

2026 Bond Proposal Welcome!

Michelle Tuft - Executive Director

Elsa Fischer - Skokie Park District Board President



Agenda

- CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- INTRODUCTIONS
- PROPOSED REFERENDUM & CONCEPTUAL PLAN PRESENTATION
- PUBLIC INPUT
- CLOSING COMMENTS
- ADJOURNMENT

Staff and Board Introductions



What is a Bond Referendum?

Request of taxpayers for additional tax dollars
to address capital improvements



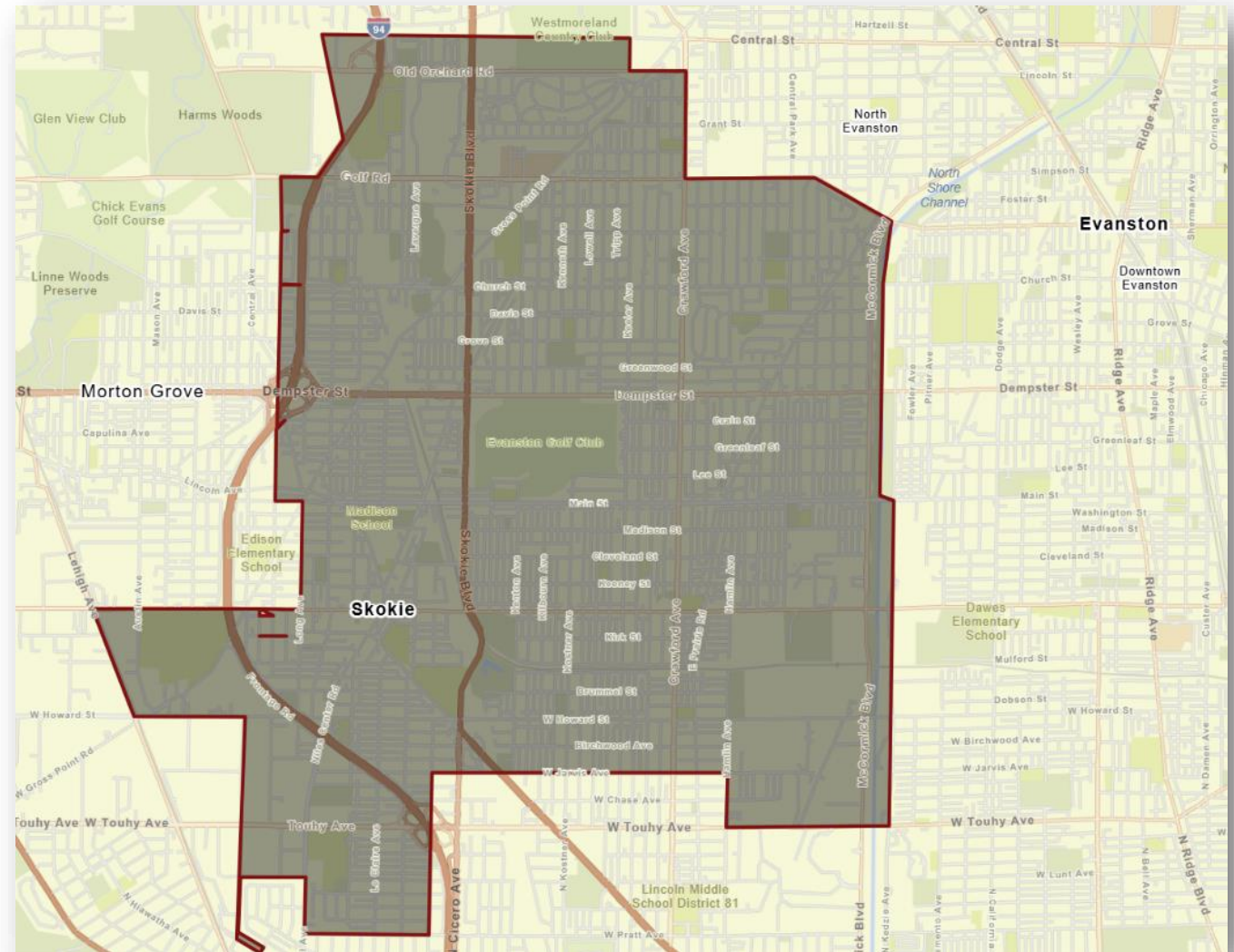
*A bond referendum cannot address operating needs,
only capital improvements*

About Skokie Park District



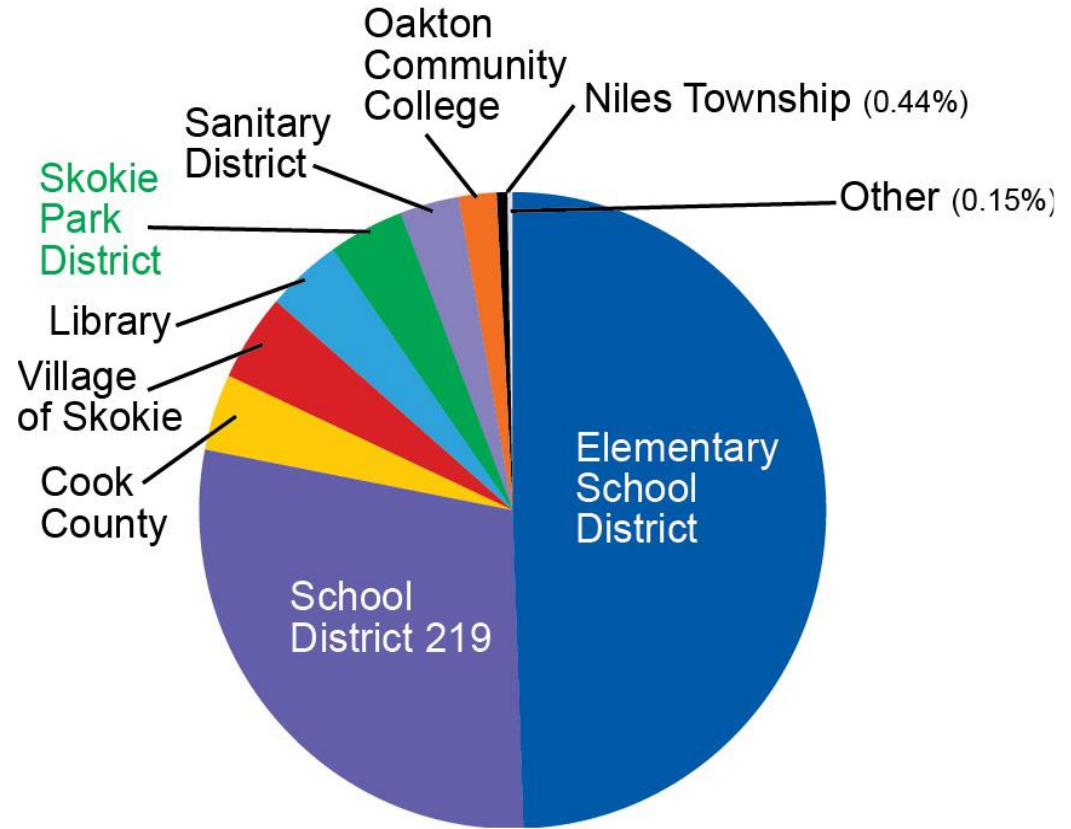
District Boundaries

- Approximately 63,000 residents
- Includes nearly all the Village of Skokie, as well as small portions of Evanston, Morton Grove, and Chicago.
- The Skokie Park District and the Village of Skokie are two different entities.



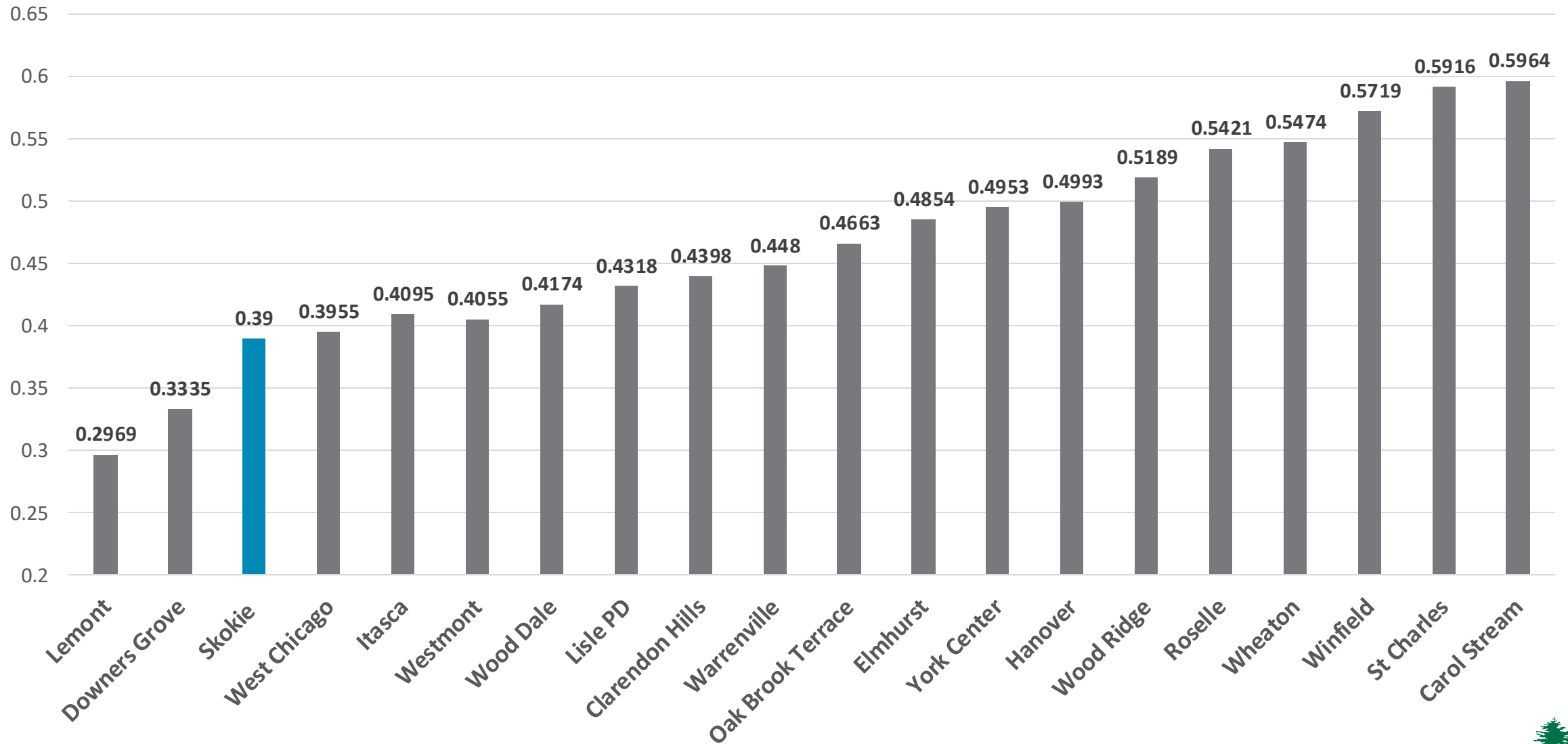
Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go (2024)

Elementary School District*	49.45%
School District 219	28.61%
Village of Skokie	4.35%
Cook County	4.11%
Skokie Park District	3.88%
Skokie Public Library	3.86%
Sanitary District	3.04%
Oakton Community College	2.11%
Niles Township	0.45%
Other	0.14%



*Percentage above for School District 69. Actual percentage will vary depending upon which school district you live in.

Tax Rate Comparison to Suburban Park Districts



Total Grant Funds Received Since 2020 \$6,070,725

Location	Funding Agency	Description of Grant	Funds Received
Tot Learning Center	Childcare Restoration Grant 2020-2022	Finacial grant for lost revenue due to Covid	\$439,990
Festival of Cultures 2020	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$7,300
Festival of Cultures 2021	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$7,300
Festival of Cultures 2022	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$6,900
Festival of Cultures 2023	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$17,150
Festival of Cultures 2024	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$19,100
Festival of Cultures 2025	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$18,550
Festival of Cultures 2026	Illinois Arts Council	FOC annual arts grant	\$14,550
Tot Learning Center	The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	Food reimbursement grant	\$48,300
Tot Learning Center	Action for Children Quality Improvement	Program supply grant	\$10,000
Tot Learning Center	Child Resource Service	Quality Improvement grant	\$10,000
Emily Oaks Nature Center	Illinois Clean Energy Foundation	EONC solar panel grant	\$23,955
Hamlin and Sports Park	Illinois Clean Energy Foundation	Convert two acres of turf to pollinators	\$20,000
Laramie Park	Illinois Department of Natural Resources - OSLAD Grant	Renovate Laramie Park	\$400,000
Central Park	Illinois Department of Natural Resources - OSLAD Grant	Renovate Central Park	\$400,000
Skatium Ice Arena	Illinois Department of Natural Resources - PARC Grant	Update Skatium mechanicals	\$2,500,000
Laramie Park	DCEO Grant - Represenative Kalish	Laramie Park renovations	\$200,000
Terminal/Lauth/Lee Wright Parks	Representative Schakowsky Community Project Funding	Park renovations	\$500,000
Lawler Park	Illinois Department of Natural Resources - OSLAD Grant	Park renovation	\$357,000
Onöndowa'ga Park	DCEO - Representative Gong-Gershowitz	Park renovation	\$182,450
Weber Track Replacement	DCEO - Representative Gong-Gershowitz	Weber track replacement	\$115,000
Winnebago Park and Labor	Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Community Entities	Summer labor, fruit orchard at Winnebago	\$53,180
Lockwood Sports Courts	DCEO Grant - Senator Fine	Lockwood court repairs	\$100,000
Peccia Playground	DCEO Grant - unknown	Peccia playground equipment replacement	\$100,000
Gleiss Park Tennis Court	DCEO Grant - Representative Gong Gershowitz	Gleiss tennis court replacement	\$120,000
Gleiss Park playground equipment	DCEO Grant - Senator Fine	Gross Point path paving	\$100,000
Devonshire, Emerson and Lockwood	DCEO Grant - Senator Fine	Park renovations	\$100,000
Devonshire, Emerson and Lockwood	DCEO Grant - Gong Gershowitz	Park renovations	\$200,000
Total Since 2020			\$6,070,725

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)

Established in 1889, the MWRD is a special purpose government agency responsible for treating wastewater and managing stormwater in Cook County. They engage the public on several critical water-related issues that improve the quality of life for all.

The Park District is finalizing a 50-year lease for all properties, 58.4 acres, for \$10.

MWRD leases include:

- Sports Park and Sports Park East
- Channelside Park South (new)
- Channelside Park (Dammrich Rowing Center, Pooch Park, and soccer fields)
- Hamlin Park

Currently, an acre of land in Skokie costs between \$630,000 and \$3.2 million

2025 Community Survey Results



Survey Key Findings

- **Exceptionally Strong Public Sentiment**

92% favorable toward the District; only 2% unfavorable. Average 8.3 rating, higher than other nearby park agencies.

- **High Perceived Value**

Overall value rating of 7.9 (given just 3.8% of property tax share), well above ratings for other local/regional agencies.

- **Broad Representation and Inclusion**

Nine in ten feel their household's interests are well represented; especially strong among older adults (65+), men, white adults, and recent program users. The 10% who disagree mainly seek more cultural, ethnic, or religious representation in offerings.

- **High Satisfaction Among Recent Users**

Recent users/visitors rate multiple attributes 8.4+, including safety (the highest score of 8.9).

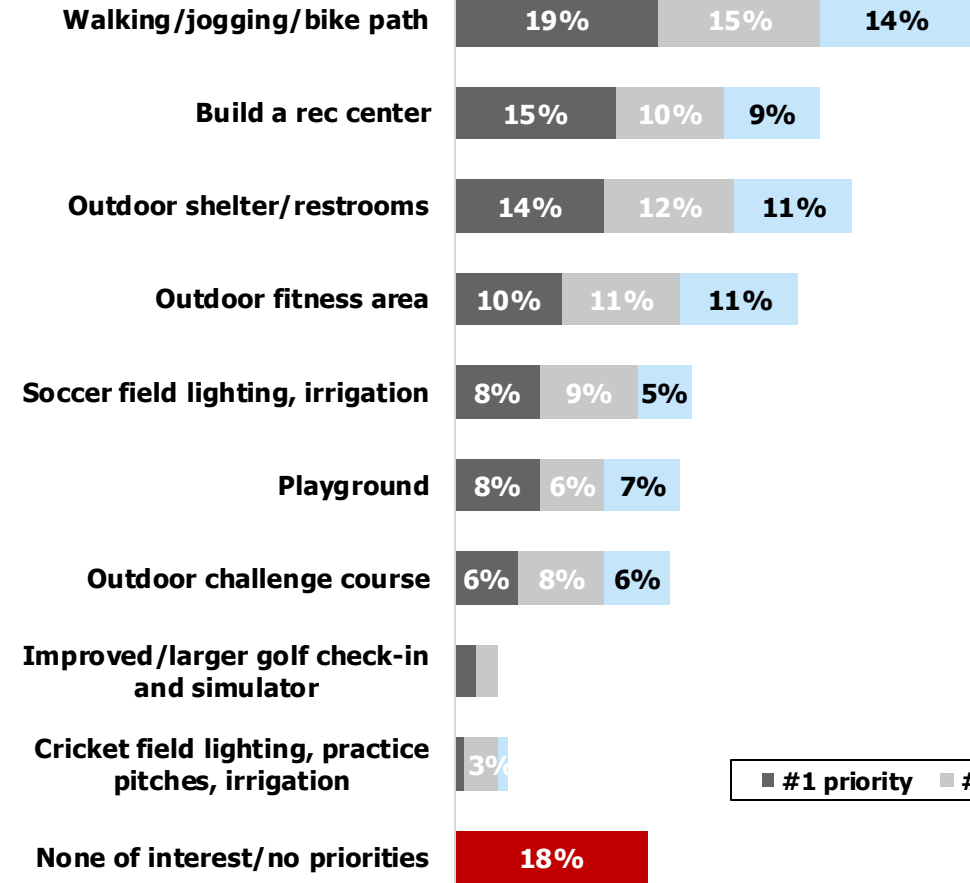
- **Strong Program Experience Ratings**

Among the 61% who participated in programs or events, overall satisfaction averages 8.6, and ease of registration rates 8.4.

Survey Findings: Sports Park East



Top Priorities: Potential Sports Park East Improvements



Survey Findings: Channelside Park South



Top Priorities: Potential New Channelside Park Improvements

Walking/jogging/bike path along canal

24% 20% 11%

Universal playground with special needs elements

15% 10% 5%

Nature-based playground

13% 19% 11%

Natural open space

11% 10% 17%

Outdoor fitness stations

11% 8% 10%

Skate park

5% 3%
3%

Outdoor picnic shelter

7% 4%
7%

BMX/Pump track

5%

None of interest/no priorities

15%

#1 priority #2 #3

Comprehensive Plan Analysis

- Skokie Park District has 247 acres of park land
- According to national benchmarks for open space, Skokie should have 398 acres
- Skokie Park District is 38.4% below recommended benchmarks
- The Park District is always looking for more land, in a landlocked community where it is difficult to acquire.



Sports Park East

**SKOKIE**
PARK DISTRICT



Sports Park East: Existing





Input from Athletic Affiliates

Cricket

- Fix grading and drainage
- Sports lighting
- Storage
- Permanent restroom
- Netting to protect parking lot
- Four pitches for tournaments
- Two to three practice pitches
- Shade for bleachers

Soccer

- Fix grading and drainage
- Sports lighting
- Storage
- Permanent restroom
- High school size soccer field
- Ideally eight fields
- Concessions
- Include a small playground
- Better views into site from Oakton

OAKTON ST

N MCCORMICK BLVD

LEGEND

- 1 Recreation Center
- 2 Multi-Purpose Patio with Shade Sails
- 3 Pedestrian Plaza
- 4 Bike Racks
- 5 Rain Garden
- 6 Chipping & Putting Practice
- 7 Relocated Batting Cages
- 8 Drop-Off Lane
- 9 Pedestrian Crosswalk
- 10 Cricket Field with Lighting & Irrigation (390' Diameter)
- 11 Cricket Practice Pitch
- 12 Multi-Use Field with Lighting & Irrigation (260' x 380')
- 13 Parking Lot Renovation & Expansion
- 14 Sports Plaza with 40' x 40' Shelter & Restrooms
- 15 Playground
- 16 Challenge Course
- 17 Fitness Equipment
- 18 Concrete Walk
- 19 10' Wide Asphalt Multi-Use Path with Benches on Concrete Pads (0.6 Mile Loop)
- 20 ADA Bleachers with Shade Sail
- 21 Pedestrian Gateway (Park Sign with Digital Message Board and Concrete Plaza)
- 22 Park Sign
- 23 Native Perennial Planting
- 24 Drive-In Movies
- 25 Dumpster Enclosure
- 26 Underground Stormwater Detention









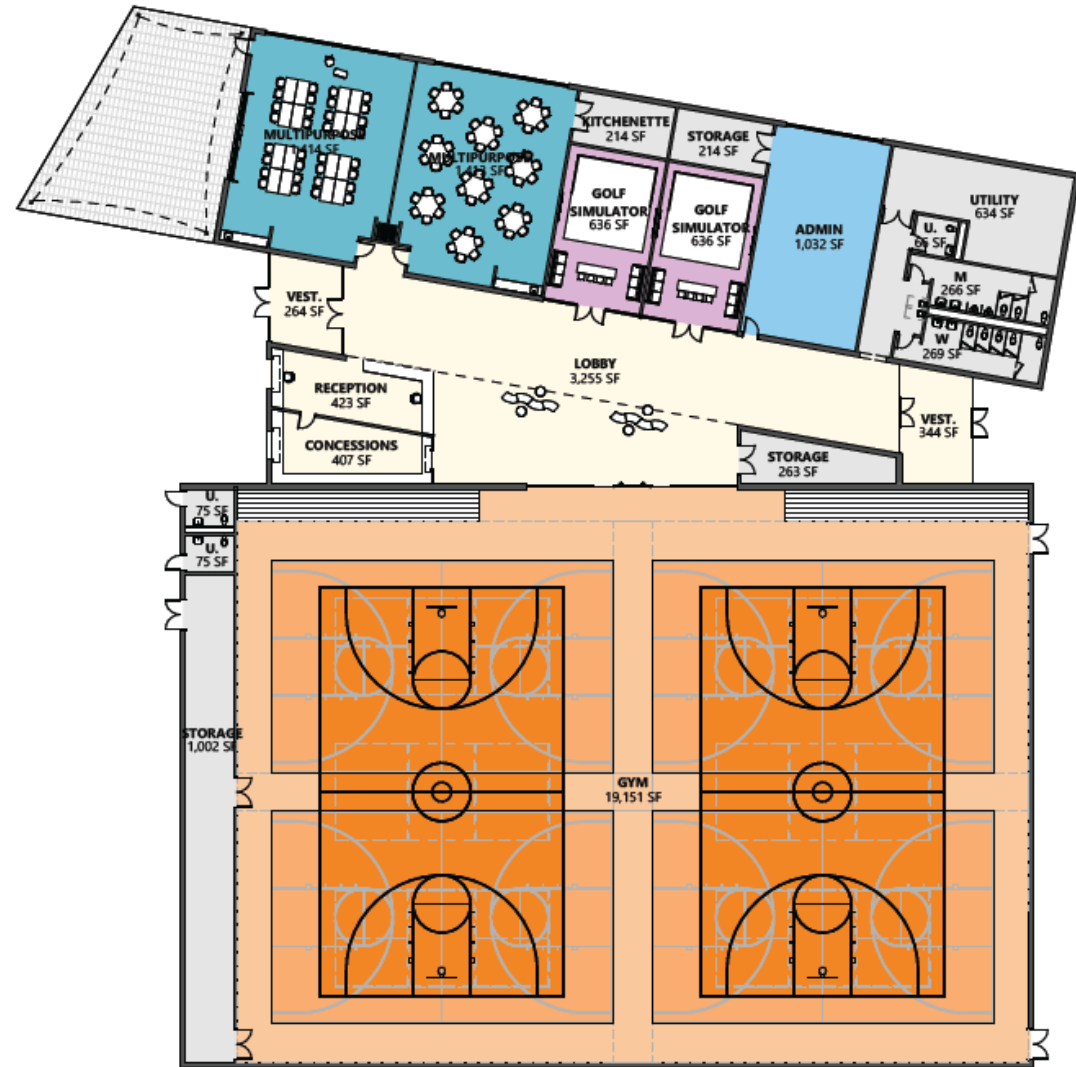
SKOKIE SPORTS
PARK DISTRICT **PARK**



Conceptual Rendering

Field House

- Field House Footprint: 33,900 Sq Ft
- Golf Operations
- Two golf simulators
- Multi-Purpose Room (100-140 occupancy)
- Staff Offices
- Concessions
- Multi-purpose Gymnasium
 - Two full-sized basketball
 - Four half-sized basketball
 - Six Pickleball Courts



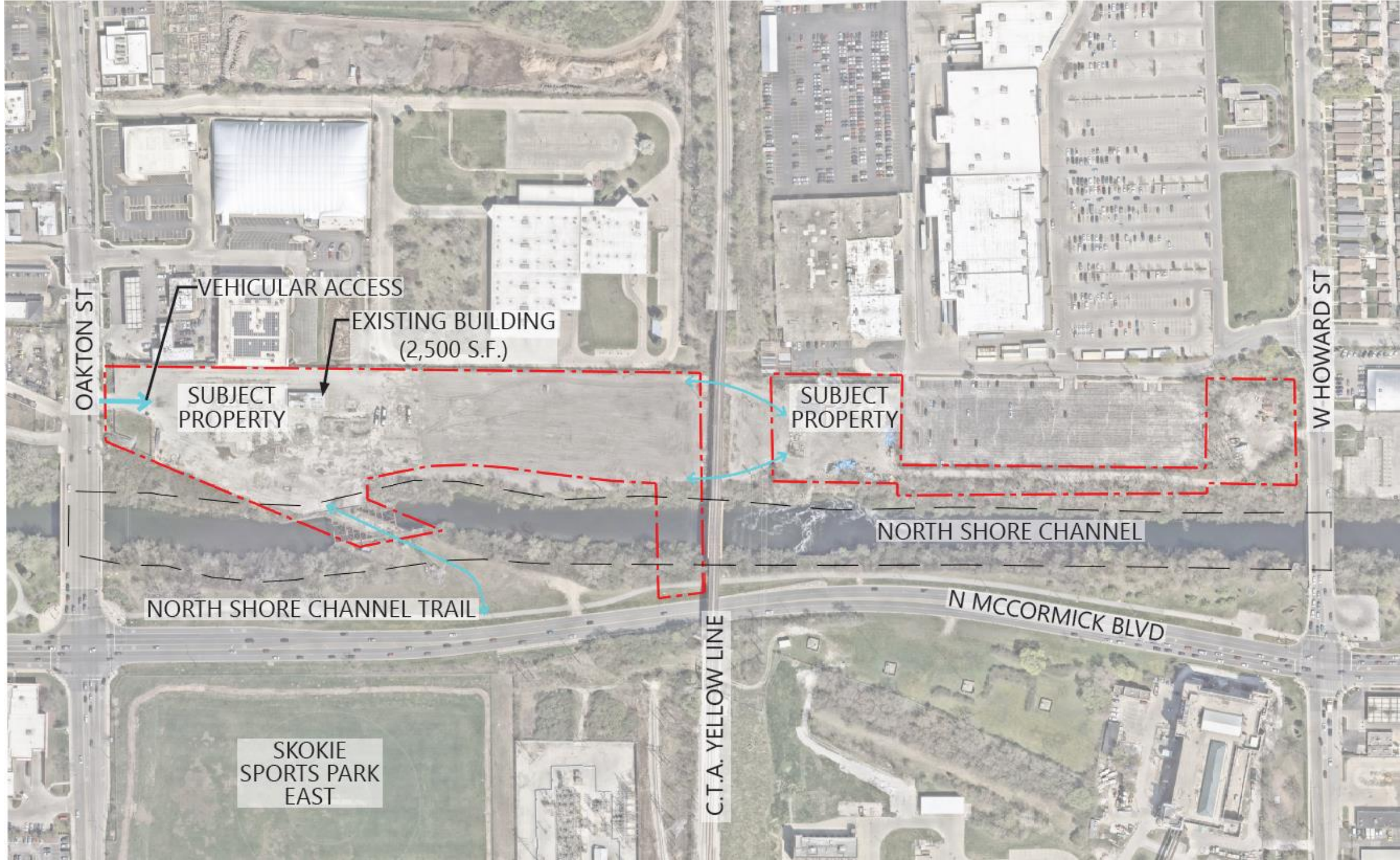
Sports Park East Cost Estimate

- Field House \$18,200,000
- Site Development \$19,200,000
- Total \$37,400,000



Channelside South





OAKTON ST

VEHICULAR ACCESS

EXISTING BUILDING
(2,500 S.F.)

SUBJECT
PROPERTY

SUBJECT
PROPERTY

NORTH SHORE CHANNEL

NORTH SHORE CHANNEL TRAIL

N MCCORMICK BLVD

W HOWARD ST

C.T.A. YELLOW LINE

SKOKIE
SPORTS PARK
EAST



CUBE SMART self storage

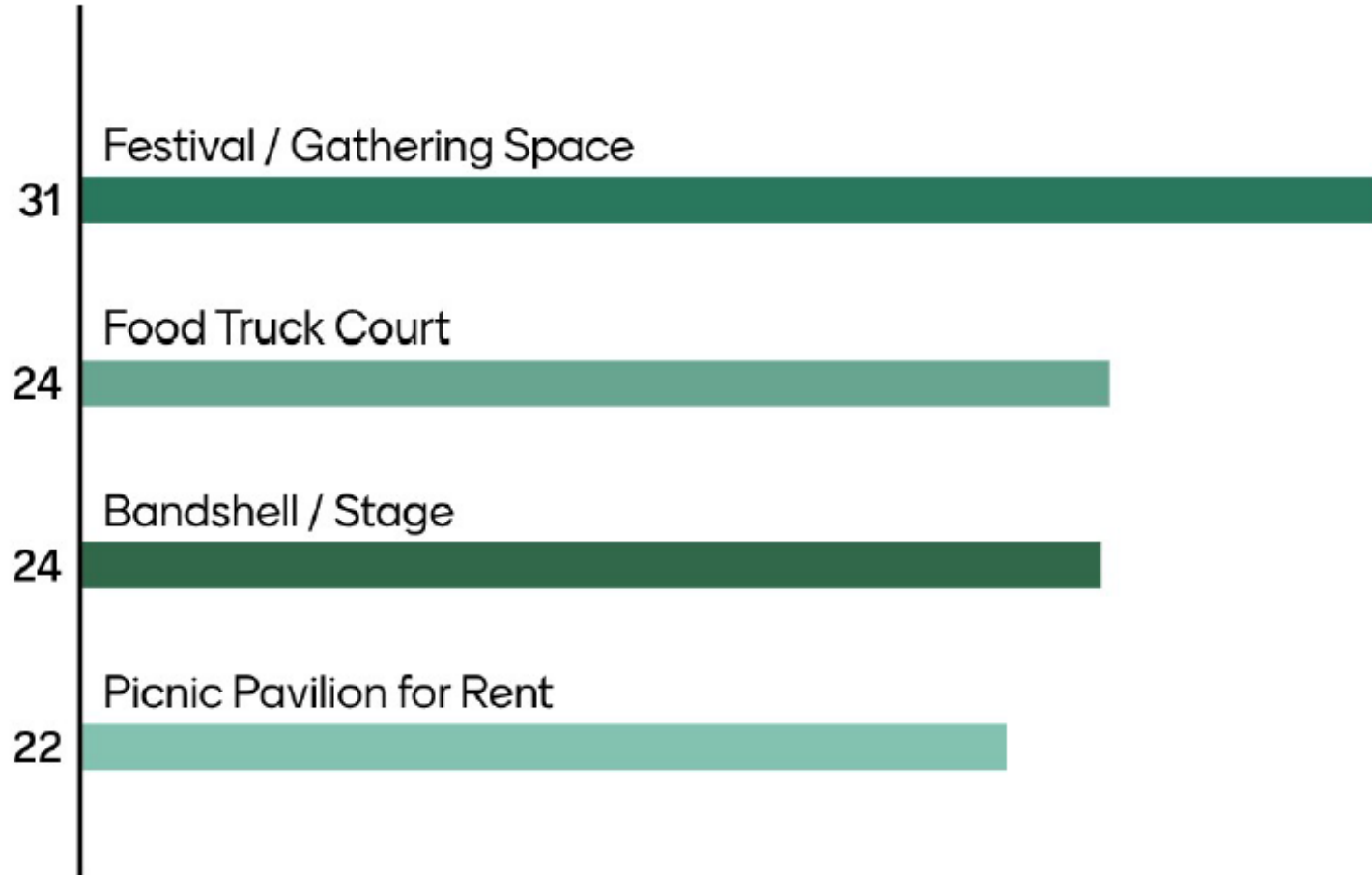


Channelside South Resident Survey

- The survey was live July 21- August 4, 2025, through social media and shared by Skokie Patch
- 1,332 total responses
 - 1,181 Skokie Residents
 - 151 Non-Residents



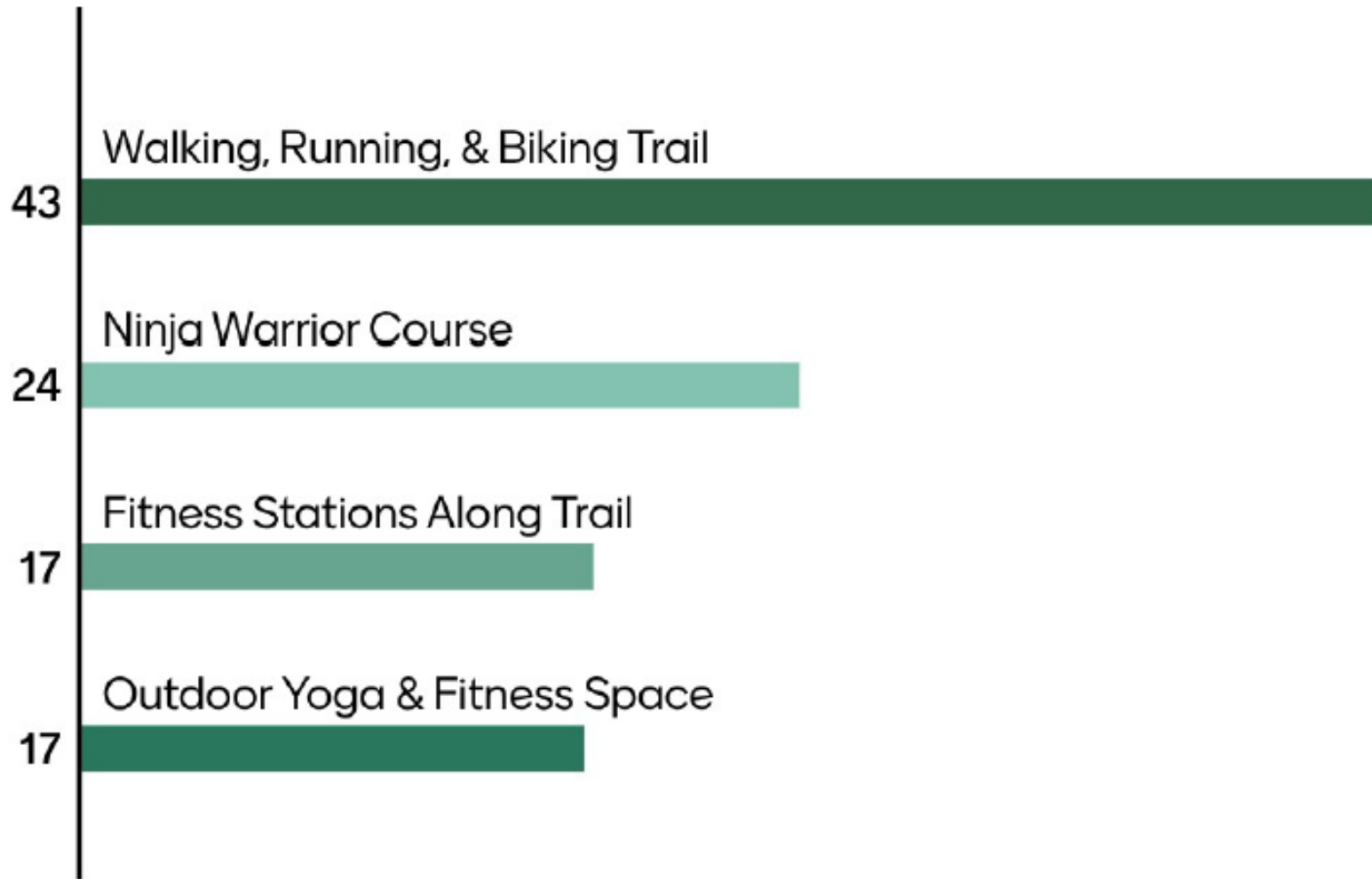
Survey Results: Outdoor Entertainment



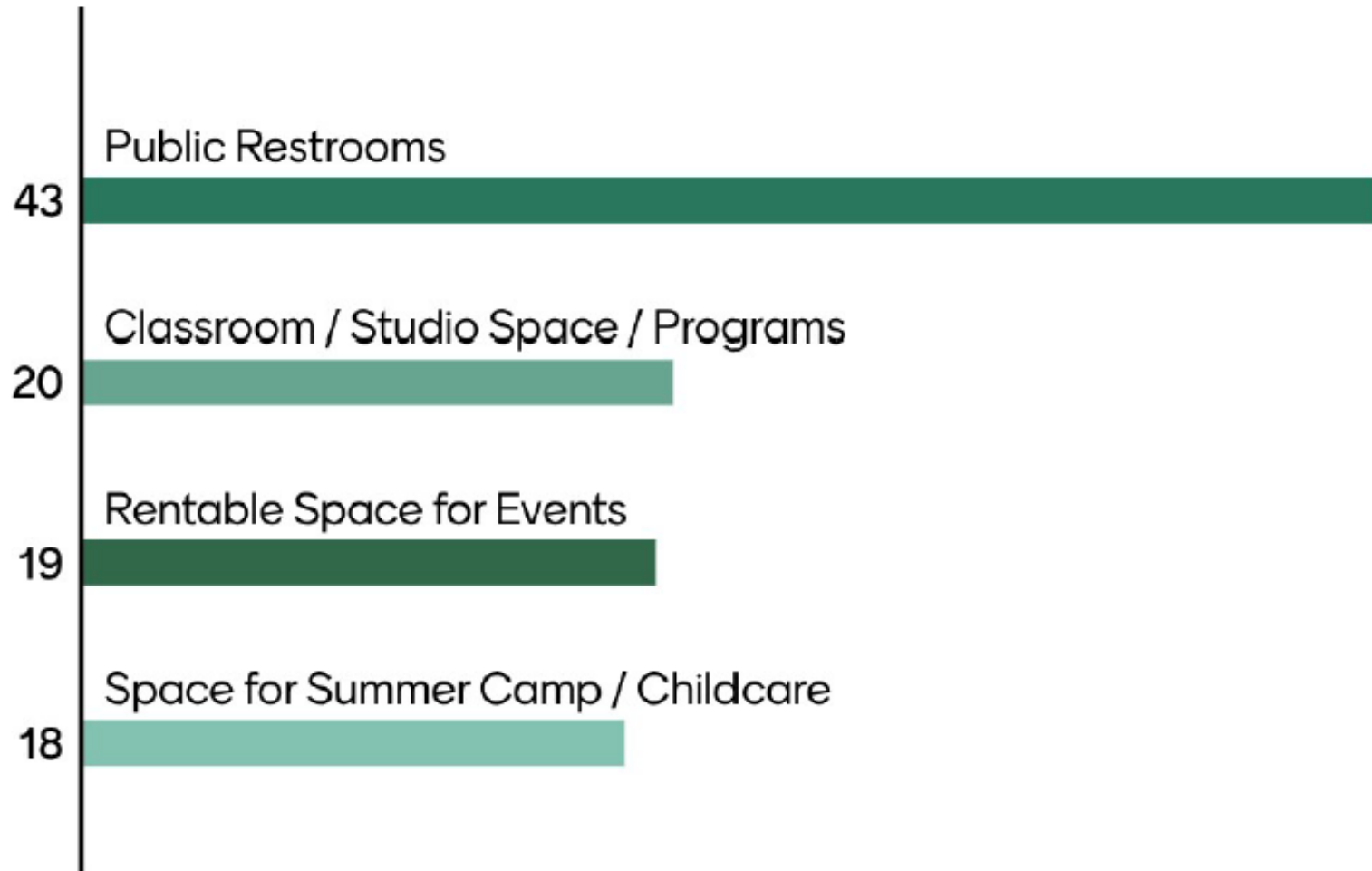
Survey Results: Outdoor Adventure and Play



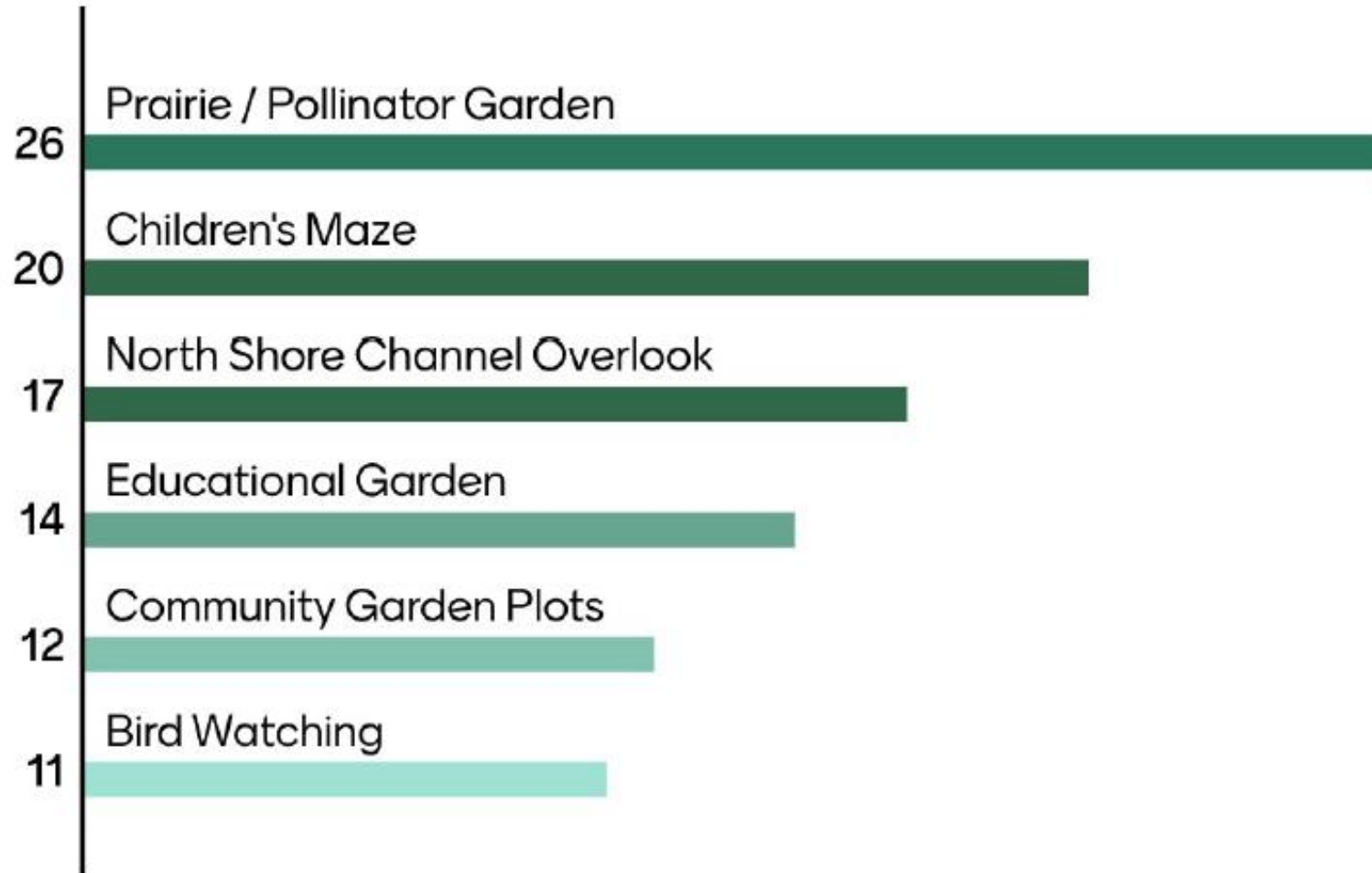
Survey Results: Health & Fitness



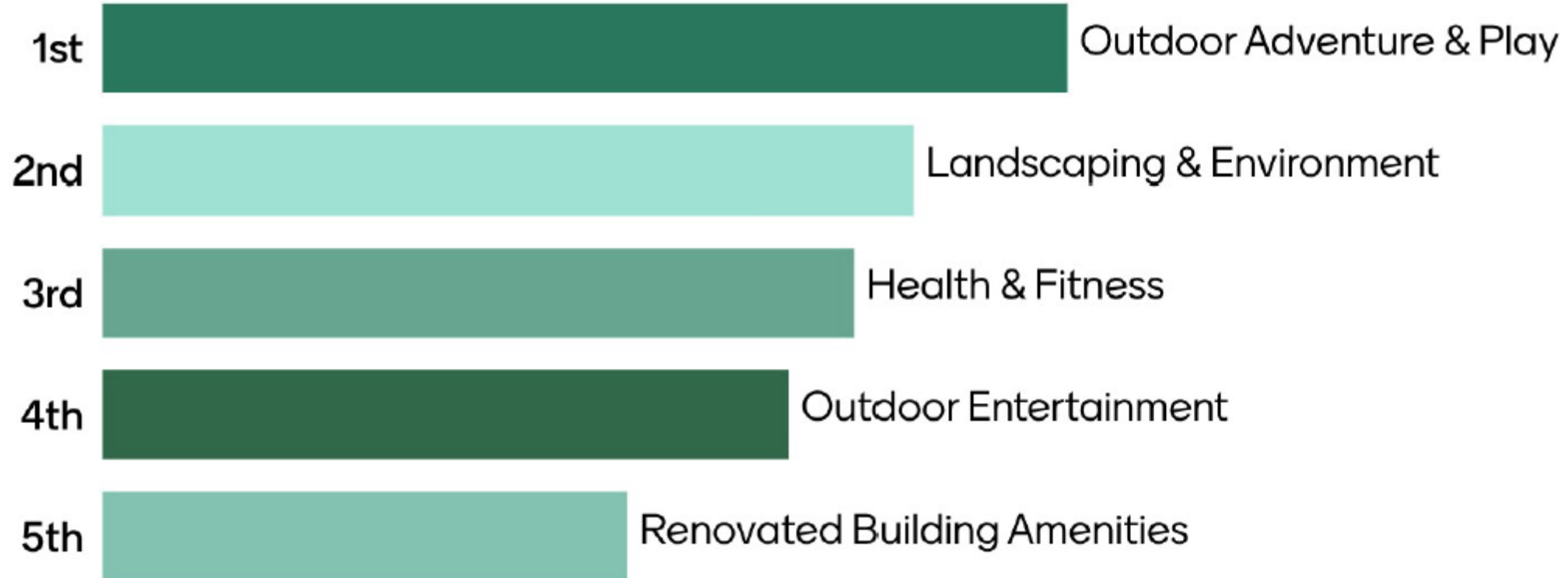
Survey Results: Renovated Building Amenities



Survey Results: Landscaping & Environmental



Survey Results: Program Priorities



Channelside Park South: Site Concept



OAKTON ST

N MCCORMICK BLVD.

C.T.A. YELLOW LINE

W HOWARD ST

Channelside Park South: Site Concept - North



- LEGEND**
- 1 Park Monument Sign
 - 2 Ornamental Trees
 - 3 Parking Lot (±150 Stalls)
 - 4 Bioswale
 - 5 10' Asphalt Path (1 Mile Total Length)
 - 6 Drop Off / Event Vendor Parking
 - 7 Renovated Building
 - 8 Patio with Shade Structure
 - 9 Event Lawn
 - 10 8' Concrete Walk
 - 11 Portable Toilet
 - 12 Band Shell, Stage, & Dance Floor See Enlargement
 - 13 Overlook
 - 14 Bench on Concrete Pad
 - 15 Inclusive Playground, See Enlargement
 - 16 Shade Trees
 - 17 Prairie Plantings

OAKTON ST

N MCCORMICK BLVD

1/4 Mile Loop

Channelside Park South: Site Concept - South



- LEGEND**
- 1 Flex Lawn
 - 2 16' x 16' Shelter with 1 Picnic Table
 - 3 Ornamental Trees
 - 4 Shade Trees
 - 5 Bench on Concrete Pad
 - 6 10' Asphalt Path
 - 7 5' Limestone Screening Path
 - 8 Council Ring with Seating & Educational Signage
 - 9 Prairie Plantings

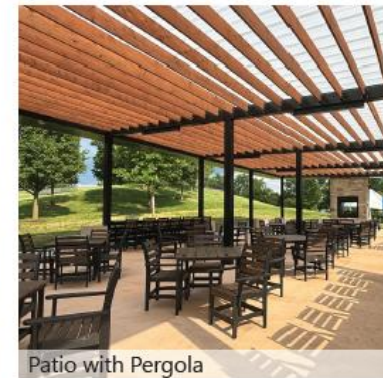
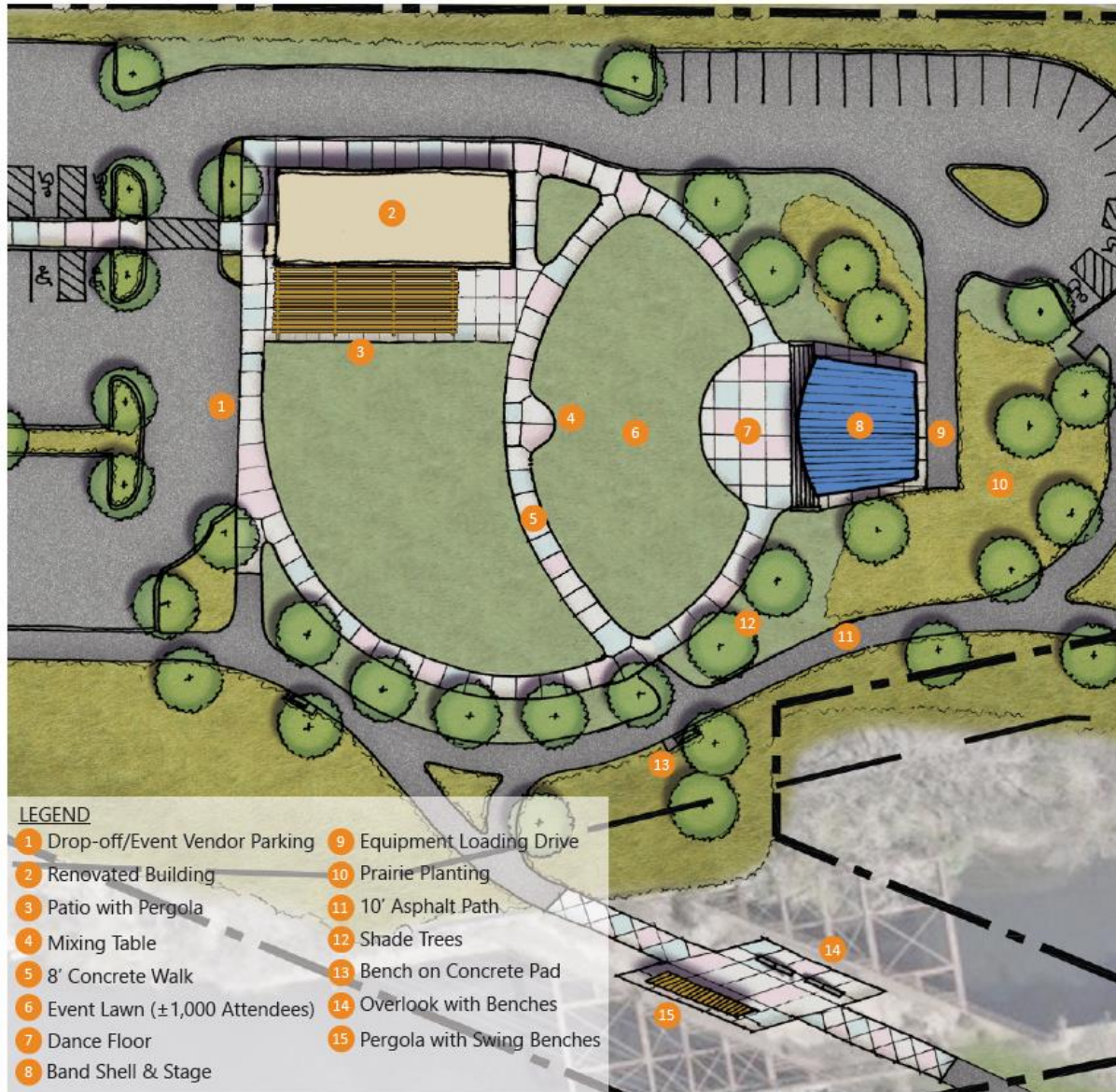
C.T.A. YELLOW LINE

1/4 Mile Loop

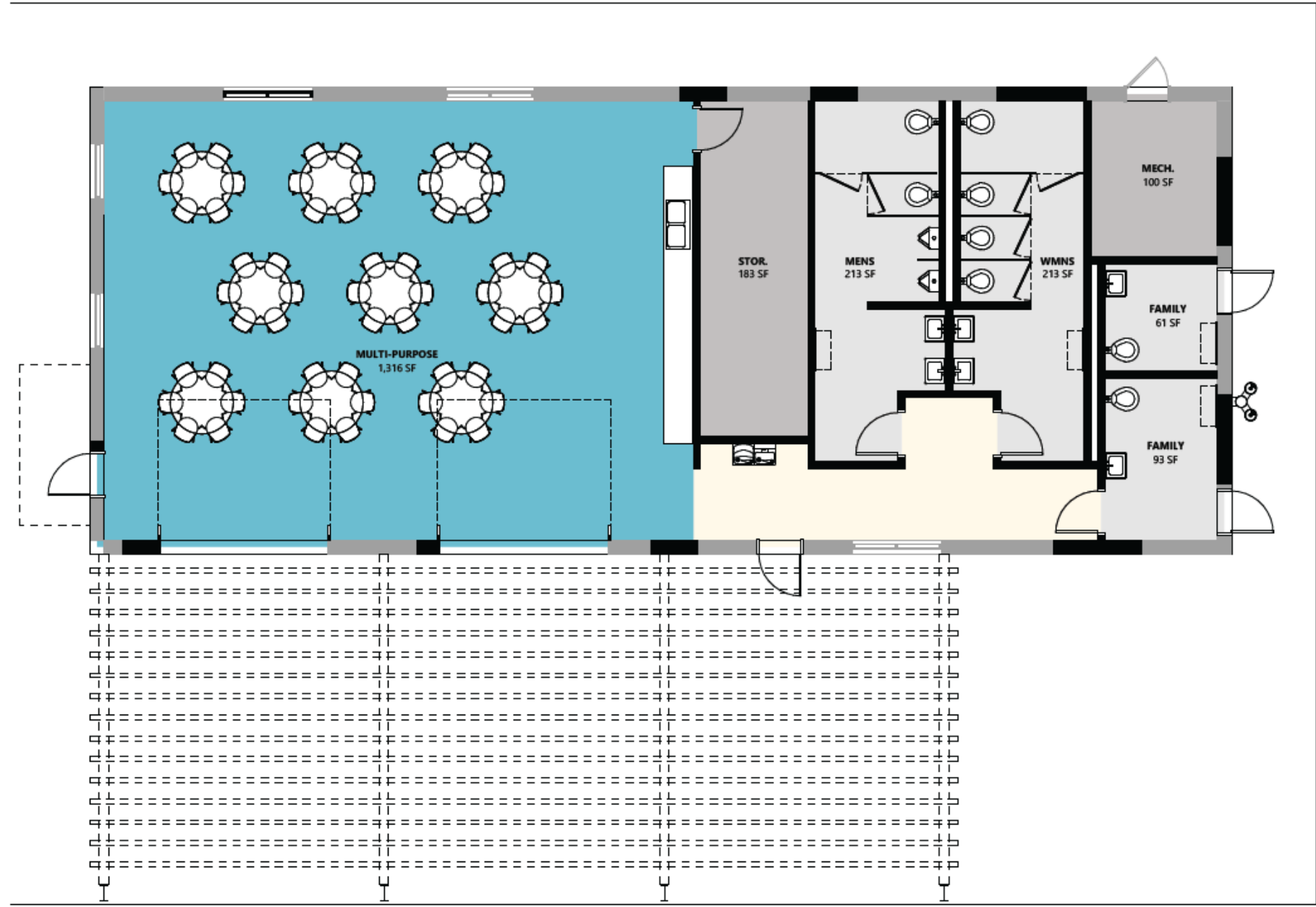
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W HOWARD ST

Channelside Park South: Inspiration – Event Space and Overlook



Channelside Park South: Building Concept







Channelside Park South: Inspiration – Playground



LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Shelter with 4 Tables | 8 Kinetic Sculpture |
| 2 Splash Pad | 9 Bench on Concrete Pad |
| 3 Raised Planter with Benches | 10 Poured-In-Place Rubber Surfacing |
| 4 Children's Maze | 11 Shade Trees |
| 5 Embankment Slides | 12 Shelter with 2 Tables |
| 6 Rock Scramble | 13 Prairie Plantings |
| 7 Steps | 14 8' Concrete Walk |



Rock Scramble



Raised Planter with Benches



Kinetic Sculpture



Children's Maze



Splash Pad



Embankment Slide

Channelside Park South: Inspiration – Play Equipment



LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Splash Pad | 6 5-12 Themed Climbers |
| 2 2-12 Inclusive, Themed Playground | 7 Poured-In-Place Rubber Surfacing |
| 3 Children's Maze | 8 Inclusive Zip Line |
| 4 2-5 Inclusive Themed Play Equipment | 9 2-12 Nature Inspired Play Equipment |
| 5 Accessible Tower Access | 10 Inclusive Fitness Equipment |



Inclusive, Themed 5-12 Playground



Inclusive Fitness Equipment



Themed 2-5 Playground



5-12 Themed Climbers



Inclusive Zip Line



Nature Inspired Play Equipment





Channelside Park South: Cost Estimate

- Building: \$1,500,000
- Site Development: \$14,300,000

- **Total:** **\$15,800,000**



Financing



Financing Plan / Tax Impact Analysis

Referendum Approved General Obligation Bond Assumptions					
Issuance Amount				\$53,000,000	
Issuance Term				20 Years	
Estimated Annual Debt Service ⁽¹⁾				\$3,900,000	
Estimated Bond and Interest Tax Rate ⁽²⁾				0.124	
Fair Market Value	Assessment Level	Equalization Factor	Homeowner's Exemption	Annual	Monthly
\$100,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$25.00	\$2.08
\$200,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$62.40	\$5.20
\$300,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$99.81	\$8.32
\$400,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$137.21	\$11.43
\$500,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$174.61	\$14.55
\$600,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$212.01	\$17.67
\$700,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$249.41	\$20.78
\$800,000	10%	3.0163	\$10,000	\$286.82	\$23.90
Notes:					
1 Annual debt service assuming a 4.0% interest rate amortized over a 20-year term.					
2 Estimated bond and interest tax rate assumes the District's 2024 equalized assessed value.					

Bessie Rhodes School

- There is a possibility of purchasing Bessie Rhodes School Property and adding to the referendum.
- The Park District would likely demolish all or part of the school.
- Timber Ridge Park would increase in size, a playground and a shelter could be added.
- Public input would be sought.



Timber Ridge Park



Bessie Rhodes School

Anticipated Benefits of Proposed Improvements

- ✓ Expanding recreational opportunities for all age groups
- ✓ Expanding accessibility with the addition of an inclusive playground
- ✓ Expanding green spaces, native areas, and habitat
- ✓ Increasing opportunities for outdoor performances
- ✓ Creating new spaces for events and programming, including summer camp space
- ✓ Expanding walking paths and trails within the community
- ✓ Repurposing and enhancing the look of two unattractive properties
- ✓ Enhancing the quality of life
- ✓ Protecting property values

Next Steps

- ✓ Voters will receive a survey in the mail the week of **June 9**
- ✓ The board will consider revising plans if indicated from survey results
- ✓ The board will decide whether to place the referendum on the ballot at the **July 21** board meeting
- ✓ If referendum moves forward, a community committee to campaign for the referendum will be formed
- ✓ Election day is **November 3, 2026**

Questions

