

CHAPTER FIVE - PROGRAM AND FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the Facility and Program Priority Rankings is to provide a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs and recreation program needs for the residents served by Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District.

The Needs Assessment evaluates both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes the statistically valid Community Survey, which asked residents of Fair Oaks' community to list unmet needs and rank their importance. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained in Focus Group meetings, Key Leader Interviews, and Public Forums.

The information in the Facility and Program Needs Assessment will be supplemented with the recommended Level of Service Standards and Equity Mapping to develop the strategic recommendations to identify the facilities/amenities and programs of highest priority for the community. These priorities will play a vital role in dictating the sequence and extent of implementation of the projects identified in the Master Plan Report.

Note: It must be noted that these results are due to community responses and the perceived highest priorities and unmet needs here may differ from those based on actual numbers provided through the Facility Standards and Equity Maps in Chapter 4.2.

A weighted scoring system was used to determine the priorities for parks and recreation facilities/amenities and recreation programs. For instance as noted below, a weighted value of 2 for the Unmet Desires means that out of a total of 100%, a value of 20% would be attributed to unmet desires or support identified in the survey in regard to the need or desire of this criteria to the ranking system.

This scoring system considers the following:

- Community Survey
 - **Unmet desires for facilities and recreation programs** – This is used as a factor from the total number of households mentioning whether they have a need for a facility/program and the extent to which their desires for facilities and recreation programs has been met. Survey participants were asked to identify their desire for or support of 25 different facilities and 20 recreation programs. Weighted value of 3.
 - **Importance ranking for facilities** – This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility or program by the community. Each respondent was asked to identify the top four most important facilities and recreation programs. Weighted value of 3.
- Consultant and Steering Committee Evaluation
 - Factor derived from the consultant and steering committee's evaluation of program and facility priority based on survey results, demographics, trends and overall community input. Weighted value of 4.

These weighted scores were then summed to provide an overall score and priority ranking for the system as a whole. The results of the priority ranking were tabulated into three categories: High Priority (1), Medium Priority (2), and Low Priority (3).

The combined total of the weighted scores for Community Unmet Needs, Community Importance and Consultant Evaluation is the total score based on which the Facility/Amenity and Program Priority is determined.

Since this is a community-wide survey, it is obvious that amenities that benefit the widest demographic cross-sections of the community would tend to be ranked more higher than those that serve a niche market. Thus, it is typical in such assessments nationwide that broad categories, such as walking trails or neighborhood parks tend to rank higher than individual facilities or programs.

Figure 90 shows that natural surface trails for hiking and biking, neighborhood parks and Off-Leash Dog Parks were the top three facilities/amenities. *Note: Dog parks are a high priority but FORPD is currently meeting the standard as shown in Chapter 4.2. Outdoor swimming pools, too, are a high priority but that need will be addressed through partnerships with other agencies.*

Fair Oaks			
Facility/Amenity Priority Rankings			
	High	Medium	Low
Walking/bike trails	1		
Small neighborhood parks	2		
Off-leash dog parks	3		
Small family picnic areas	4		
Playground equipment	5		
Community gardens	6		
Outdoor swimming pools	7		
Indoor rec center/gym	8		
Indoor walking/running	9		
Indoor swimming pools		10	
Nature center		11	
Amphitheater		12	
Youth soccer fields		13	
Outdoor tennis courts		14	
Visual/performing arts		15	
Local history center		16	
Senior center		17	
Large community parks			18
Outdoor basketball courts			19
Youth baseball & softball			20
Large group picnic areas			21
Skateboard parks			22
Disc golf course			23
Adult baseball & softball			24
Youth football fields			25

Figure 90 – Facility / Amenity Priority Rankings

Figure 91 identifies Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs, Outdoor Skills and Youth Sports as the three core program areas that merited the highest priority.

Note: It is important to clarify that these priorities are derived based on the methodology described on the previous page and are reflective of the community's priorities only. They are not a value judgment by the District. All the programs in the list below are accessible to the entire community.

Fair Oaks			
Program Needs Assessment			
	High	Medium	Low
Adult fitness/wellness	1		
Outdoor skills	2		
Youth sports	3		
Youth Learn to Swim programs	4		
Senior programs	5		
Visual/Performing Arts	6		
Adult sports programs	7		
Community-wide special		8	
Tennis lessons, clinics and leagues		9	
Gymnastics and tumbling		10	
Martial arts programs		11	
Youth summer camp		12	
Before/After school		13	
Environmental education		14	
Youth fitness/wellness			15
Equestrian programs			16
Youth life skill			17
Pre-School programs			18
Birthday parties			19
Programs for the disabled			20

Figure 91 – Program Priority Rankings