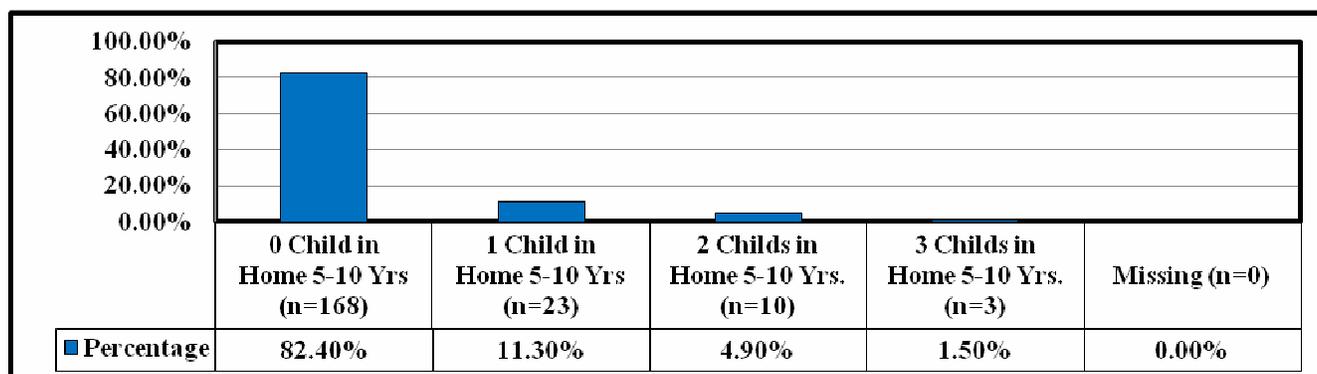
N= 204

**Figure 5: Children in Household Under 5 Years of Age**



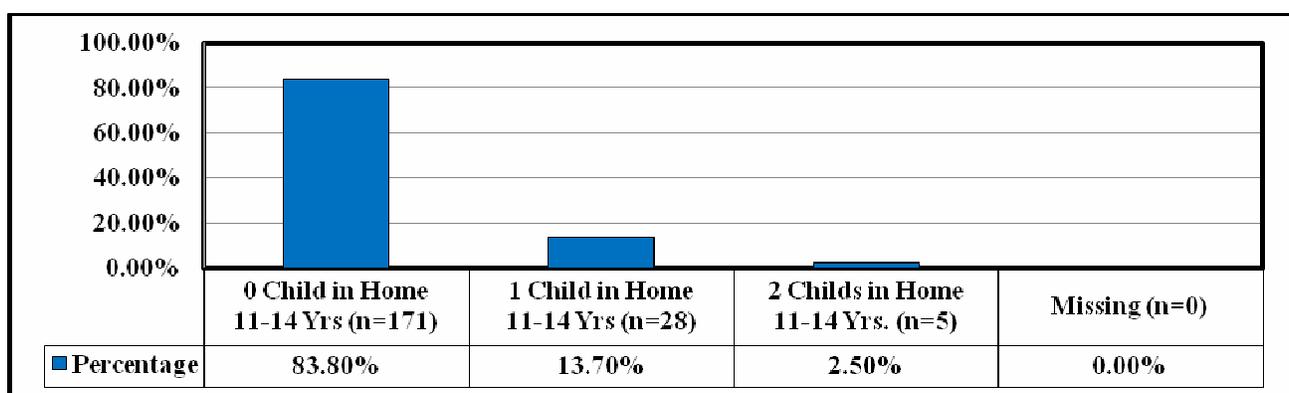
N= 204

Figure 6: Children in Household 5-10 Years of Age



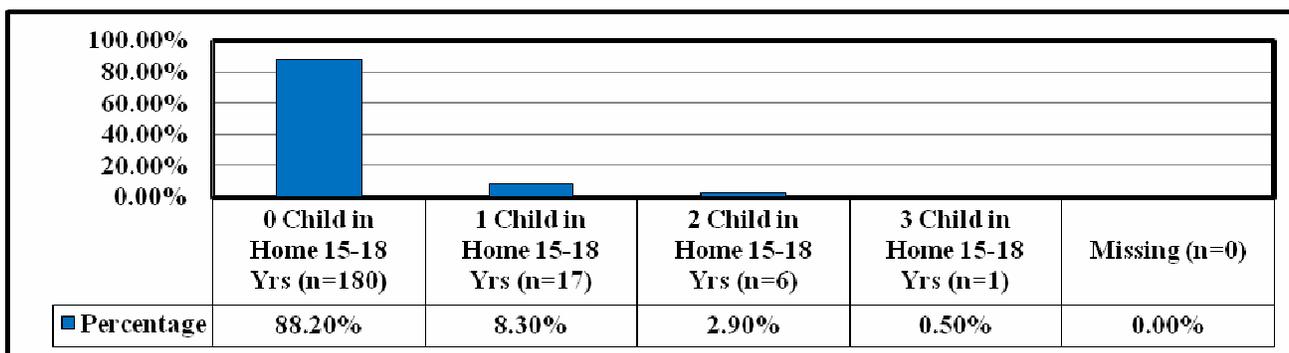
N= 204

Figure 7: Children in Household 11-14 Years of Age



N= 204

Figure 8: Children in Household 15-18 Years of Age

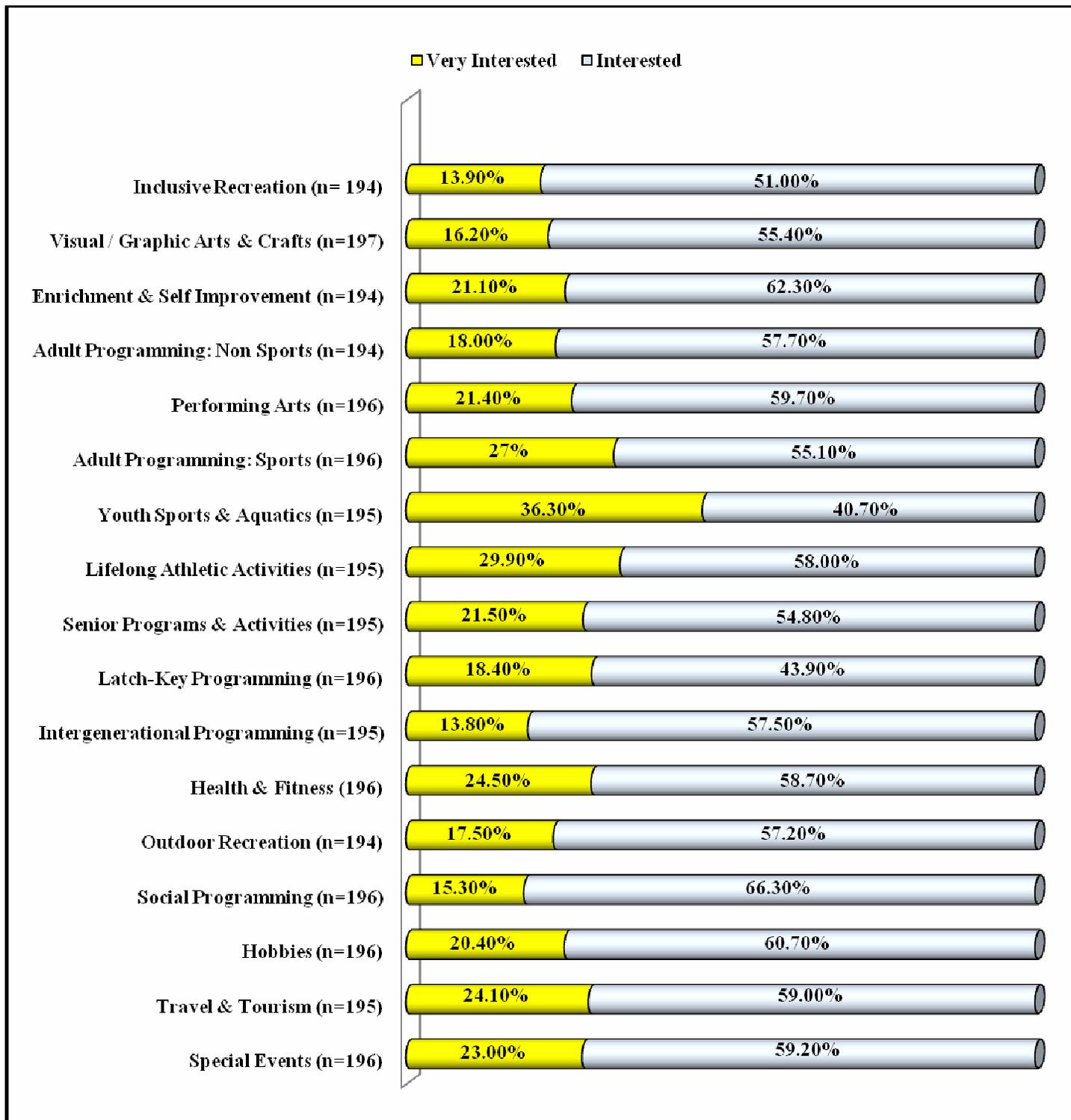


N= 204

**Recreational Program Areas**

A majority of respondents indicated a level of interest in all recreational program areas with youth sports and aquatics, adult sports programming, and lifelong athletic activities reported as the programmatic areas with the most respondents “very interested”. Overall, lifelong athletic activities, enrichment and self improvement, health and fitness, and travel and tourism reported the highest interest percentages (See Figure 9).

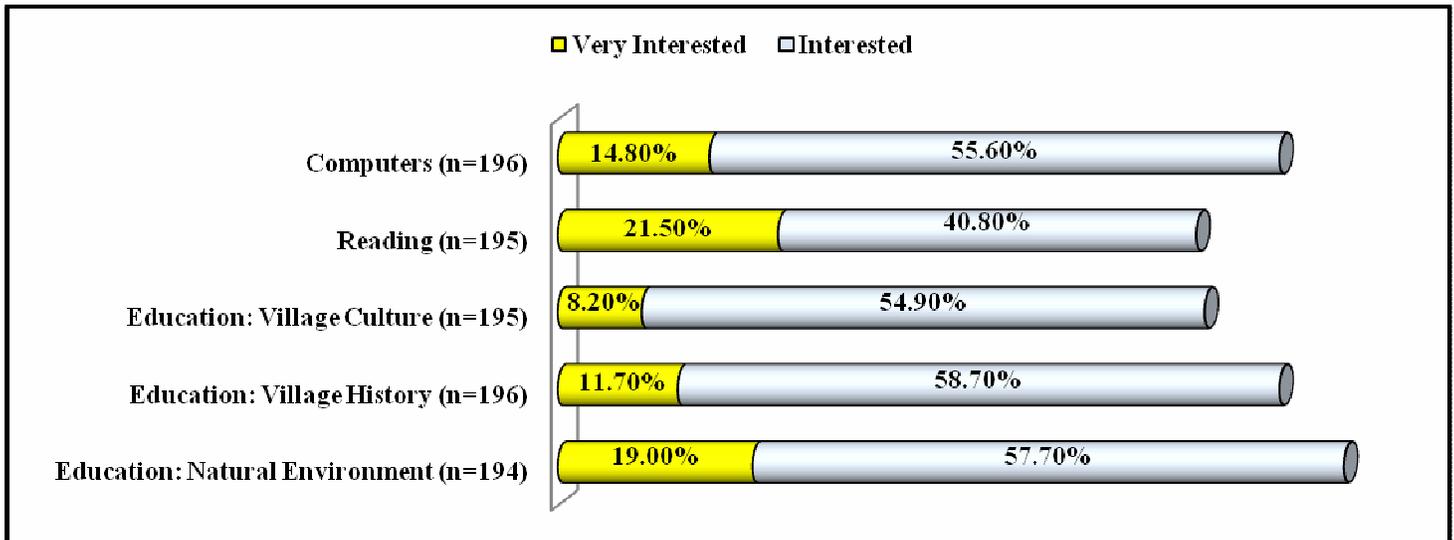
**Figure 9: Recreational Program Areas.**



**Recreational Activities**

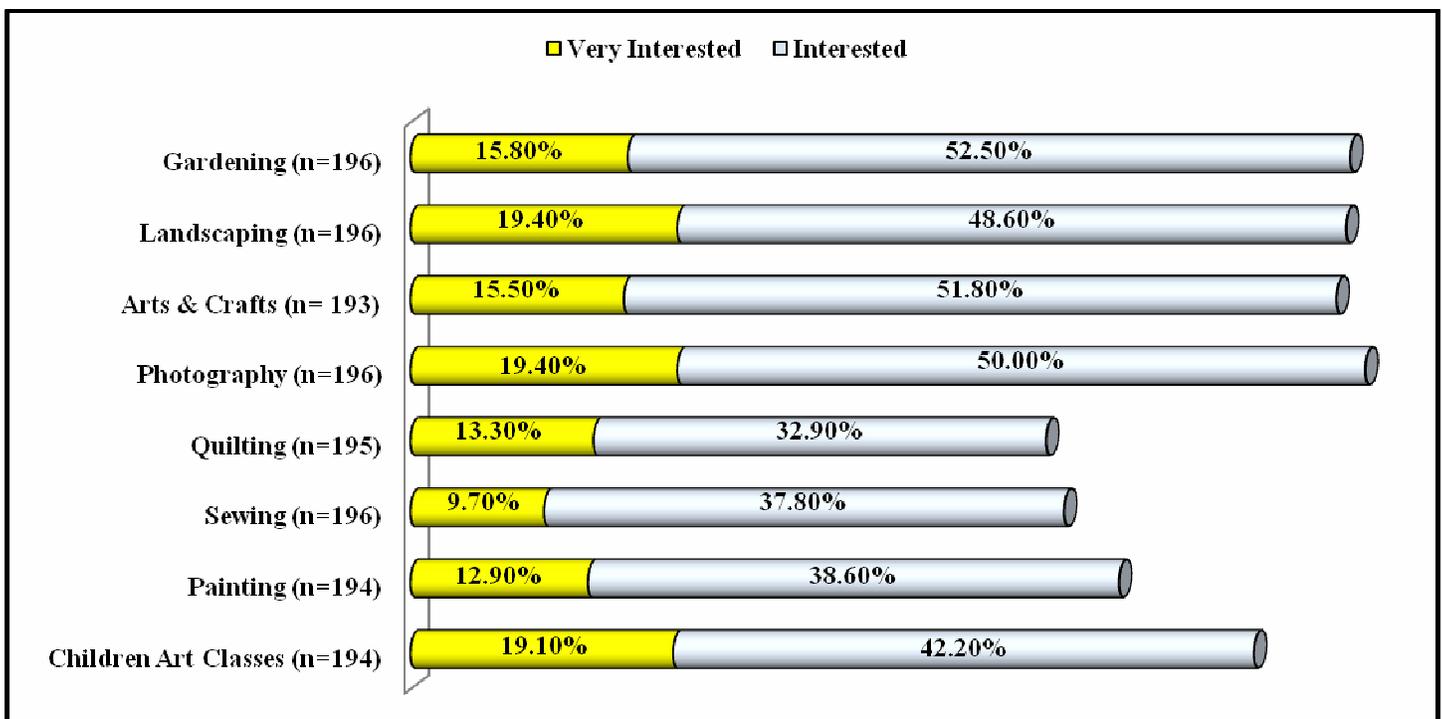
A majority of respondents indicated a level of interest in all educational and enrichment activities with reading and natural environment education reported as the activities with the most respondents “very interested”. Overall, natural environment education reported the highest interest percentage (See Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Educational and Enrichment Interest**



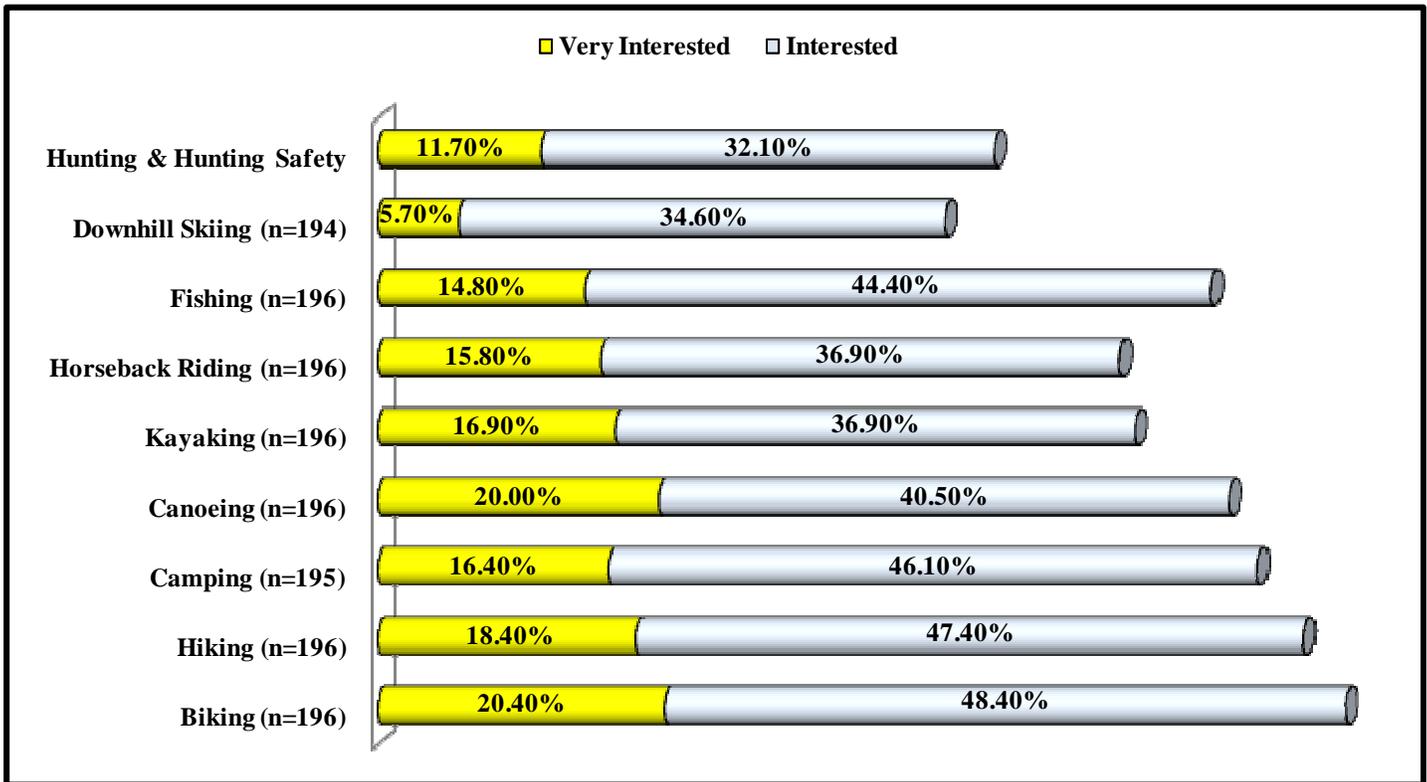
A majority of respondents indicated a level of interest in all arts, crafts, and hobby activities, excluding quilting and sewing, with landscaping, photography, and children’s art classes reported as the activities with the most respondents “very interested”. Overall, landscaping, gardening and photography reported the highest interest percentages (See Figure 11).

**Figure 11: Arts, Crafts & Hobbies**



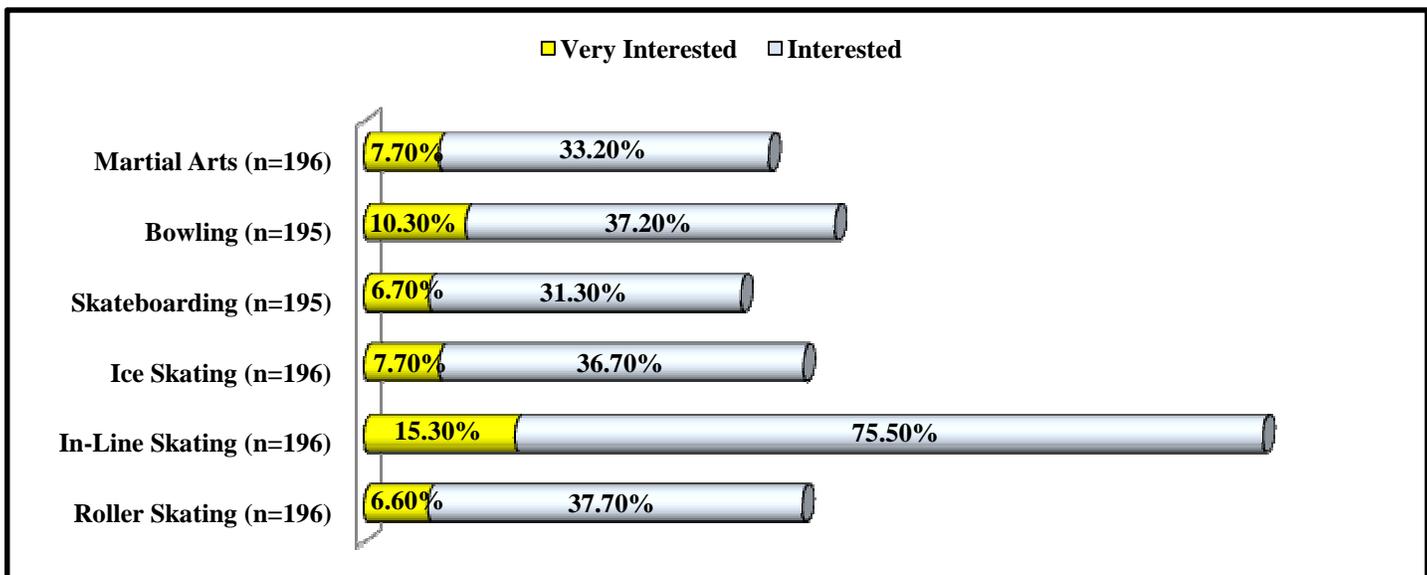
A majority of respondents indicated a level of interest in all outdoor recreation activities, excluding downhill skiing and hunting and hunting safety, with biking and canoeing reported as the activities with the most respondents “very interested”. Overall, biking and hiking reported the highest interest percentages (See Figure 12)

**Figure 12: Outdoor Recreation**



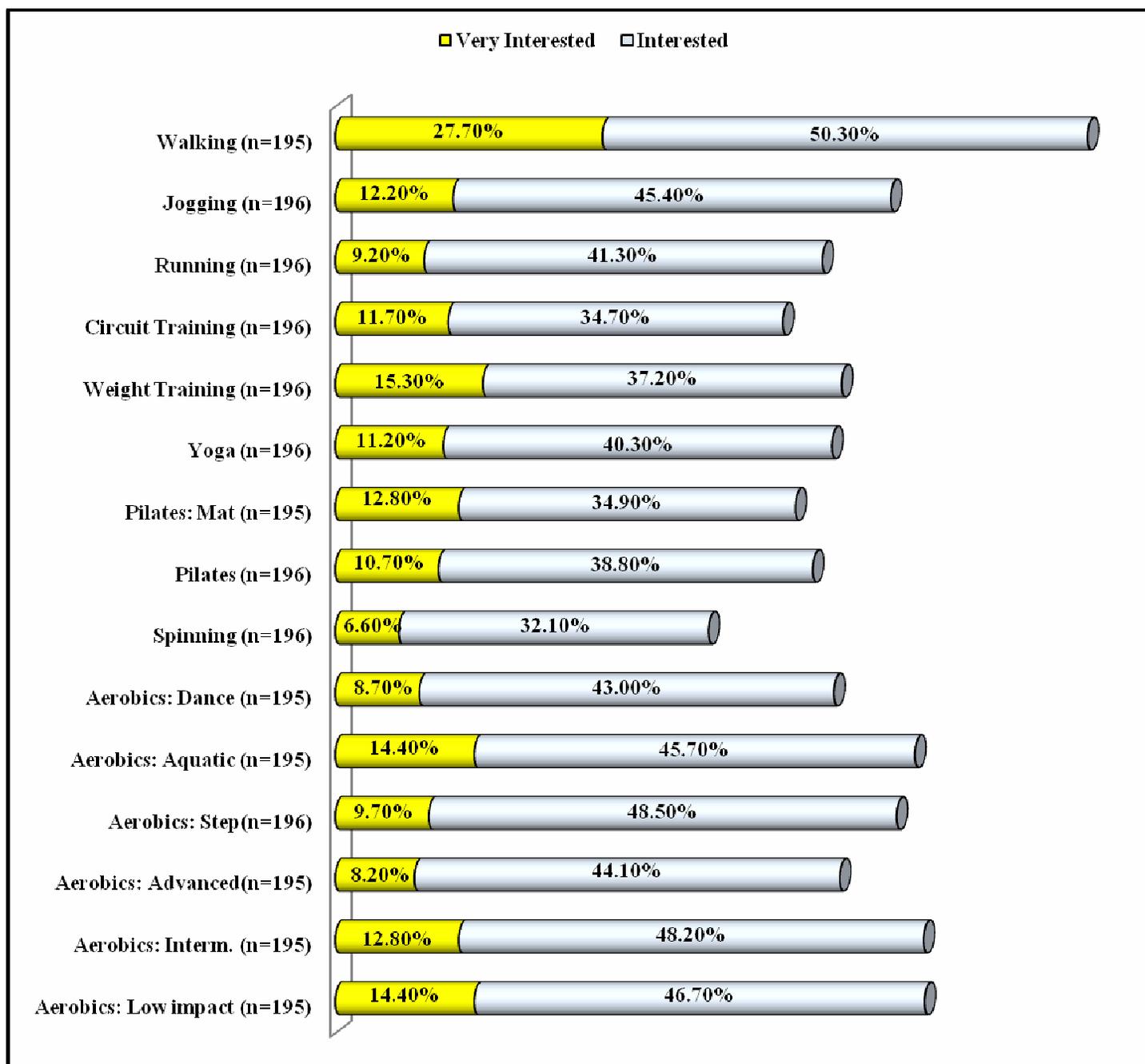
Out of all general recreation activities only in-line skating was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents (See Figure 13).

**Figure 13: General Recreation**



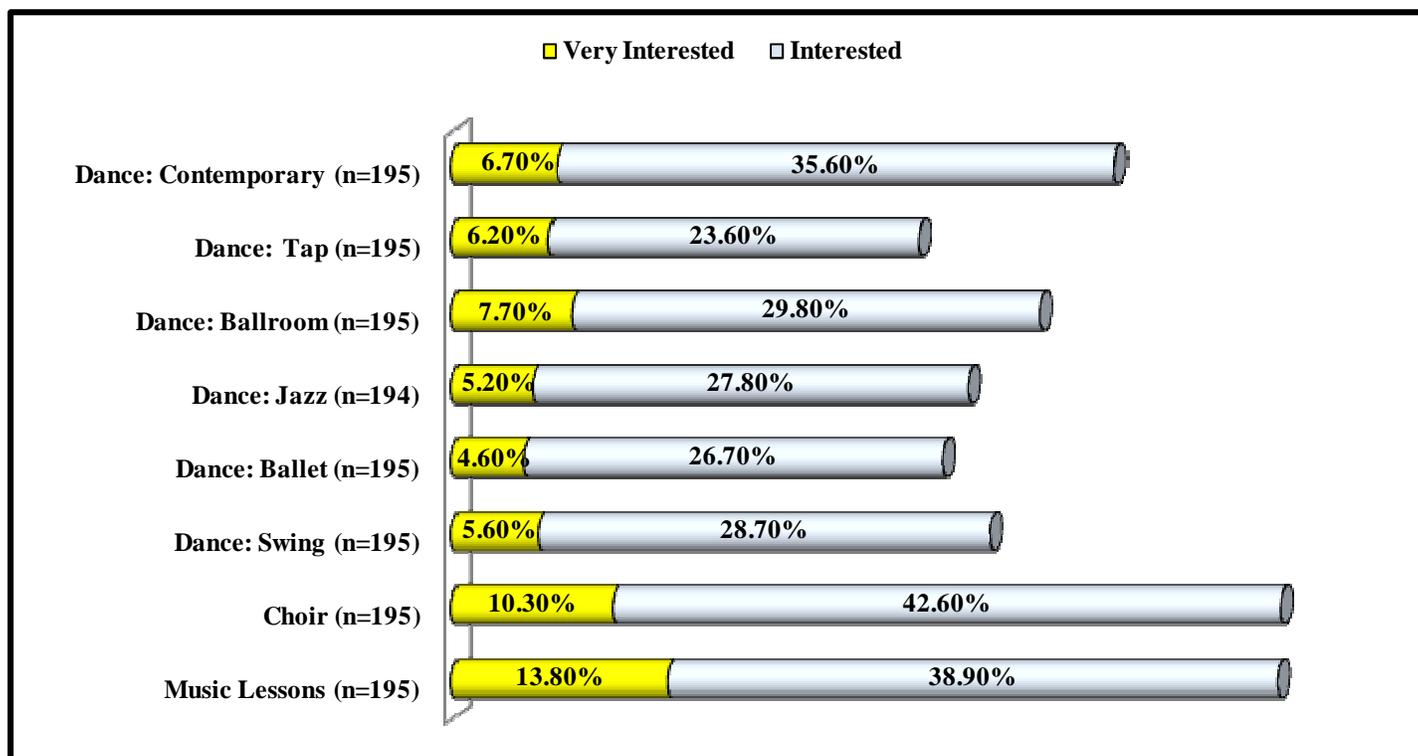
A majority of respondents indicated a level of interest in all health and fitness activities excluding spinning, pilates, mat pilates, and circuit training with walking, weight training, water aerobics, and low impact aerobics reported as the activities with the most respondents “very interested”. Overall, walking, intermediate aerobics, water aerobics, and low impact aerobics reported the highest interest percentages (See Figure 14).

**Figure 14: Health & Fitness**



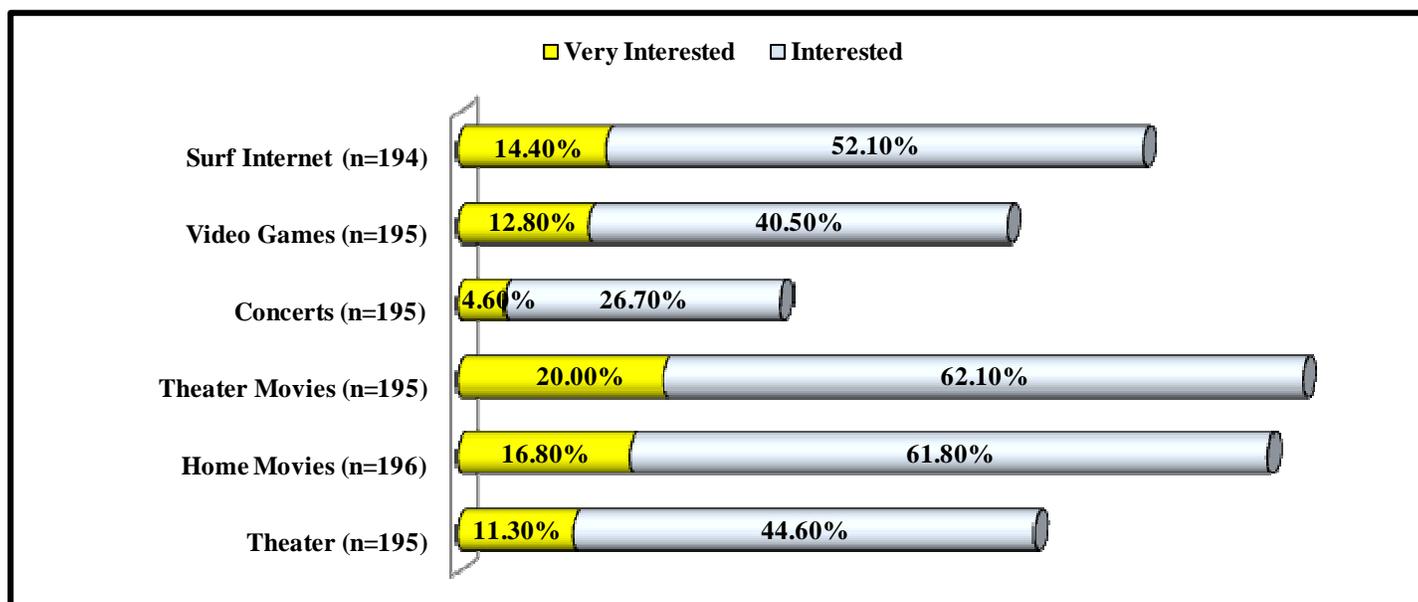
Out of all music and dance activities only choir and music lessons were reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents (See Figure 15).

**Figure 15: Music & Dance**



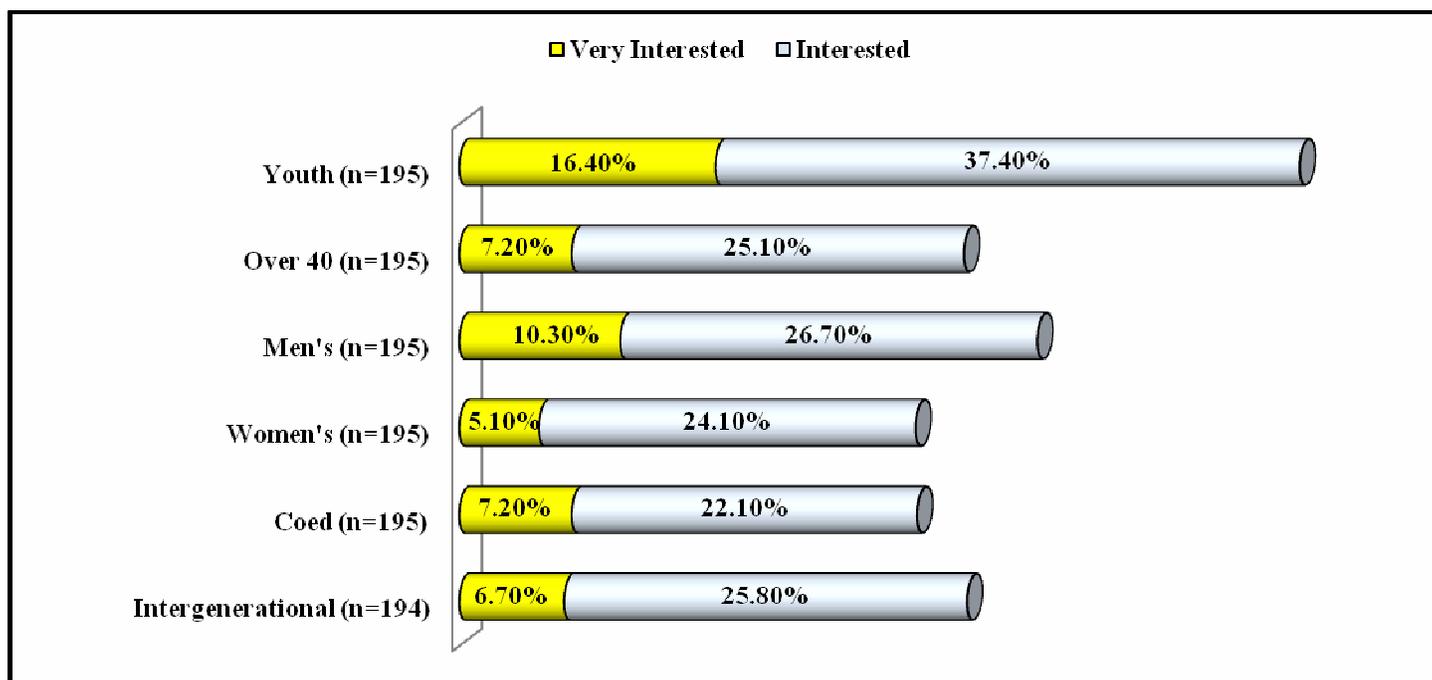
A majority of respondents indicated a level of interest in all entertainment activities, excluding concerts, with theater movies and home movies reported as the activities with the most respondents “very interested”. Overall, theater movies and home movies reported the highest interest percentages (See Figure 16).

**Figure 16: Entertainment**



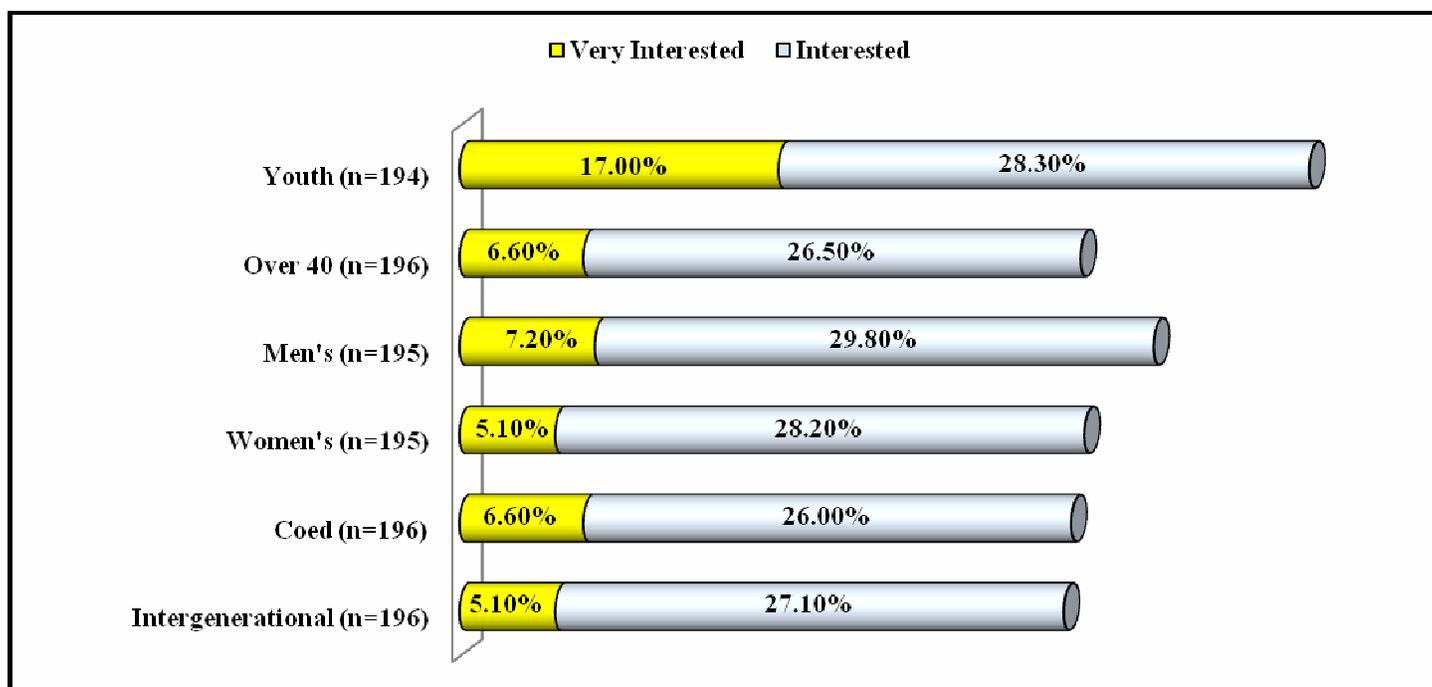
Out of all basketball activities only youth basketball was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents (See Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Basketball**



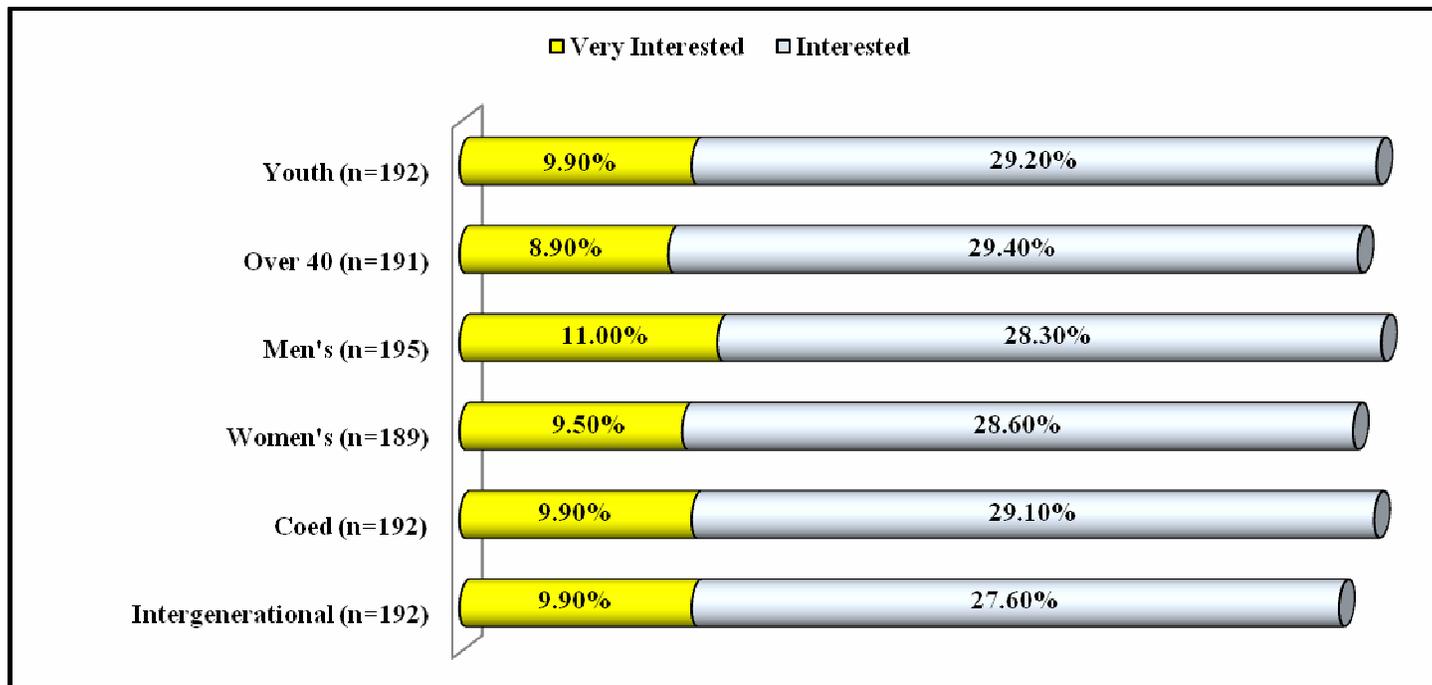
Out of all baseball activities no specific baseball-related activity was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents. Overall, youth baseball reported the highest interest percentage (See Figure 18).

**Figure 18: Baseball**



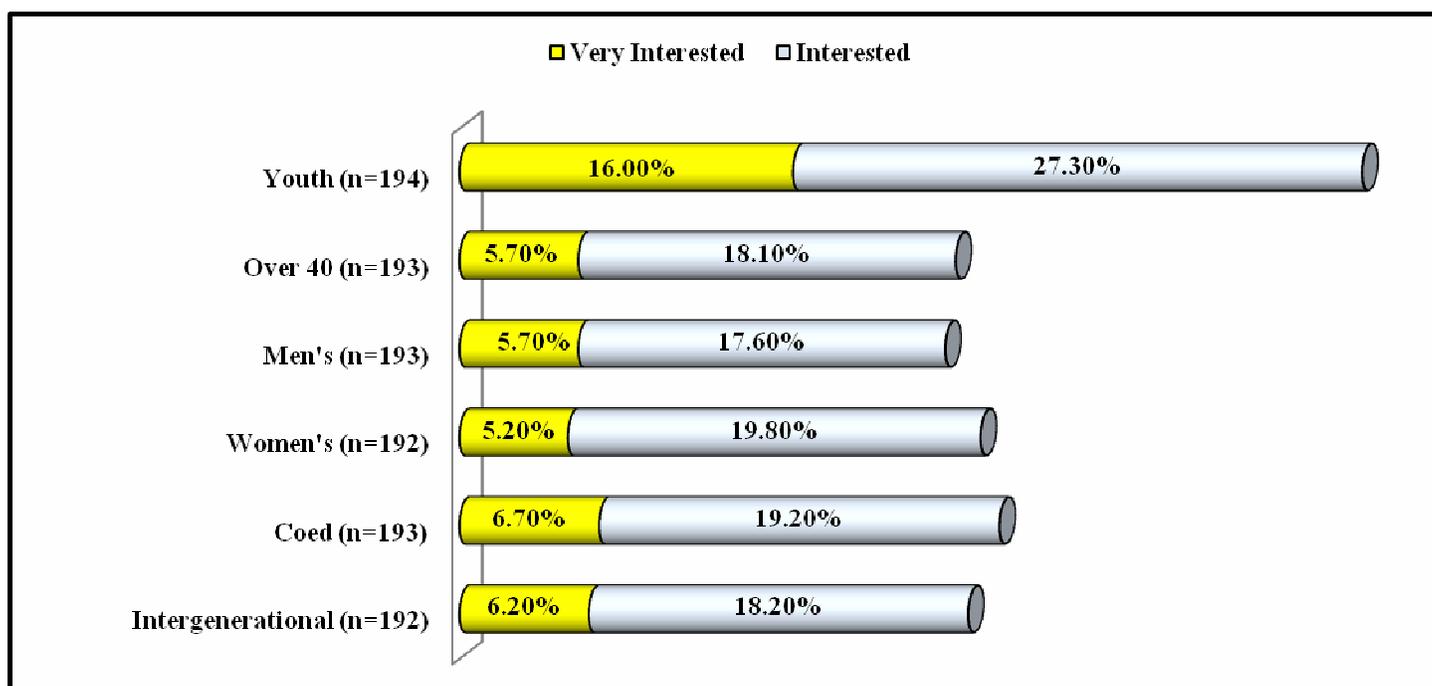
Out of all golf activities no specific golf-related activity was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents. Overall, all golf-related activities reported very similar percentages (See Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Golf**



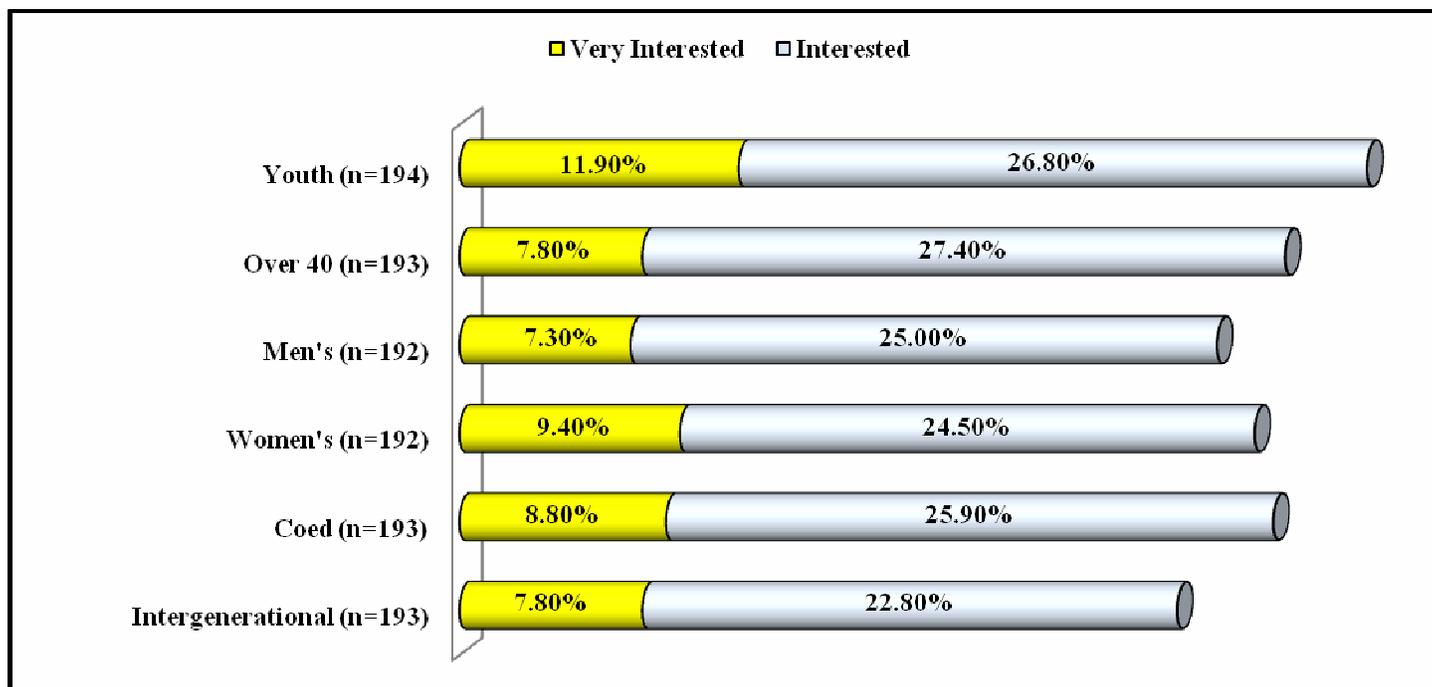
Out of all soccer activities no specific soccer-related activity was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents. Overall youth soccer reported the highest interest percentage (See Figure 20).

**Figure 20: Soccer**



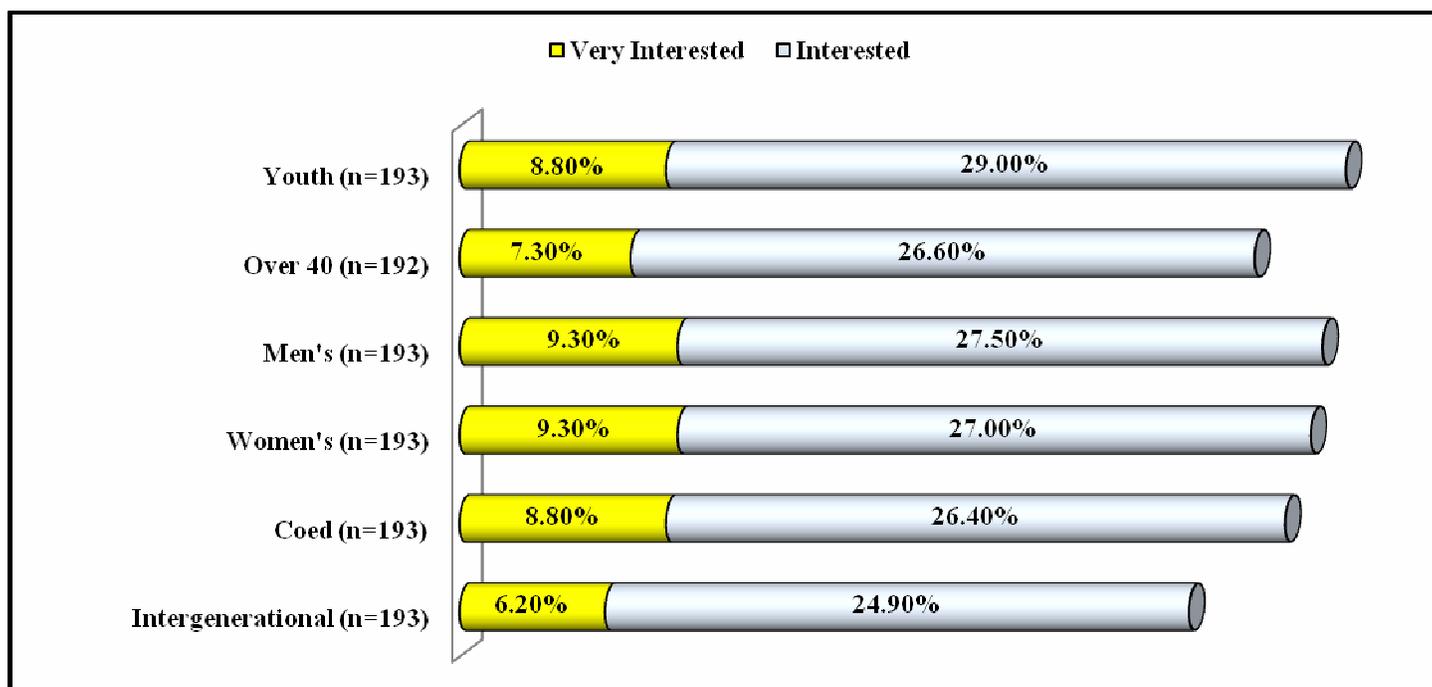
Out of all volleyball activities no specific volleyball-related activity was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents. Overall, youth volleyball reported the highest interest percentage (See Figure 21).

**Figure 21: Volleyball**



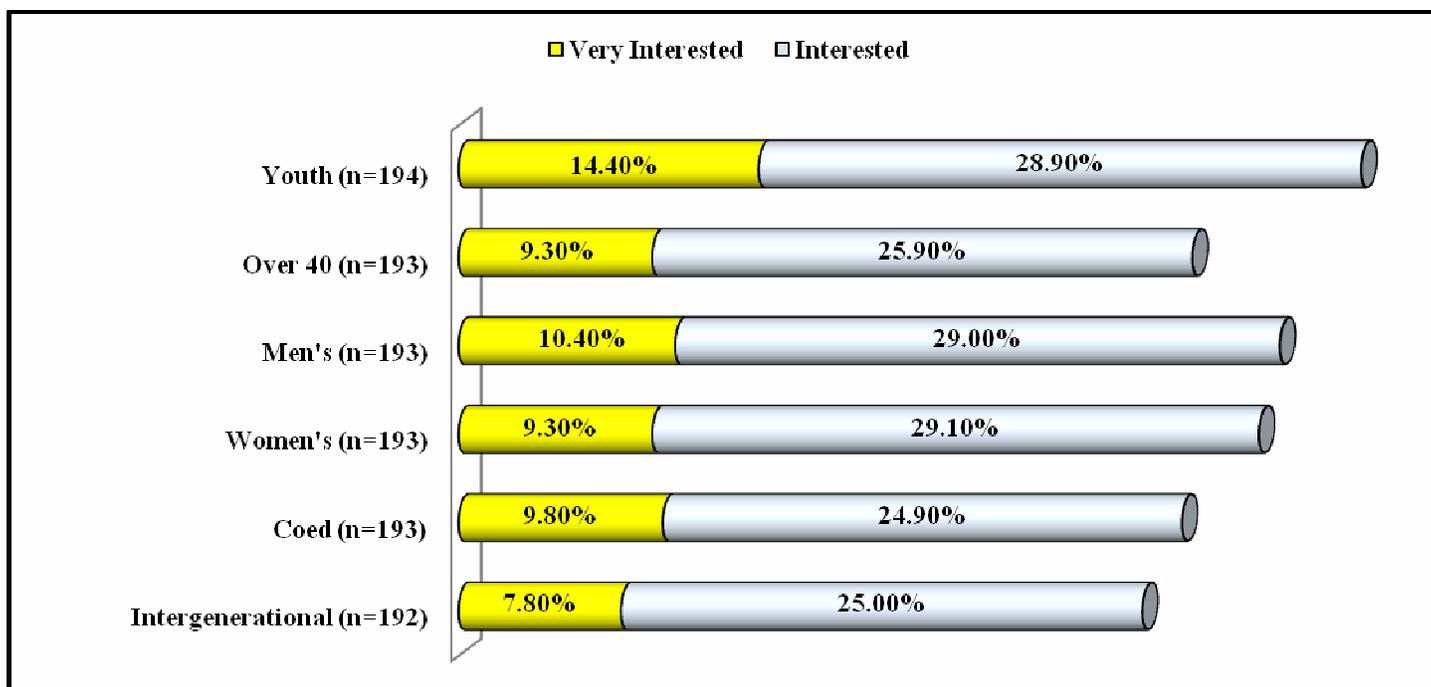
Out of all tennis activities no specific tennis-related activity was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents. Overall, all tennis-related activities reported very similar percentages (See Figure 22).

**Figure 22: Tennis**



Out of all softball activities no specific softball-related activity was reported as an activity of interest by a majority of respondents. Overall, youth softball reported the highest interest percentage (See Figure 23).

**Figure 23: Softball**

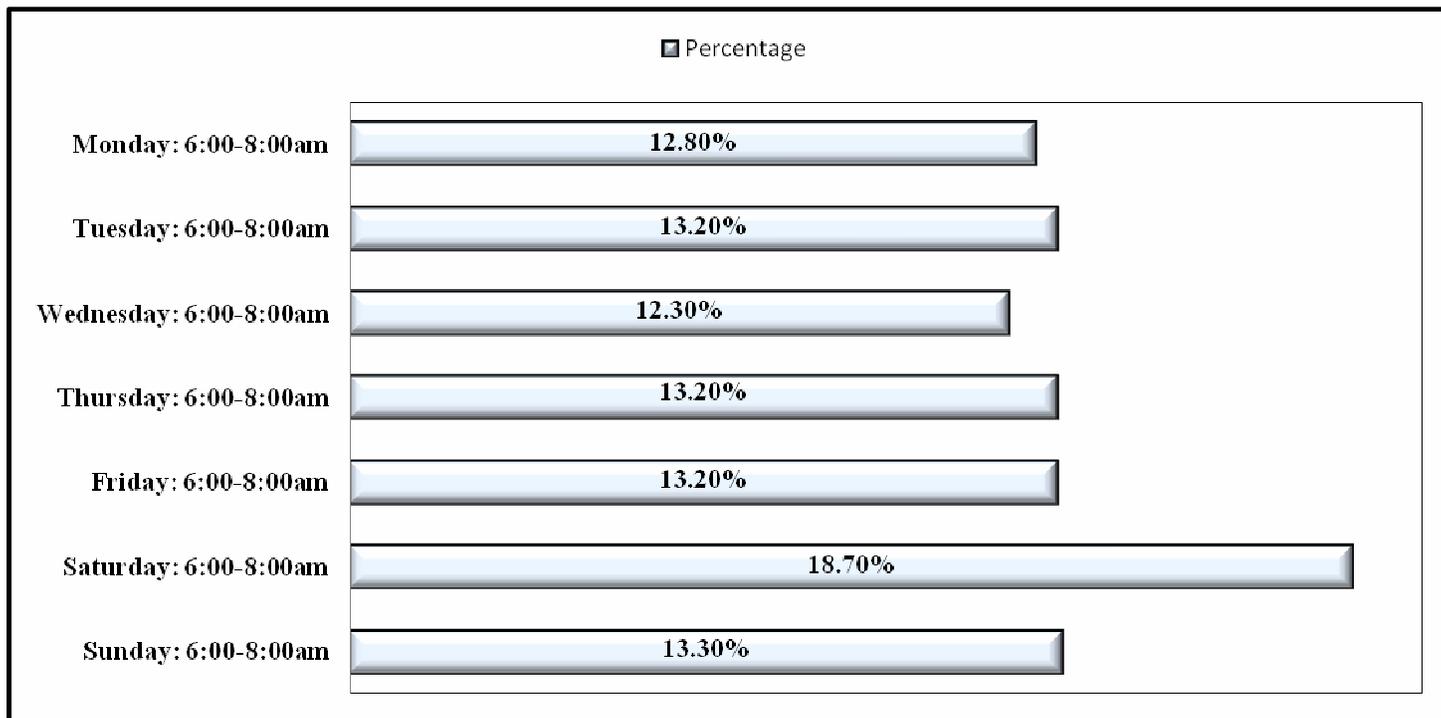


In regard to specific recreational activities respondents were provided the opportunity to share specific activities that were of interest but not included in the survey. Additional activities reported by a single respondent included: disc golf, dog training, model cars, sand volleyball league, target shooting, youth hockey, billiards, block parties, canning, chess club, fitness trail, line dancing, motorcycling, scrapbooking, tether ball, archery, community composting, fencing, flying, origami, racquetball, and classic car shows.

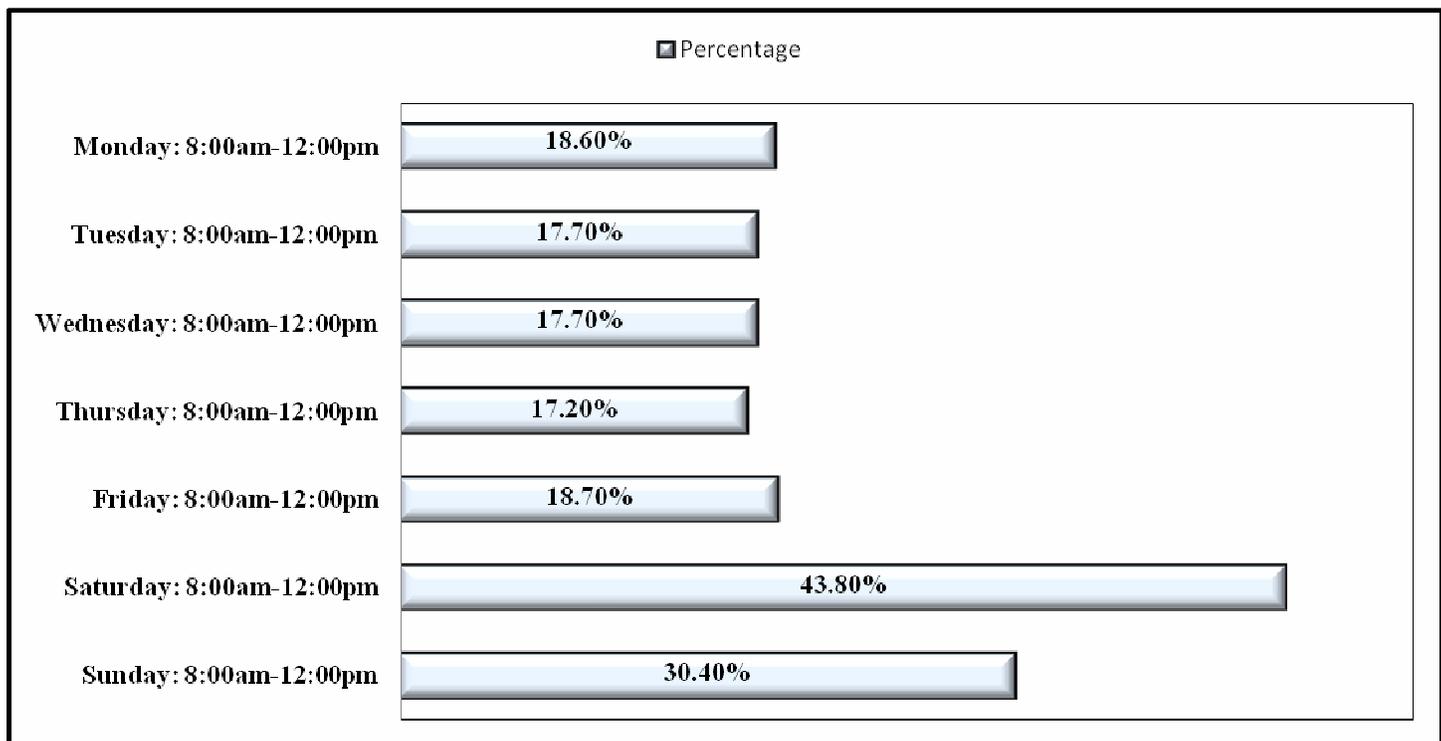
### ***Service & Activity Scheduling***

Respondents (n=204) were asked to indicate the days and times most convenient for them and/or their families to participate in recreational services or activities. Respondents indicated preferred days and times ranging from 6:00am to 12:00am, Monday through Sunday. The most preferred time frame in which a majority of respondents indicated preference was between 4:00pm and 8:00pm Monday through Friday and between 8:00am and 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Overall, respondents indicated that pm service and activity scheduling was more preferred than am service and activity scheduling (See Figures 24 – 28).

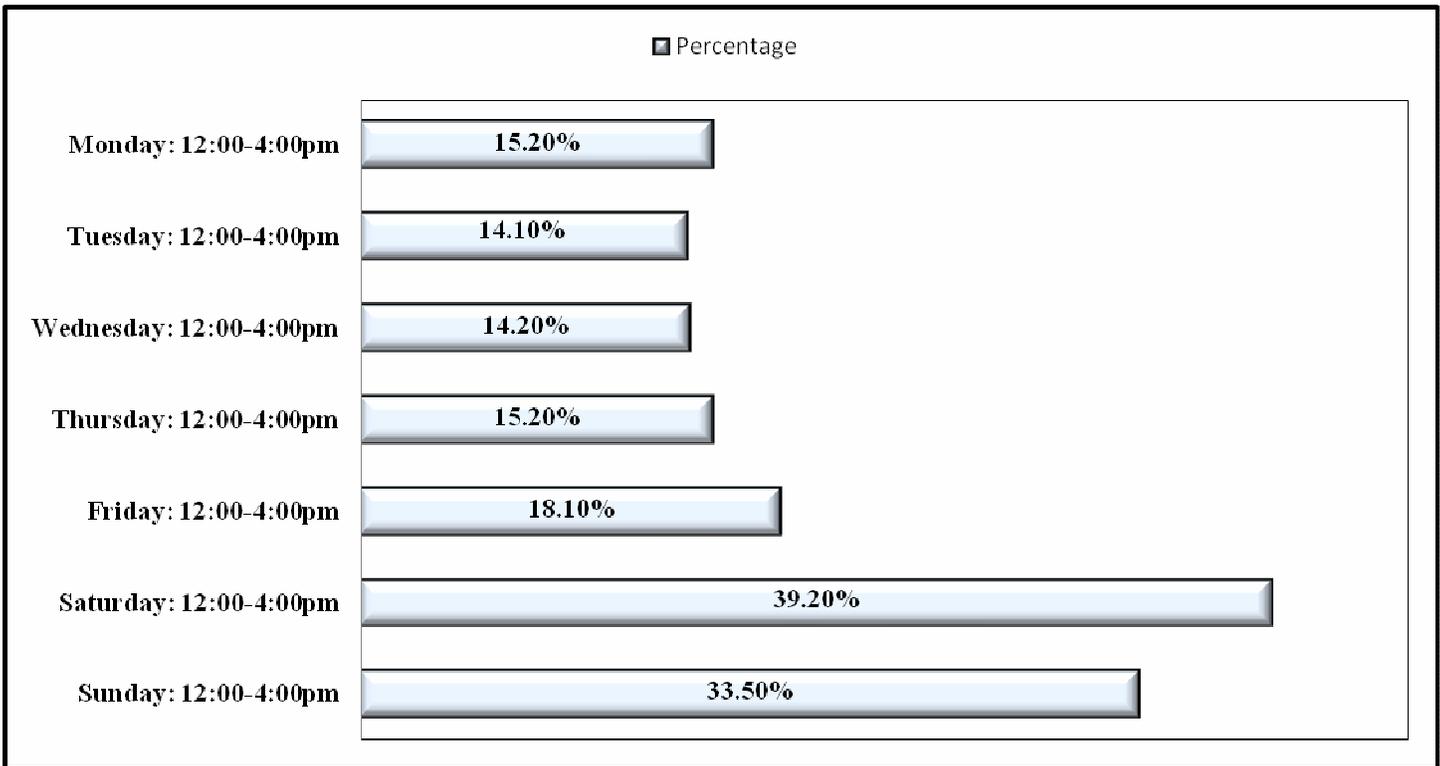
**Figure 24: Service & Activity Scheduling (6:00am – 8:00am)**



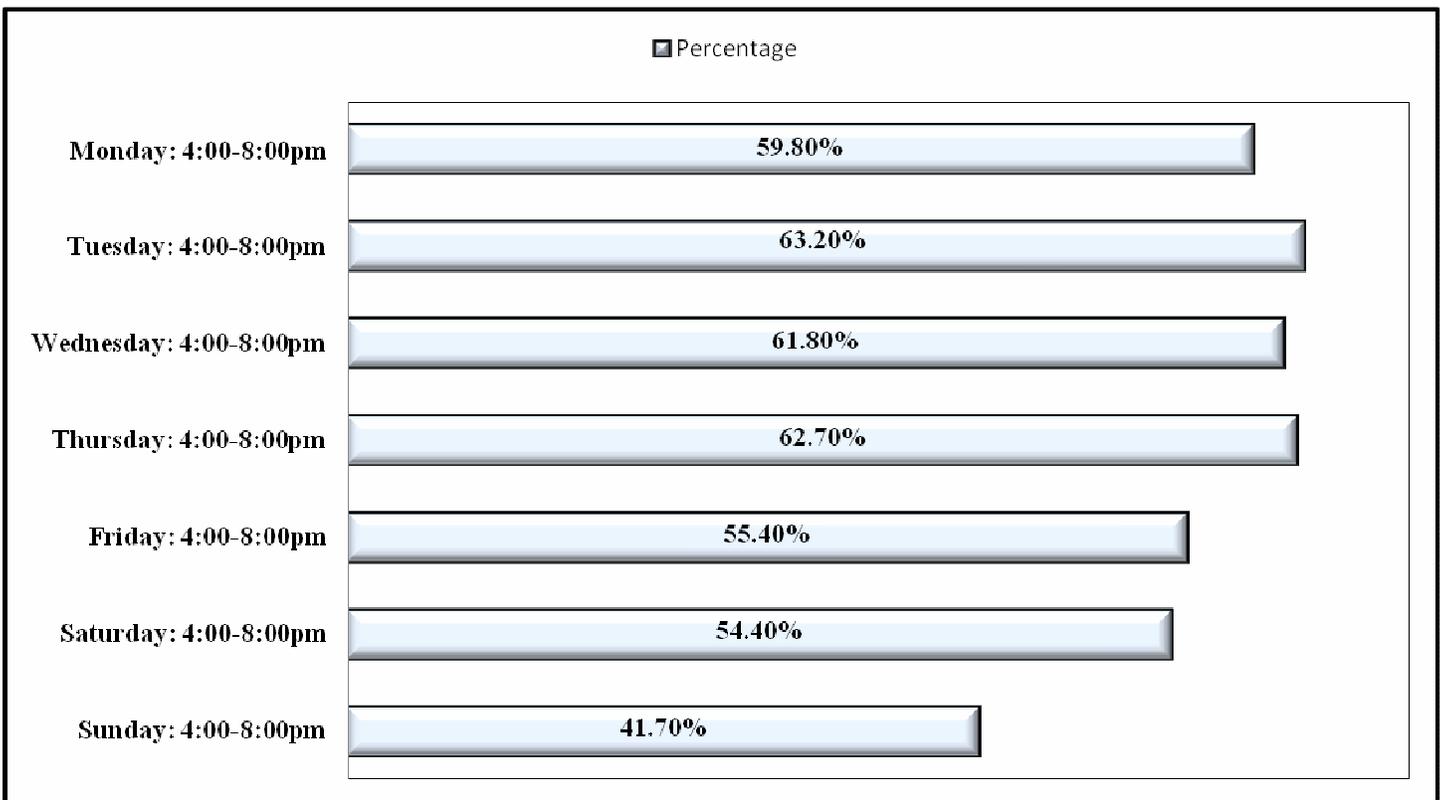
**Figure 25: Service & Activity Scheduling (8:00am – 12:00pm)**



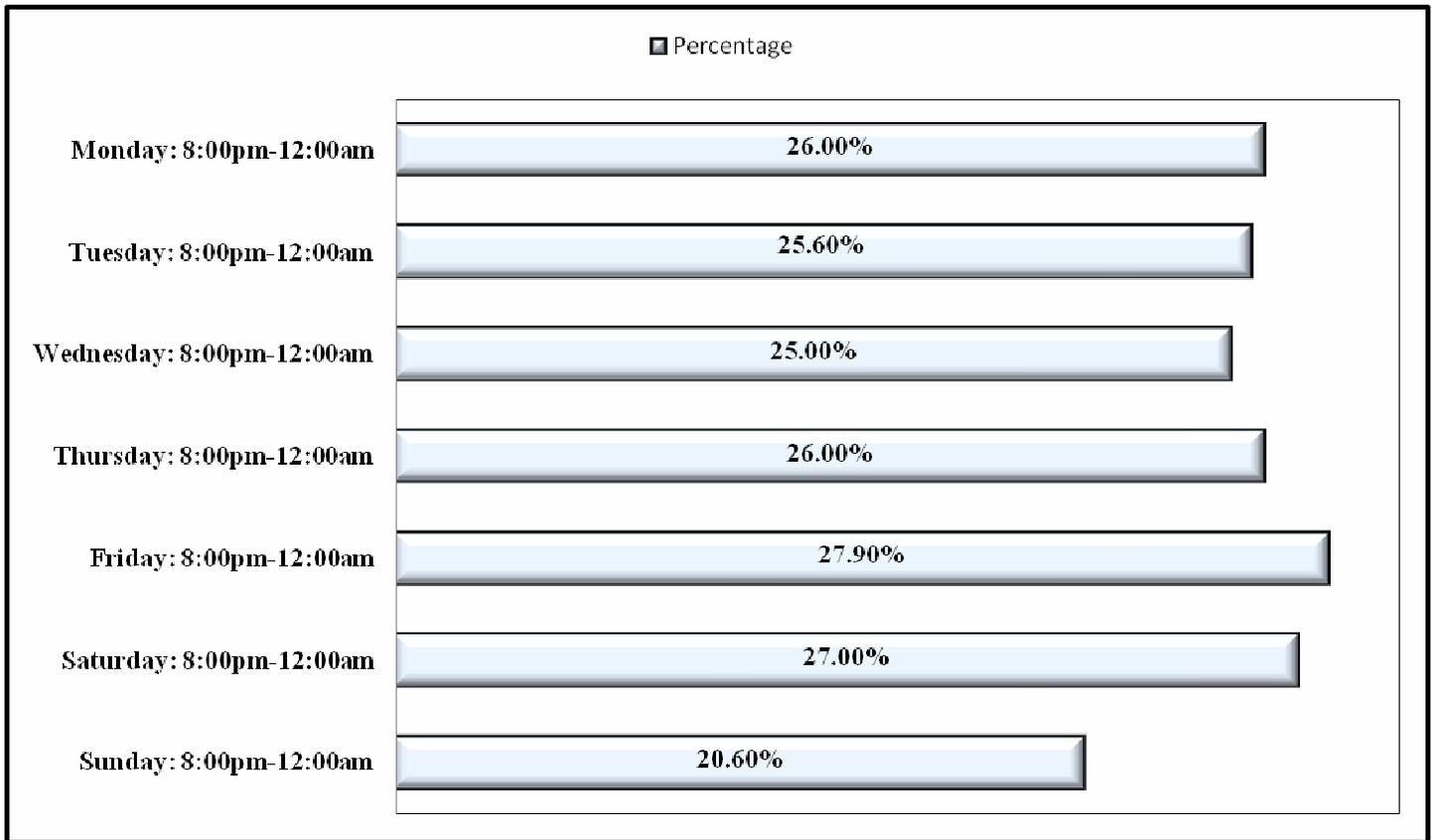
**Figure 26: Service & Activity Scheduling (12:00pm – 4:00pm)**



**Figure 27: Service & Activity Scheduling (4:00pm – 8:00pm)**



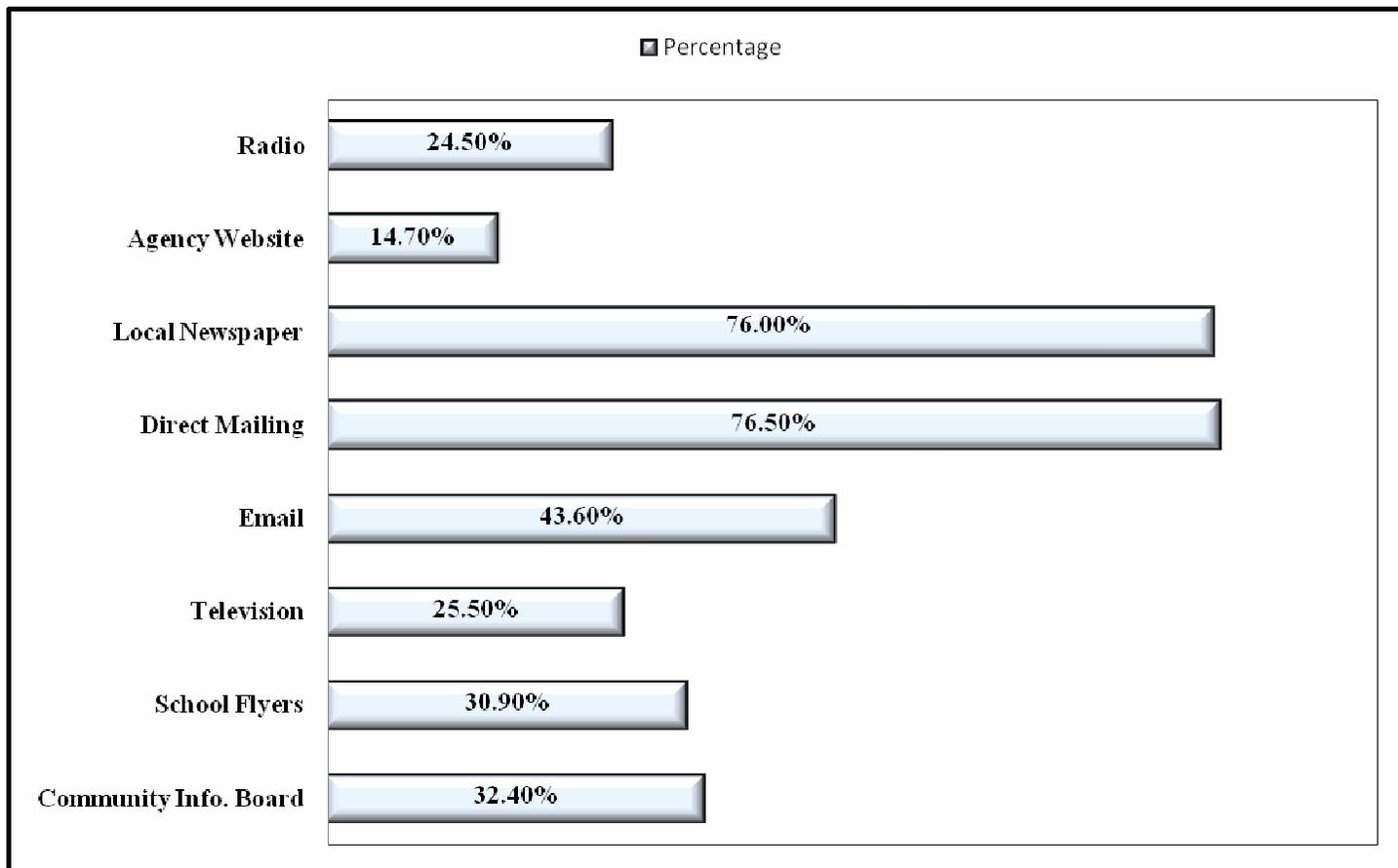
**Figure 28: Service & Activity Scheduling (8:00pm – 12:00am)**



**Advertising & Marketing**

Respondents (n=204) were requested to indicate through what media method they preferred to be notified of recreational services and activities. An overwhelming majority of respondents indicated they preferred to receive information related to recreational services and activities via direct mailings and local newspaper advertisements (See Figure 29). Respondents were also provided the opportunity to indicate other preferred media methods. Other preferred media methods reported were: banners posted in town, flyers in places of business, and church newsletters.

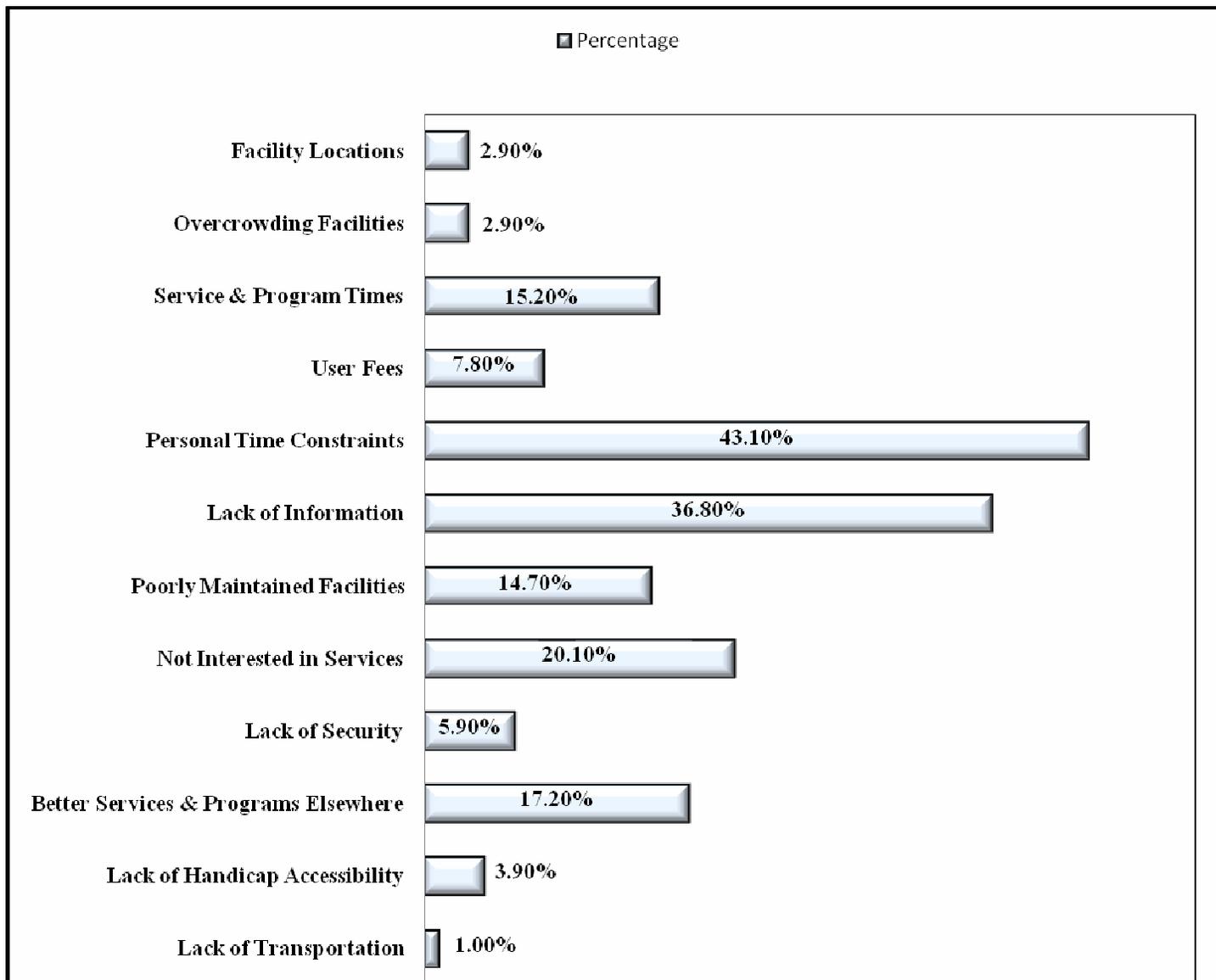
**Figure 29: Marketing & Advertising**



**Constraints to Recreational Participation**

Out of all constraints provided no single constraint was indicated as preventing recreational participation by respondents. Personal time constraints and lack of service and activity information reported the highest percentages (See Figure 30).

**Figure 32: Constraints to Recreational Participation**

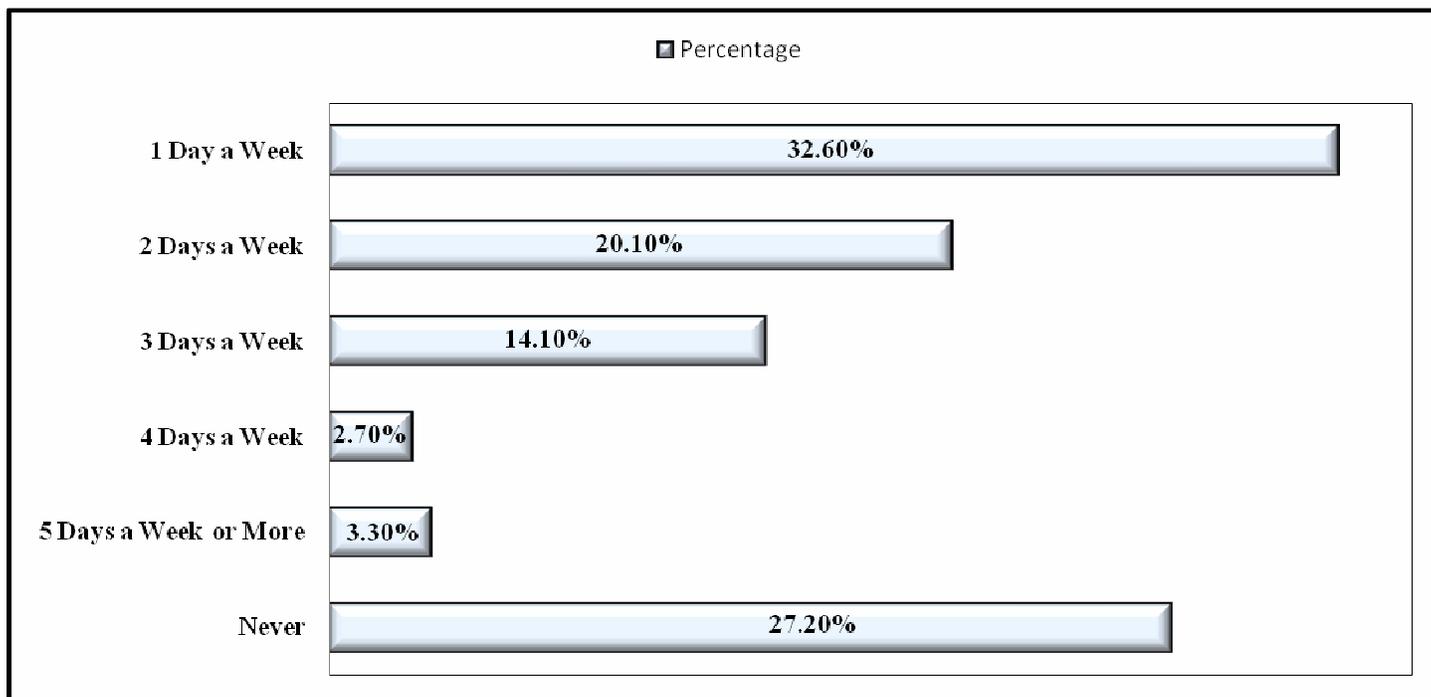


Other constraints reported by respondents included: lack of program packages for families with more than one child participating in programs and services, age, flooding of river, health problems, only sports offerings, no indoor swimming facility, limited health and fitness programs, lack of programming in parks, restroom not handicap accessible, type of people using parks, program age restrictions.

### *Facility and Program Use Rates*

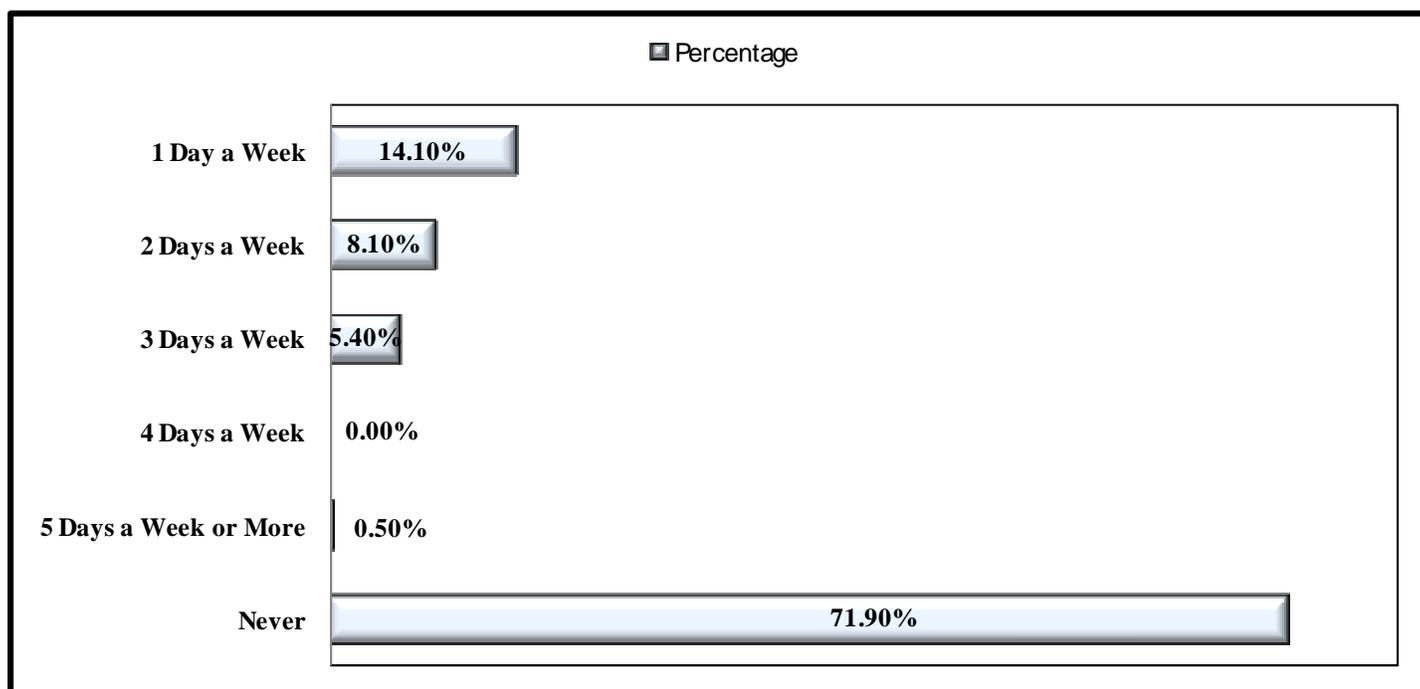
Respondents indicated most frequently that they utilized Village recreational facilities and programs one day a week. Use rates were reported to be the highest during the summer months followed by spring months and fall months. Use of programs and facilities during winter months were extremely limited (See Figures 31 – 34).

**Figure 31: Fall Season (September, October, November)**



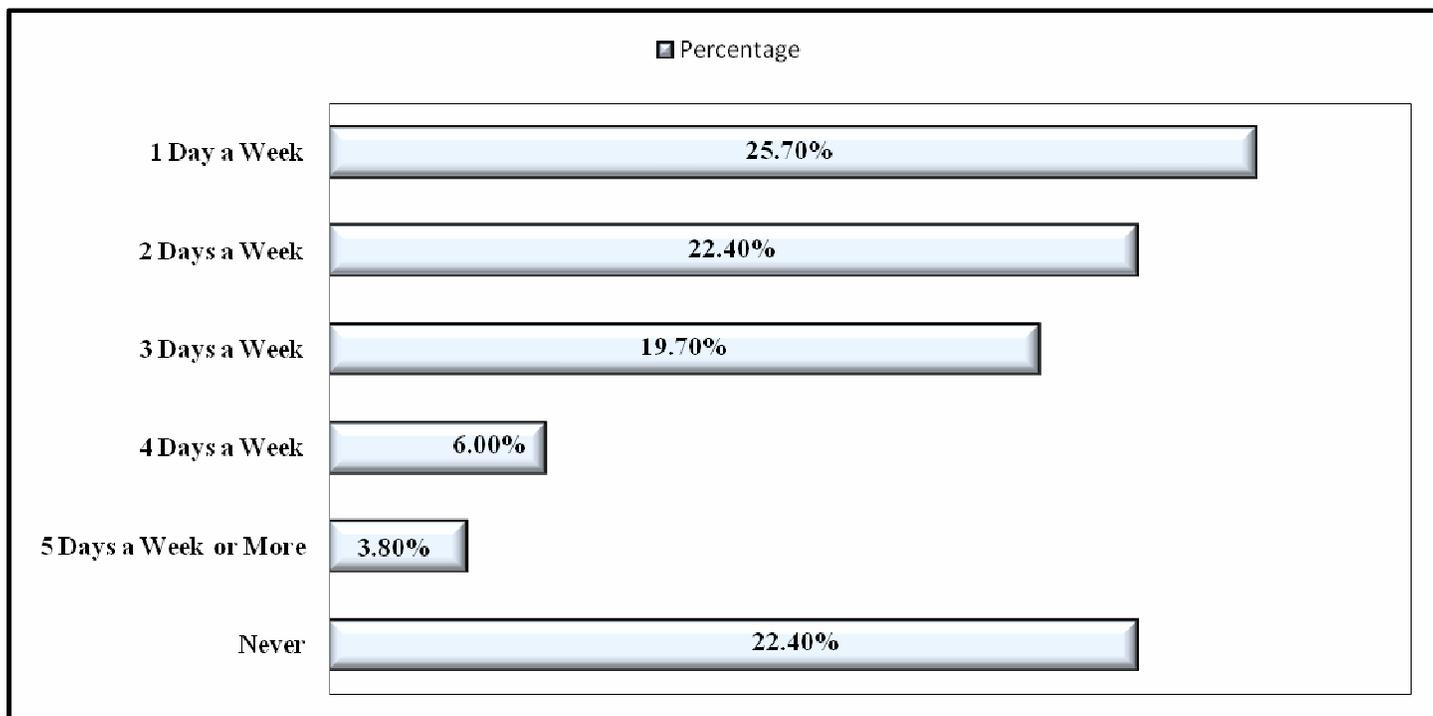
n=194

**Figure 32: Winter Season (December, January, February)**



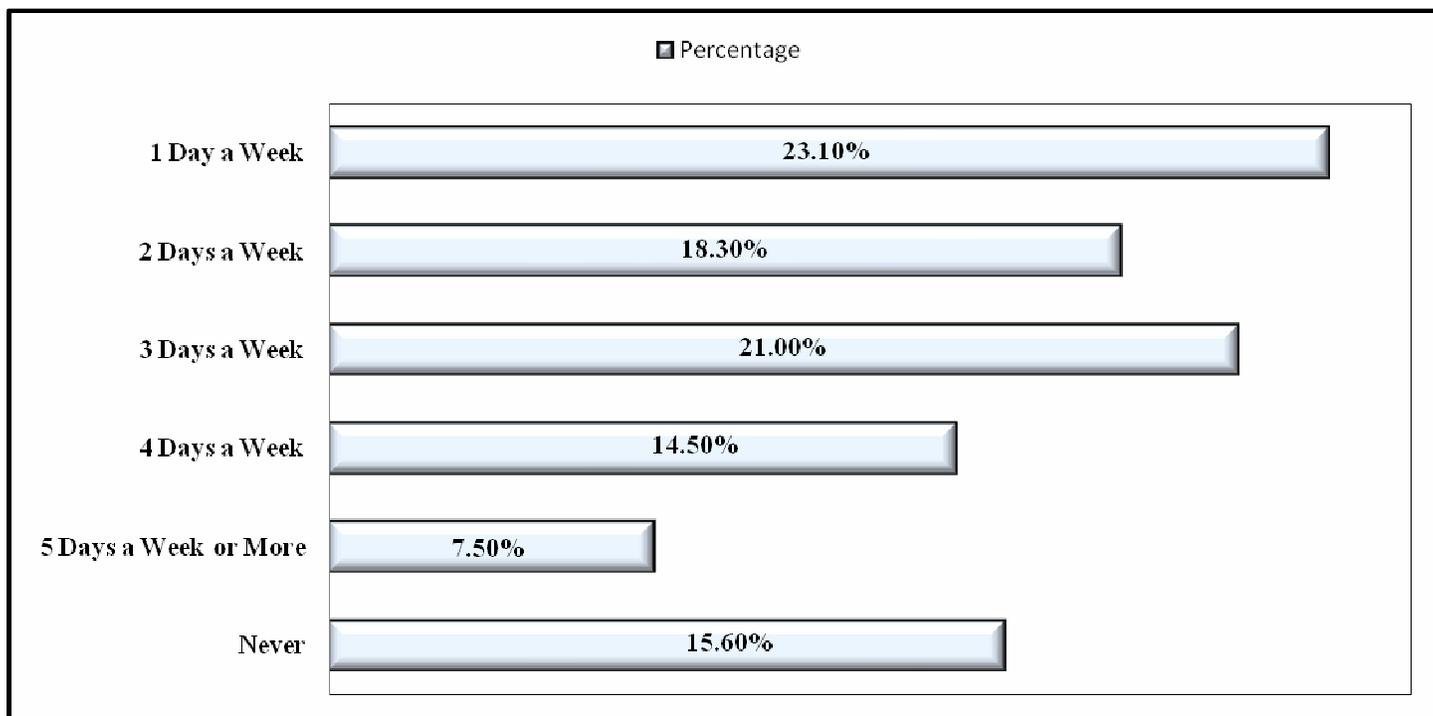
n=185

**Figure 33: Spring Season (March, April, May)**



n=183

**Figure 34: Summer Season (June, July, August)**

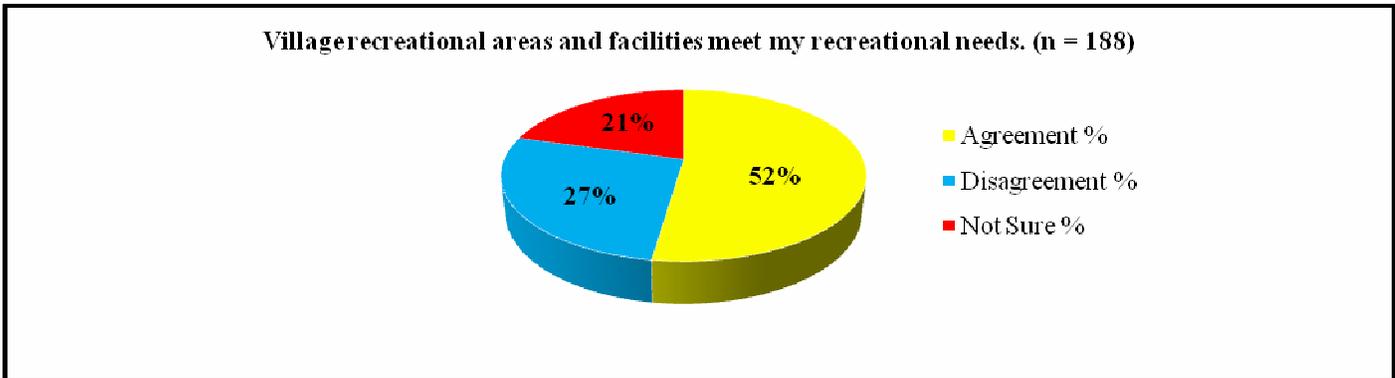


n=186

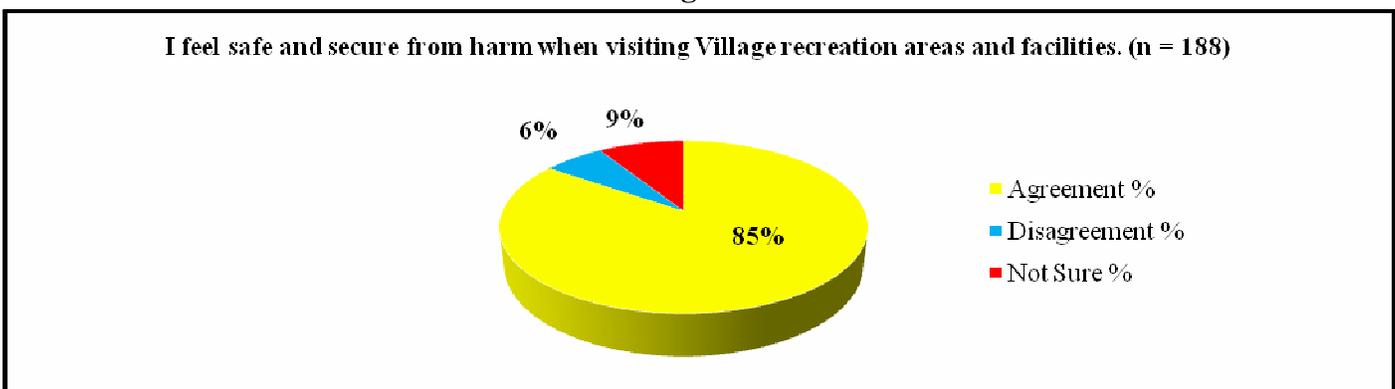
### ***Personal Opinion Questions***

A majority of respondents agreed that Village recreational areas and facilities meet their recreational needs (See Figure 35). In regard to safety a majority of respondents indicated feeling safe when visiting Village recreation areas and facilities or participating in Village recreational services and programs (See Figures 36 - 37). A majority of respondents also agreed that the image of the Village's parks and recreation department was satisfactory, that park and recreation areas and facilities were well maintained, and that Village areas and facilities for recreation compare favorably to those of surrounding communities (See Figures 38 - 40). In regard to opportunity for public input on Village recreation decisions, respondents were split in regard to agreement (See Figure 41). In regard to park acreage, an overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that park acreage was adequate in their neighborhood and the Village (See Figures 42 - 43). In contrast, less than a majority of respondents found the Village to be responsive to community recreational needs or an important recreation provider to themselves or their families (See Figures 44 - 45). Respondents also indicated that non-resident use of Village recreation services and programs did not cause problems for themselves or their families and that the Village should collaborate extensively with local businesses to sponsor recreation opportunities (See Figures 46 - 47). Related to program provision, a majority of respondents indicated that the Village should provide more recreational activities for youth, adults, women, seniors and the family (See Figures 48 - 55). In contrast less than a majority of respondents indicated that the Village does a good job of marketing and advertising recreation programs and services and that they receive timely information about Village recreation programs and services (See Figures 56 - 57). In regard to Village spending on recreational facilities and programs, a high percentage of respondents indicated they were not sure if the Village was spending an adequate amount of money on recreation or if the Village should increase recreation-related spending (See Figures 58 - 59). Further uncertainty was reported in regard to whether or not developing new facilities for recreation should be a Village priority (See Figure 60). Almost a majority of respondents did advocate for improving current facilities for recreation, while a majority advocated for increased recreational programs and services (See Figures 61 - 62). In regard to other financial issues a majority of respondents indicated user fees and charges are adequate and affordable for Village recreational programs and services (See Figures 63 - 64), and that non-Village residents should pay higher recreational user fees and charges than Village residents (See Figure 65). Respondents also advocated that fees should not be collected on a sliding-scale based on household income (See Figure 66). When asked if they were willing to pay increased user fees to support recreation program and/or service expansion, respondents were almost evenly split in terms of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty (See Figure 67). Further, a majority of respondents indicated they were unwilling to pay increased taxes for the improvement of Village park and recreation areas and facilities or the development of new Village park and recreation facilities (See Figures 68 - 69). Finally, respondents indicated an almost even split in terms of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty in regards to the Village hiring a full-time park and recreation director (See Figure 70).

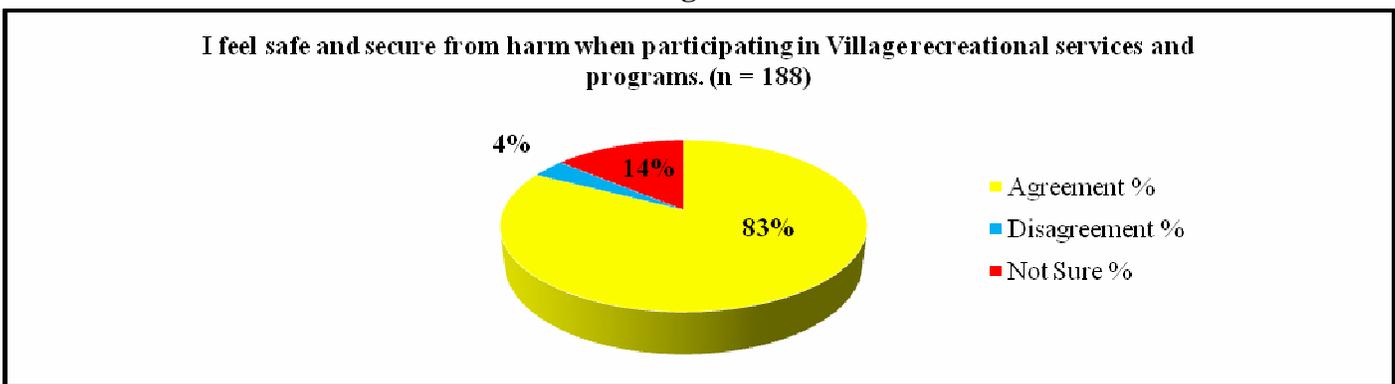
**Figure 36**



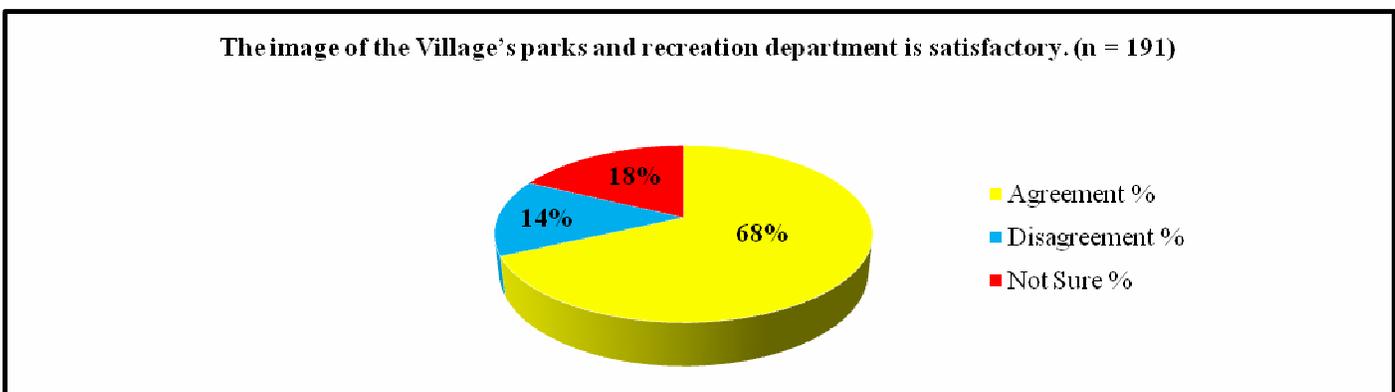
**Figure 36**



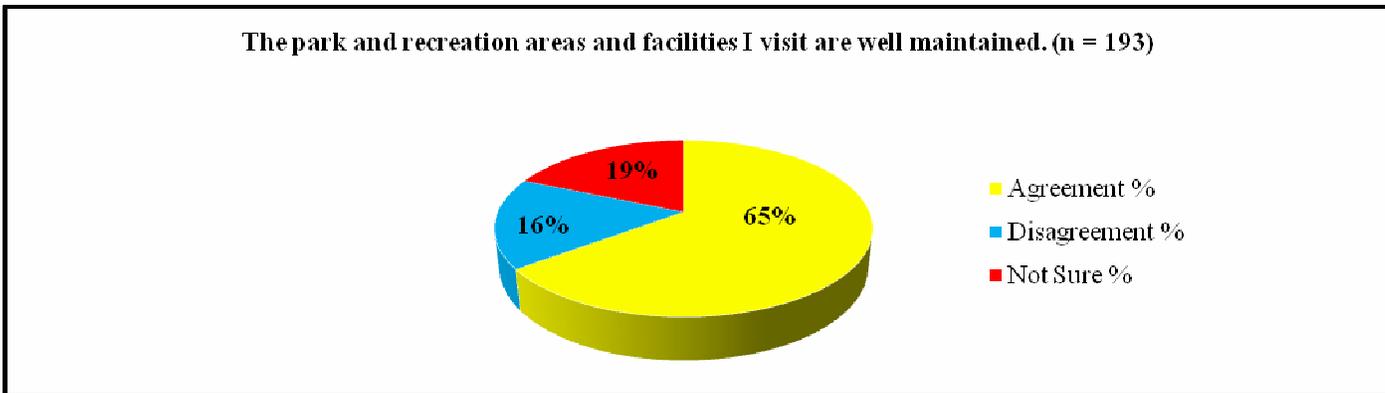
**Figure 37**



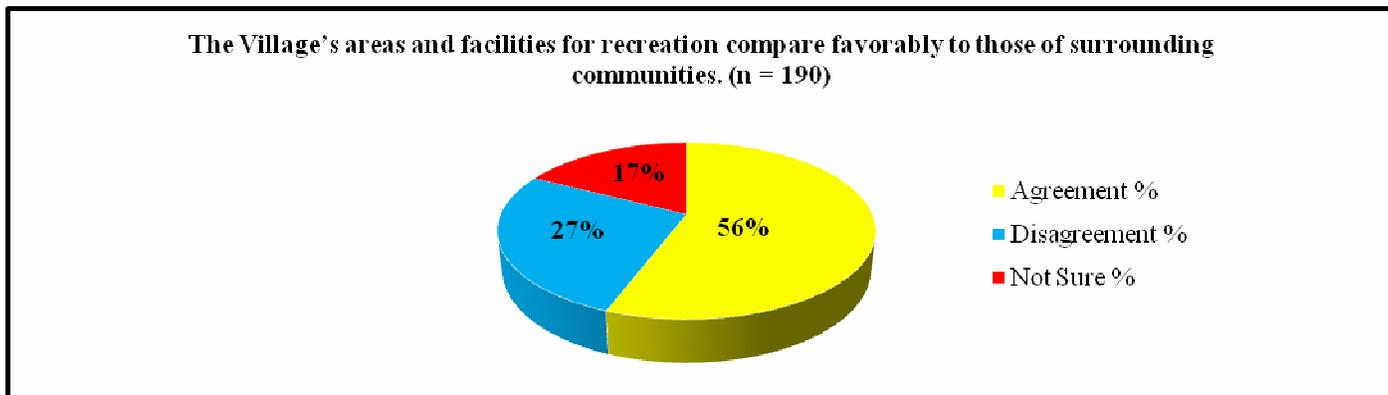
**Figure 38**



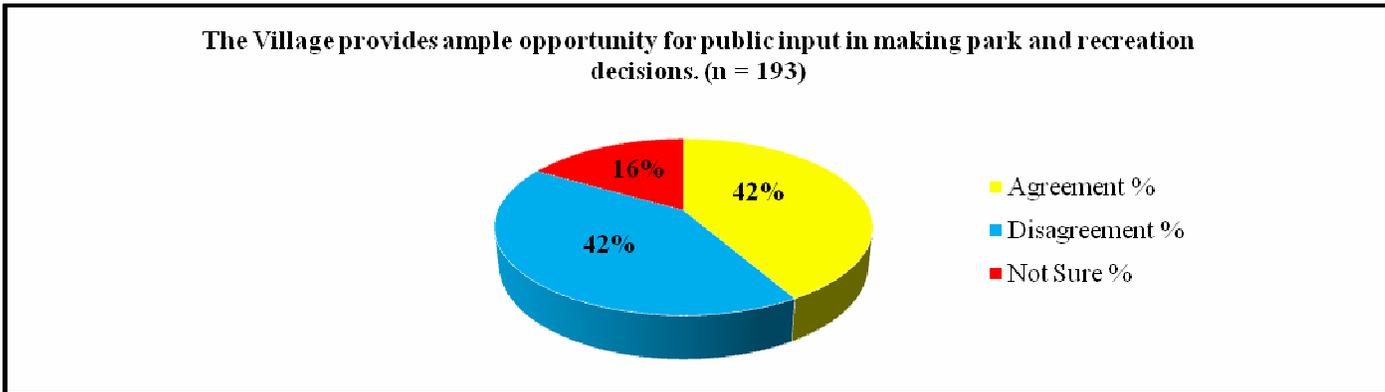
**Figure 39**



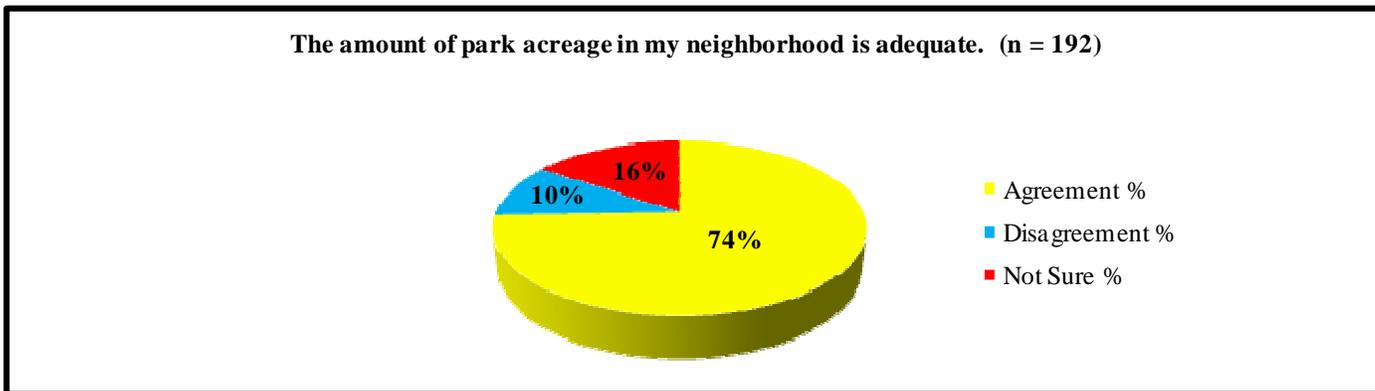
**Figure 40**



**Figure 41**

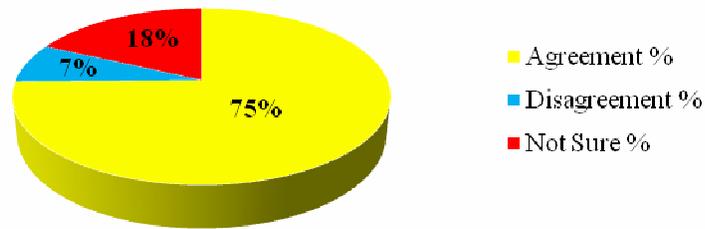


**Figure 42**



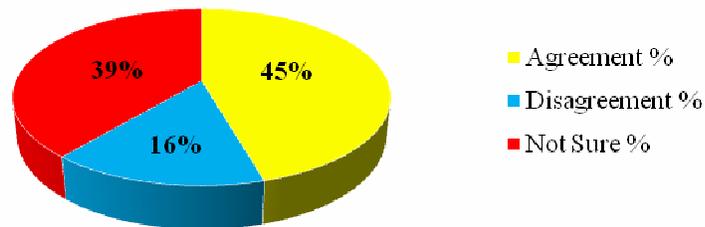
**Figure 43**

The amount of park acreage in the Village is adequate. (n = 194)



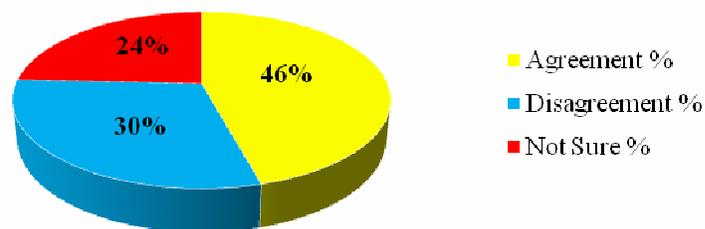
**Figure 44**

The Village is responsive to community recreation needs. (n = 193)



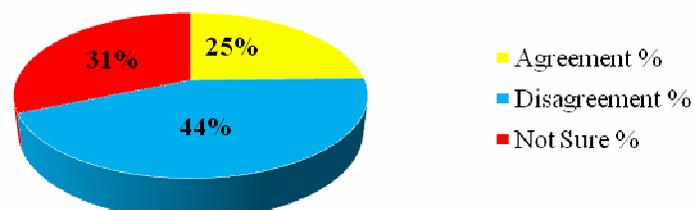
**Figure 45**

The Village is an important recreation provider for me and/or my family. (n = 191)



**Figure 46**

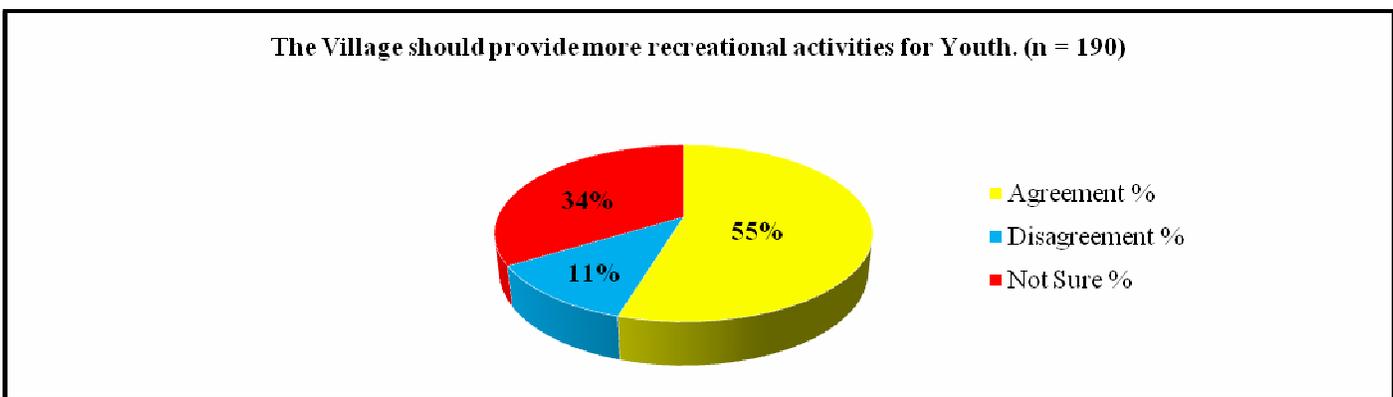
Non-resident use of Village recreation services and programs has created problems for me and/or my family. (n = 192)



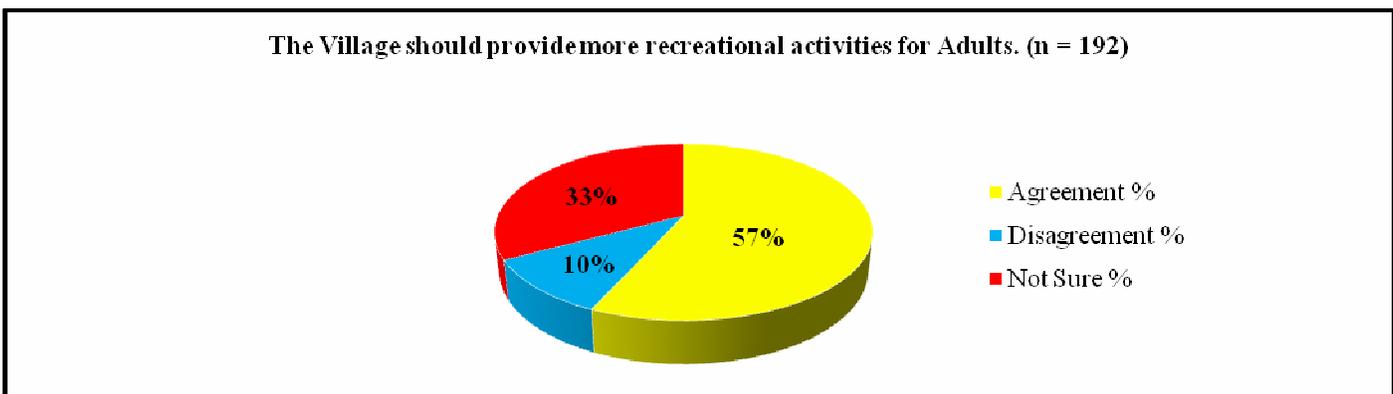
**Figure 47**



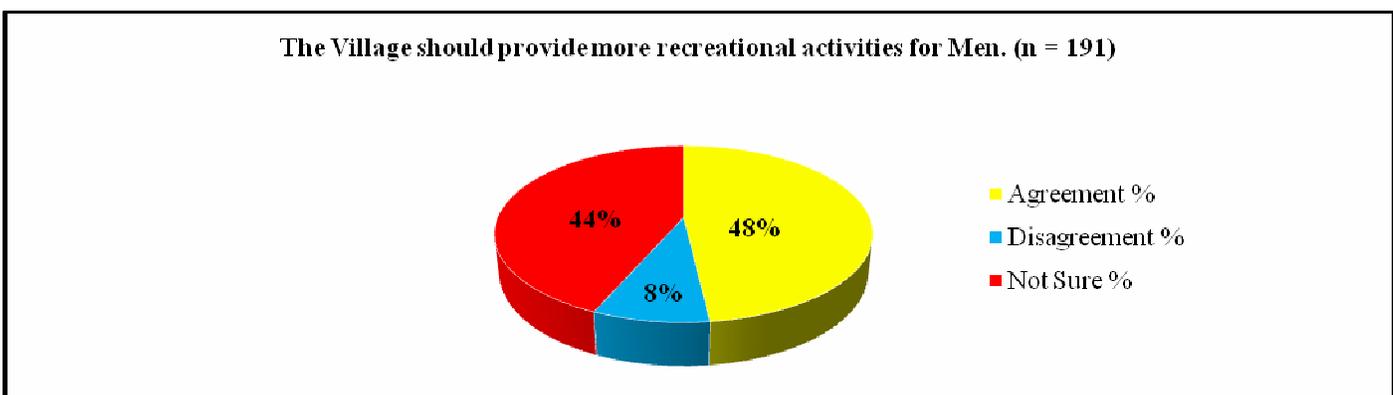
**Figure 48**



**Figure 49**

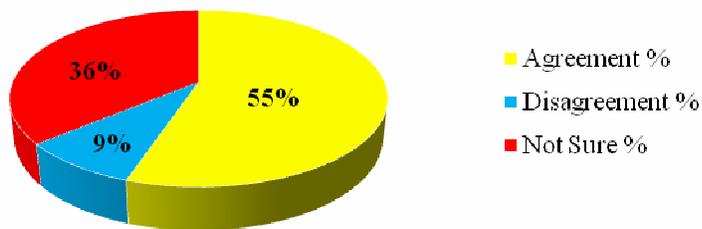


**Figure 50**



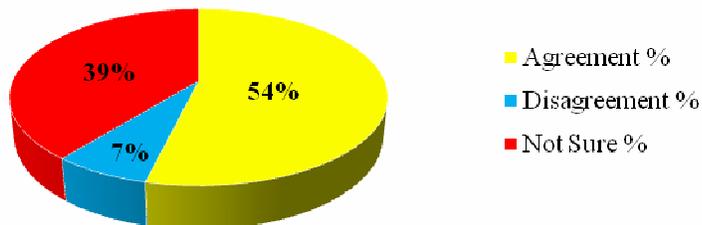
**Figure 51**

**The Village should provide more recreational activities for Women. (n = 190)**



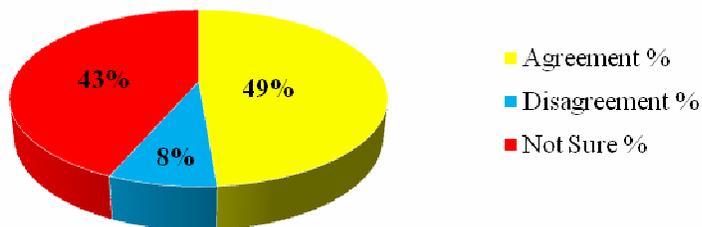
**Figure 52**

**The Village should provide more recreational activities for Seniors. (n = 187)**



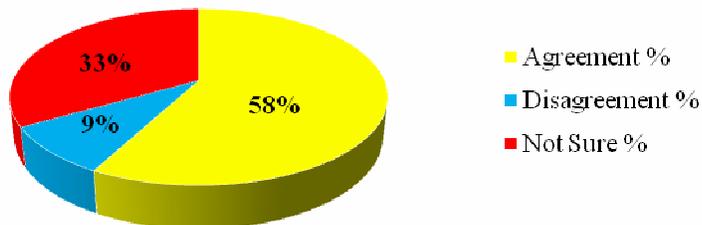
**Figure 53**

**The Village should provide more Coed recreational activities. (n = 193)**



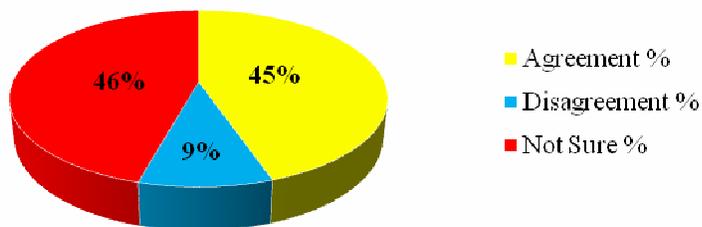
**Figure 54**

**The Village should provide more Family recreational activities. (n = 192)**



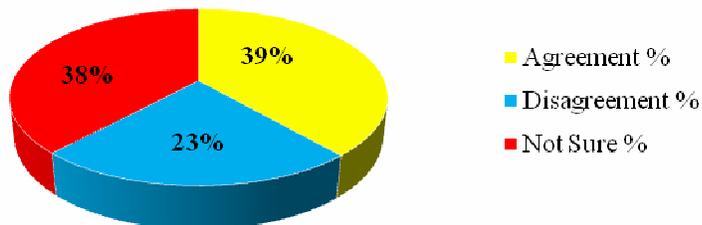
**Figure 55**

**The Village should provide more Intergenerational recreational activities. (n = 188)**



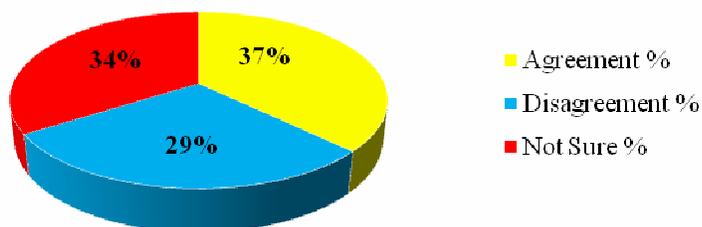
**Figure 56**

**The Village does a good job of marketing and advertising recreation programs and services. (n = 189)**



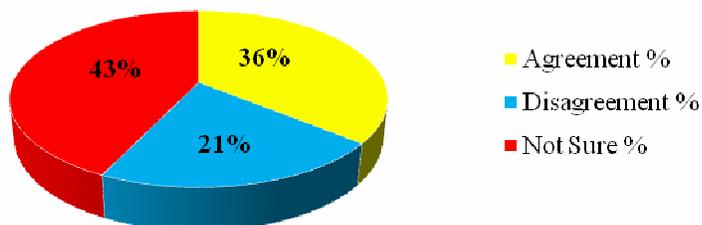
**Figure 57**

**I receive timely information about Village recreation programs and services. (n = 191)**



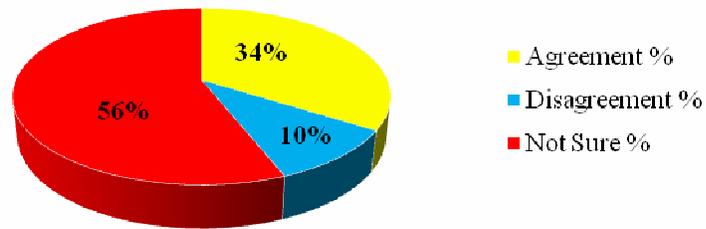
**Figure 58**

**The Village spends an adequate amount of money on recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services. (n = 189)**



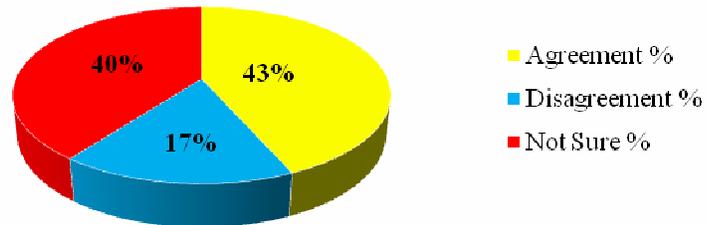
**Figure 59**

The Village should spend more money on recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services.  
(n = 187)



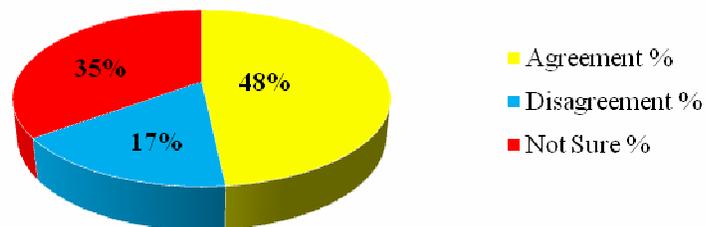
**Figure 60**

Developing new facilities for recreation should be a Village priority. (n = 189)



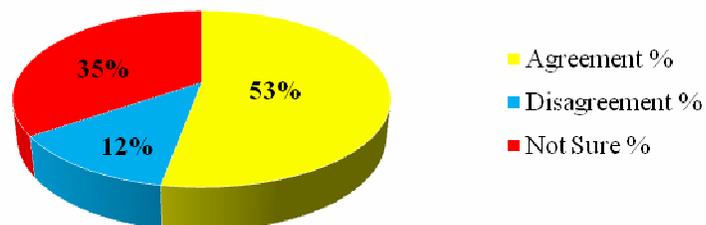
**Figure 61**

Improving current facilities for recreation should be a Village priority. (n = 192)



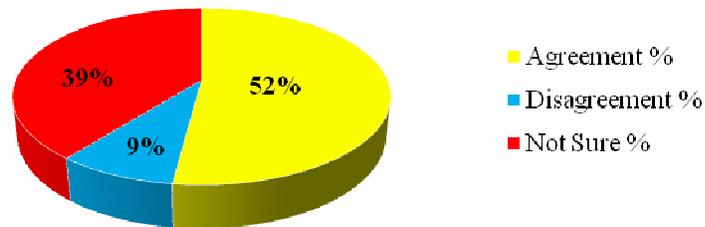
**Figure 62**

Increasing the number of recreation programs and services offered should be a Village priority.  
(n = 192)



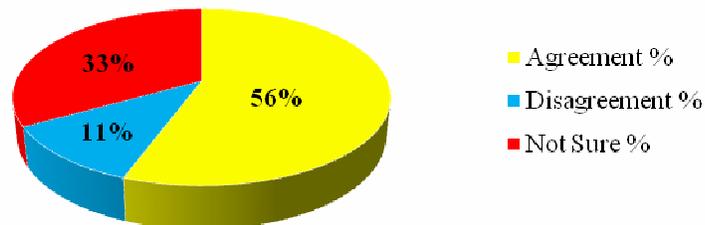
**Figure 63**

**User fees and charges are adequate for recreational programs and services offered. (n = 188)**



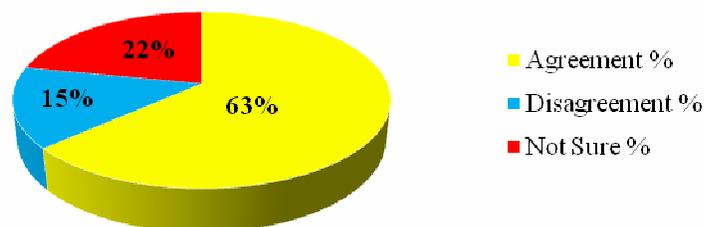
**Figure 64**

**User fees and charges are affordable for me and/or my family. (n = 187)**



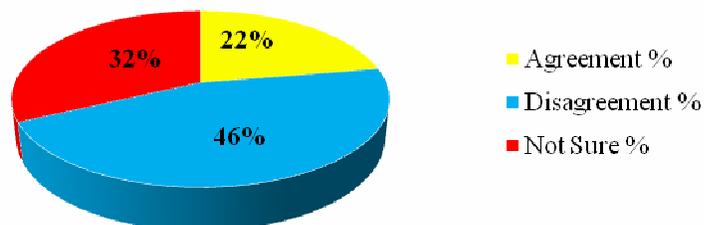
**Figure 65**

**Non-Village residents should pay higher user fees and charges than Village residents. (n = 183)**



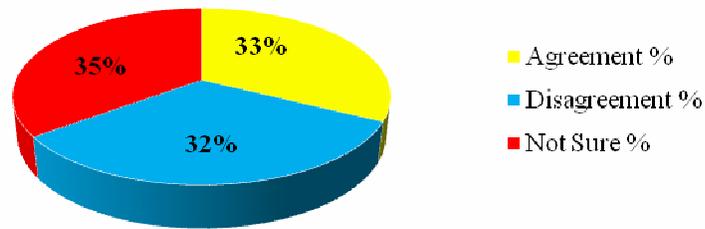
**Figure 66**

**User fees and charges should be collected on a sliding-scale based on household income. (n = 187)**



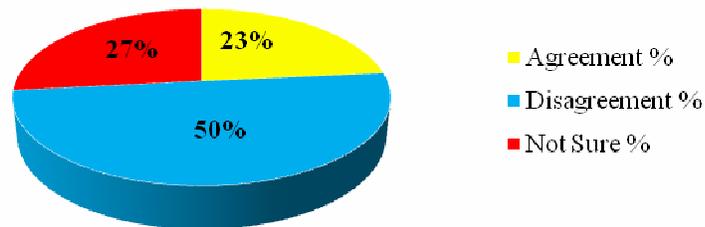
**Figure 67**

I am willing to pay increased user fees or charges to support recreation program and/or service expansion. (n = 185)



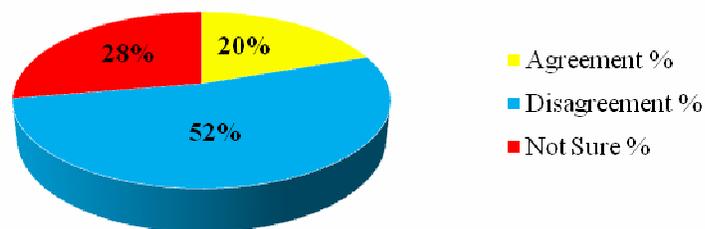
**Figure 68**

I am willing to pay increased taxes for the improvement of current park and recreation areas and facilities. (n = 187)



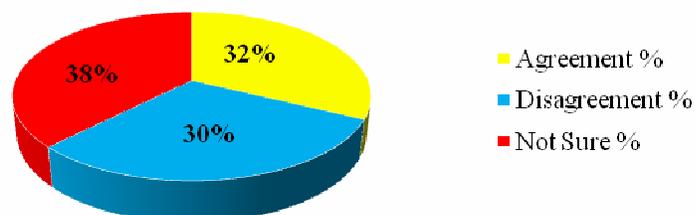
**Figure 69**

I am willing to pay increased taxes for the development of new park and recreation facilities. (n = 188)



**Figure 70**

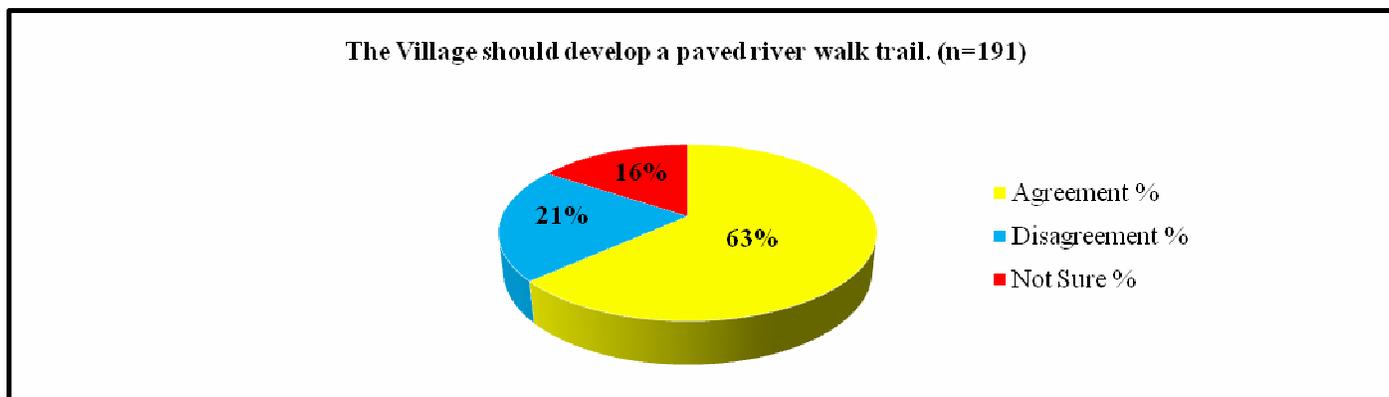
I would support the hiring of a full-time park and recreation director. (n = 189)



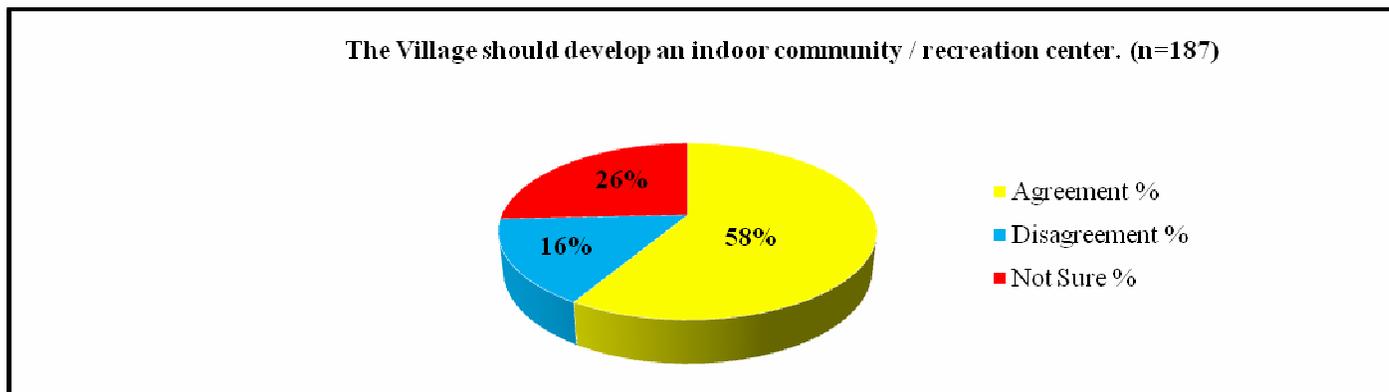
**Future Facility Planning**

In regard to future facility planning a majority of respondents indicated the Village should develop a paved river walk trail (See Figure 71), an indoor community / recreation center (See Figure 72), a community trail system (See Figure 81), areas along the river more extensively (See Figure 83), educational trails along the river (See Figure 84) and improve or expand support facilities at its recreational sites (See Figure 85). While less than the majority, respondents did advocate for the updating of all existing park and recreation facilities (See Figure 74), the development of an indoor pool (See Figure 76), and the development of more playgrounds and play areas (See Figure 82). Further, a majority of respondents disagreed the Village should invest in an indoor ice rink (See Figure 75). While less than a majority, respondents also advocated against expansion of the skate park (See Figure 78). Respondents were almost evenly split in terms of agreement, disagreement, and uncertainty in relation to the development of a fine arts center and the installation of digital information signs within the community (See Figures 79 - 80). Further, respondents had relative disagreement and uncertainty on the relocation of existing soccer fields (See Figure 77). Finally, when provided the opportunity to indicate additional future planning initiatives, respondents provided the following suggestions: bike routes along roadways, farmers market, indoor basketball and handball courts, more restrooms around parks, nature trails along rivers and streams, new restrooms in Bachmayer Little League Field, increased maintenance of park open space, flood control, a senior community cover, traveling league field, pool renovations, more water fountains in parks, paddle boats, more sidewalks for walking, providing chairs and lounges at pool, canoe and kayak livery, improve signage, improve rental facilities, and increasing flora in parks.

**Figure 71**

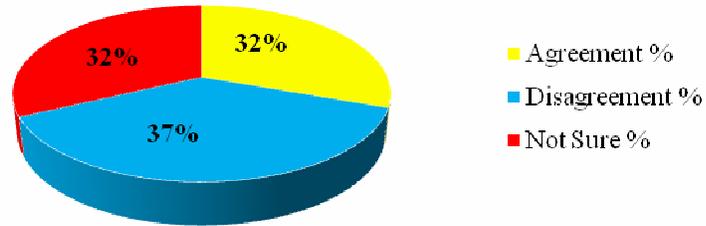


**Figure 72**



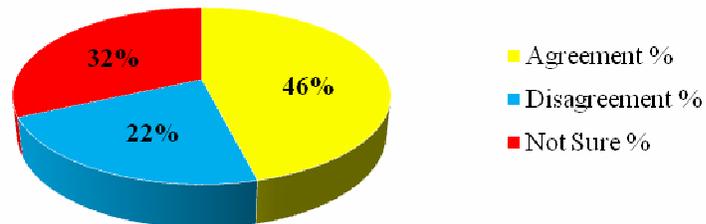
**Figure 73**

**The Village should develop an outdoor multi-sport complex. (n=189)**



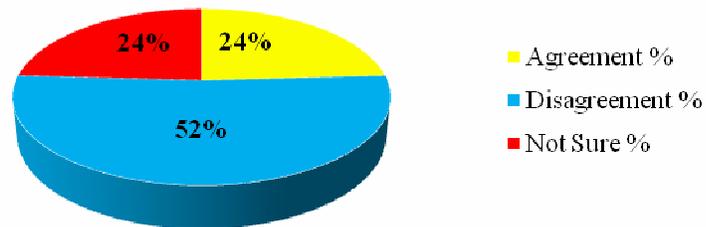
**Figure 74**

**The Village should update all existing park and recreation facilities. (n=191)**



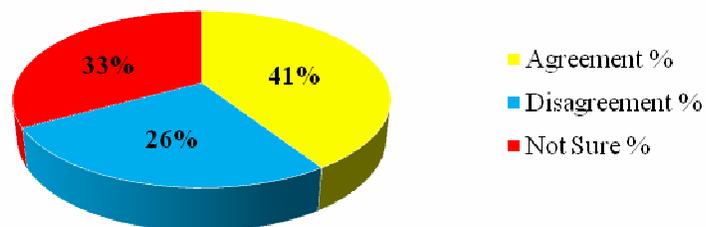
**Figure 75**

**The Village should develop an indoor ice rink. (n=191)**



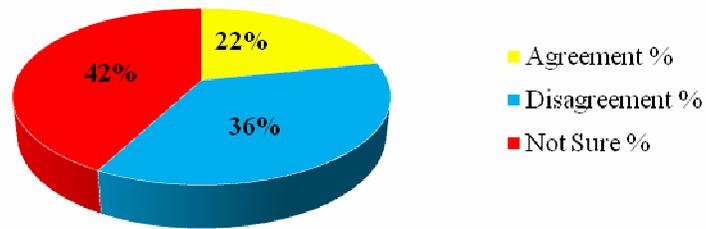
**Figure 76**

**The Village should develop an indoor pool. (n=191)**



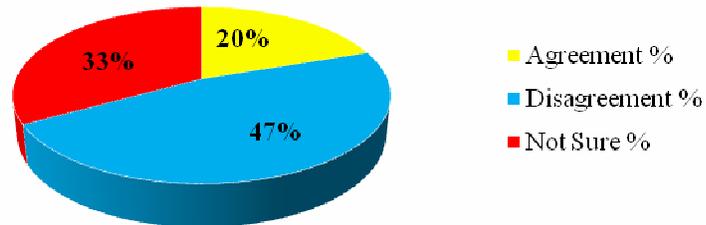
**Figure 77**

**The Village should relocate existing soccer fields. (n=189)**



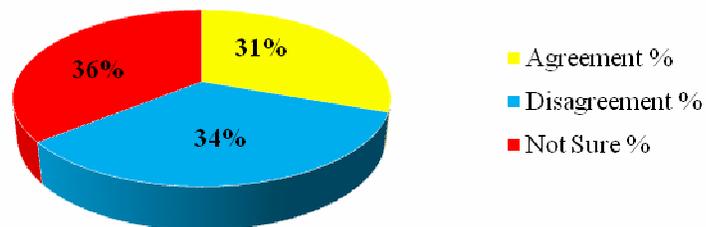
**Figure 78**

**The Village should enhance or expand the skate park. (n=189)**



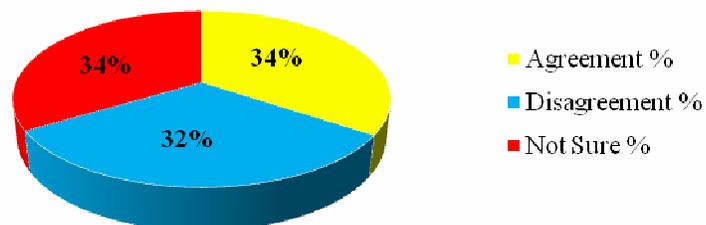
**Figure 79**

**The Village should develop a fine arts center. (n=190)**



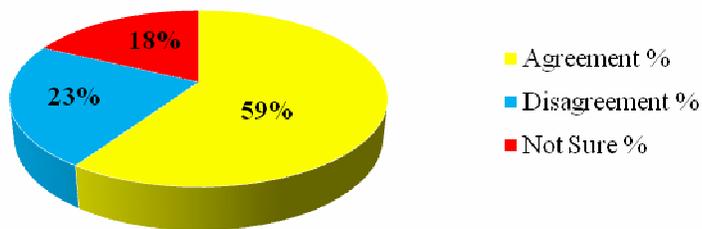
**Figure 80**

**The Village should install digital signs in the community to provide residents current information. (n=191)**



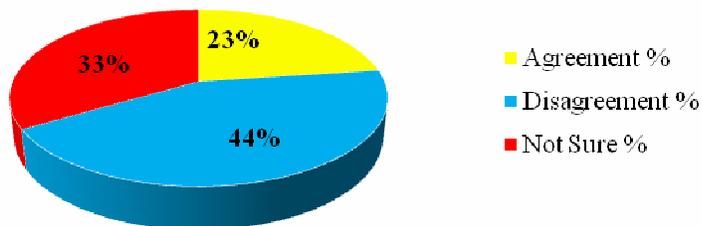
**Figure 81**

**The Village should develop a community trail system. (n=190)**



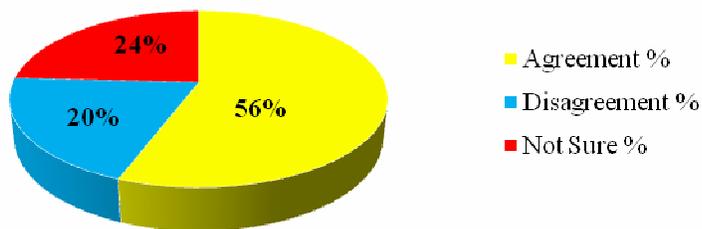
**Figure 82**

**The Village should develop more playgrounds and play areas. (n=188)**



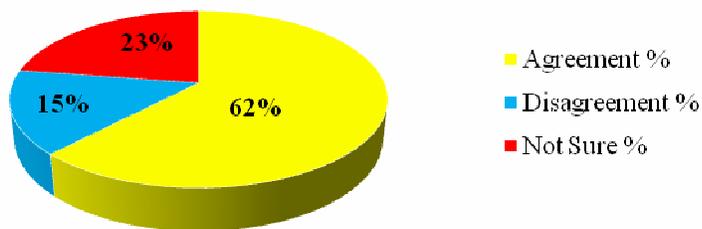
**Figure 83**

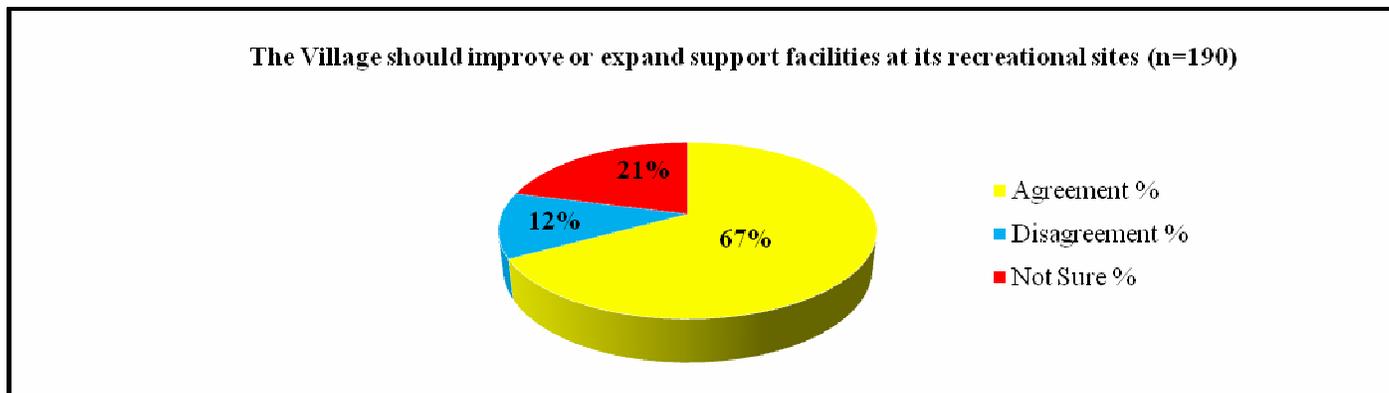
**The Village should develop areas along the river more extensively. (n=190)**



**Figure 84**

**The Village should develop educational trails along the river. (n=190)**



**Figure 85**

### **Conclusion**

Overall, this community assessment provides valuable information in regard to establishing baseline data related to future park and recreation planning in the Village of Blissfield. Those that responded to the survey represent those individuals within the community who are most likely vested in having continued involvement in future park and recreation planning. In general, respondents reported favorably in regard to current park and recreation operations and identified the programmatic areas and recreational activities most likely of interest to the community. Although respondents indicated that they support the Village of Blissfield moving forward in regard to selective facility development and increased programs and services, results from this assessment also indicate that there is evident uncertainty related to personal economic conditions and Village residents ability to fund expanded recreation facility development and increased programs through increased user fees or taxes. This financial uncertainty is likely linked to current economic conditions nationally and within the State of Michigan.

**Appendix A**

June 11, 2008

Dear Village of Blissfield Resident:

On behalf of, and in cooperation with the Village of Blissfield's Department of Parks and Recreation, The University of Toledo's Division of Recreation and Leisure Studies is conducting a community recreation assessment. This assessment will be used to assist the Village in developing a comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan.

**You have been randomly selected based on your status as a resident of the Village of Blissfield to participate in the current community assessment. Your contact information was provided by the Village's residential household directory.**

The enclosed survey is designed to identify current and future recreation issues and trends for the Village of Blissfield. The identification of current and future recreation issues and trends are needed for partial fulfillment of the Village's required park and recreation plan, which makes the Village eligible for State of Michigan funding.

All survey responses will be reported with complete *confidentiality*. Each survey distributed for this study contains a coded return envelope in case a follow-up survey must be sent. For your protection identification numbers will be destroyed after receipt of the survey. It is assumed your decision to return this survey is an indication of consent to *confidentially* include your responses in the overall results of the assessment.

**Your decision to complete and return this survey within the timeframe provided is vital in ensuring the Village's Park and Recreation Plan reflects the needs of Village residents. *Please attempt to complete and return this survey within one week.***

**We appreciate how busy you are and thank you for completing the enclosed survey. For your convenience a pre-stamped, pre-addressed, return envelope has been included for return of the survey.**

**THIS SURVEY SHOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 15-20 MINUTES TO COMPLETE**

Sincerely,

Eric L. Longsdorf, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor & Coordinator  
Division of Recreation  
The University of Toledo  
Phone: (419) 530-2762  
Email: eric.longsdorf@utoledo.edu

Bruce W. Groves, Ed.D.  
Associate Professor  
Division of Recreation  
The University of Toledo  
Phone: (419) 530-4353  
Email: b.groves2@utoledo.edu

## Appendix B

## BLISSFIELD COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, your information is vital for future park and recreation planning.

## Section I: Recreation Activity Interests

For questions 1 - 17, indicate YOUR and YOUR FAMILY'S level of interest in the following recreational categories. To indicate level of interest, please circle the appropriate numerical response for each category.

		Very Interested	Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not At All Interested	Not Sure
1.	Inclusive Recreation (Example: recreation for individuals with disabilities or special needs)	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Visual / Graphic Arts & Crafts (Examples: drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Enrichment & Self Improvement (Examples: youth education & adult continuing education, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Adult Programming (Examples: book clubs, social events, bird watching, continuing education, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Performing Arts (Examples: music, theater, dance, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Adult Sports, Athletics & Aquatics (Examples: swimming, softball, tennis, basketball, soccer, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Youth Sports, Athletics, & Aquatics (Examples: swimming, baseball, softball, wrestling, soccer, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Lifelong Athletic Activities (Examples: bowling, golf, running, jogging, walking etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Senior Programs & Activities (Examples: educational, recreational, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Latch-Key Programming (Examples: before school, after school, summer, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
11.	Intergenerational (Example: activities specifically designed for participation from all ages)	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Health & Fitness (Examples: health education, fitness training, wellness, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
13.	Outdoor Recreation (Examples: camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
14.	Social Programming (Examples: dances, youth clubs, adult clubs, cards, games, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
15.	Hobbies (Examples: cooking, model building, flower arranging, gardening, volunteering, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
16.	Travel & Tourism (Example: day trips to points of interest within days drive roundtrip, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
17.	Special Events (Examples: one or two day events such as festivals, fairs, concerts, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

## Section II:

For questions 17 - 132, indicate YOUR or YOUR FAMILY'S level of interest in the following common recreational activities. To indicate level of interest, please circle the appropriate numerical response for each category.

		Very Interested	Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not At All Interested	Not Sure
18.	Children's Art Classes	1	2	3	4	5
19.	Painting	1	2	3	4	5
20.	Sewing	1	2	3	4	5
21.	Quilting	1	2	3	4	5
22.	Photography	1	2	3	4	5
23.	Biking	1	2	3	4	5
24.	Hiking	1	2	3	4	5
25.	Camping	1	2	3	4	5
26.	Canoeing	1	2	3	4	5
27.	Kayaking	1	2	3	4	5
28.	Horseback Riding	1	2	3	4	5
29.	Fishing	1	2	3	4	5
30.	Skiing, Downhill	1	2	3	4	5
31.	Aerobics: Low Impact	1	2	3	4	5
32.	Aerobics: Intermediate	1	2	3	4	5
33.	Aerobics: Advanced	1	2	3	4	5
34.	Aerobics: Step	1	2	3	4	5
35.	Aerobics: Aquatic	1	2	3	4	5
36.	Aerobics: Dance	1	2	3	4	5
37.	Spinning	1	2	3	4	5
38.	Pilates	1	2	3	4	5
39.	Pilates: Mat	1	2	3	4	5
40.	Yoga	1	2	3	4	5
41.	Weight Training	1	2	3	4	5
42.	Circuit Training	1	2	3	4	5
43.	Running	1	2	3	4	5
44.	Jogging	1	2	3	4	5
45.	Walking	1	2	3	4	5
46.	Landscaping	1	2	3	4	5
47.	Gardening	1	2	3	4	5
48.	Roller Skating	1	2	3	4	5
49.	In-line Skating	1	2	3	4	5
50.	Ice Skating	1	2	3	4	5
51.	Skateboarding	1	2	3	4	5
52.	Bowling	1	2	3	4	5
53.	Martial Arts	1	2	3	4	5

		Very Interested	Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not At All Interested	Not Sure
54.	Skiing, Cross-Country	1	2	3	4	5
55.	Hunting & Hunting Safety	1	2	3	4	5
56.	Education: Natural Environment	1	2	3	4	5
57.	Education: Village History	1	2	3	4	5
58.	Education: Village Culture	1	2	3	4	5
59.	Music Lessons	1	2	3	4	5
60.	Theater	1	2	3	4	5
61.	Dancing: Ballet	1	2	3	4	5
62.	Dancing: Swing	1	2	3	4	5
63.	Dancing: Jazz	1	2	3	4	5
64.	Dancing: Ballroom	1	2	3	4	5
65.	Dancing: Tap	1	2	3	4	5
66.	Dancing: Contemporary	1	2	3	4	5
67.	Arts & Crafts	1	2	3	4	5
68.	Reading	1	2	3	4	5
69.	Video Games	1	2	3	4	5
70.	Computers	1	2	3	4	5
71.	Surfing Internet	1	2	3	4	5
72.	Movies: Theater	1	2	3	4	5
73.	Movies: Home	1	2	3	4	5
74.	Concerts	1	2	3	4	5
75.	Theater	1	2	3	4	5
75.	Choir	1	2	3	4	5
77.	Basketball: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
78.	Basketball: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
79.	Basketball: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
80.	Basketball: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
81.	Basketball: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
82.	Basketball: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5
83.	Baseball: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
84.	Baseball: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
85.	Baseball: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
86.	Baseball: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
87.	Baseball: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
88.	Baseball: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5

		Very Interested	Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not At All Interested	Not Sure
89.	Golf: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
90.	Golf: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
91.	Golf: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
92.	Golf: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
93.	Golf: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
94.	Golf: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5
95.	Soccer: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
96.	Soccer: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
97.	Soccer: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
98.	Soccer: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
99.	Soccer: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
100.	Soccer: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5
101.	Volleyball: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
102.	Volleyball: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
103.	Volleyball: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
104.	Volleyball: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
105.	Volleyball: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
106.	Volleyball: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5
107.	Tennis: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
108.	Tennis: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
109.	Tennis: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
110.	Tennis: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
111.	Tennis: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
112.	Tennis: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5
113.	Softball: Youth	1	2	3	4	5
114.	Softball: Over 40	1	2	3	4	5
115.	Softball: Men's	1	2	3	4	5
116.	Softball: Women's	1	2	3	4	5
117.	Softball: Coed	1	2	3	4	5
118.	Softball: Intergenerational	1	2	3	4	5
119.	Very Interested Other:					
120.	Very Interested Other:					
121.	Very Interested Other:					
122.	Very Interested Other:					
123.	Very Interested Other:					

**Section III: Service & Activity Scheduling**

Please indicate the time(s) that are most convenient for YOU or YOUR FAMILY to participate in recreational related services or programs during a typical week. Indicate as many time-periods for each day as appropriate to you or your family's needs WITH AN "X".

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
124.	6:00 am – 800 am							
125.	8:00 am – 12:00 pm							
126.	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm							
127.	4:00 pm – 8:00 pm							
128.	8:00 pm – 12:00 am							

**Section IV: Advertising & Marketing**

Please indicate which of the following Advertising or Marketing methods would be most effective for you to receive park and recreation information. Check all that Apply.

X	Example
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Newspaper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Television
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Mailings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flyers Distribute Through School(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agency Web Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Information Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**Section V: Constraints**

Please indicate which of the following constraints limits or prevents YOU or YOUR FAMILY from using Village park and recreation services. Check all that Apply.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Example</b>		Facility Locations		Overcrowding of Facilities
	Service & Program Times		User Fees		Personal Time Constraints
	Lack of Information		Poorly Maintained Facilities		Not Interested in Services Offered
	Lack of Security		Better Programs & Services Elsewhere		Other:
	Lack of Handicap Accessible Facilities		Lack of Transportation		Other:

**Section VI: Current Use Rates**

Please indicate the AVERAGE number of times per week which YOU OR YOUR FAMILY utilized Village park and recreation programs, services or facilities during each of the following seasons.

<b>Example</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 Days a Week or More

<b>FALL SEASON (September, October, November)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Days a Week or More	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Days a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Day a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never

<b>WINTER SEASON (December, January, February)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Days a Week or More	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Days a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Day a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never

<b>SPRING SEASON (March, April, May)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Days a Week or More	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Days a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Day a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never

<b>SUMMER SEASON (June, July, August)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Days a Week or More	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Days a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Day a Week
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Days a Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never

**Section VII: Personal Opinions**

For questions 138 - 173, indicate your agreement level for each personal opinion statement. To indicate agreement level, please circle the appropriate numerical response for each constraint statement.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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129.	Village recreational areas and facilities meet my recreational needs.	1	2	3	4	5
130.	Support facilities at Village recreational areas and facilities meet my needs (Example: Restrooms etc.)					
131.	I feel safe and secure from harm when visiting Village recreation areas and facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
132.	I feel safe and secure from harm when participating in Village recreational services & programs.	1	2	3	4	5
133.	The image of the Village's parks and recreation department is satisfactory.	1	2	3	4	5
134.	The park and recreation areas and facilities I visit are well maintained.	1	2	3	4	5
135.	The Villages areas and facilities for recreation compare favorably to those of surrounding communities.	1	2	3	4	5
136.	The Village provides ample opportunity for public input in making park and recreation decisions.	1	2	3	4	5
137.	The amount of park acreage in my neighborhood is adequate.	1	2	3	4	5
138.	The amount of park acreage in the Village is adequate.	1	2	3	4	5
139.	The Village is responsive to community recreation needs.	1	2	3	4	5
140.	The Village is an important recreation provider for me and/or my family.	1	2	3	4	5
141.	Non-resident use of Village recreation services and programs has created problems for me and/or my family.	1	2	3	4	5
142.	The Village should collaborate extensively with local businesses to sponsor recreation opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5
143.	The Village should provide more recreational activities for Youth.	1	2	3	4	5
144.	The Village should provide more recreational activities for Adults.	1	2	3	4	5
145.	The Village should provide more recreational activities for Men.	1	2	3	4	5
146.	The Village should provide more recreational activities for Women.	1	2	3	4	5
147.	The Village should provide more recreational activities for Seniors.	1	2	3	4	5
148.	The Village should provide more Coed recreational activities.	1	2	3	4	5
149.	The Village should provide more Family recreational activities.	1	2	3	4	5
150.	The Village should provide more Intergenerational recreational activities.	1	2	3	4	5
151.	The Village does a good job of marketing and advertising recreation programs and services.	1	2	3	4	5
152.	I receive timely information about Village recreation programs and services.	1	2	3	4	5
153.	The Village spends an adequate amount of money on recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services.	1	2	3	4	5
154.	The Village should spend more money on recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services.	1	2	3	4	5
155.	Developing new facilities for recreation should be a Village priority.	1	2	3	4	5
156.	Improving current facilities for recreation should be a Village priority.	1	2	3	4	5
157.	Increasing the number of recreation programs and services offered should be a Village priority.	1	2	3	4	5

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
158.	User fees and charges are adequate for recreational programs and services offered.	1	2	3	4	5
159.	User fees and charges are affordable for me and/or my family.	1	2	3	4	5
160.	Non-Village residents should pay higher user fees and charges than Village residents.	1	2	3	4	5
161.	User fees and charges should be collected on a sliding-scale based on household income.	1	2	3	4	5
162.	I am willing to pay increased user fees or charges to support recreation program and/or service expansion.	1	2	3	4	5
163.	I am willing to pay increased taxes for the improvement of current park and recreation areas and facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
164.	I am willing to pay increased taxes for the development of new park and recreation facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
165.	I would support the hiring of a full-time park and recreation director.	1	2	3	4	5

**Section VIII: Future Facility Planning**

**For questions 174 - 190, indicate your agreement level for each future facility improvement or planning initiative. To indicate agreement level, please circle the appropriate numerical response for each constraint statement.**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
166.	The Village should develop a paved river walk trail.	1	2	3	4	5
167.	The Village should develop an indoor community / recreation center.	1	2	3	4	5
168.	The Village should develop an outdoor multi-sport complex.	1	2	3	4	5
169.	The Village should update all existing park and recreation facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
170.	The Village should develop an indoor ice rink.	1	2	3	4	5
171.	The Village should develop an indoor pool.	1	2	3	4	5
172.	The Village should relocate existing soccer fields.	1	2	3	4	5
173.	The Village should enhance or expand the skate park.	1	2	3	4	5
174.	The Village should develop a fine arts center.	1	2	3	4	5
175.	The Village should install digital signs in the community to provide residents current information.	1	2	3	4	5
176.	The Village should develop a community trail system.	1	2	3	4	5
177.	The Village should develop more playgrounds and play areas.	1	2	3	4	5
178.	The Village should develop areas along the river more extensively.	1	2	3	4	5
179.	The Village should develop educational trails along the river. (Example: Environmental, Historic, Cultural)	1	2	3	4	5
180.	The Village should improve or expand support facilities at its recreational sites (Example: Restrooms, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
181.	Other Facility or Planning Initiative:					
182.	Other Facility or Planning Initiative:					
183.	Other Facility or Planning Initiative:					

**Section IX: Demographics**

- Please indicate your Gender:**     Male     Female    **2. Do you own a home computer with internet access?**     Yes     No
- Please Indicate Age Range:**     20 - 29     30 - 39     40 - 49     50 - 59     60 - 69     70 - 79     80 - 89     90 +
- Please estimate your household income from all sources of revenue. (Check Only One)**  
 Under \$10,000     \$10,000- \$14,999     \$15,000-\$19,999     \$20,000-\$24,999     \$25,000-\$29,999     \$30,000- \$34,999  
 \$35,000- \$39,999     \$40,000-\$44,999     \$45,000-\$49,999     \$ 50,000 - \$54,999     \$55,000-\$59,999     \$60,000-\$64,999  
 \$65,000-\$69,999     \$70,000-\$74,999     \$75,000-\$79,999     \$80,000-\$84,999     \$85,000-\$89,999     \$90,000-\$94,999  
 \$95,000-\$99,999     \$100,000 +
- Please estimate your annual expenditure for participation in all YOUR and/or YOUR Families recreation activities. (Check Only One)**  
 Under \$500     \$500-\$999     \$1,000-\$1,499     \$1,500-\$1,999     \$2,000-\$2,499     \$2,500-\$2,999     \$3,000-\$3,499  
 \$3,500-\$3,999     \$4,000-\$4,499     \$4,500-\$4,999     \$5,000-\$5,499     \$5,500-\$5,999     \$6,000-\$6,499     \$6,500-\$6,999  
 \$7,000-\$7,499     \$7,500-\$7,999     \$8,000-\$8,499     \$8,500-\$8,999     \$9,000-\$9,499     \$9,500-\$9,999     \$10,000 +
- How many adults, including yourself, over the age of 19 live in your household?** \_\_\_\_\_
- If applicable, how many children in your household are:**  
Under age 5 \_\_\_\_\_    Age 5 - 10 \_\_\_\_\_    Age 11-14 \_\_\_\_\_    Age 15-18 \_\_\_\_\_