

Appendix E

Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS SUMMARY



Revised 9/10/24

Introduction

The purpose of the questionnaire was to understand the community's needs regarding the City of Leon Valley's parks facilities. The questionnaire was one of the many tools used to engage the community and gather their input in the Master Park Plan Update process. Access to the questionnaire was available online via the city website, in person at the Forest Oaks Pool, Public Library, and City Hall. Notice was posted on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

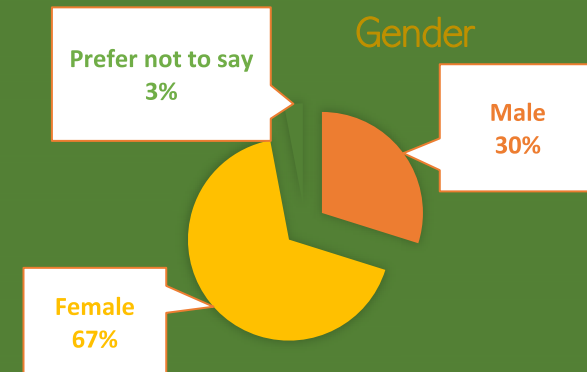
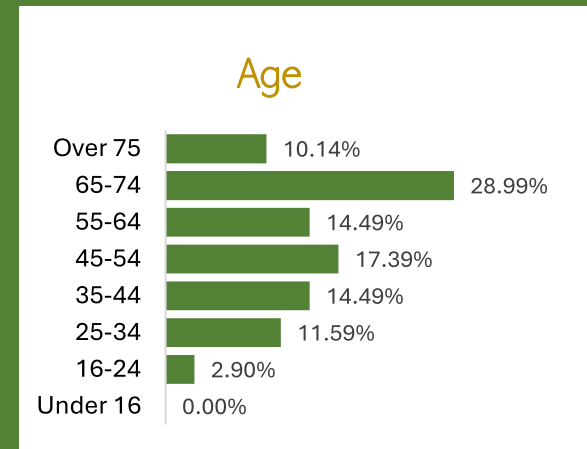
The questionnaire was open from July 19, 2024, to August 25, 2024. A total of 71 responses were collected, and 4,402 data points were analyzed. Data points are a cumulative data count of multiple responses or a question.

Summary

Park User Demographics

Over half of responses were between 16 to 64 years of age.

Questionnaire respondents were primarily female (67.16%) and predominately seniors 65 and over (39.13%). The next largest combined age groups were adults 25-64 (43.47%)

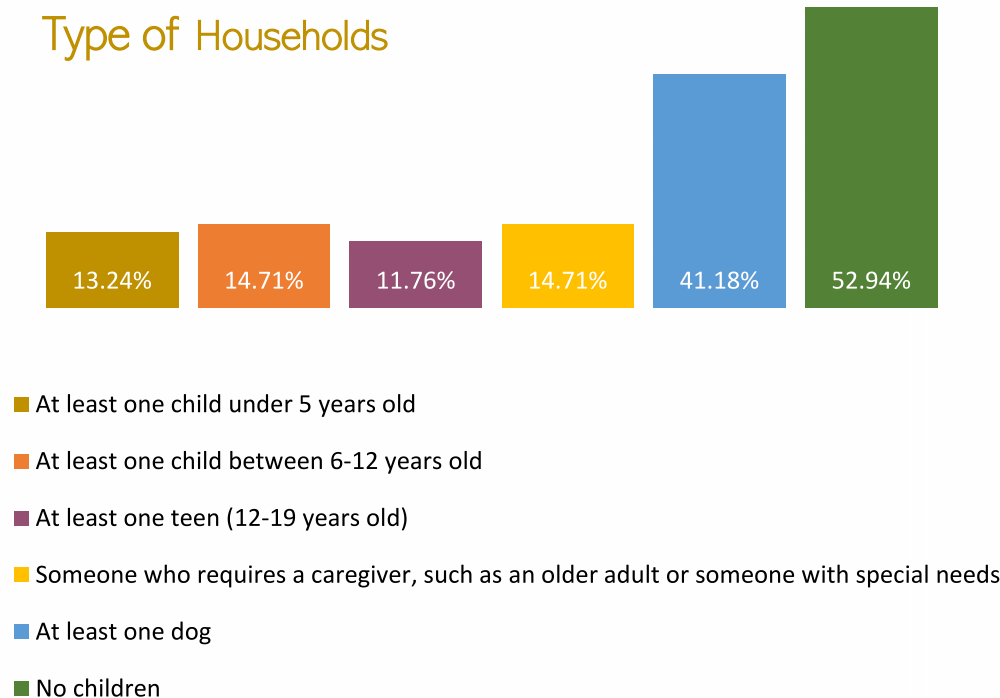


Majority of households had at least one child and/or a dog and no children.

More than half (53 % of the respondents lived in households that did not have any children and 39.7% of households had one or more children. Over half had at least one dog (52.9%). A portion of the responses indicated households having special needs for someone requiring a caregiver (14.7%).

Additionally, most respondents claimed to be a resident of Leon Valley (89.55%).

Type of Households



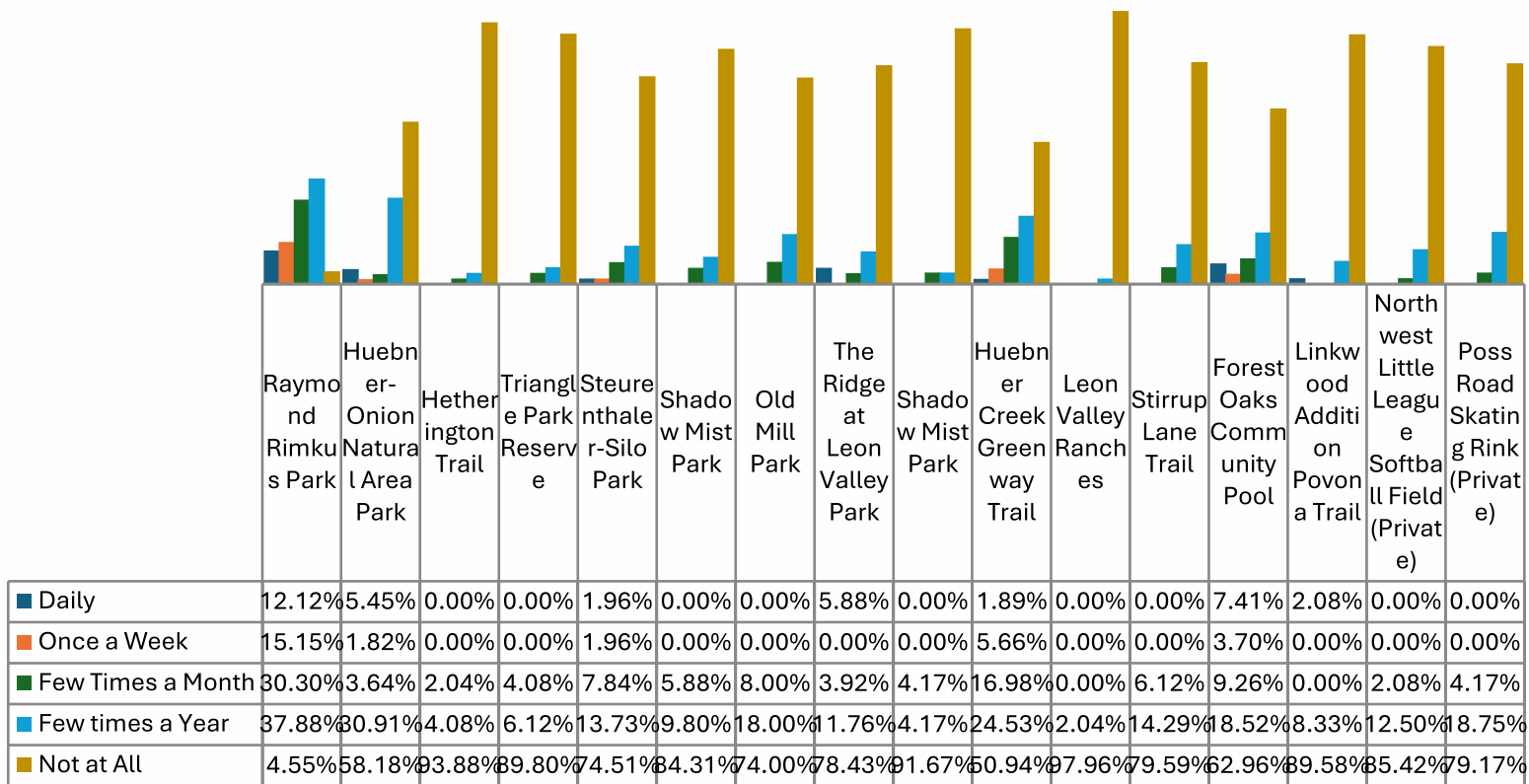
Opportunities

- Amenities for seniors.
- Facilities for dogs.
- Facilities for kids.
- Facilities for special needs (ADA).

Raymond Rimkus Park, Huebner-Union Park, and Forest Oaks Pool are the most known and daily used parks and facilities.

Of the 66 responses the majority have not used any other park except Raymond Rimkus Park. Other than Raymond Rimkus Park, the parks used once a week were, Huebner Creek Greenway, Forest Oaks Community Pool, and Steruenthaler Silo Park.

Parks and Recreation Facility Usage



■ Daily ■ Once a Week ■ Few Times a Month ■ Few times a Year ■ Not at All

Raymond Rimkus was the most used park daily, once a week, or a few times a year.

On the other hand, with 49 responses in total, Leon Valley Ranches was the least used park with 97.96% with “not at all” answered, followed by, Heatherington Trail with 93.88% who not all used the park.

Opportunities

- Raymond Rimkus – enhance what’s there and improve signage, connectivity and access from it to other parks.
- Spread word about other park facilities in Raymond Rimkus Park and other through other avenues – map, bulletin boards, park run and treasure hunt.

Parks and Recreation Facility Usage



Park Programs and Facilities

Programs are specific activities that encourages the community to visit the park, such as, a community center class, exercise groups, and age specific activities (seniors, children, and teenagers). Facilities are accessory to a park or program such as restrooms, water amenity, or a physical structure such as a playground. Understanding what prevents someone from using a park helps to prioritize park programs and facilities.

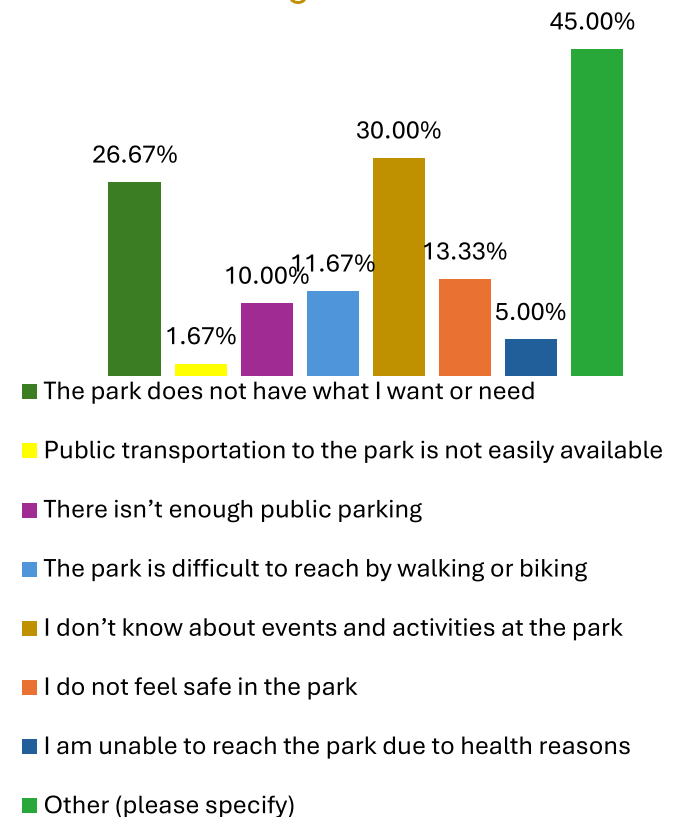
Park programs and events can be improved.

Out of the activities that occur, 20.9% were not aware about them. Others stated that the parks don't offer a desire to go to the parks (18.6%). Safety, accessibility for pedestrian and bikers, and lack of parking were cited as some of the other reasons that prevented respondents from using the park.

Opportunities

- Add facilities that are needed/desired.
- New events
Advertise/spread word about existing events.
- Access by bike/walk
- Safety – increase – lighting etc.

What Prevents the Community From Using the Park



Additional reasons that prevent users from using the parks

Comments received by citizens:

Safety

- Lighting: Needs light(3). Why so archaic? Better lighting for evening use. Don't feel safe walking on the track during the day when park is not well occupied with people around. Limited to walking early morning or evening. It works, but would prefer daytime. Can evening lighting be added? Maybe it's a good idea, maybe not.
- Too many people at the park/facility

Comfort

- Weather - Heat during summer makes it hard to spend time outside; rarely, icy and cold in winter
- Needs more shady trails
- Water fountain
- Time restrictions and heat index for the day.

Amenities for dogs

- More dog park space around Leon Ridge park would be nice as well as a sporting field
- I wish it had more dog-friendly things; no dog park

Others

- Just don't go there to walk
- Too old
- Never heard of these parks; I don't know where some of the parks listed are located

Parking

- No parking at Silo park, difficult to access

Other reasons that prevent users from using the parks:

Safety/Lighting

Comfort

Amenities for Dogs

Access/Location

Parking

Parks Features

Awareness

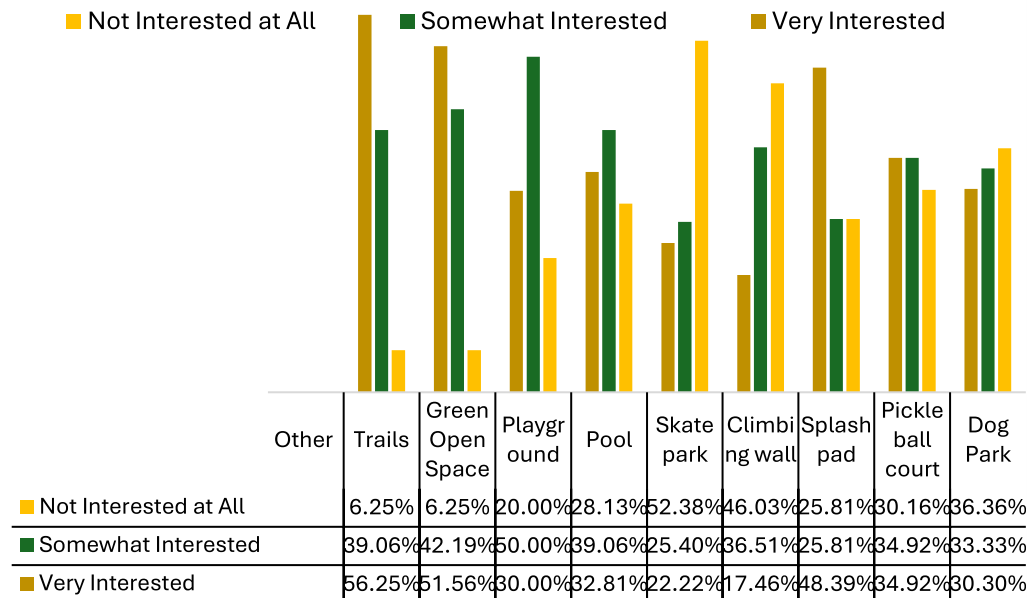


Most Desired Amenities

Trails were the most desired.

Green multi-use open space, a splash pad, and a pool were the next three desired features throughout the parks. A skatepark and a climbing wall were least desired.

Other recommended amenities included park facilities, recreational features, and programs:



Opportunities

- Trail system – well connected to the other parks and neighborhoods.
- Signage for trails.
- Amenities for park uses.
- Amenities for dogs.
- Increased activities and events.
- Aquatic related events for all.
- Upgraded surfaces for fields and trails.

Most Desired Amenities – Additional Input

Comments received by citizens:

Maintenance

- More grass, less holes & cracks in the ground; replace dying trees, more coverage.
- Benches/bleachers cleaned and repainted.
- Update main walking path.

Vegetation

- More trees planted, native flowers etc., things that attract songbirds. More shade. More trees in every park. I mentioned numerous times and needs to be done for next 20 yrs. and beyond.

Facilities

- Pickle ball lines on tennis courts; pickleball courts. (3)
- Shade structure at the pools.
- Surface: Soft turf for Rimkus park field area; padded/rubber trail for Rimkus park walking path.
- Running track, more playground equipment.
- Exercise machines (2); new or refreshed exercise equipment in Raymond Rimkus. Example: the parallel bars by the natural area are metal and too hot to touch much of the time.
- Splash pad. (3)
- More benches with seats at least 20 inches from ground to seat for handicapped people.

Amenities for dogs

- Dog park (4); enclosed/fenced dog park to avoid the deer (2); amenities for dogs; dog park with lots of trees and shade; fenced dog park in the bowl drainage area would be a great use of space at Leon Ridge park.

Other

- Content with park as it is. I have not utilized all areas of the park however of the areas I do use I am very satisfied with it.
- None - they are sufficient for the area the parks serve.

Connectivity

- More trails to hike/bike; more green spaces to enjoy nature.
- Trails (walk and bike); bike trail; walking trails; more trails.
- Cycling and connection to other cycling trails.
- Connection to Leon creek trails completed.

Comfort/Safety

- Shade: Need more cover shade next to children's playground; more benches with shade around the walking path; more shaded walking trails. Would love to walk any areas where there are plenty of trees providing shade.
- For park events, shade if sitting in sun, like canopies.
- Water fountains. (6)
- Updated/climate-controlled bathroom facilities. (5)
- Would like more privacy between the Silo park and Canterfield. People can see into our yard from up on the hill
- 911 Emergency Call Box with Alarm, more Police Car patrol.
- Additional lighting at night. (2)

Events/Activities

- More events; events for young kids; aquatic fitness classes for seniors; swimming lessons for children; yoga classes.



Satisfaction with Existing Amenities

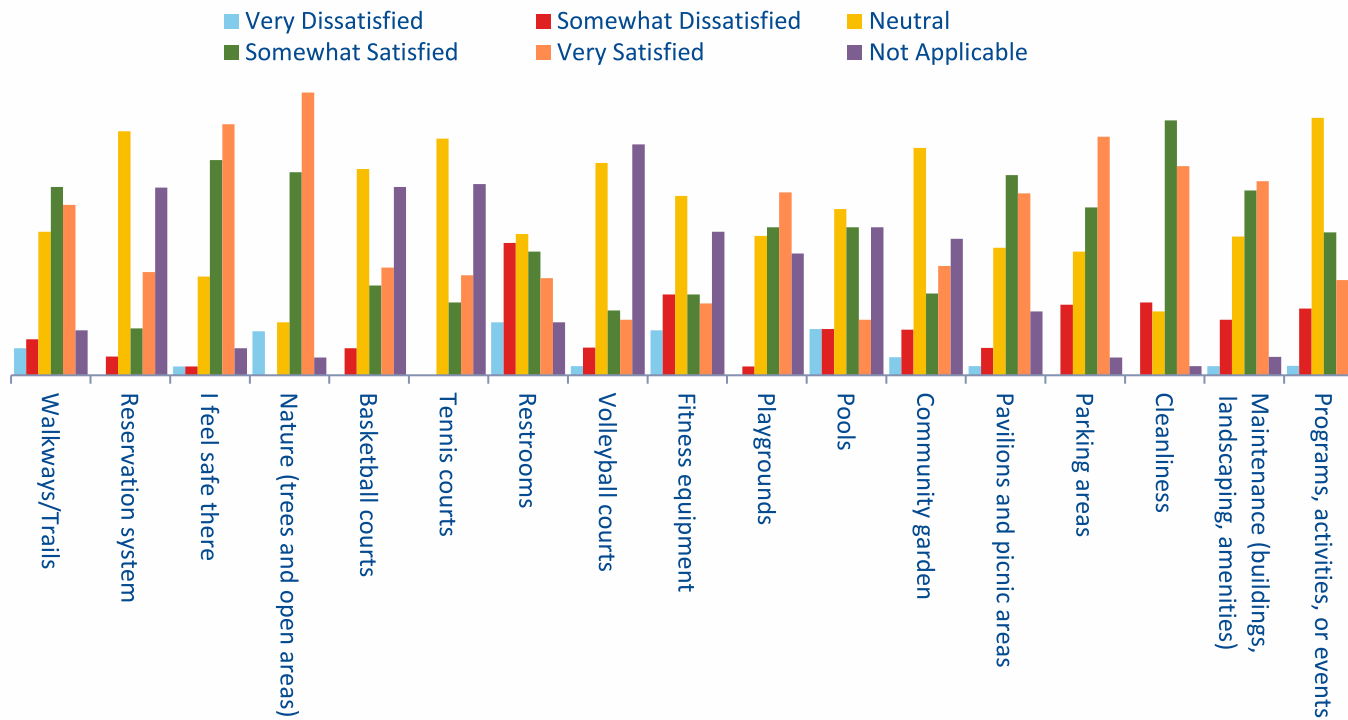
The majority felt the most satisfied with the city's nature, safety, and parking areas. There can be improvements to the somewhat dissatisfied amenities such as restrooms, cleanliness, fitness equipment, and programs/activities/events.



Opportunities

- Nature – enhance and provide more.
- Improve facilities.
- Improve trails.

City wide - how do you feel about the following?



Most Liked About Facilities

Comments received by citizens:

Connectivity/Accessibility

- Open to the public and free for anyone to use. (6)
- Small town feel.
- Close to home/walkable/convenient/big. (8)
- Easily accessible. (4)
- Nice size parks and facilities for communities. (4)
- The playgrounds and accessibility for young kids.
- Rimkus park is easily accessible.

Comfort/Safety

- Lots of use of Rimkus Park. Having a police presence would provide confidence in safety concerns.
- Nice people/friendly/ nice atmosphere /fun.
- Feel safe. (2)
- Shaded playgrounds.

Maintenance

- They are kept up quite well/cleanliness. (8)
- Public Works does an excellent job of maintenance. (2)
- Restrooms at the park and Pool need to be updated.
- There's not even a diaper changing table.
- Rimkus Park - Would like to see the trees taken care of. Many of them in and around the park and creek have their roots showing and trees look sick. (2)
- I love the forest oaks pool just wish it was more up to date. The women's bathroom and pool need updates.
- Just some simple improvements needed.

Other

- It's better than SAT.
- I love to see all of the different cultures using the park-it is an "international" park and helps us relate to each other better. We're all families created by the same God.

Events/Activities/Amenities

- Forth of July event with fireworks.
- Benches.
- Hike & Bike trails.
- Family-oriented amenities.
- Walking trails. (3)
- Some/playgrounds are nice. (4)

Nature

- Nature friendly.
- Open space and wildlife presence. (2)
- Love the trees. (3)

Amenities for Dogs

- I can take my dog.
- Dog park space would be nice at Leon Ridge park given the small homes around it.

Accessible

Variety of Parks

Clean

Trails

Friendly

Nature

Trees

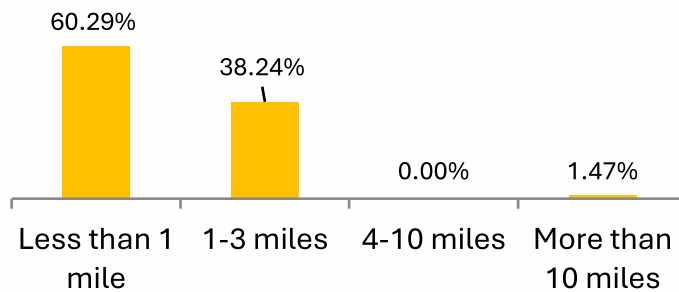
Mobility

The mode of transportation to and from the parks helps to prioritize connectivity to the parks via walking, driving, or rolling on a wheelchair. Connection projects can be sidewalks, railing, trails, roadway improvements, and bike lanes.

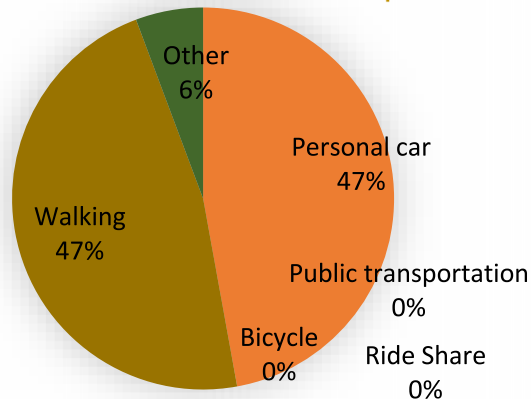
More than half of the users of parks and facilities walk or drive and lived less than one (1) mile away.

Majority of the park (98.5%) users lived within three (3) miles of a park or facility . None of the respondents used public transportation, bicycle, or ride share to access the parks.

Travel Distance to the Park



Common Mode of Transportation



Other responses of modes of transportation:

- Personal car, bicycle or walking
- Car and walking
- Walk or car
- Don't go



Opportunities

- Connect every park to the neighborhood by ped/bike – encourage.
- Identify gaps in the sidewalk and bike connectivity network and prioritize connections, especially in the walk and bike shed areas.

Vision for the Future of Leon Valley Parks - Responses

Summary of all responses:

Events/Activities - Splash pad (4), pickle ball courts (2), more city-offered/hosted events, more activities for adults and older folks, spaces for group exercise classes (yoga, meditation, HIIT, family friendly events and activities (4), & music festivals. Fun for the community, more of everything.

Playgrounds/sports - Specialized space for Flag Football, a lot more playgrounds.

Parks amenities - More park areas (2), water fountains, water areas, cool down areas, shaded benches, public art, swimming pools, and grills. Larger Rimkus Park, more useful equipment. An astroturf soccer field would be cool. Open at night, working pools, more lighting around basketball courts and playground.

Maintenance - Clean trails with no trash and litter, more modern and kept up (2). Reinvest in playground, exercise equipment and shade as needed. Fix broken equipment at the playgrounds at Raymond Rimkus. Replacement of dead trees. Well kept landscaping. Cut high grass, dull dying trees.

Comfort/Safety - Access to clean and safe restrooms and water fountains (2) (with A/C as toilets get incredibly stuffy and hot). Keep parks clean and maintained. Reinvest in playground, exercise equipment and shade as needed. Improved lighting for night use (2). Safety features for all.

Connectivity - Connectivity to Leon Creek trails and a complete hike and bike trail system where a LV resident can safely walk or bike from the Medical Center to UTSA or beyond (The Howard Peak greenway). More trails, shade, walking paths (4), More shaded hiking trails throughout city (2). Connectivity between parks with walking/biking trails (2).

Nature - More trees and greenery (2) to provide more shade in the summer heat. Expansion and preservation of nature. Healthy trees in the park that provide shade and line the Creek. No erosion problems. Butterfly gardens, an abundance of native plants to bring more pollinators and wildlife. Plant more and take care of privacy screening trees.

Amenities for dogs - A dog park (2), enclosed dog park.

Parking - More parking.

Other - I LOVE LIVING IN LEON VALLEY; friendly people using the park! Maybe once & for all the drainage by Raymond Rimkus will be resolved and no more flooding issues! Would like Raymond Rimkus to still be a "dark" park. That's the best thing about it.



Community Themes

Family Oriented & Inclusive

An inviting place with various activities and places for all ages to utilize for events such as exercise classes, nature play educational classes for children, concert events, and more.

Recreation & Amenities

Amenities for more park users from different backgrounds to participate and utilize together, such as, dog parks, splashpads, art/cultural/historical assets, ADA playgrounds, and activities alike.

Reinvestment & Maintenance

Enhance on the existing trail, parks, and recreation network with high-quality landscape maintenance, installing natural greenery areas where theirs is space for it now, and improve shade over the exercise equipment.

Comfort & Safety

Increase the comfort and safety for park users by incorporating new and improved amenities with restrooms, cool zone areas, shade along trails, safety patrol, and hydration stations.

Access & Connectivity

Provide park signage throughout the city and safe connections on roadways, trails, and sidewalks for all transportation modes to access recreational areas by foot or wheels.

Nature & Environment

Tend to existing trees and grow more for shade, nature, and scenic environments for passive or reactive activities (resting or jogging).

Sustainable & Resilient

Encourage flood solutions to decrease flooding and major drainage issues that impact usage of parks and nearby sidewalks/trails/parks.

Community Themes/Guiding Principles

Family Oriented & Inclusive- Splash pad (4), pickle ball courts (2), more city-offered/hosted events, more activities for adults and older folks, spaces for group exercise classes (yoga, meditation, HIIT, family friendly events and activities (4), & music festivals. Fun for the community, more of everything.

Recreation & Amenities – (Active and passive recreation) More park areas (2), water fountains, water areas, cool down areas, shaded benches, public art, swimming pools, and grills. Larger Rimkus Park, more useful equipment. An astroturf soccer field would be cool. Open at night, working pools, more lighting around basketball courts and playground. Multiuse Active Recreation Places - Specialized space for Flag Football, a lot more playgrounds. Amenities for dogs - A dog park (2), enclosed dog park

Reinvestment & Maintenance - Clean trails with no trash and litter, more modern and kept up (2). Reinvest in playground, exercise equipment and shade as needed. Fix broken equipment at the playgrounds at Raymond Rimkus. Replacement of dead trees. Well kept landscaping. Cut high grass, dull dying trees.

Comfort & Safety - Access to clean and safe restrooms and water fountains (2) (with A/C as toilets get incredibly stuffy and hot). Keep parks clean and maintained. Improved lighting for night use (2). More shaded hiking trails throughout city (2). Safety features for all.

Access & Connectivity - Connectivity to Leon Creek trails and a complete hike and bike trail system where a LV resident can safely walk or bike from the Medical Center to UTSA or beyond (The Howard Peak greenway). More trails, shade, walking paths (4). Connectivity between parks with walking/biking trails (2). Parking - more parking.

Nature & Environment - More trees and greenery (2) to provide more shade in the summer heat. Expansion and preservation of nature. Healthy trees in the park that provide shade and line the Creek. Butterfly gardens, an abundance of native plants to bring more pollinators and wildlife. Plant more and take care of privacy screening trees.

Sustainable & Resilient - I LOVE LIVING IN LEON VALLEY; friendly people using the park! Maybe once & for all the drainage by Raymond Rimkus will be resolved and no more flooding issues! . No erosion problems. Would like Raymond Rimkus to still be a "dark" park. That's the best thing about it. Shade to reduce heat.



Community Themes/Guiding Principles/Recommendations

Family Oriented & Inclusive

Activities for all

- Splash pad, pickle ball courts

More city-offered/hosted events

Spaces for groups

Recreation & Amenities

Active and passive recreation

- More park areas

- Water areas, cool down areas, shaded benches

- Swimming pools, and grills

- An astroturf soccer field

- More playgrounds

Public art

Larger Rimkus Park, more useful equipment

Open at night

More lighting around basketball courts and playground

Multiuse Active Recreation Places

- Specialized space for Flag Football

Reinvestment & Maintenance

Clean trails

Reinvest in playground, exercise equipment and shade as needed

Replacement of dead trees

Well kept landscaping - Cut high grass, dull dying trees

Comfort & Safety

Access to clean and safe restrooms and water fountains (with A/C as toilets get incredibly stuffy and hot)

Water fountains

Improved lighting for night use. Safety features for all

Access & Connectivity

Connectivity

Leon Creek trails and a complete hike and bike trail system to walk or bike from the Medical Center to UTSA or beyond (The Howard Peak greenway)

- More trails, shade, and walking paths

More shaded hiking trails throughout city

Connectivity between parks with walking/biking trails.

Parking

- More parking

Nature & Environment

Trees and greenery

- More to provide shade in the summer heat

Expansion and preservation of nature

- Healthy trees in the park that provide shade and line the Creek

- Butterfly gardens, an abundance of native plants to bring more pollinators and wildlife

- Plant more and take care of privacy screening trees

Sustainability & Resiliency

Drainage

- Raymond Rimkus drainage will be resolved and no more flooding issues

- No erosion problems

“Dark Parks”

- Raymond Rimkus



The City of Leon Valley's Park and Facilities will enhance the *quality of life* for *people from all walks of life* and *foster a strong community*. It will provide *safe, accessible, and well-connected parks and recreation facilities for all (children, adults, seniors, and dogs)* residents to enjoy, *promote a healthy and active lifestyle, and preserve and enhance the natural environment.*