

THE CITY OF RHOME
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN:

PARKS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Prepared by: Institute of Urban Studies

Date: Monday June 22, 2020

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- The City of Rhome & IUS
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- Needs-Based Assessment
- Concept Design Process
- Implementation Strategies & Final Recommendations

- **Next Steps...**

- Parks Plan Focus Groups

INTRODUCTION

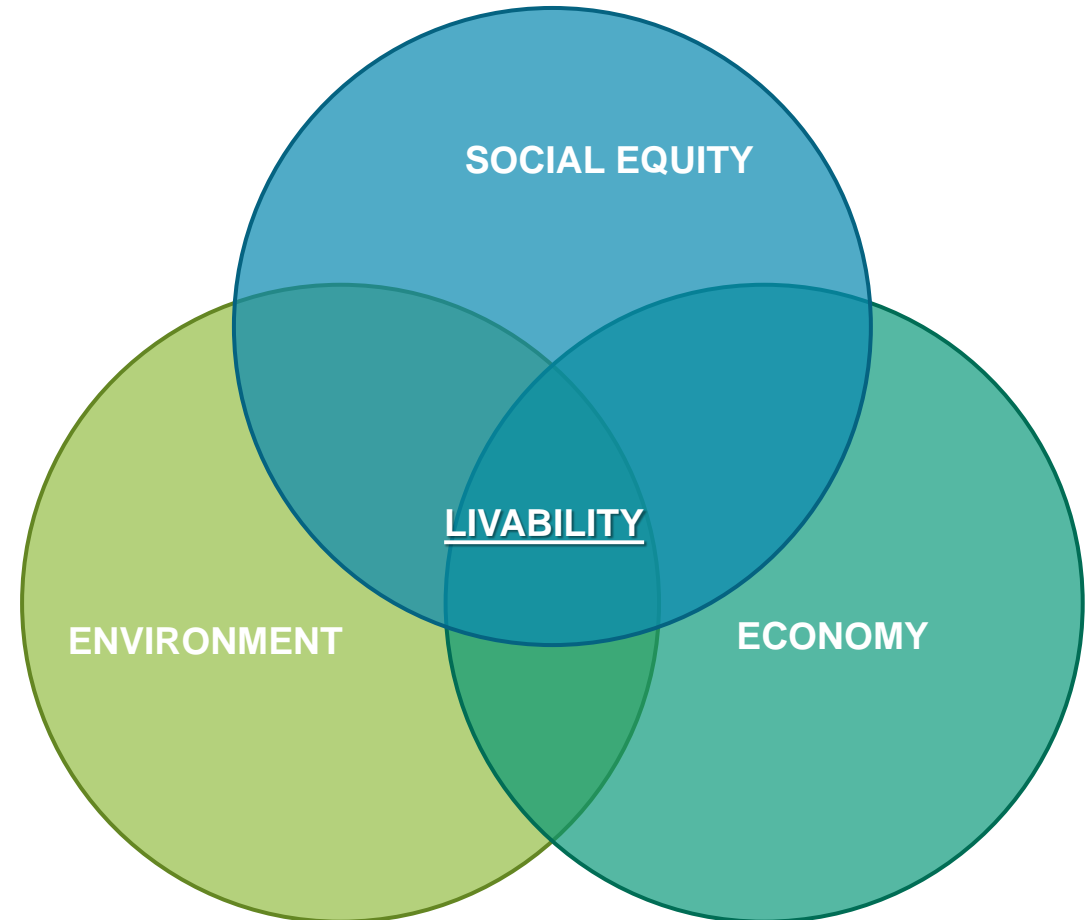
- **The City of Rhome** is partnering with **The Institute of Urban Studies (IUS)** to develop a **Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan** for Rhome's parks system.
- IUS is a research institution at **The University of Texas at Arlington College of Architecture, Planning, & Public Affairs** that provides planning services related to the built environment.
- IUS Rhome Parks Planning Team
 - Alan Klein, IUS Director
 - Nusrat Nipu, Lead Designer, Master of Landscape Architecture
 - Padmi Ranasinghe, Planner, PhD of Urban Planning and Public Policy
 - Kathleen Stanford, Lead Planner, Master of Community and Regional Planning



WHAT IS A PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN?

A **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan** is used to help communities plan for:

- Safe recreation,
- Neighborhood gathering,
- Protection of natural resources,
- Local economic development,
- Enhancement of public health,
- Promoting cultural identity, &
- Civic engagement.



TPWD PROS MASTER PLANNING GUIDELINES

IUS uses *Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)* parks planning guidelines to ensure a successful plan and to qualify for external opportunities. These guidelines include:

- ☐ Demographics
- ☐ Population projections
- ☐ Goals and objectives
- ☐ Standards, and
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Accomplishments
- ☐ Public input
- ☐ Most recent inventory data
- ☐ Updated needs assessment
- ☐ Priorities
- ☐ New Implementation plan
- ☐ **New plan every 10 years**
- ☐ **Updates every 5 years**



RHOME PARKS MASTER PLAN...

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

SITE INVENTORY & NEEDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

CONCEPT DESIGN PHASE

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES &
RECOMMENDATIONS**

FOCUS GROUPS

1 PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

1ST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

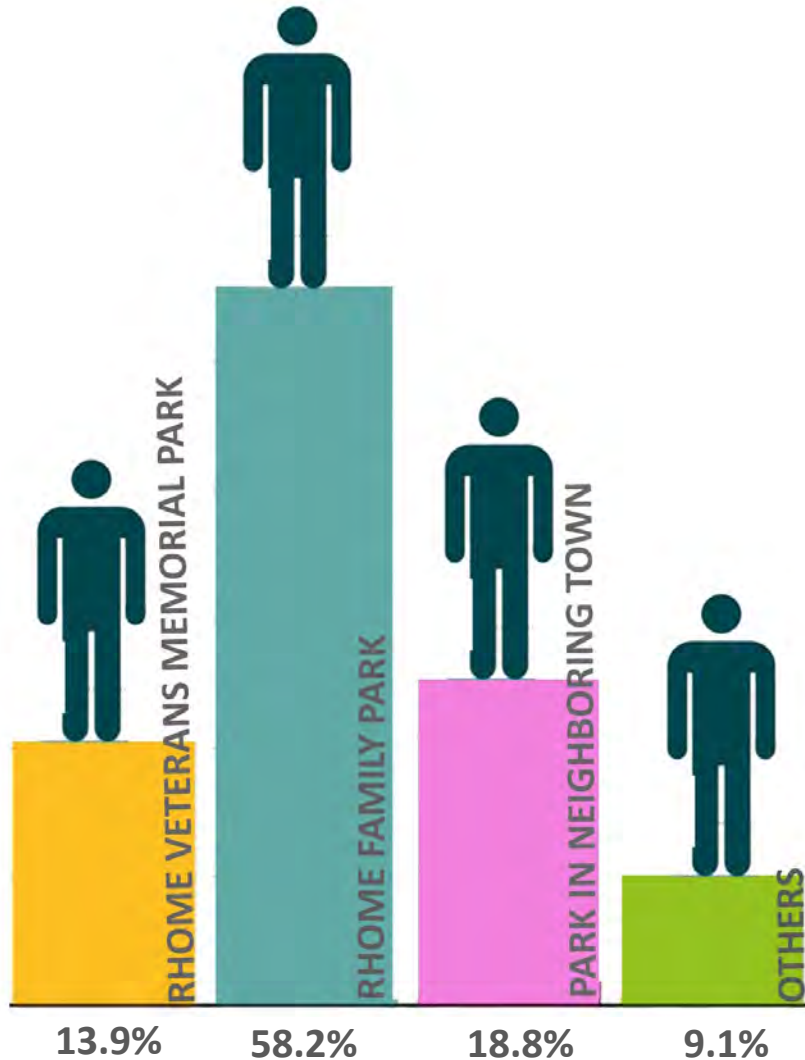
- Opened 04/10/2020,
- Closed 05/31/2020
- 206 Total participants
 - 165 Complete surveys
 - 41 Partial surveys
- 16 Questions about parks & recreation
- 5 Demographics questions

RHOME POPULATION (2018) = 1,824

$206/1,824 = \sim 11.2\%$

1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

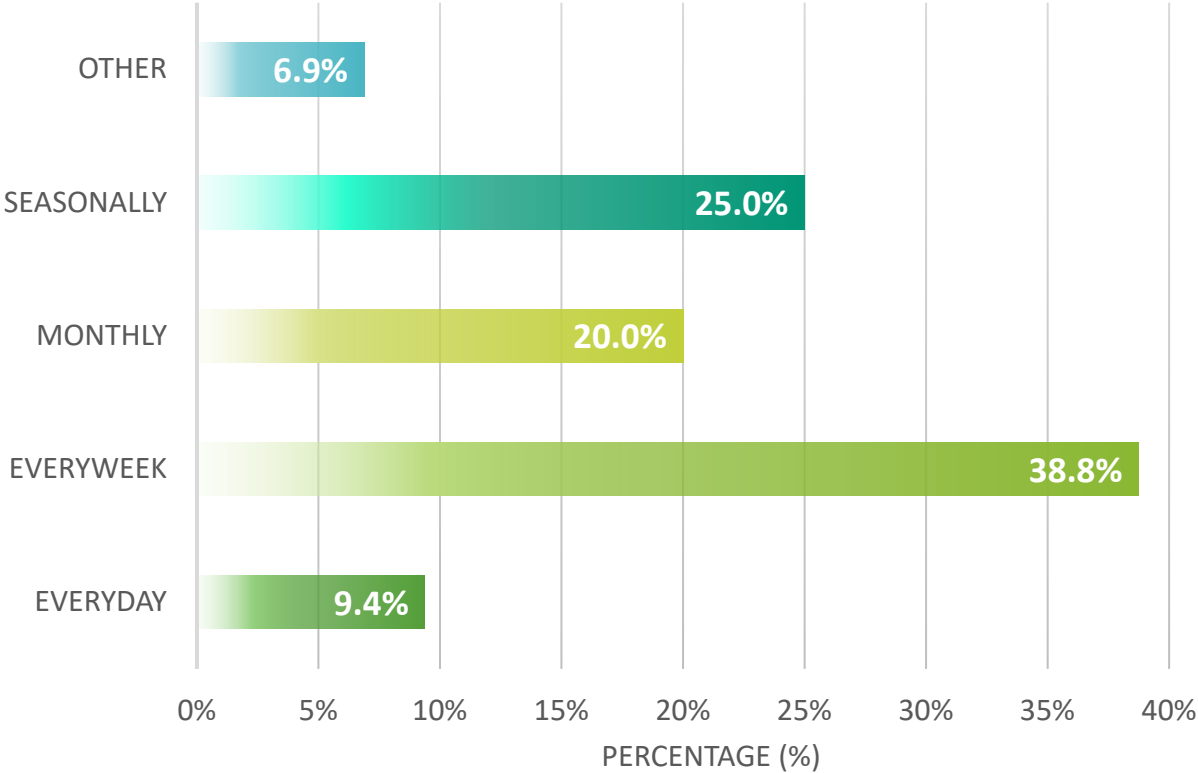
Q1. Which parks do you visit most frequently?



When asked which parks residents visited most, Rhome Family Park was voted as the most visited park at 58.2%. Parks in neighboring towns or cities received the second-highest (18.8%), while Rhome Veterans Memorial Park received the third-highest (13.9%) and other parks accounted for the remaining responses (9.1%).

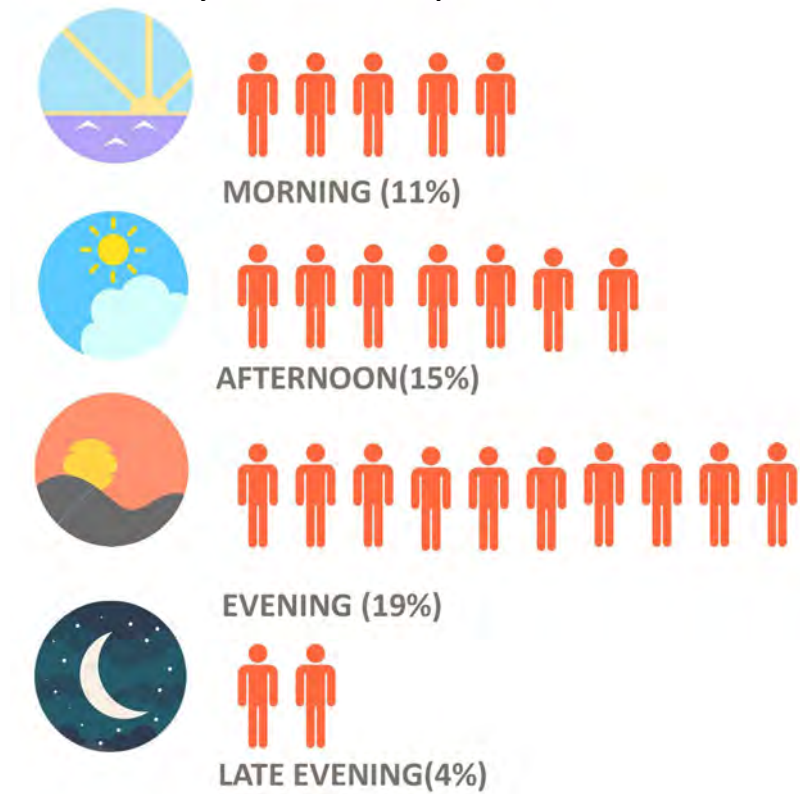
1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q2. How often do you visit these parks?



The majority of Rhome residents visit a park on a weekly basis at 38.8%. The remaining responses include visiting park seasonally (25%), monthly (20%), and every day (9.4%), and at another frequency (which includes more or less often than the choices above) at 6.9%.

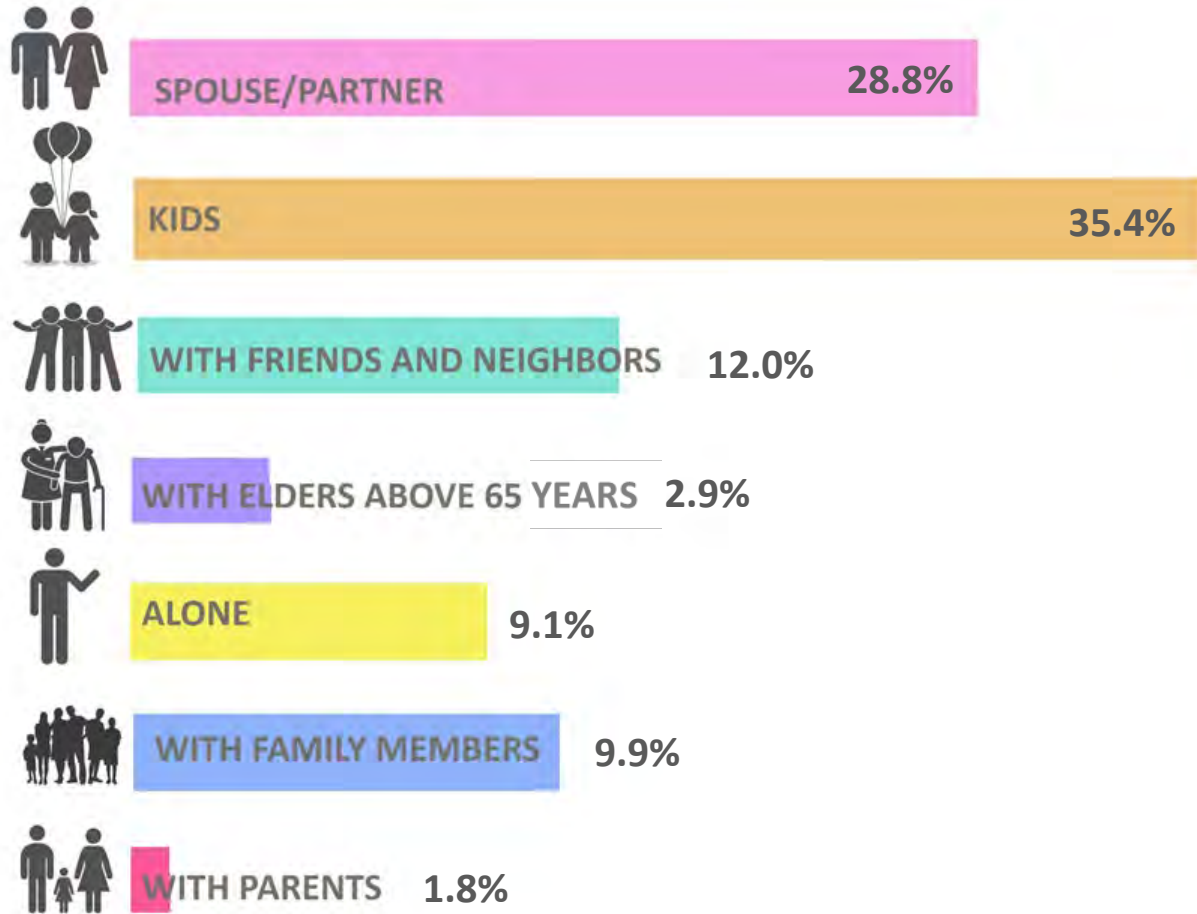
Q3. When do you use the parks the most?



Rhome residents are most active at parks on weekends (29.88%). There is a considerable number of people that also visit the park on weekdays (21.65%). Most people frequent the park in the evening hours (19.0% or in the afternoon (15%). There are some residents visit the park during the afternoon and morning and rarely in late evenings.

1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q4. Which family members typically go with you?



Rhome residents typically go to parks with their children (35.4%) or their spouse (28.8%). They also go with friends and neighbors (12.0%), other family members (9.9%), or alone (9.1%). Elders above 60 years rarely visit the parks (2.9%) and Rhome residents also rarely go to the park with their parents (1.8%).

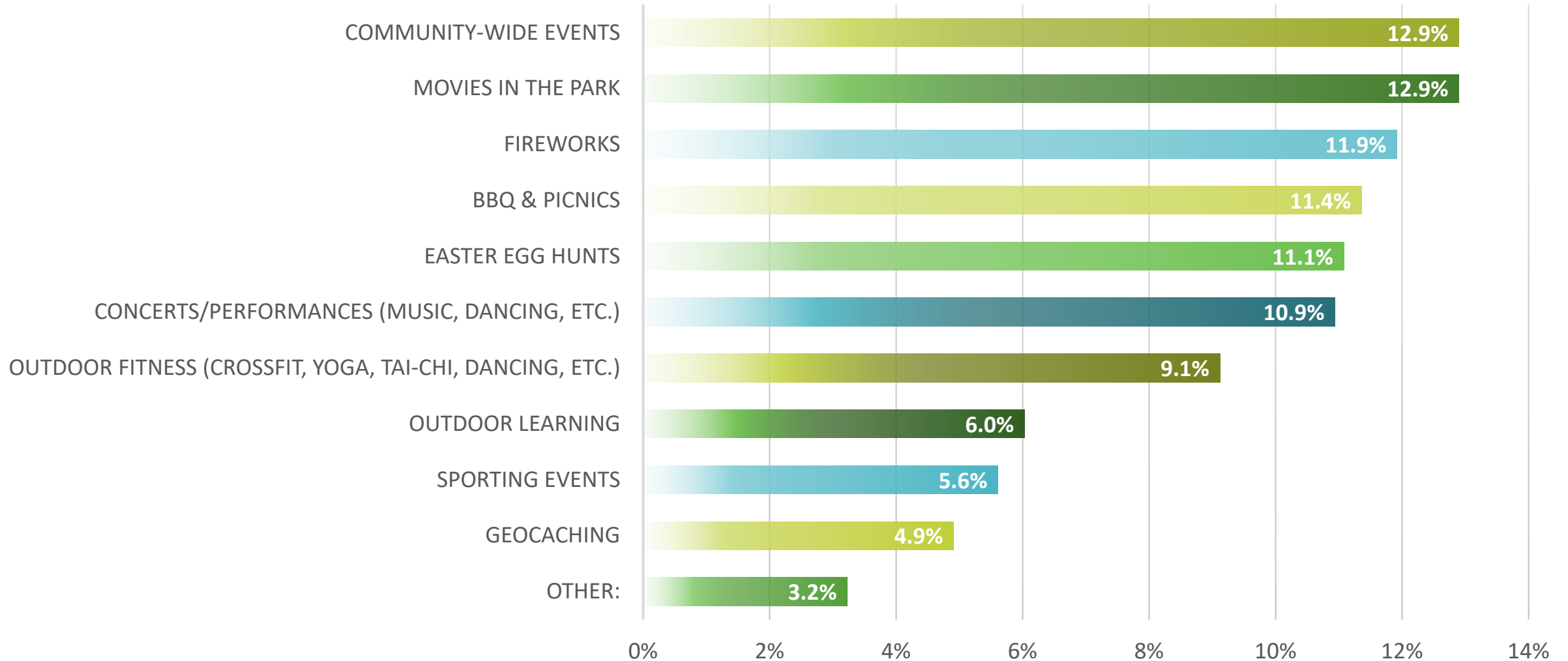
1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q7. What kind of recreational activities would you like to do in your parks?



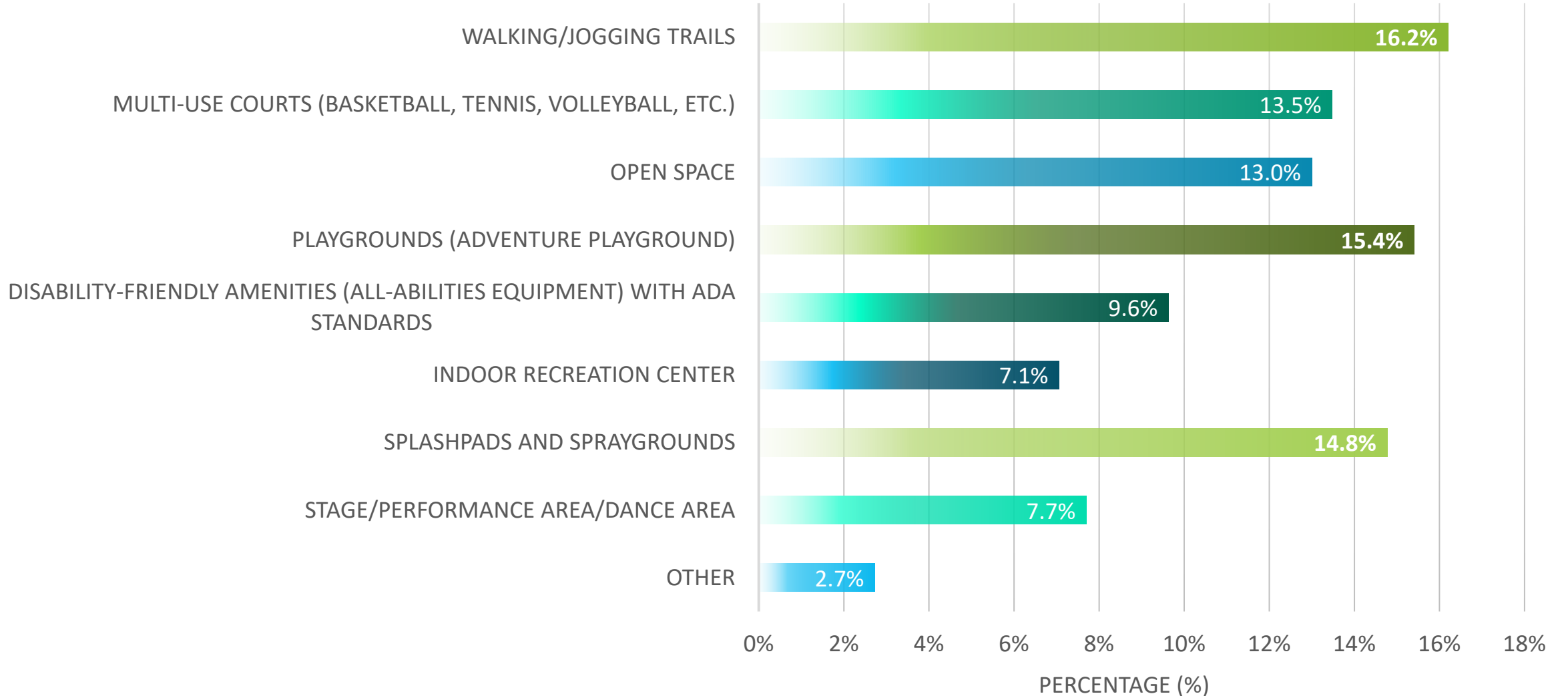
1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q8. What kind of Community programming (activities) would you like Rhome Parks to accommodate?



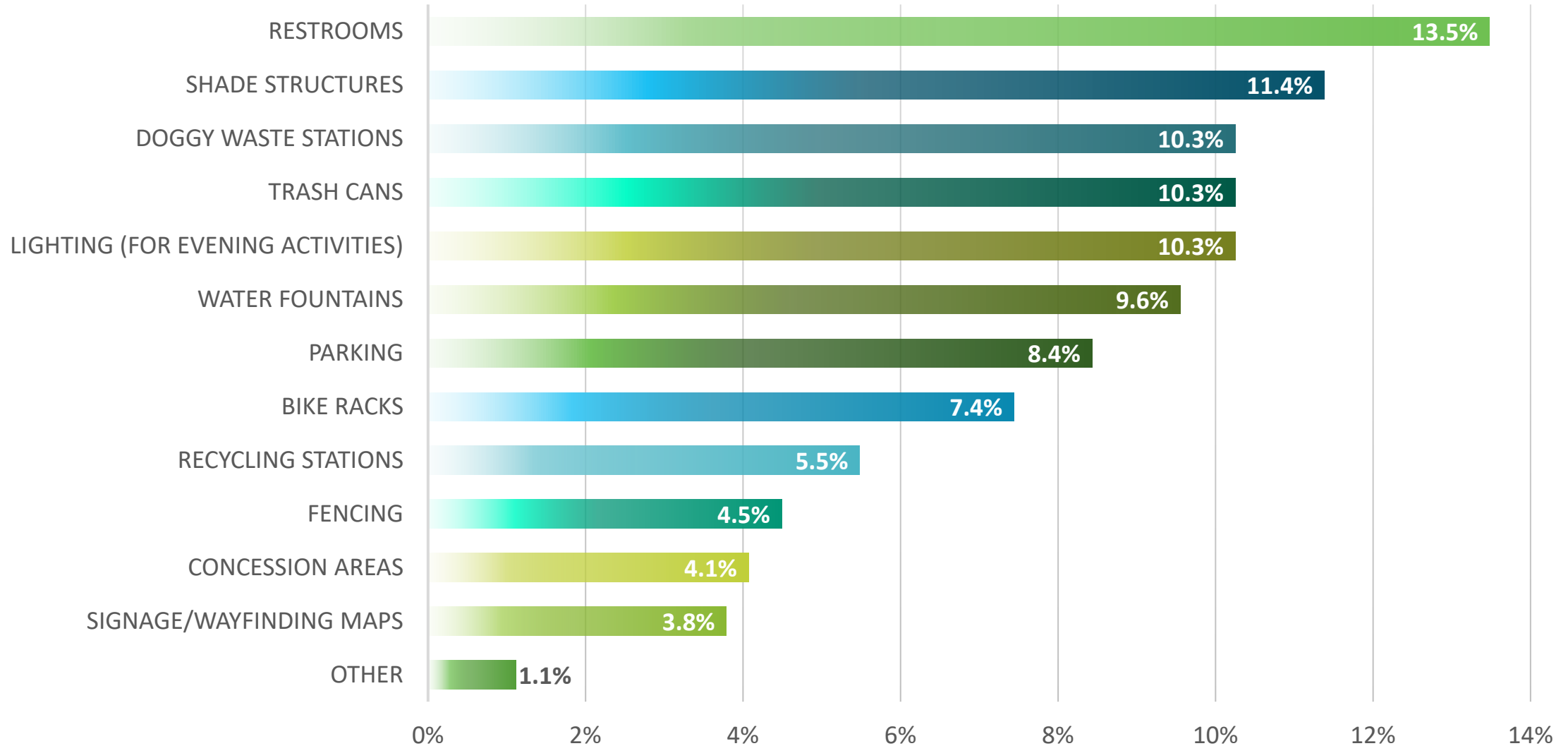
1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q9. Which park amenities would you like most to see in Rhome Parks?



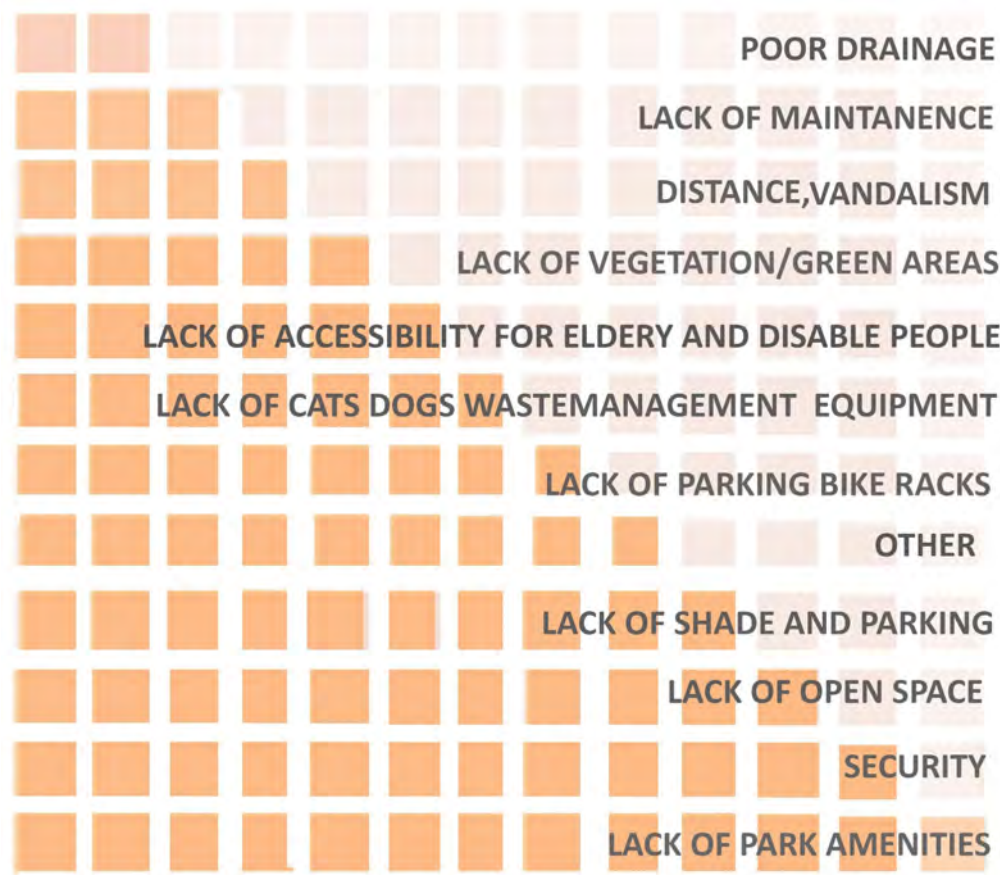
1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q10. What kind of functional park facilities are most needed for Rhome Parks?

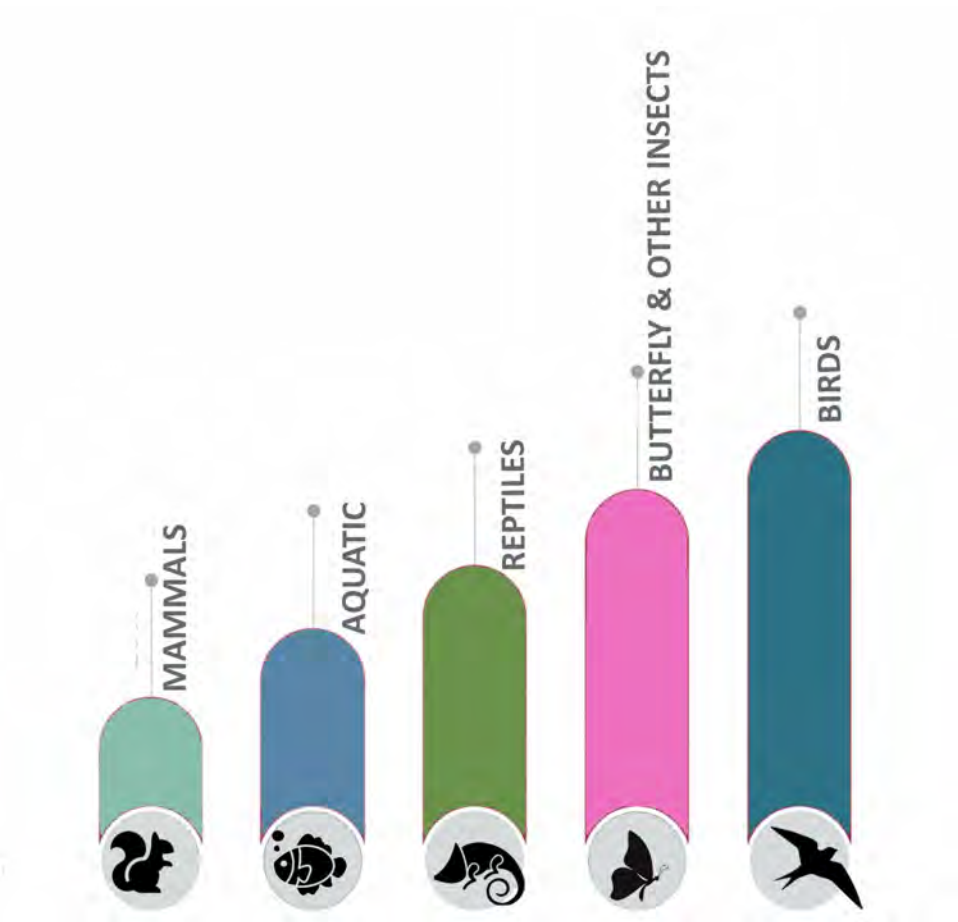


1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q11. What are the major issues in Rhome Parks?

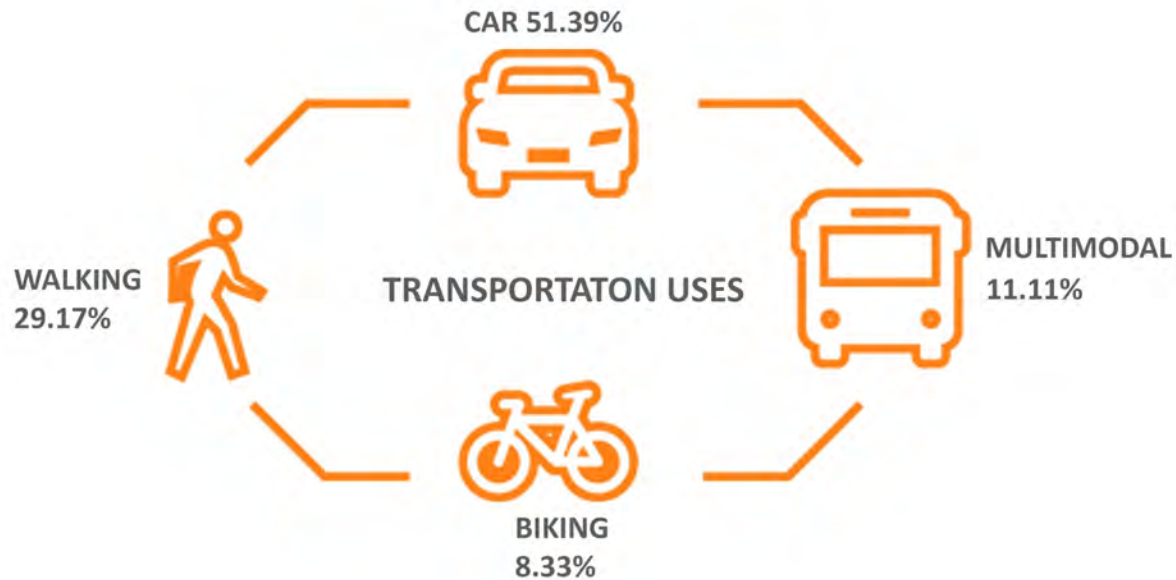


Q12. What kind of wildlife is present in Rhome?

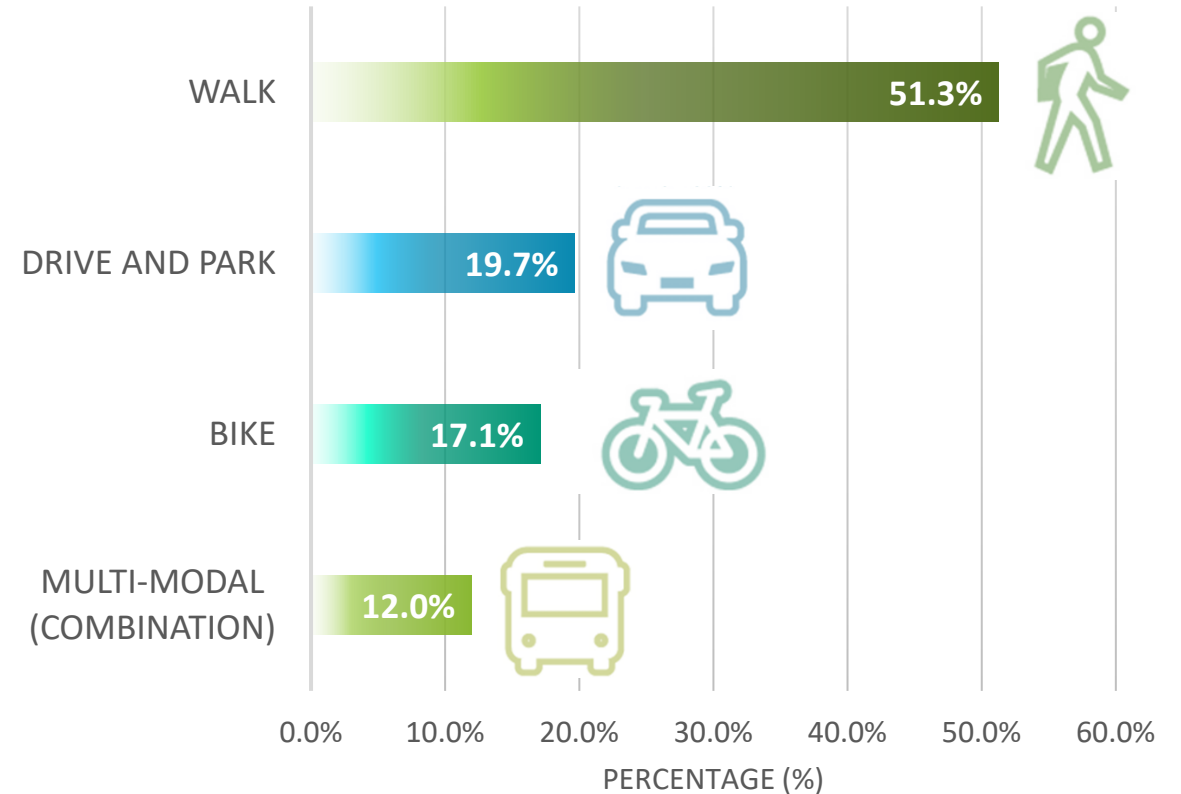


1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q13. How do you typically travel to the parks and open spaces in Rhome?

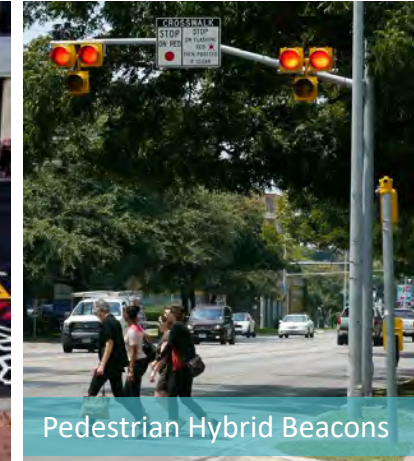
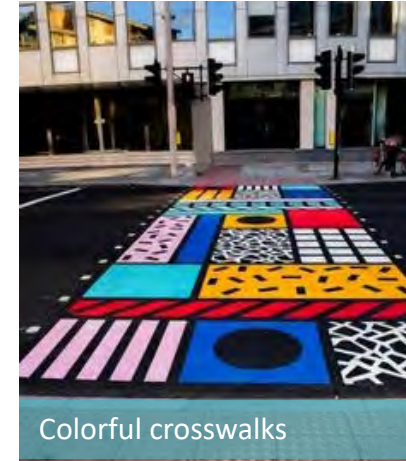


Q14. How would you prefer to travel to the parks and open spaces in Rhome?



1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q15. Please indicate the top 5 locations that you visit in downtown Rhome



1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q16. Please write your ideas and concerns to include in the Rhome Parks Plan

DESIRES & NEEDS

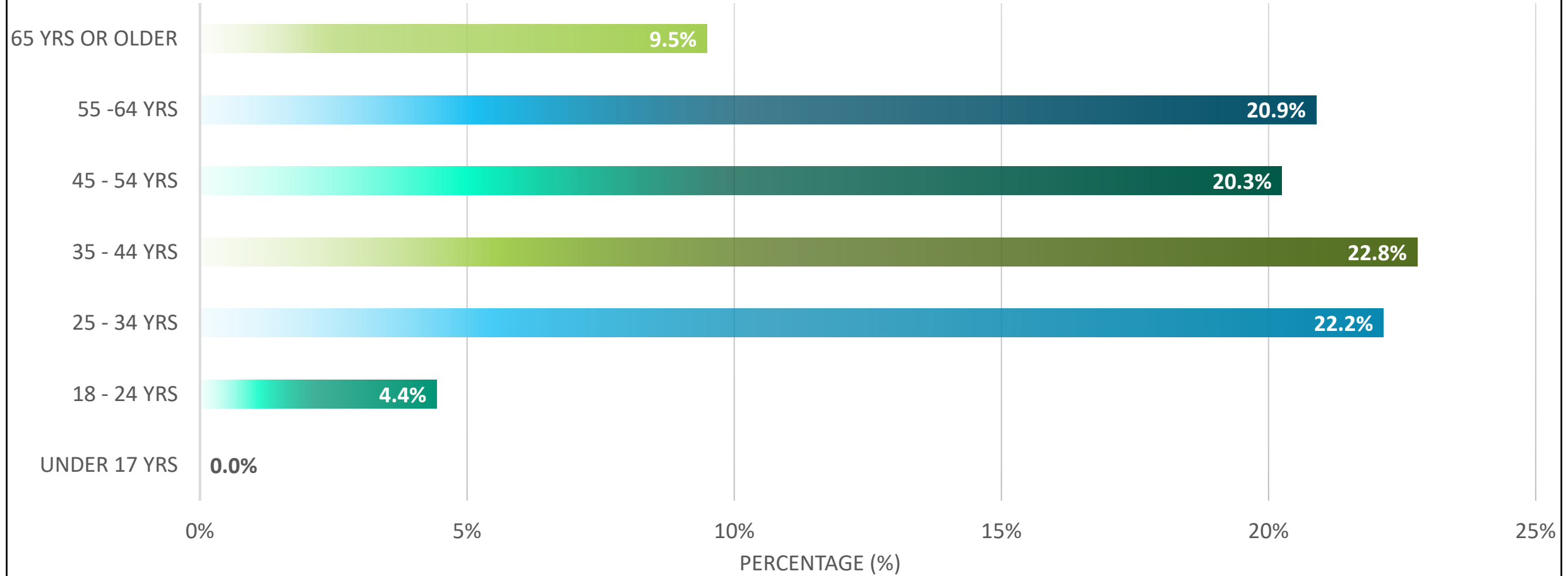


CONCERNS & CRITICISMS



1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

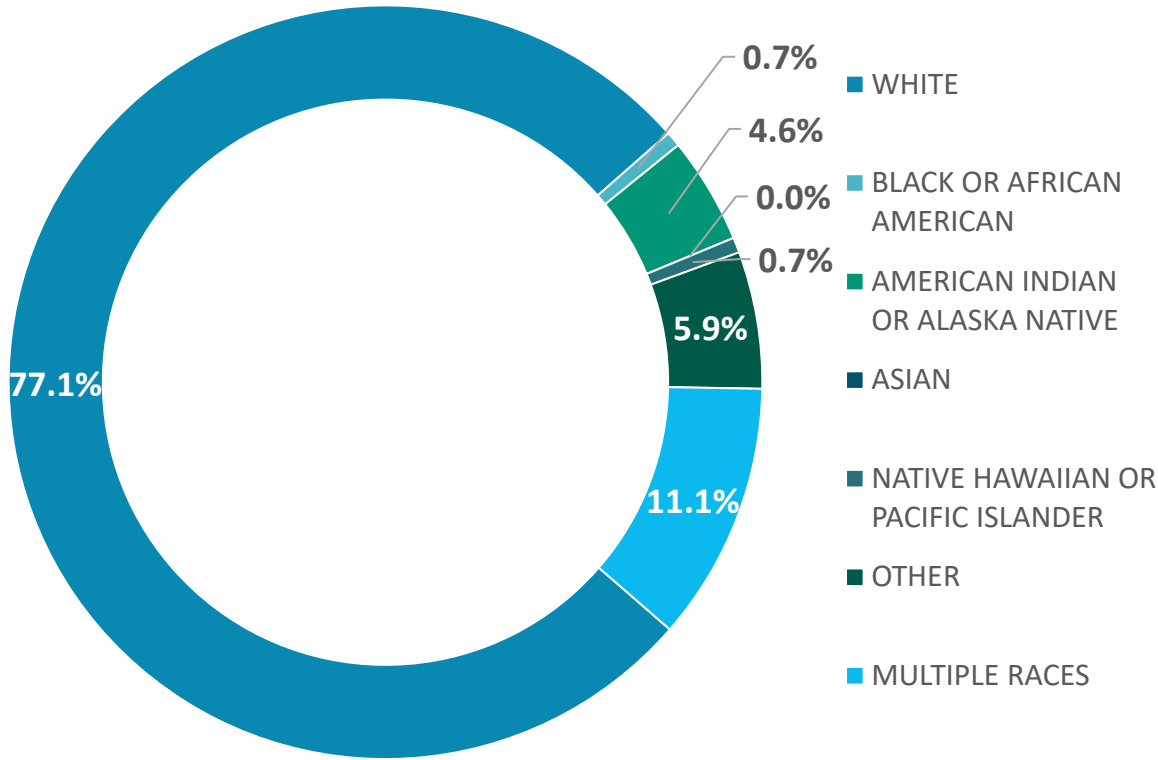
Q17. What is your age group?



The age cohorts of the survey respondents were nearly evenly divided into fifths, with 22.8% of respondents from the 35 to 44 age cohort, 22.2% from the 25 to 34 age cohort, 20.9% from the 55 to 64 age cohort, and 20.3% from the 45 to 54 age cohort. The least and remaining age cohorts of the survey include persons age 65 and older at 9.5% and the 18 to 24 age cohort at 4.4%. There were no responses from Rhome residents under the age of 17.

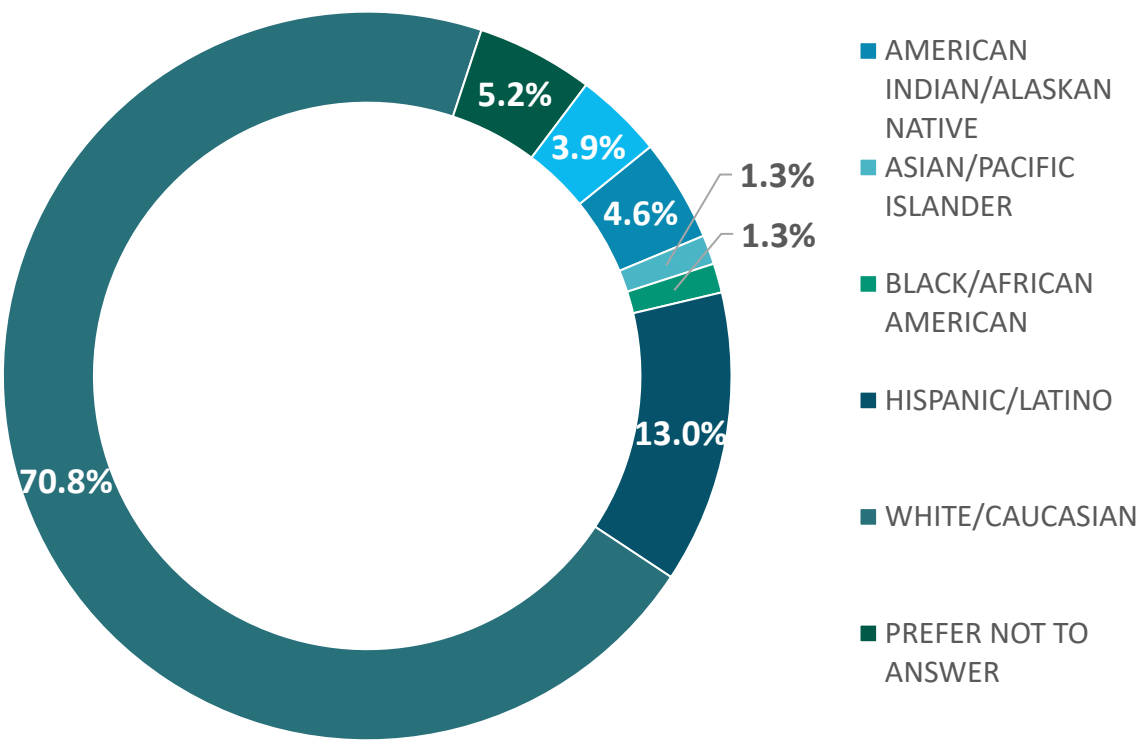
1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q18. What is your race?



The majority of survey respondents answered that they identified their race as White (77.12%). The remaining races include: multiple races (11.11%), other (5.88%), American Indian or Alaska Native (4.58%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.65%), Black or African American (0.65%).

Q19. What is your ethnicity?



1ST PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

Q20. Home ZIP Code? (Insert N/A if not applicable)

HOME ZIP CODE	GENERAL LOCATION	NUMBER OF SURVEY RESPONSES	%
76078	RHOME	137	88.4%
76071	NEWARK	9	5.8%
N/A		4	2.6%
76052	FORT WORTH	2	1.3%
76070	NEMO	1	0.7%
76079	SAGINAW	1	0.7%
76234	DECATUR	1	0.7%
TOTALS		155	100.0%

Q21. Work ZIP Code? (Insert N/A if not applicable)

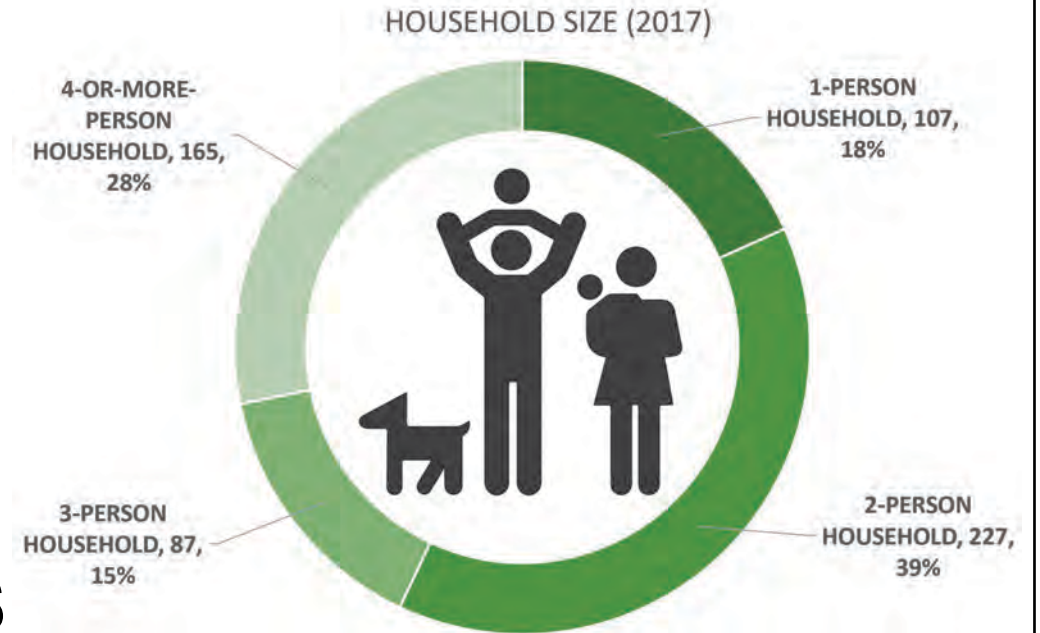
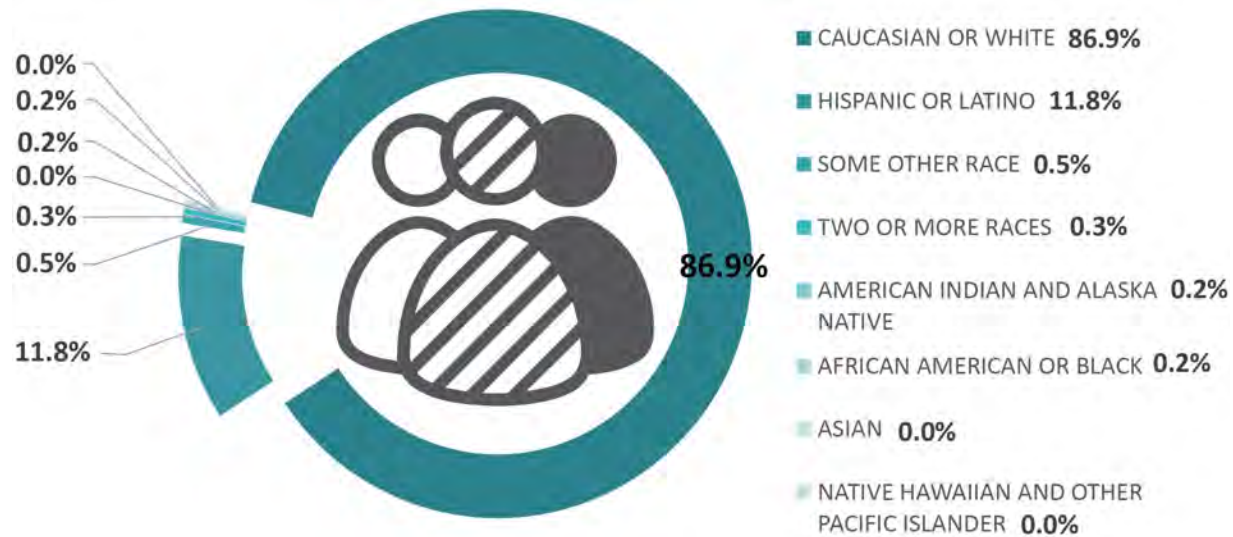
WORK ZIP CODE	GENERAL LOCATION	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	%
76078	RHOME	56	38.6%
N/A		34	23.4%
1 RESPONSE TO ONE LOCATION		23	15.9%
2 RESPONSES TO ONE LOCATION		12	8.3%
76234	DECATUR	7	4.8%
76262	ROANOKE	6	4.1%
76177	FORT WORTH	4	2.8%
76092	GRAPEVINE	3	2.1%
TOTALS		145	100.0%

2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

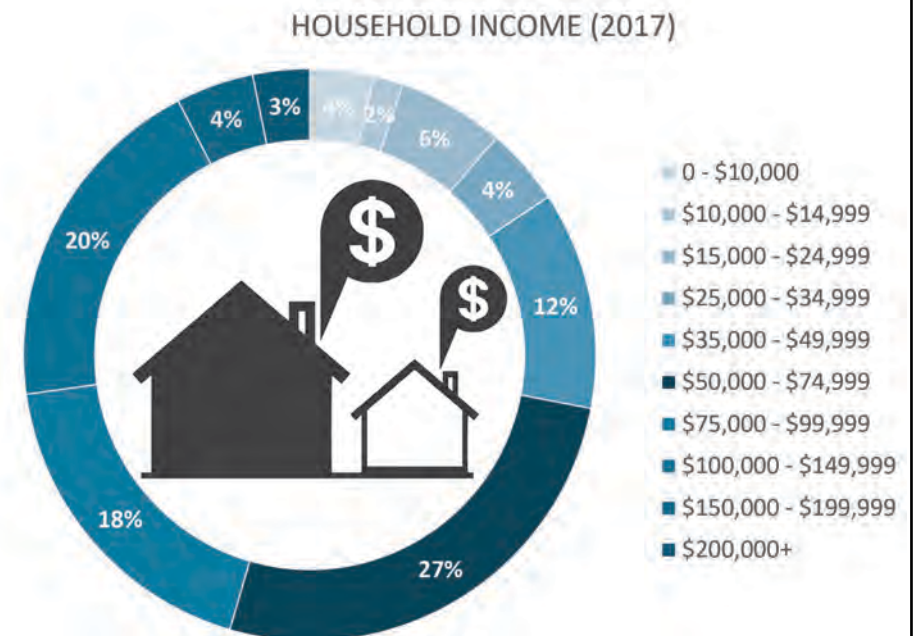
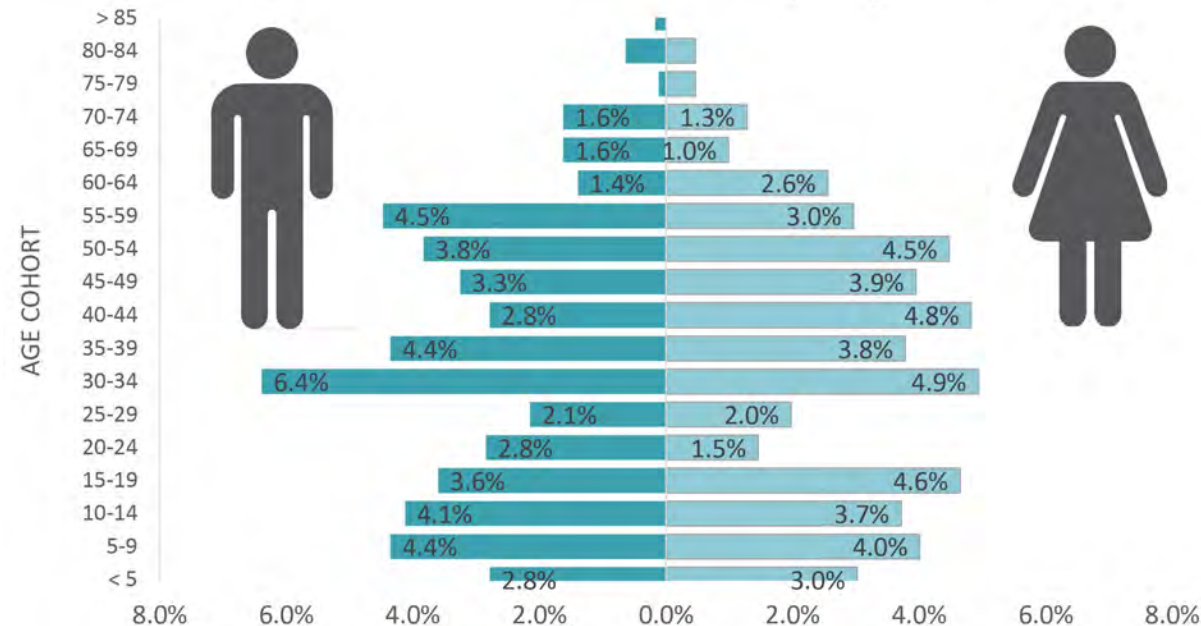
BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The **Background Research** is conducted to inform IUS of Rhome's population and regional characteristics. This information is important because it influences the type of park amenities and activities that would be most desired or needed by the community. The background research includes:

- **Population Profile** – Population, population projection, demographics, etc.
- **Environmental Research** – Flora, fauna, climate, & rainfall averages for Rhome
- **Existing Land Uses**

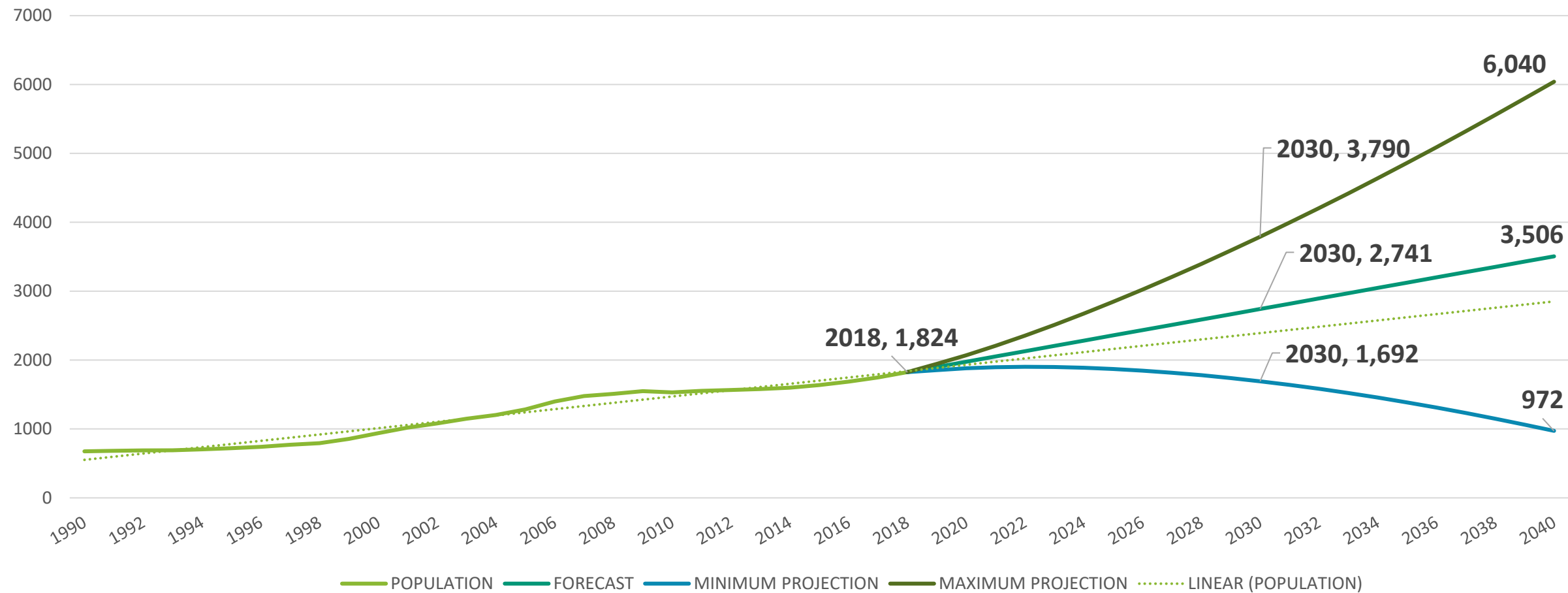


DEMOGRAPHICS



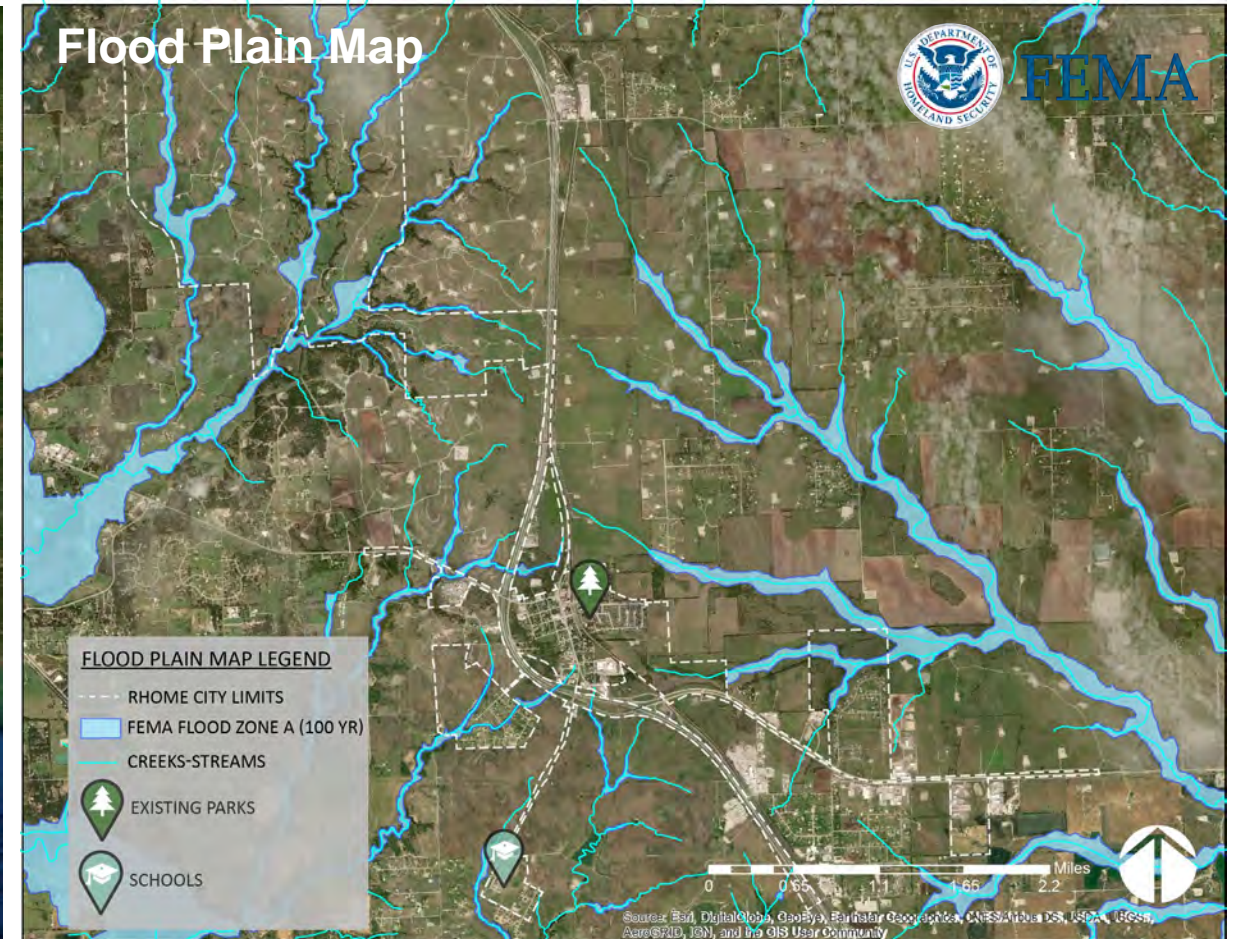
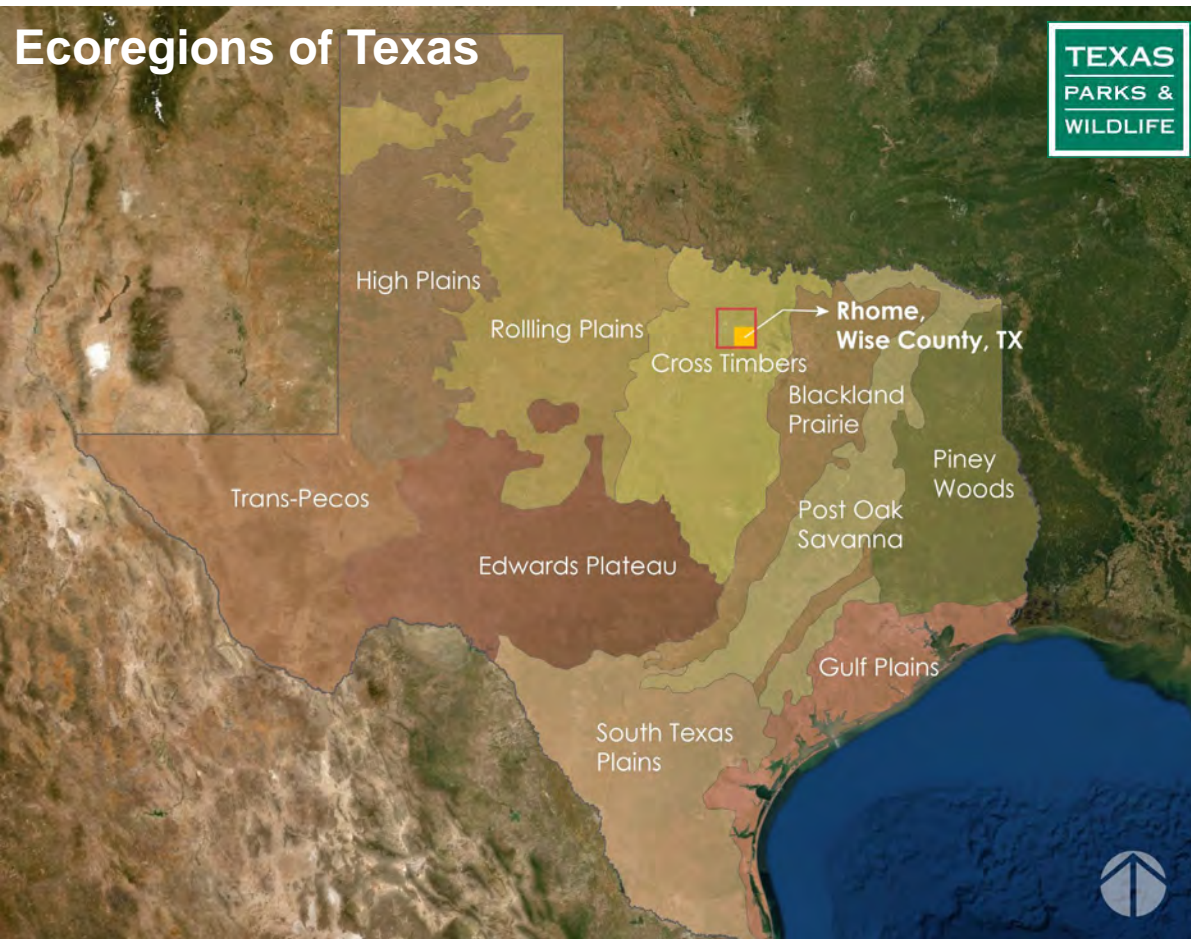
POPULATION PROJECTION

Rhome’s population is expected to **increase over the next 5 years**. Due to this increase, **parks, recreation and open space** are an important aspect of **quality of life** for the citizens. The population projection used for this report is the **linear forecast**.



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The environmental analysis evaluates **environmental factors** that can impact a parks plan or that can benefit from parks and open space such as ecoregions, environmental hazards, and the local flora and fauna. Rhome's ecoregion is the Cross Timers habitats.



3 SITE INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

SITE INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The **Site Inventory & Analysis** is used to evaluate existing and potential park areas for future improvements and for park amenity and activity suitability. This analysis includes:

- **Site Observations & Assessments** – evaluates existing and potential park areas for *physical condition, design intent, social performance and environmental design performance*
- **Park Category & Classification** – the park categories & classification are based on the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) standards which categorizes parks by size and service area



RHOME FAMILY PARK

Site Assessment

- Size: 1.8 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Existing Park
- NRPA Park Class: Neighborhood Park
- IUS Rating: **Good**

Site Observations

- Connectivity issues to the rest of Rhome
- Lack of bike racks
- Various park amenities
- More vegetation to improve design performance of the park
- Screening needed between the park and railroad tracks
- More shade - natural or structural.
- Address ponding water to prevent mosquitos.



View of main playground area



View train track and culvert draining into the park

RHOME VETERANS MEMORIAL

Site Assessment

- Size: 0.2 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Existing Park-Memorial
- NRPA Park Class: Mini/Pocket Park
- IUS Rating: **Excellent**

Site Observations

- Well-maintained
- Memorial frequently has civic engagement activities
- Visibility from 2nd street needs signage
- Access from 2nd street needs sidewalk path



View of Memorial Pavilion



View of exterior access

POTENTIAL PARK 1: ELM STREET POCKET PARK

Site Assessment

- Size: 0.9 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Vacant parcel
- NRPA Park Class: Mini/Pocket Park
- IUS Rating: Potential Park Area

Site Observations

- This parcel is a City owned right of way (ROW) for a road
- Has visible drainage issues
- Utilities available (water, waste water, electric)
- Property is within a residential area
- Existing vegetation may be worth protecting
- Parcel is acceptable as a mini park for this area of downtown Rhome



POTENTIAL PARK 2: ELLIS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Site Assessment

- Size: 10-15 acres
- Ownership: **Northwest ISD**
- Category: Open Space
- NRPA Park Class: Neighborhood-Community Park
- IUS Rating: **Potential Park Area - Pending**
- Area in FEMA 100YR Flood Plain: 7.8 ac.

Site Observations

- Natural waterfall for recreational use (active or passive)
- 10-14 acres that can accommodate multiple neighborhood amenities; bike trails, hiking trails, educational landscape, etc.
- Removing of illegal dumping and building materials
- Existing park facilities including sidewalk path and patios



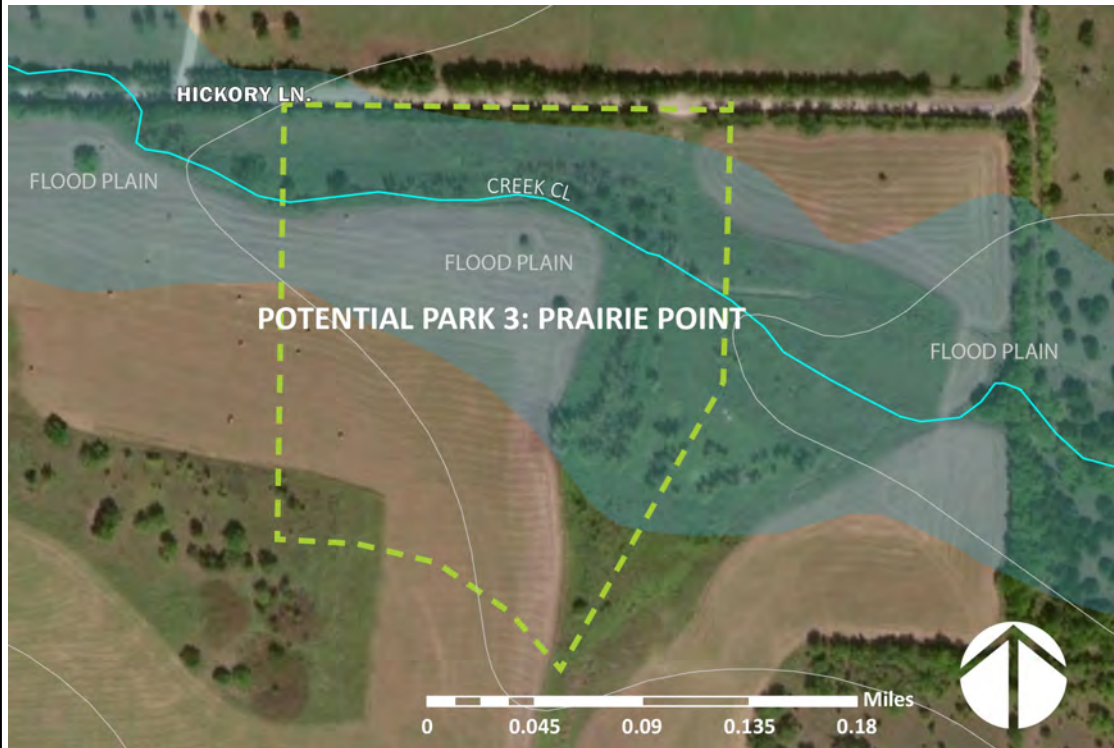
POTENTIAL PARK 3: PRAIRIE POINT COMMUNITY PARK

Site Assessment

- Size: 10.0 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Open Space
- NRPA Park Class: Neighborhood-Community Park
- IUS Rating: Potential Park Area
- Area in FEMA 100YR Flood Plain: 6.2 ac.

Site Observations

- The site is located in the rural area northeast of downtown Majority located within FEMA 100-year flood plain (60%)
- Flat topography with some existing native vegetation
- This parcel can serve as a neighborhood or community park for larger park amenities and activities such as outdoor and indoor sport courts



POTENTIAL PARK 4: OLD MILL & MORRIS POCKET PARK

Site Assessment

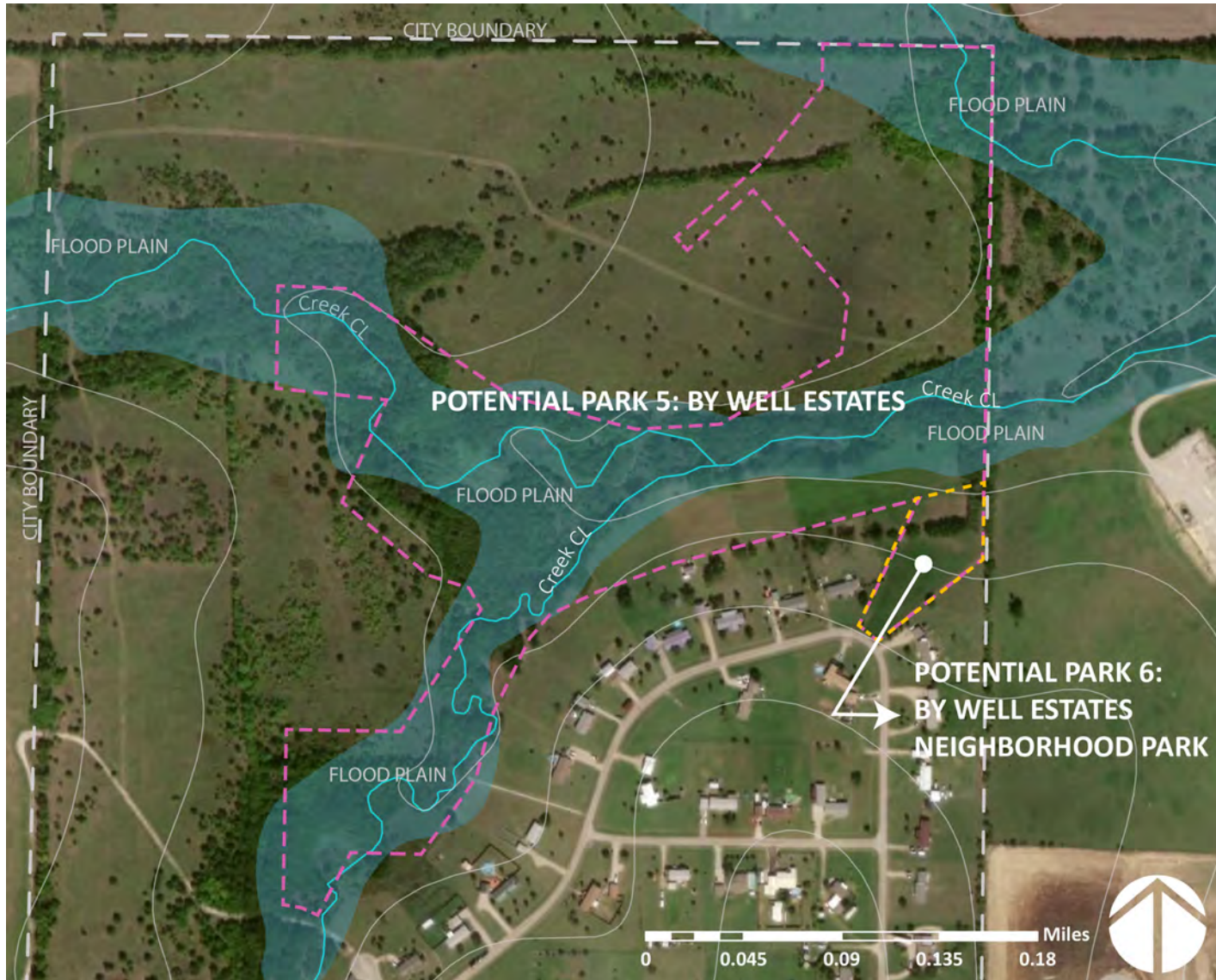
- Size: 0.35 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Vacant parcel
- NRPA Park Class: Mini/Pocket Park
- IUS Rating: Potential Park Area

Site Observations

- Located in downtown of Rhome
- This parcel can serve as mini park with urban-like park amenities
- Utilities available: water, wastewater, electric
- Parcel is flat, large existing trees (Pecan and Sycamore tree)
- Parcel is adjacent to residential and commercial land uses



POTENTIAL PARK 5: BY WELL ESTATES COMMUNITY PARK



Site Assessment

- Size: 39.6 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Open Space
- NRPA Park Class: Community Park
- IUS Rating: Potential Park Area
- Area in FEMA 100YR Flood Plain: 22.9 ac.

Site Observations

- This site can become a community park which can serve multiple neighborhoods in Rhome
- It is design to serve an area 1-3-miles
- Majority of the parcel is within the FEMA 100-year flood plain (~60%)
- Has unique vegetation and geology; natural, open space park

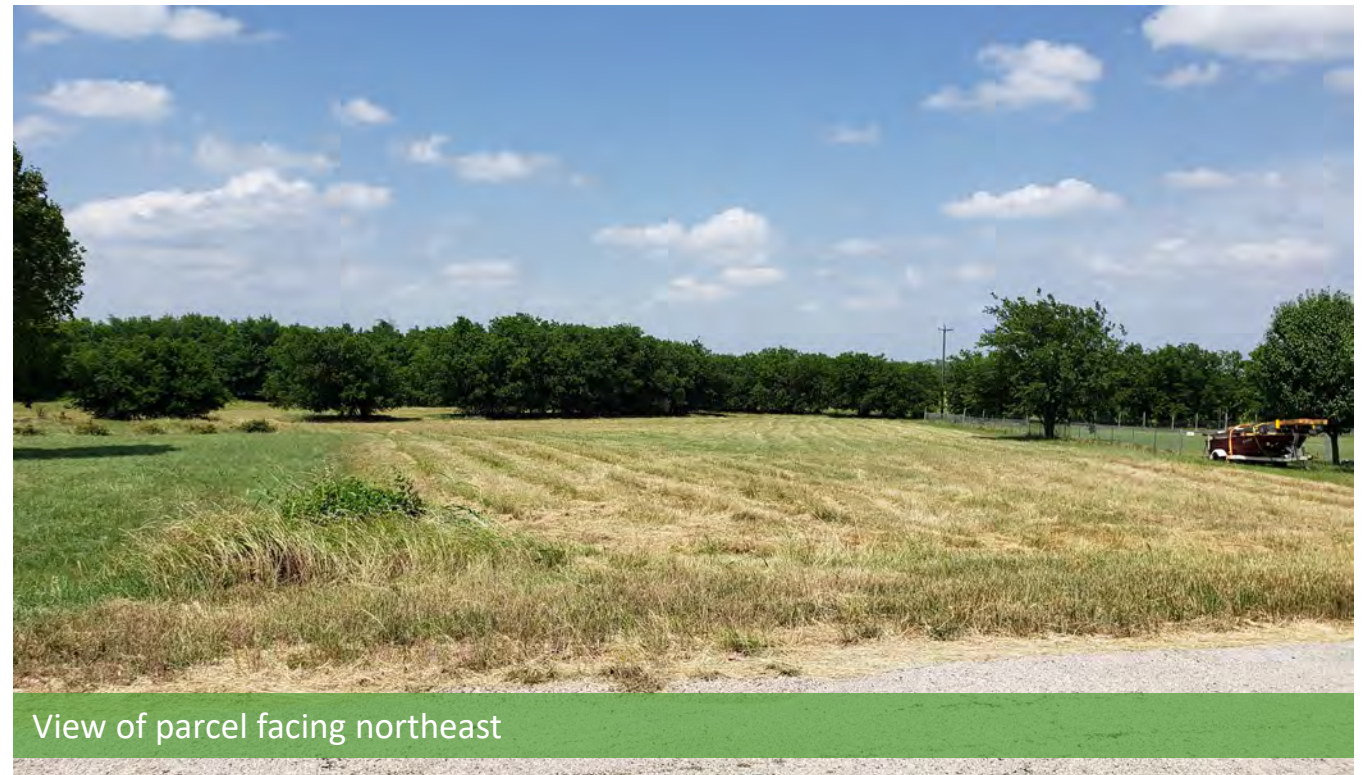
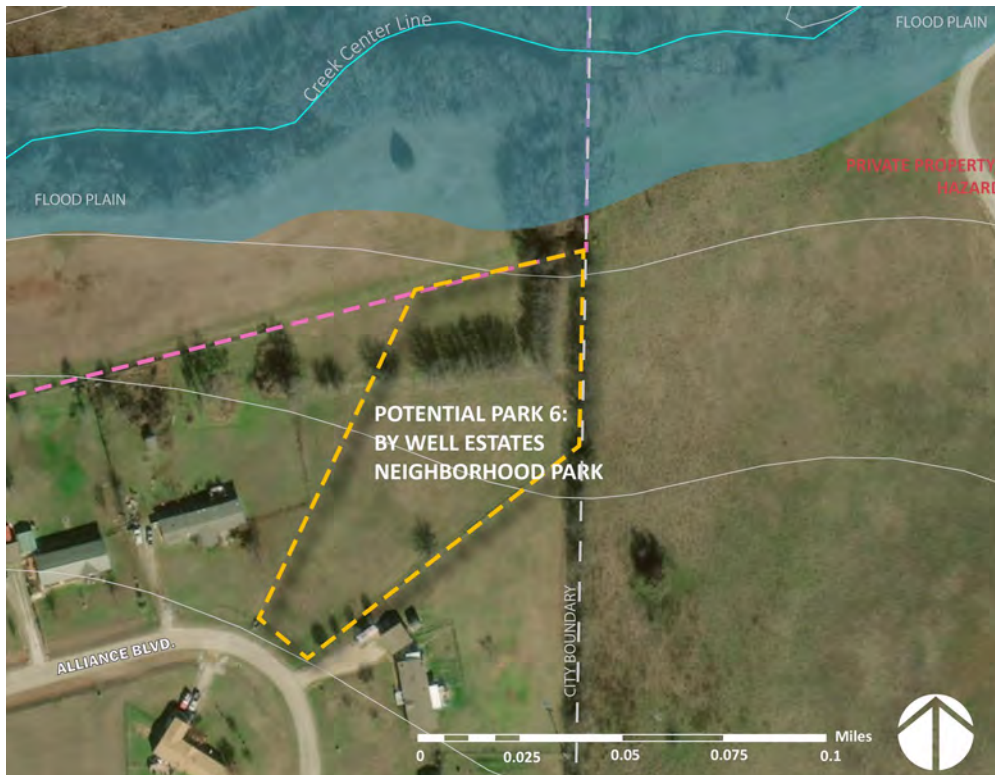
POTENTIAL PARK 6: BY WELL ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Site Assessment

- Size: 1.2-2 acres
- Ownership: City of Rhome
- Category: Drainage
- NRPA Park Class: Neighborhood Park
- IUS Rating: Potential Park Area

Site Observations

- Located south and east of Rhome in By Well Estates community
- Flat parcel, originally a drainage area between houses
- Not within the flood plain
- An opportunity for equitable park development (similar to Rhome Family Park)



4 NEEDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

NEEDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

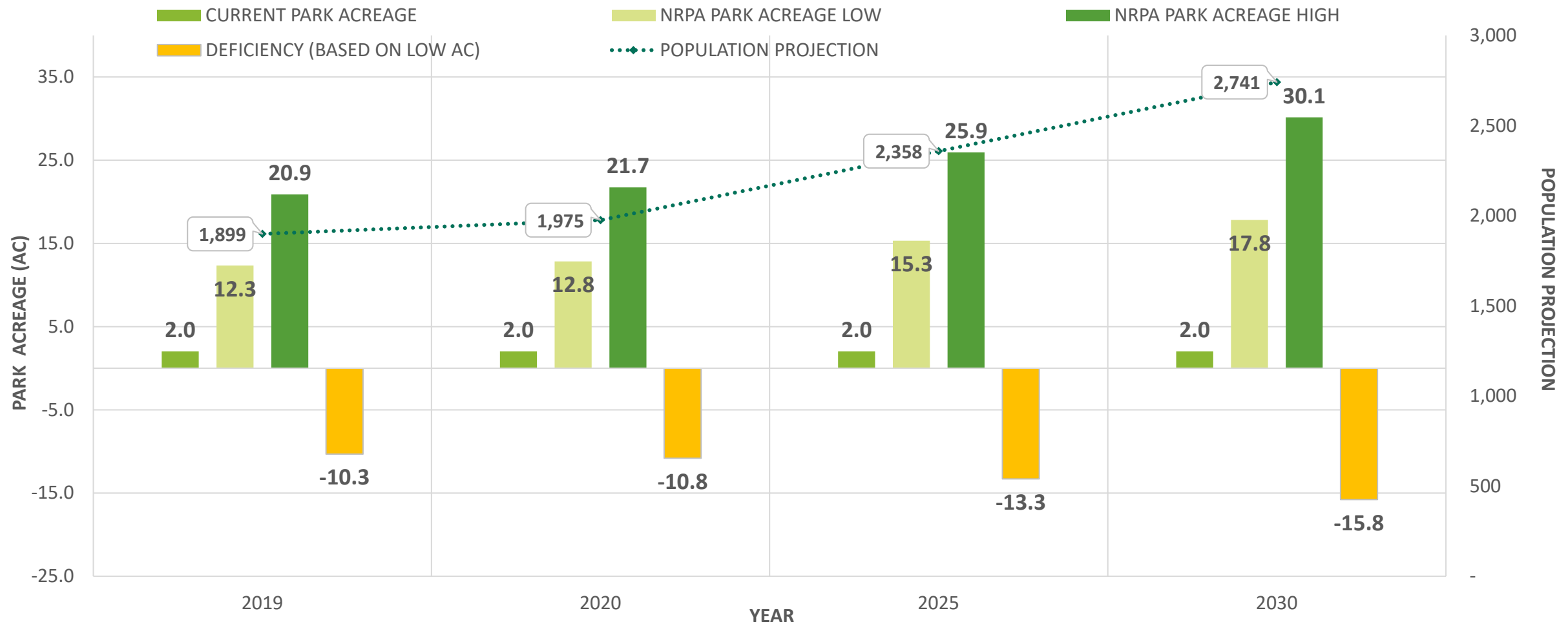
The **Needs-Based Assessment** is used to determine park and recreational needs (indicators), as well as to benchmark current and future park and recreational desires. It is comprised of **(3)** separate assessments including:

- **Standards-Based Assessment** – Uses national and regional standards such as NRPA and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) as an indicator of park need
- **Resource-Based Assessment** – Evaluates PROS resources such as City owned parcels, parcels to be acquired, or areas with potential for joint-agreements or partnerships, especially in identified areas of park need
- **Demand-Based Assessment** –uses input from the steering committee and from the **public engagement survey** to determine the recreational desires and needs of the community

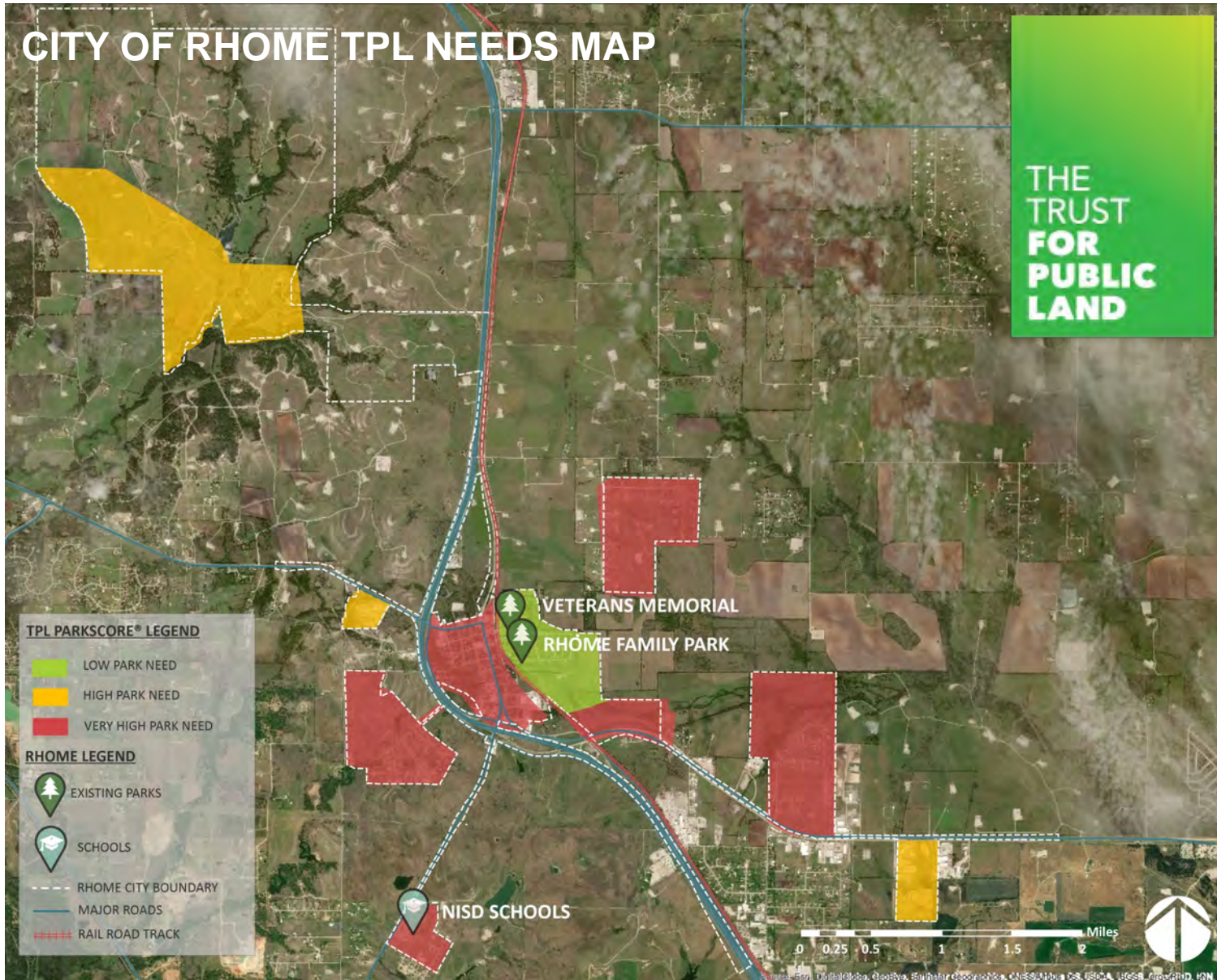


NRPA PARK LAND DEDICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The graph shows Rhome’s existing park acreage and the **park land dedication ranges** corresponding to Rhome’s projected population growth. The park land dedication ranges are based on a ratio of ~6-12 acres/1000 residents.



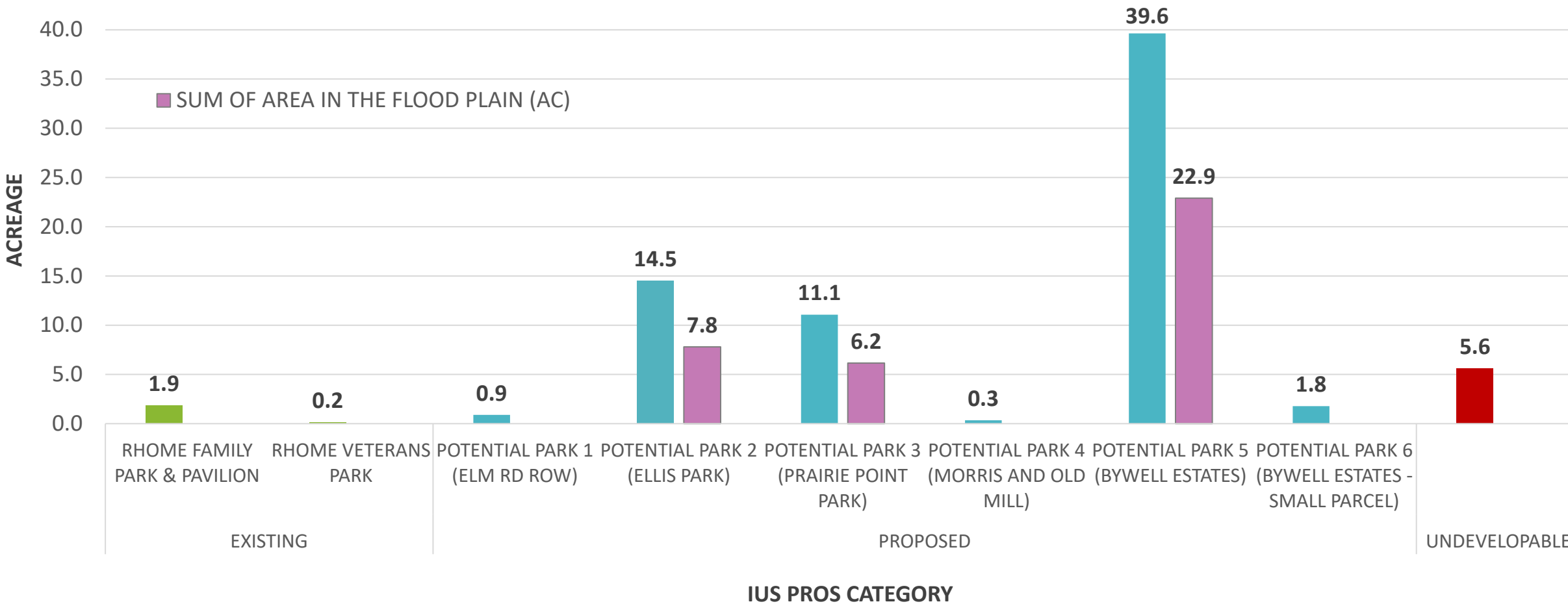
STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT: TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



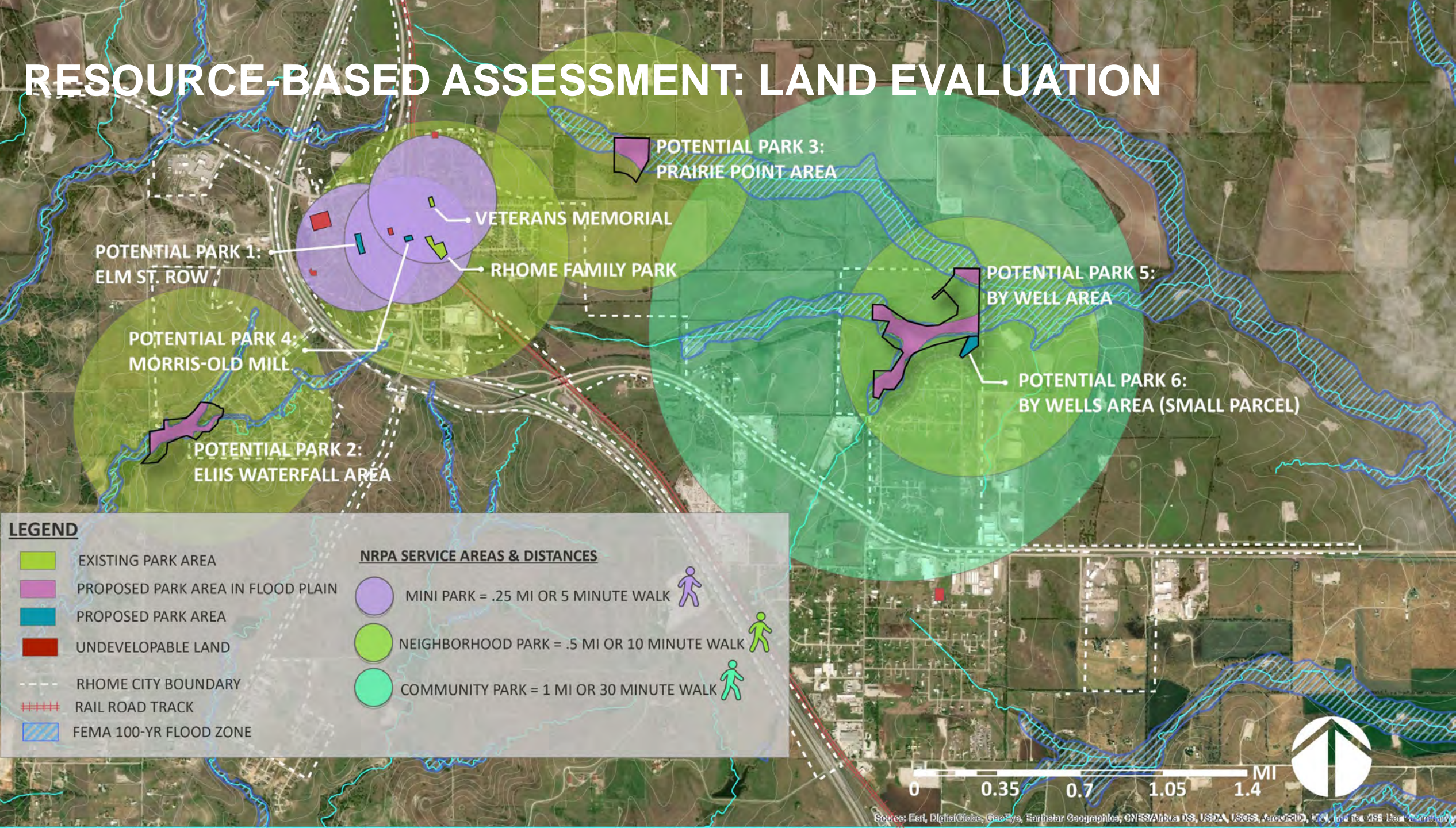
- The Trust for Public Land (TPL) publishes a Parkscore that show **areas of park need** based on **population, location, and geographic barriers**.
- IUS uses this information as an **indicator of park need** in Rhome.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE-BASED ANALYSIS

The following graph summarizes the **land resources as of 05/2020**, showing existing park land acreage, potential park land acreage, and parcels deemed undevelopable.

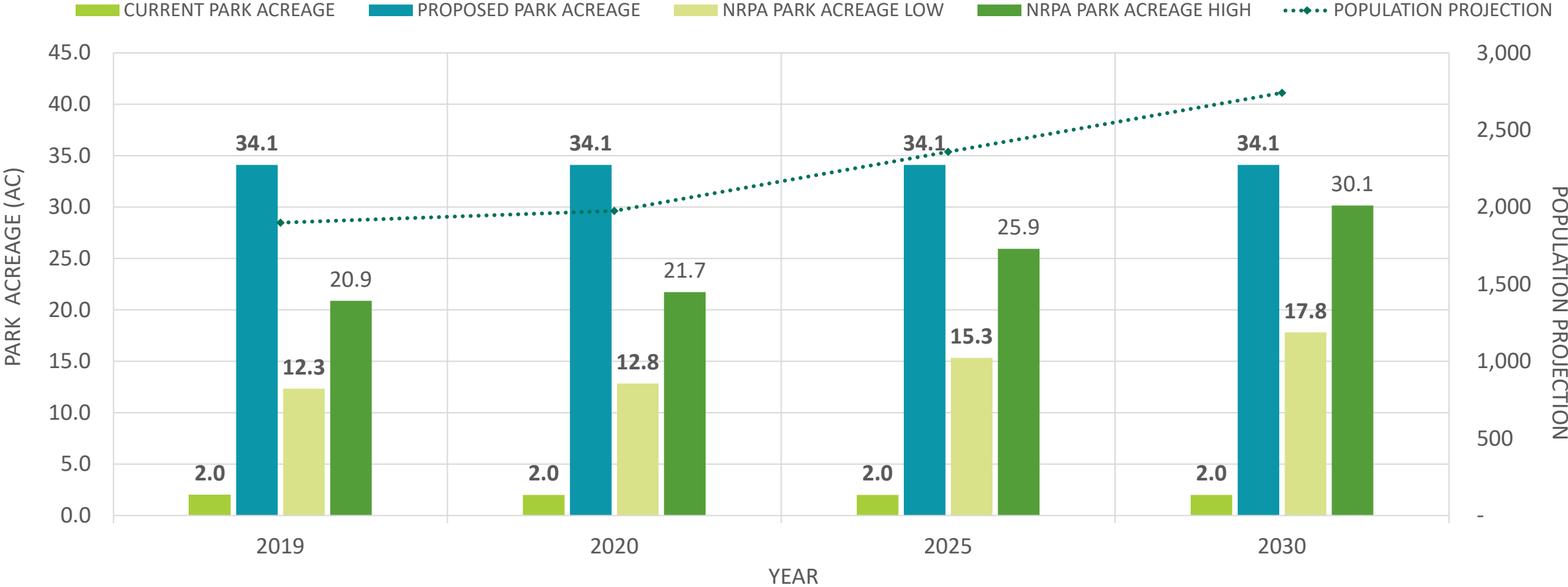


RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT: LAND EVALUATION



SUMMARY OF NEEDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

The graph compares the existing park acreage, the NRPA park land dedication recommendations, and the identified potential PROS areas for Rhome. The graph shows that the acreage of potential PROS areas **meets the recommended park land demands for 2030**.



5 CONCEPT DESIGN PROCESS

CONCEPT DESIGN PROCESS

Recommends suitable park **activities and amenities** for each park proposal based on **the community's input**.

- The proposed PROS **ideas** are based on IUS site observations, research, and initial input from the Rhome Parks steering committee.
- The public engagement survey will provide input and feedback that will be used to determine the **most desired** PROS activities & amenities.

CONCEPT DESIGN PROPOSAL: RHOME FAMILY PARK

CONCEPTUAL PLAN PROPOSAL 1



Shade structures



Splashpad/Water Feature



Interactive art



Passive recreation



Community Fitness



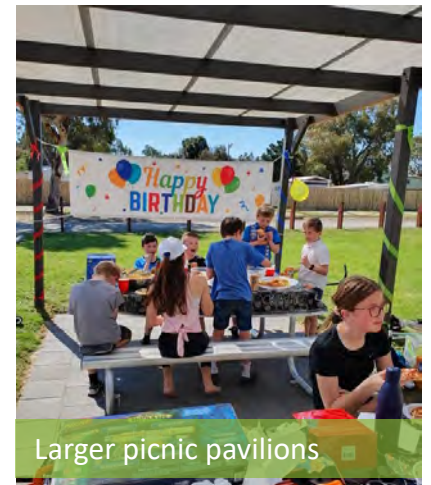
Adventure Playground



Interactive art



Sensory-Native Pollinator Garden



Larger picnic pavilions

EXAMPLE DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR RHOME FAMILY PARK

BEFORE



Open area adjacent to the pavilion and the rail road tracks.

AFTER



- The open space can be used for community recreation such as yoga. Adding a flexible shading device can make the area more comfortable for use during the spring or summer.
- The vegetative buffer along the fence enhances privacy in the park.

DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR RHOME VETERANS MEMORIAL

BEFORE



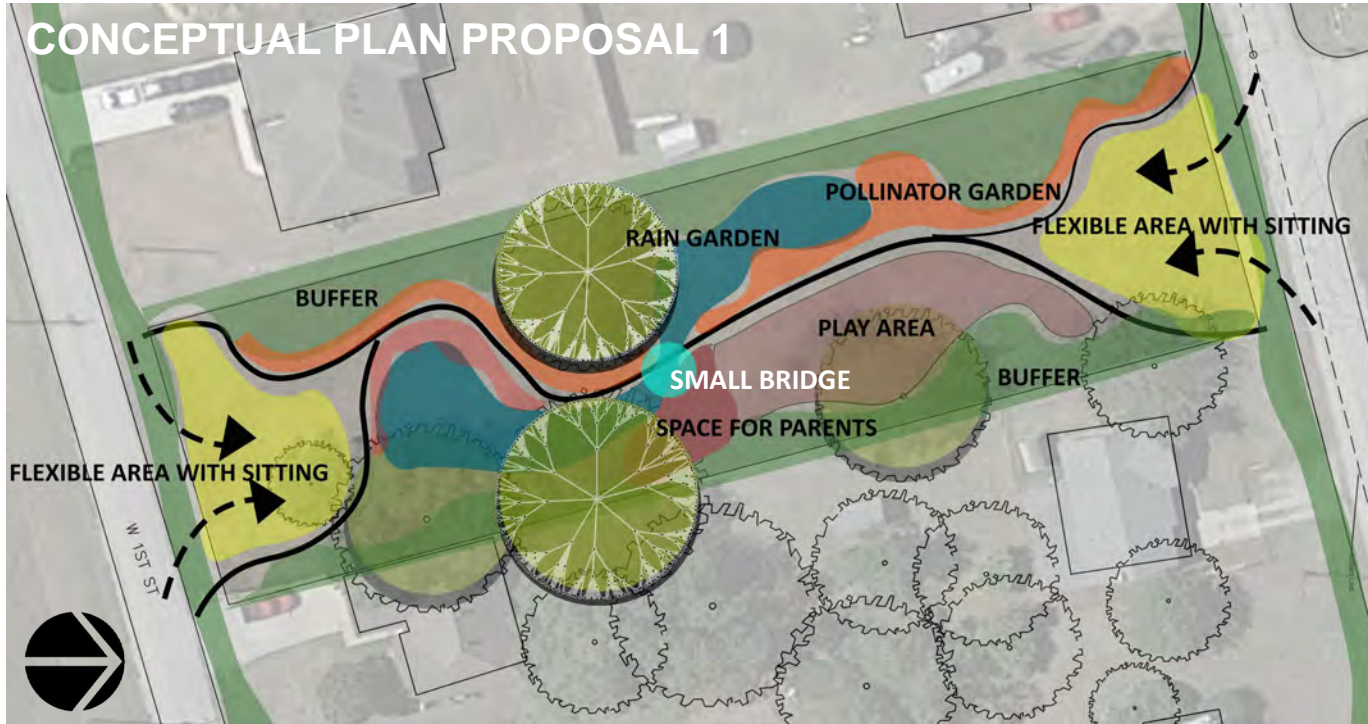
The area does not have any activity as there is no attraction like flowering plants, lighting or sculptures.

AFTER



The area will be enhanced with lighting for nighttime celebrations.

PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL DESIGN: ELM STREET POCKET PARK



Stormwater control device e.g. raingarden



Playground for teens



All-abilities playground



Small bridge



Shade structure



Adventure playground

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES: ELLIS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



TAMU Service Project – Outdoor Classroom for South Knoll Elementary School



Interactive Creek Features



Earth Camp Austin, TX



Native Planting & Seating Areas

- Interactive learning/education
 - Stepping stones
 - Natural stone to define the creek
 - Native prairie planting
- Pavilion/outdoor classroom
- Tree houses
- Boardwalk
- Defined walking paths/trails
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Birding stations
- Meditation Area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES: OLD MILL & MORRIS POCKET PARK



- Areas for large gatherings
 - Outdoor performances
 - Outdoor movie screening
- Placemaking
 - Playful art
 - Urban furniture
- Splashpad
- Pollinator garden
- Enclosed sitting space
- Plantation
- Lighting

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES: PRAIRIE POINT COMMUNITY PARK



Covered basketball courts



Elmer Oliver Park Mansfield TX Overlook



Joppa Preserve Dallas TX Hike & Bike Trail



Sand volleyball courts



Elmer Oliver Park Mansfield TX Prairie Board Walk



UTA-City of Arlington Community Gardens



Tennis courts

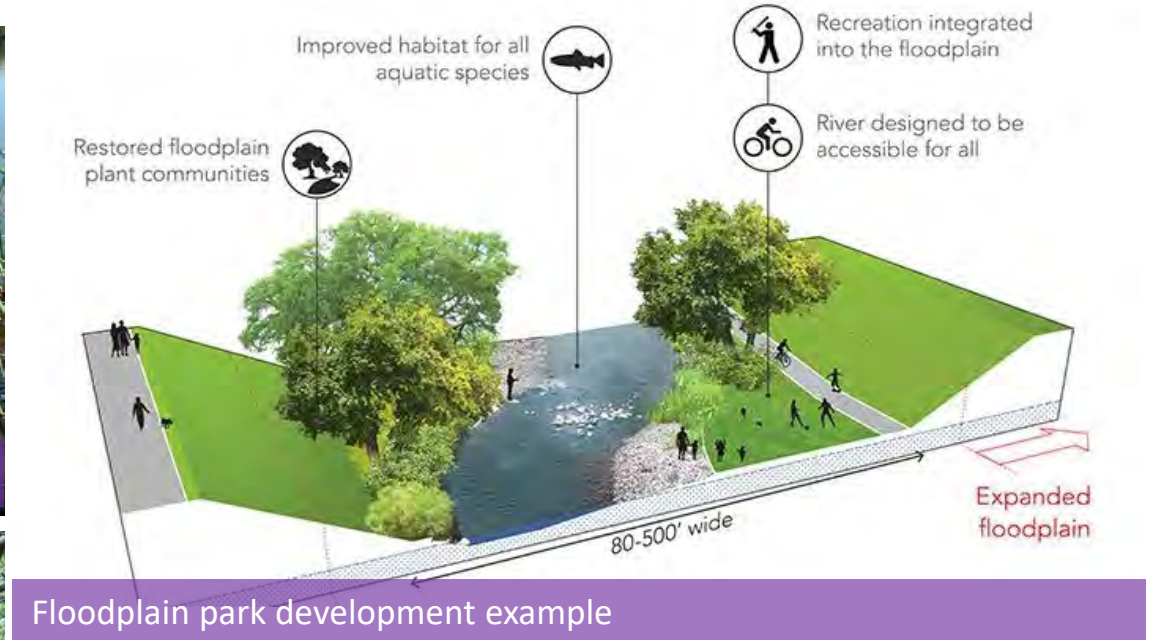


Pease Park Austin TX Splashpads



Zilker Park Austin TX Outdoor Amphitheater

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES: BY WELL ESTATES COMMUNITY PARK



DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES: BY WELL ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



Outdoor games



Shaded picnic tables



Park amenities for older adults



Outdoor games

- Playground
- Playful art
- Urban furniture
- Areas for medium-neighborhood sized gatherings
 - Picnics
 - Outdoor performances
 - Community events
- Outdoor game tables
- Park amenities for older adults
- Walking and jogging trails
- More native landscaping

6 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Implementation Strategies **facilitate** short-term and long-term PROS plan **goals** by:

- Prioritizing high facility needs
- Implementation Matrix
 - Actions
 - Involved Partners/Entities
 - Timeline Estimates
- Project Cost Estimates
- **Funding Strategies**
 - Internal funding strategies
 - Grants
 - Gov. Low interest Loan Programs
 - Private-Public Partnerships (PPP)
- Recommended Plant List



FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Final Recommendations are **proactive strategies** such as:

- Policy Recommendations
 - Code Amendments
 - Park Land Dedication
 - Riparian & Grow Zones
- Additional Resources
 - Local & Regional Partners
 - Example Forms & Templates
 - Precedent Examples
 - Literature Review Resources
- Environmental Considerations
 - Complete Plant List



7 PARKS FOCUS GROUPS

NEXT STEPS FOR PARKS FOCUS GROUPS

- Why Focus Groups?
- Focus Group Strategy
 - Determining neighborhoods-community areas in Rhone for the focus group sessions
 - Identification of members for each focus group (recruitment & outreach)
 - Focus group content
 - Scheduling
- Mentimeter
- Roles & responsibilities

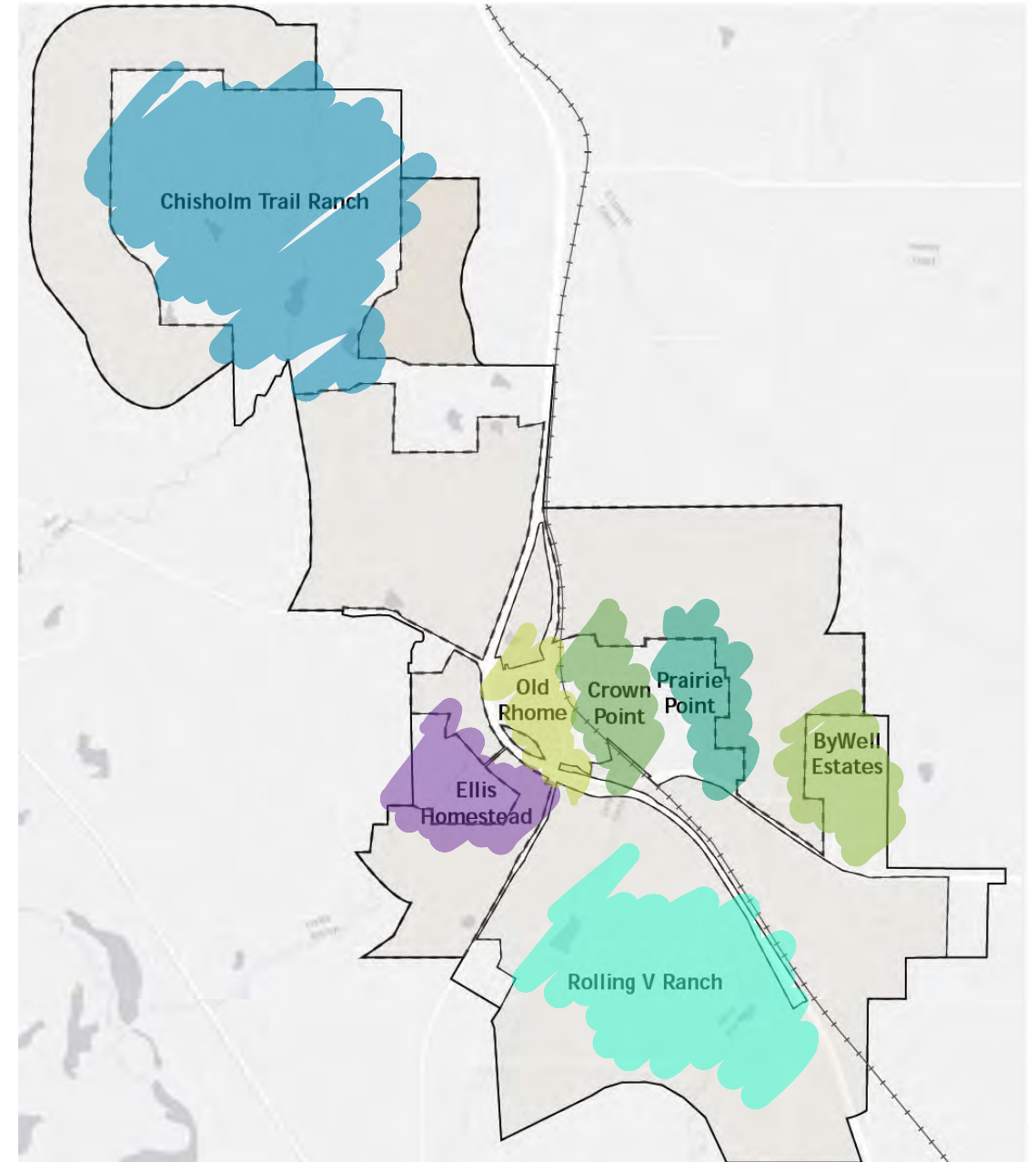
WHY FOCUS GROUPS?

- The purpose of hosting remote focus groups is to:
 - Better understand the recreational needs within each neighborhood-community in Rhone
 - Receive feedback on the to-date PROS proposals and parks planning
- Focus groups are a research method used to gather opinions and feedback from an audience about a subject such as a parks, recreation, and open space



FOCUS GROUP STRATEGY

- (3) focus groups will be conducted, approx. duration 1 hour
- The proposed focus groups are:
 1. Crown Point & Old Town Rhome
 2. Ellis & Chisolm Trail Ranch Neighborhoods
 3. By Well Estates & Prairie Point Neighborhood
- The individuals participating in the focus group sessions will be selected by the Rhome Parks Committee (**max. of 12 participants**)
- Discussions are pre-planned by IUS and the Rhome Parks Committee and then guided by an IUS facilitator
- Should take place in **late July or early August**



MENTIMETER

- Mentimeter is an interactive presentation tool that allows an audience to give feedback during or after a presentation
- Works with any remote-online platform: Zoom, GoTo Meeting, MS Teams, PCs and cell phones
- The live feedback happens during the presentation
- Participants can only vote once per device unless the facilitator permits multiple votes
- All user responses are anonymous
- **Focus Group Example:**
 - Link: <https://www.menti.com/84cwizvom5>
 - Menti.com code **61 08 09**



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Rhome

- Verifying focus group neighborhood-community pairings
- Identifying focus group participants (outreach & recruitment)
- Providing additional recommendations e.g. specific questions pertaining to parks & recreation

IUS

- Developing the focus group content
- Conducting the focus groups using Mentimeter
- Establishing ground-rules for the focus groups and directions for remote collaboration

THANK YOU!