

## Summary Report for Elkins Parks Committee Parks Survey Spring 2022

### Purpose & Participation

The Parks Committee created this survey to gather information to help us better understand the people our parks serve and to better focus our work as a committee as we look toward future goals and endeavors. Survey questions were developed to collect demographic and social data as well as specific data relevant to park usage and park conditions. The survey also included questions to assess frequency of use and purpose for visiting. Respondents were asked to rank potential future parks goals. The survey contained multiple choice questions, ranking questions and open response questions in an effort to reduce bias and allow for broader participant responses.

In an effort to be as inclusive of as many stakeholders as possible, the survey was shared with the public in different ways including the Elkins City website, and social media. Additionally, posters and flyers with a QR code link to the survey were shared with the public at the Bunch Park Movie Night #1. The survey remained open for three months to allow all interested parties adequate time to be informed of the survey opportunity and time to complete the survey. The survey was open to the public and all survey results were included in the final report.

### Findings

#### Survey participant demographics

51 people completed the survey

82% of respondents live in 72727 zip code  
16% live in 72701

94% live in single family home  
86% of respondents own their home

The largest percentage of respondents have lived in Elkins 0-1 years= 31%  
The second highest percentage - 21% - have lived in Elkins 2-5 years.  
More than half, 52%, of respondents have lived in Elkins 5 years or less.

47% of respondents live >1 mile from the park.  
16% live >5 miles from the park.  
63% of survey participants live more than a mile from the park.

98% of respondents travel to the park by motor vehicle.

63% of the respondents have children that use the play equipment or courts.

## Usage

52% of survey participants use the park at least once a month.

- 26% of respondents indicated they use the park weekly.
- 26% indicated they use the park monthly.

Participants were asked to check boxes for why they come to the park. The two top reasons chosen were:

- Bringing children
- walking

The third choice was “time with family and friends”. Other top choices include “walking the dog”, “relax”, “exercise or jog”. All of the choices and choice rankings are attached to this report as a bar graph. (addendum 1, p.4)

The physical condition of the park was rated “Fair” by over half the respondents - 51%. 43% of respondents rated the park’s condition as “Good”.

Respondents were asked to first rank their top three priorities for park improvements. Add/Renovate Picnic and Playground Facilities received the highest percentage of first and second place votes and Add/Renovate Trail Facilities was the third priority. The breakdown for the choices of top three park improvement priority rankings is attached to this report. (addendum 1, p. 5-6)

Secondly, respondents were asked to choose the park improvements that should receive top priority. A hydration station for water ranked above all choices with 24 votes as a top priority or 47%. Regular events for the park received 18 votes - 35%. Trails, 16 votes, 31% and a dog park. 15 votes, 29%, were close third and fourth choices. (addendum 1, p. 6)

The survey asked respondents if they visit nearby destinations outside Elkins to use a trail or multi-purpose path. A majority of respondents, 71%, responded “Yes”.

Respondents were asked if they would use trails more often if they were more accessible. 78% responded “Yes”.

The top three priorities for destinations to be reached by bicycling or walking were Parks and Greenways 79%, School 40%, and Library or Community Center 38%. Data details are attached to the report. (addendum, p. 7)

When asked to respond to rating the importance of improved walking and bicycling conditions in Elkins, over half, 57%, responded “Very Important”.

## Conclusions

A large majority of respondents to the survey own their single family home and have lived in Elkins 5 years or less. They visit the park by car to bring children to play, walk, or spend time with family and friends, relax, and exercise or jog. They would like to see a hydration station and improved trails for our parks. They would also like for more events to be offered at the parks. The majority of respondents ranked our park’s condition as “fair”. Respondents would like us to prioritize adding/renovating the picnic and playground facilities, and adding/renovating the trails. They would like to visit destinations outside of Elkins to use trails and multipurpose paths. They would use trails more often if they were closer. Respondents’ first priority for choice of destination by bicycle or walking is the parks and greenways. They also feel improving walking and bicycling conditions in Elkins is very important.

## Take Aways

The Parks Committee can use this information to help develop goals for committee use to plan and prioritize committee work. The limited overall response to the survey might indicate a need to attempt another survey in the future and research ways to increase participation. Future surveys might also include more specific information related to voting districts to better understand where participants live and their proximity to Elkins parks.

## Addendum

Google survey analytics for Elkins Parks Survey 2022

Pages 1-8

