

2026 Skokie Park District Referendum Meeting Agenda

- CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- INTRODUCTIONS
- PROPOSED REFERENDUM INFORMATION
- PUBLIC Q & A
- ADJOURNMENT

2026 Bond referendum Welcome!

Elsa Fischer - Skokie Park District Board President

Michelle Tuft - Executive Director

Corri Guynn – Superintendent of Parks, Planning,
and Facilities



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*

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)

The **MWRD**, established in 1889, 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 residents.

The **SPD** has a **50-year lease for four properties**, totaling 58.4 acres, for **\$10** including:

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

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)

North Shore Channel Comprehensive Land Use Policy

All MWRD land contiguous to either side of the North Shore Channel, starting at Devon Avenue and continuing north to, and including, Wilmette harbor, shall be **dedicated and used exclusively as open green space and public recreational use.**

Why this Bond Referendum?

- Over the past several decades, the **SPD** has had **limited opportunities** to add park land.
- As of 2026, the SPD has 247 acres of park land, **152 acres or 38% below recommended national benchmarks** for open space.
- **Southeast Skokie is currently greatly underserved** by park space.
- In 1993, **MWRD** leased **35 acres of land** now known as **Skokie Sports Park** to the **SPD**, including the undeveloped and un-remediated east side of the park.
- Between 2012-14, **Sport Park East** underwent **environmental remediation**.
- In **2026**, the **SPD** leased undeveloped land (**Channelside South**), from MWRD.

Why this Bond Referendum?

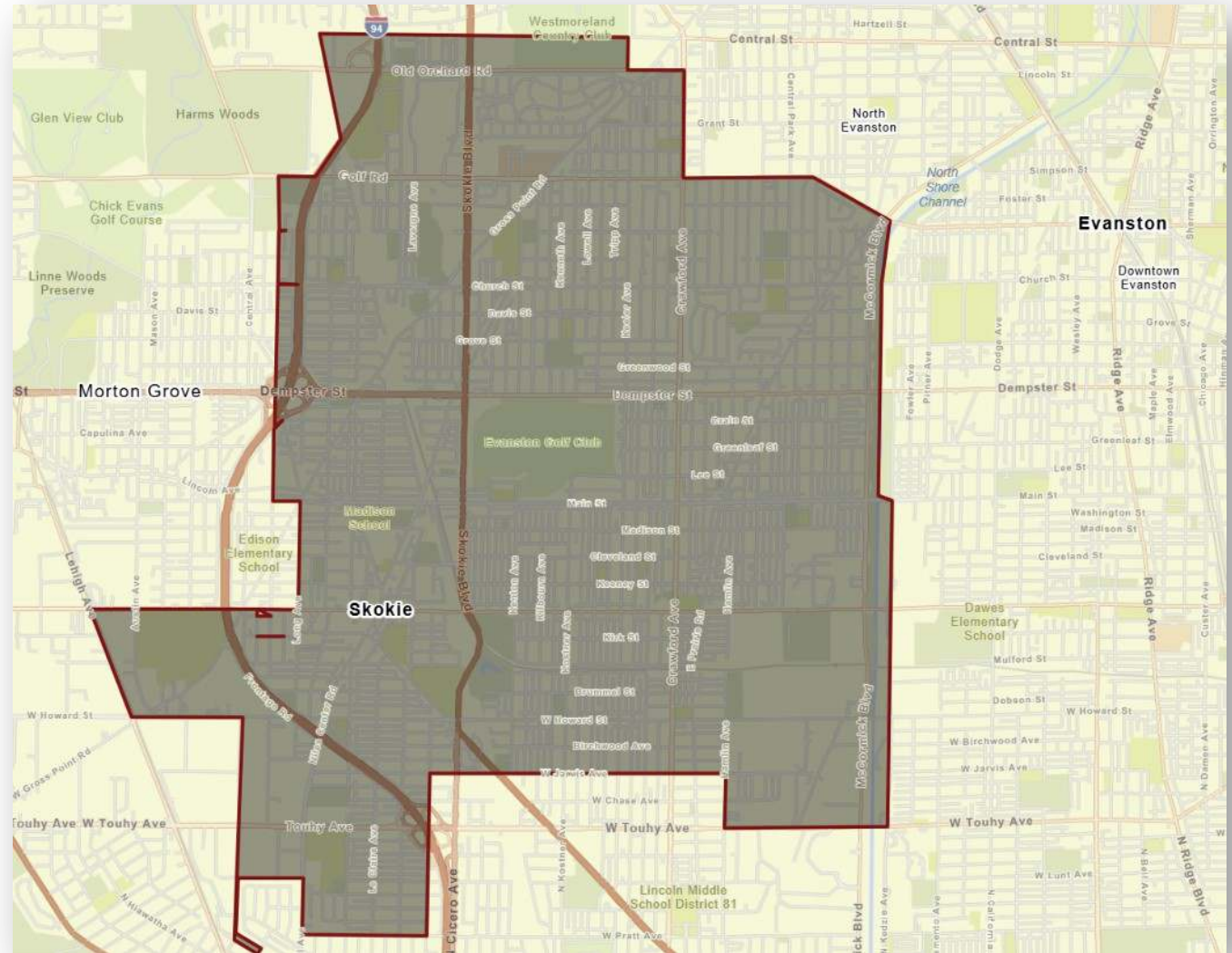
- Recent community engagement has consistently **shown strong** demand for:
 - walking, biking, and jogging paths
 - additional green space
 - ADA-compliant, accessible playground
 - outdoor gathering and event space
 - improved sports, fitness, and recreation amenities
- The **SPD has not placed a referendum on the ballot since 1982.**
- Funding capital projects at these two sites would allow the SPD to achieve all the recently expressed community needs.
- Planning now allows the SPD to responsibly **address community needs, by managing rising construction costs and pursuing competitive grant funding.**

About Skokie Park District



District Boundaries

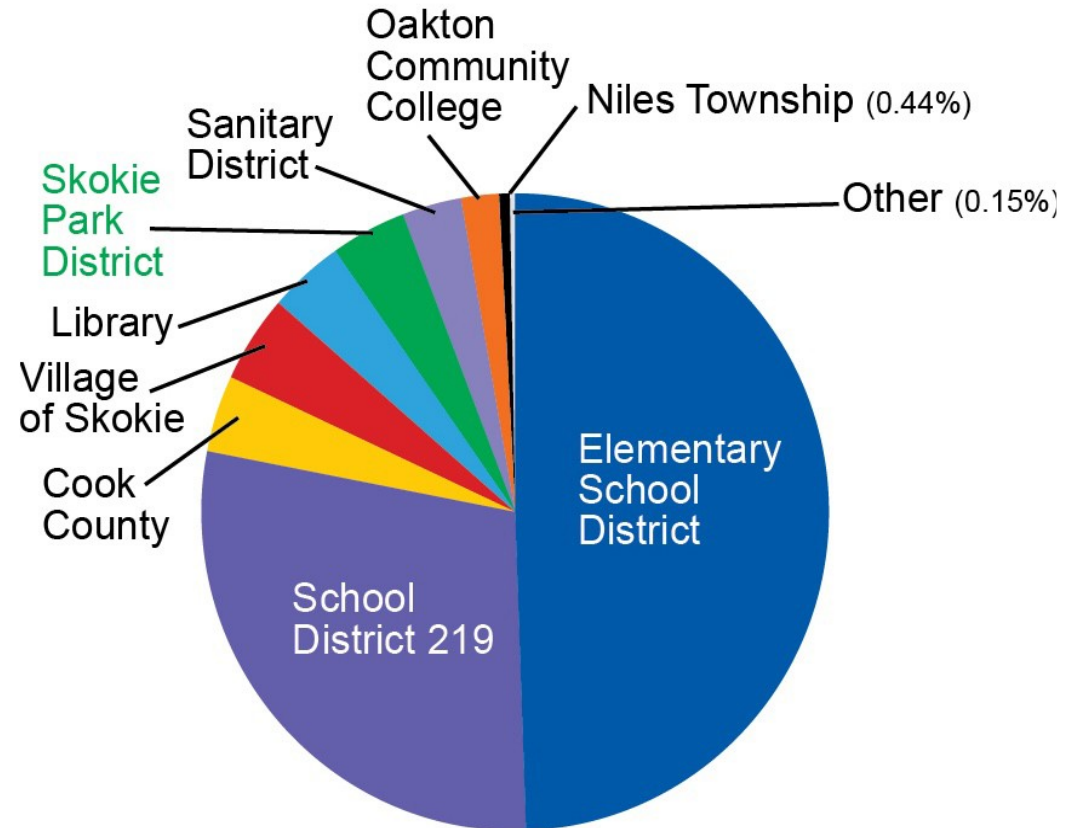
- Approximately 63,000 residents
- Includes nearly all the Village of Skokie, as well as small portions of Evanston, Morton Grove, and Chicago.
- **The Skokie Park District and the Village of Skokie are two different entities.**



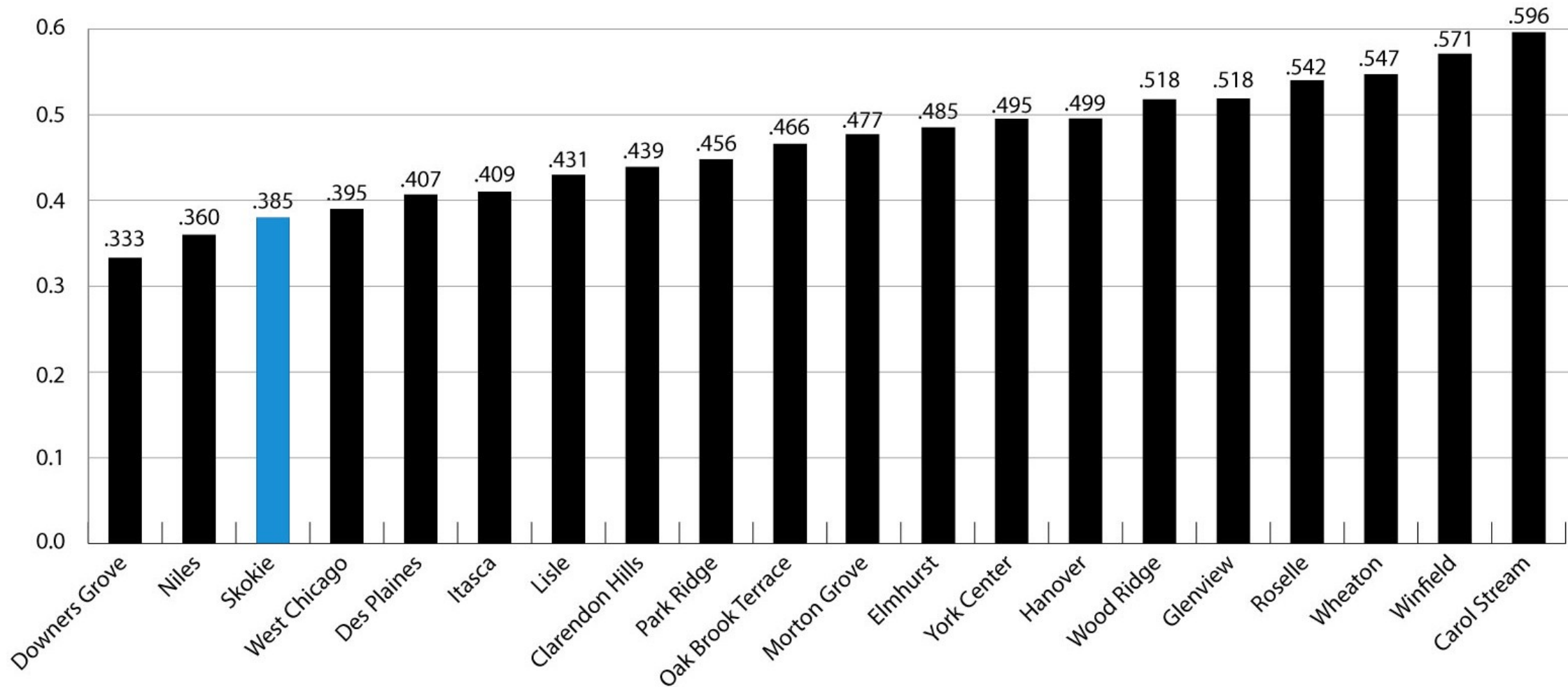
Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go (2024)

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 \$6,470,725

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
Hamlin, Shawnee, and Musueum	DCEO Grant - Olickal and Villivalam	tennis courts, playground and windows	\$400,000
Total Since 2020			\$6,470,725

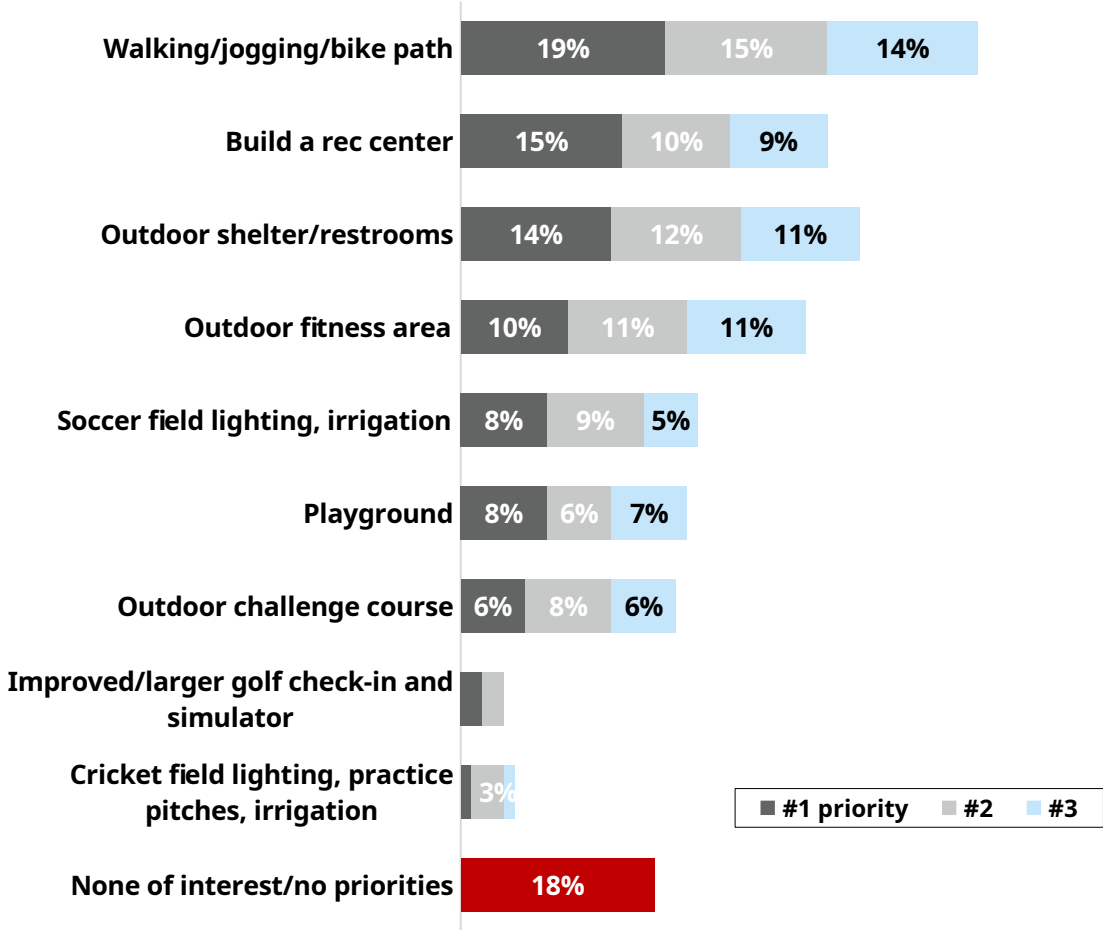
Sports Park East



Survey Findings: Sports Park East



Top Priorities: Potential Sports Park East Improvements



Sports Park East: Existing





OAKTON ST

N MCCORMICK BLVD

LEGEND

- 1 Recreation Center
- 2 Multi-Purpose Patio with Shade Sails
- 3 Pedestrian Plaza
- 4 Bike Racks
- 5 Chipping & Putting Practice
- 6 Rain Garden
- 7 Drop-Off Lane
- 8 Pedestrian Crosswalk
- 9 Cricket Field with Lighting & Irrigation (390' Dia.)
- 10 Cricket Practice Pitch
- 11 Multi-Use Field with Lighting & Irrigation (300' x 390')
- 12 Baseball Field with Lighting & Irrigation (90' Baseline / 340' Outfield)
- 13 Parking Lot Renovation & Expansion
- 14 Sports Plaza with 40' x 40' Shelter & Restrooms
- 15 Playground
- 16 Dugout
- 17 Concrete Walk
- 18 10' Wide Asphalt Multi-Use Path with Benches on Concrete Pads (0.6 Mile Loop)
- 19 ADA Bleachers with Shade Sail
- 20 Pedestrian Gateway (Park Sign with Digital Message Board and Concrete Plaza)
- 21 Park Sign
- 22 Native Perennial Planting
- 23 Relocated Batting Cages
- 24 Dumpster Enclosure
- 25 Underground Stormwater Detention



Conceptual Rendering

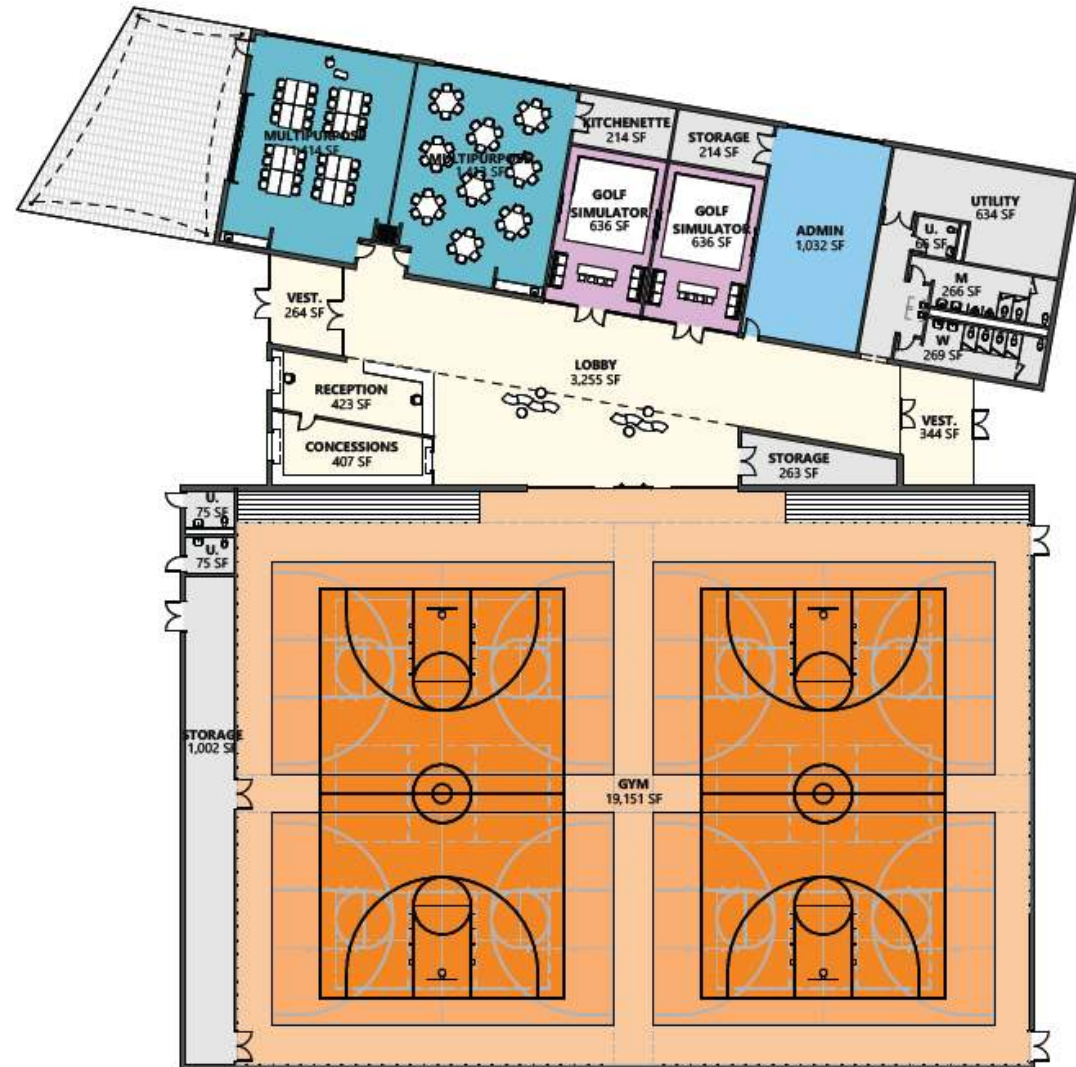






Field House

- 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





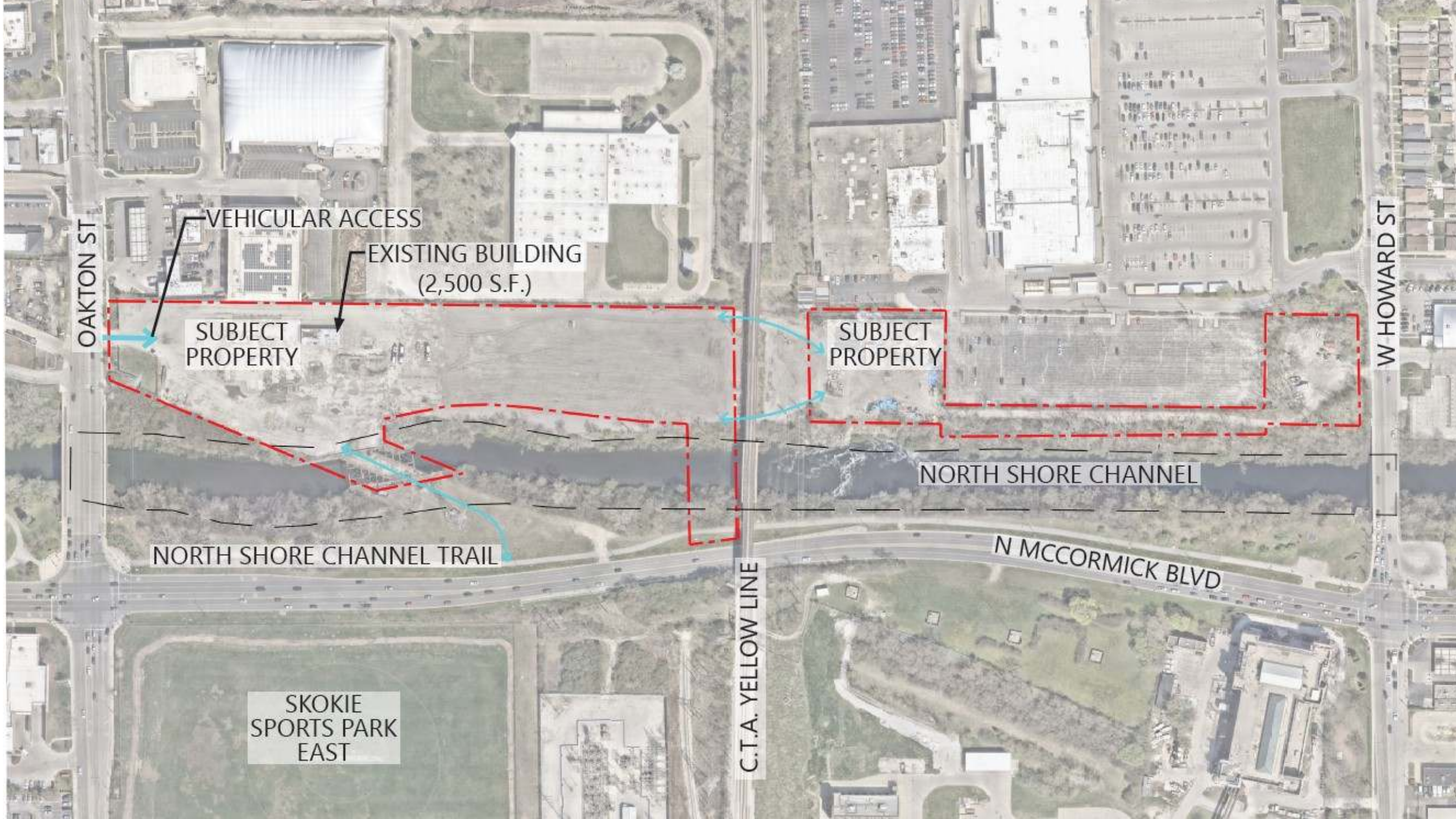
Sports Park East Cost Estimate

- 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

SKOKIE
SPORTS PARK
EAST

C.T.A. YELLOW LINE

N MCCORMICK BLVD

W HOWARD ST



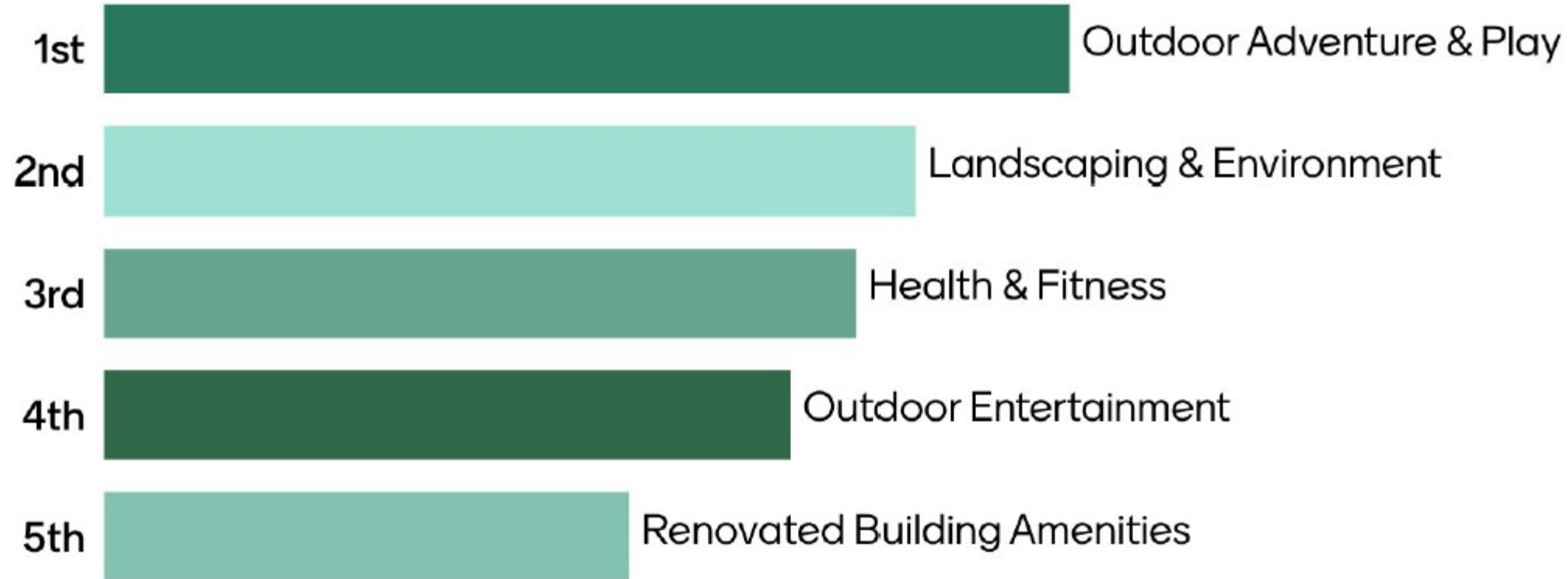


Channelside South Resident Survey

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



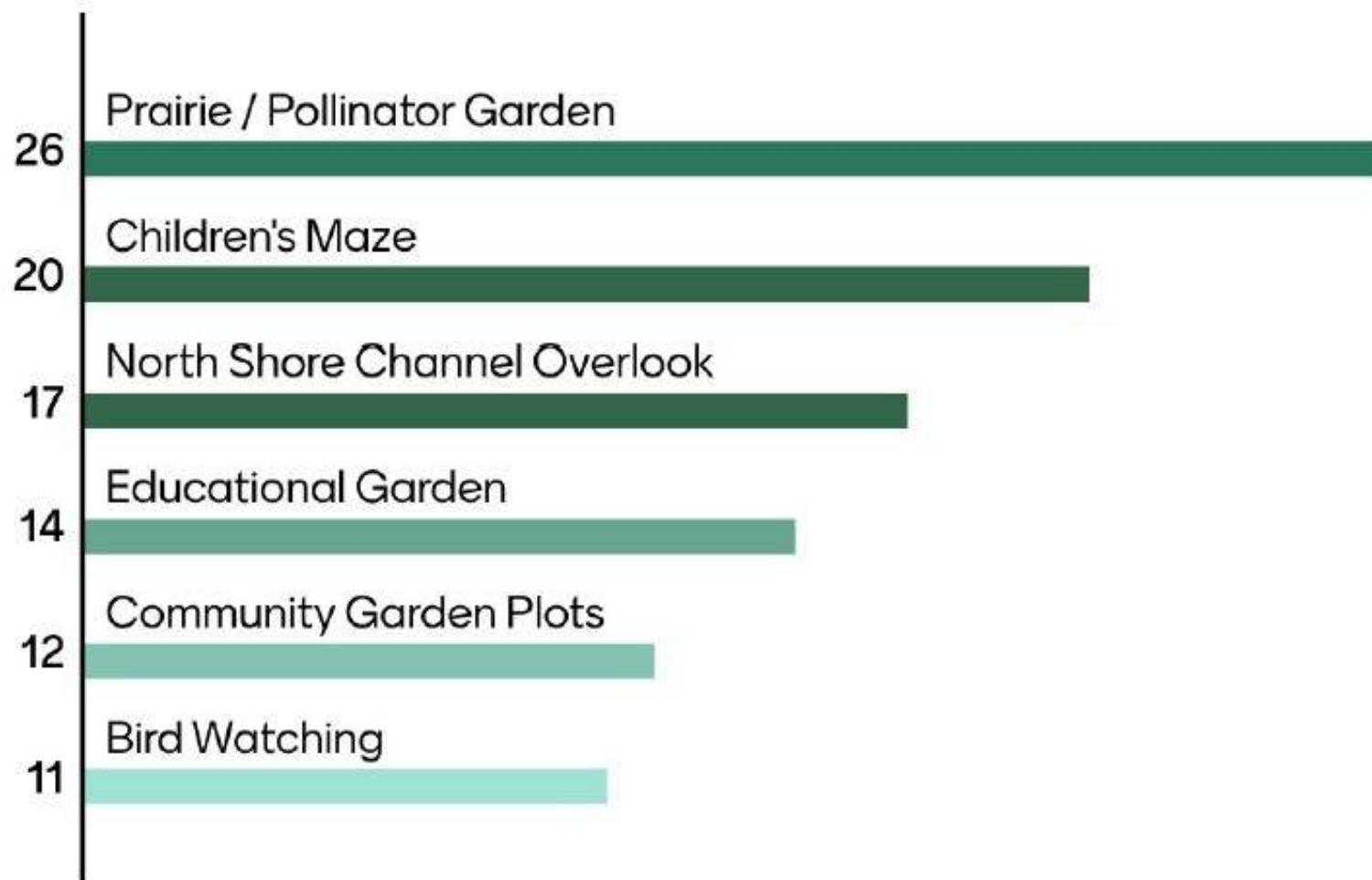
Survey Results: Priorities



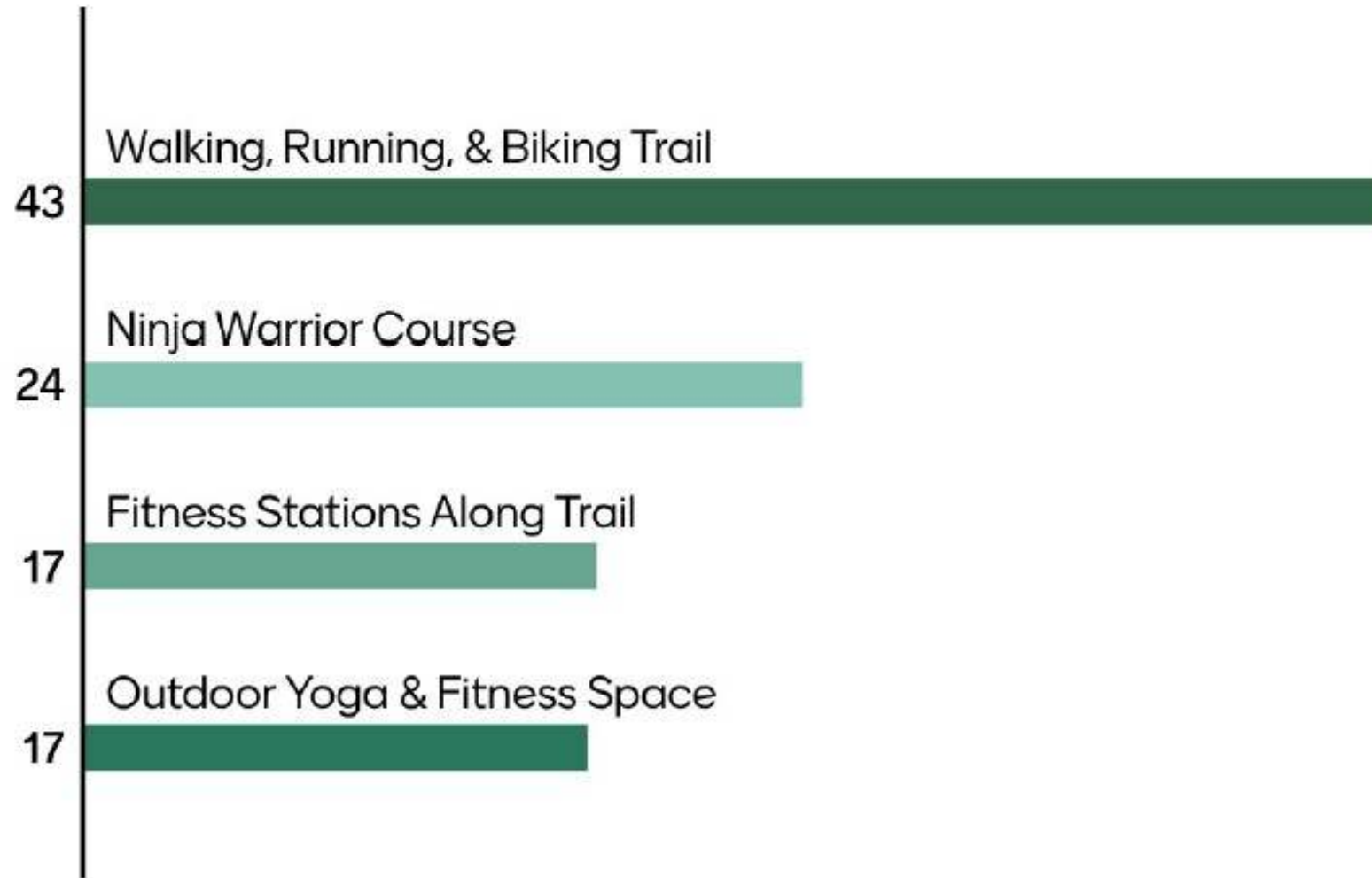
Survey Results: Outdoor Adventure and Play



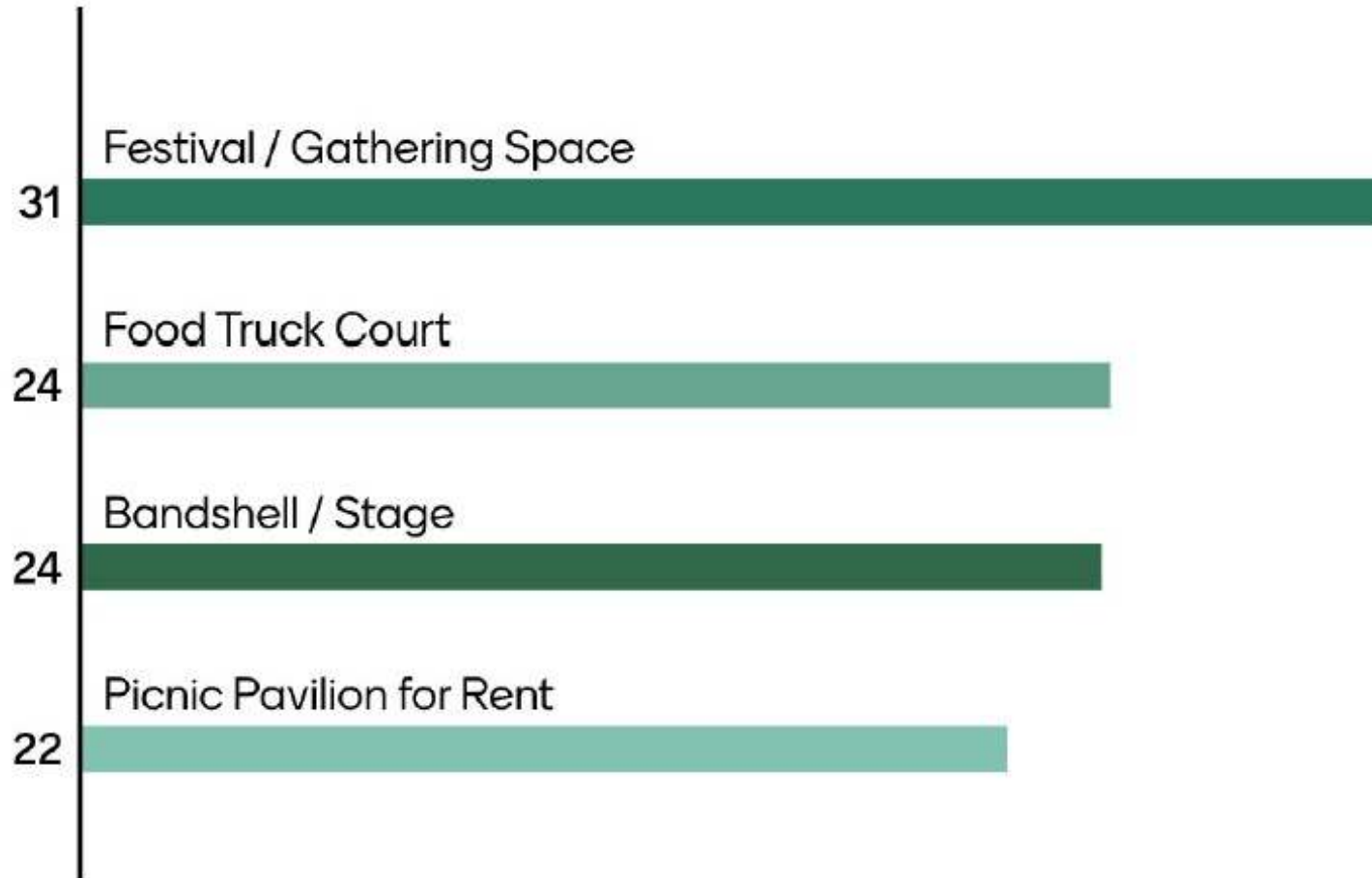
Survey Results: Landscaping & Environmental



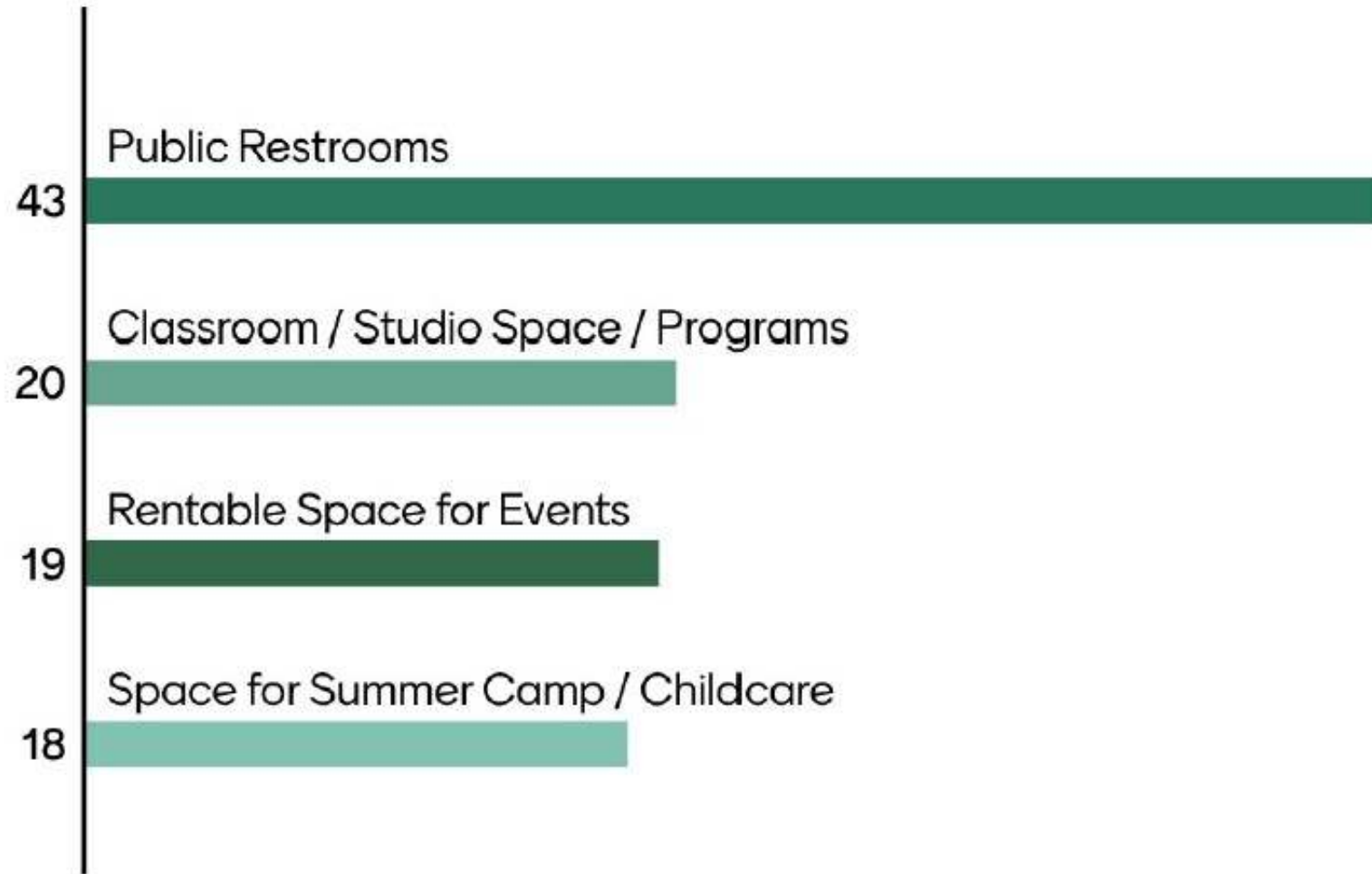
Survey Results: Health & Fitness



Survey Results: Outdoor Entertainment



Survey Results: Renovated Building Amenities



Channelside Park South: Site Concept



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

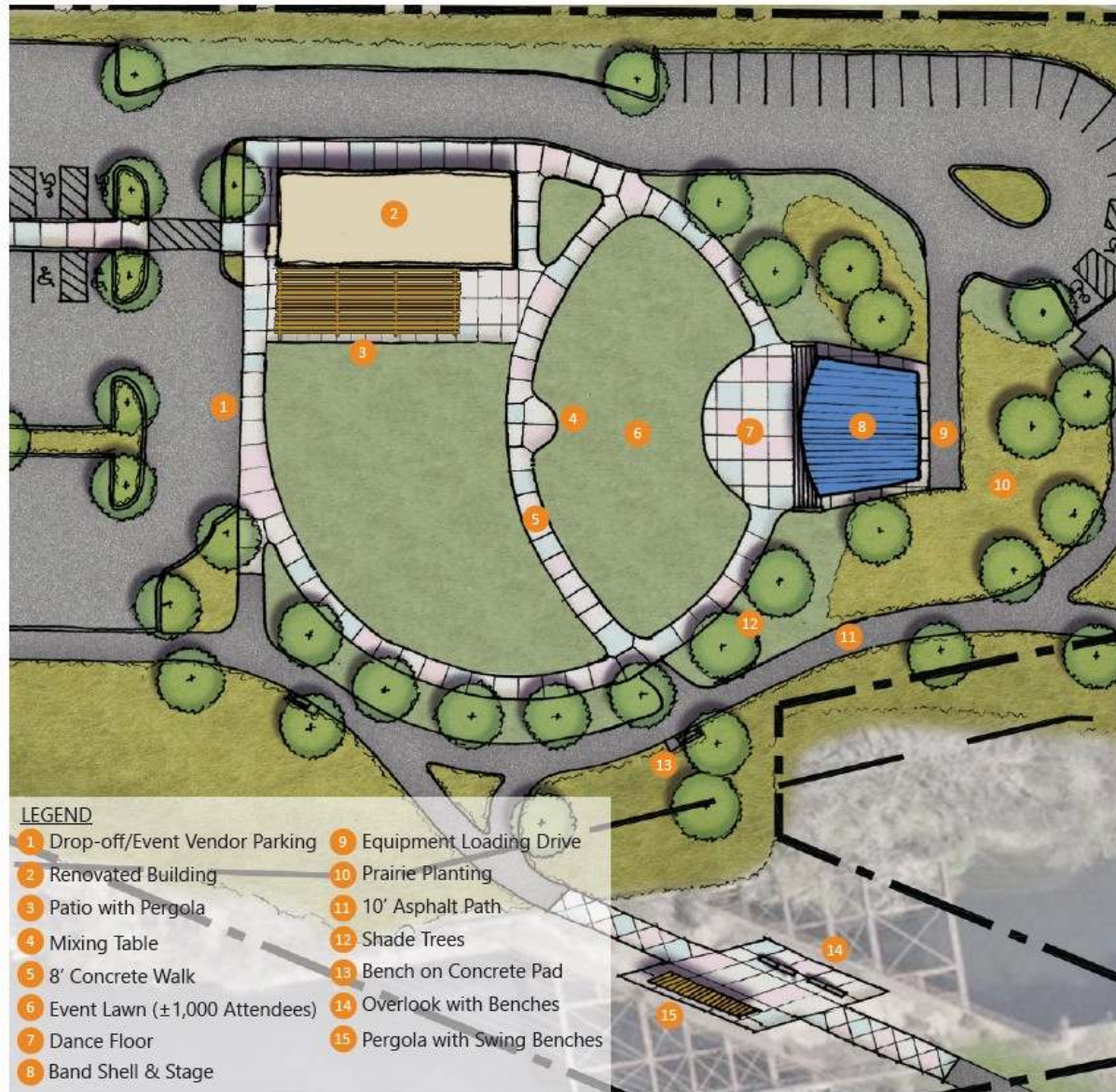
Channelside Park South: Site Concept - South

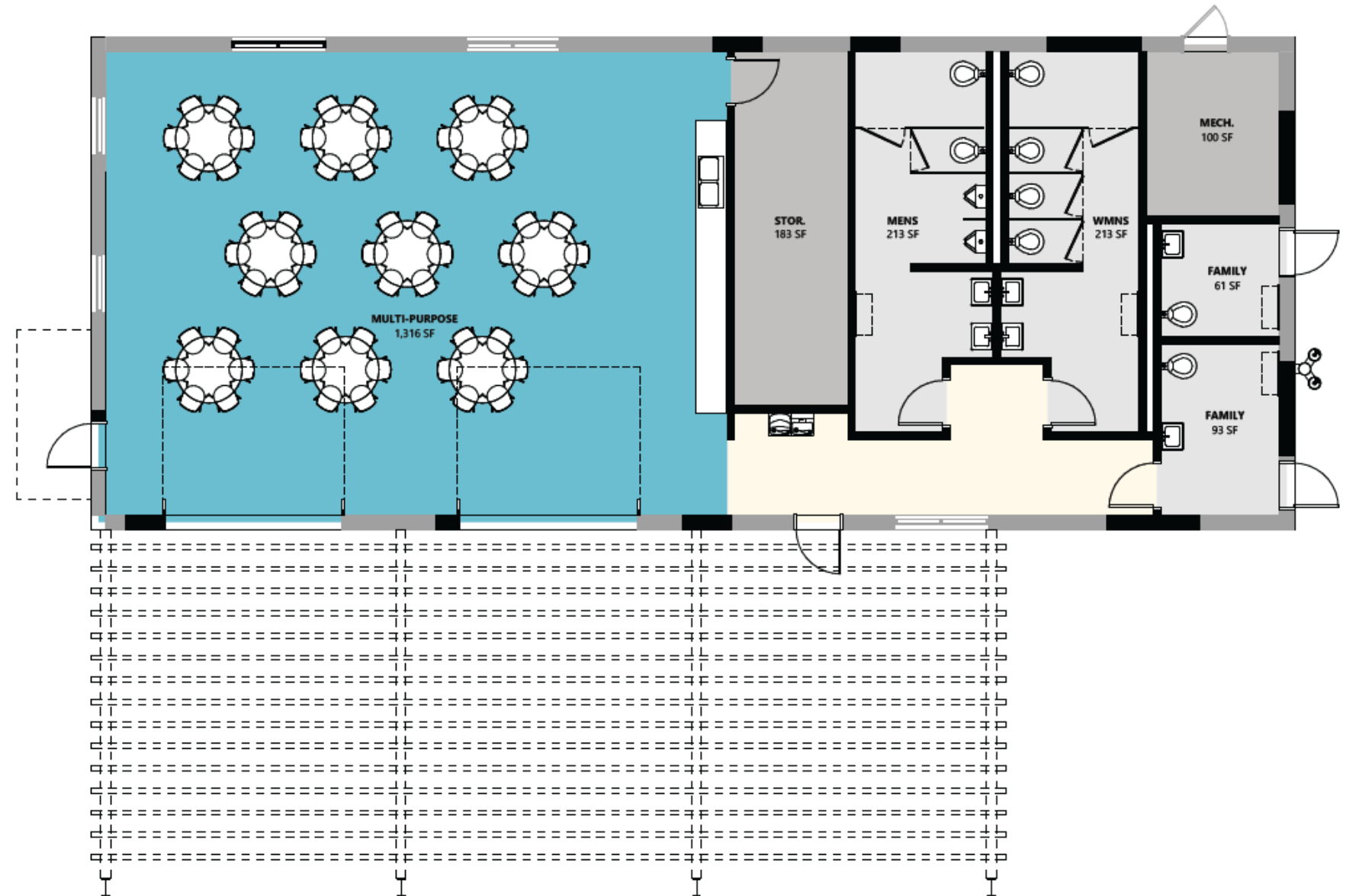


LEGEND

- 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

Channelside Park South: Inspiration – Event Space and Overlook







Conceptual Rendering of proposed bandshell
and pedestrian bridge at Channelside South



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







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.					

www.skokieparks.org/proposal



Question as it appears on the ballot November 3, 2026.

Shall the Skokie Park District, Cook County, Illinois, address facility and site improvements at Sports Park East, including building and equipping a new recreation center, constructing a walking/jogging path, park shelter, playground, and golf chipping and putting area, improving athletic fields, including but not limited to cricket, soccer and multipurpose fields, and adding sports lighting, and converting a former industrial site along the North Shore Channel into a new park that includes green space, an ADA-compliant playground, walking/biking path, bandshell, park shelter, and multipurpose facility, and other park improvements, and issue its bonds to the amount of \$53,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?

Questions

