

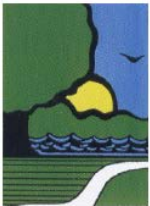
OSLAD Grant Program

Hoffman Estates Park District

\$225,000 Grant Application

Birch Park

1045 Ash Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169



**Illinois Department of
Natural Resources**



**OSLAD Grant Program
Narrative Statement**

Attachment A-1

Applicant (Sponsor) Legal Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Instructions:

Describe, at a minimum, the overall concept of the project, project funding, agencies involved, approach to implementation, project location, trail mileage to be provided through the project, need for the project, anticipated benefits and the proposed schedule of operation (daily and/or seasonal hours of operation) for the project facility. Be thorough and explicit, this narrative should completely describe the project and expected outcome.

BIRCH PARK IMPROVEMENTS "2020"

HOFFMAN ESTATES PARK DISTRICT
 1655 WEST HIGGINS ROAD
 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169
 847-886-7500



- 8 ft wide Asphalt pathway
- Deciduous Plantings
- Soccer Field
165 X 250
- 1/2 Court Basketball
- 8 ft wide Asphalt pathway
- Parking Lot
15 spaces
- Bio Swale
& natural plantings

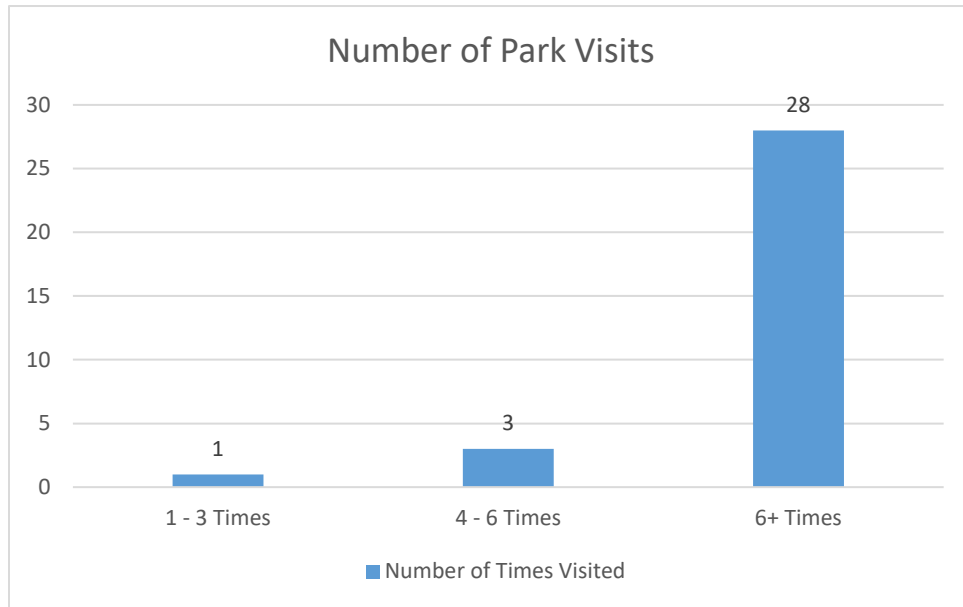
- 8 ft wide Asphalt pathway
- Playground Equipment
5-12 yrs.
- Playground Equipment
2-5 yrs.
- Concrete Ramp
- 8 ft wide Asphalt pathway
- Open Air Shelter
- Concrete surface
- Deciduous Plantings
- Natural plantings
- Porta potty in enclosure



Community Survey Results

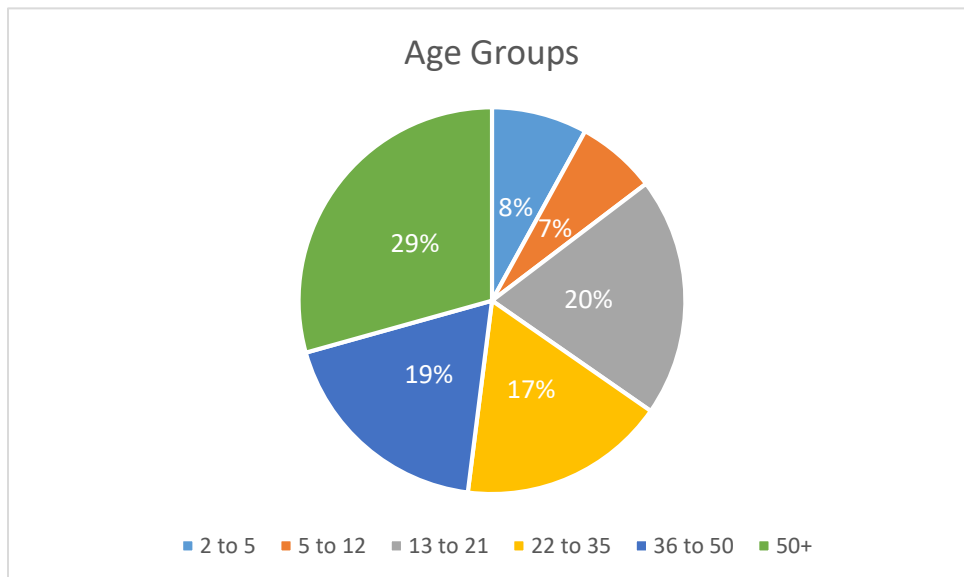
Birch Park

1. Number of Visits to Park



*Observation: 87.5% of residents visit the park **more than 6 times** throughout the operating seasons.

2. Age Groups



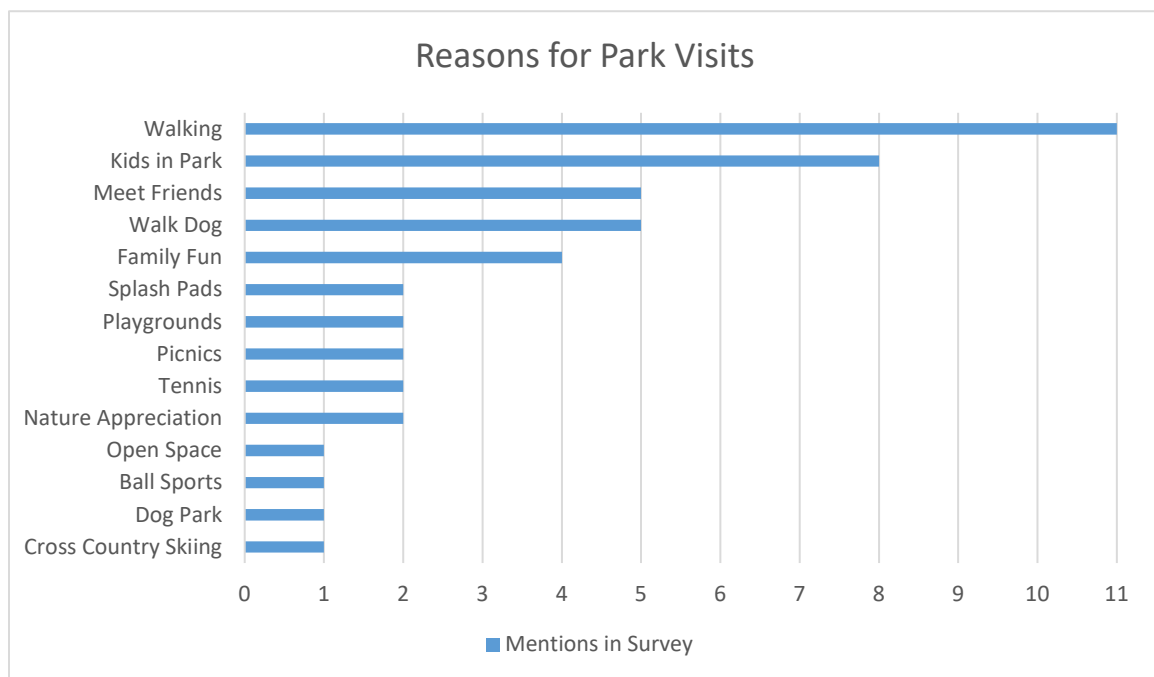
*Observation: 85% of residents are **over the age of 12**.

3. Playground Design

Design concepts are ranked from **most voted** to **least voted**.

- I. Climbing
- II. Swinging
- III. Sliding
- IV. Brachiating
- V. Balancing
- VI. Spinning

4. Main Reasons for Park Visits



5. Conceptual Ideas

Conceptual Designs are ranked from **most wanted** to **least wanted**.

- I. 8 foot wide walking / biking (wheels) path
- II. Passive Areas (Open grass space for picnics, open play and etc.)
- III. Picnic Shelter
- IV. New Playground
- V. Sports Area - 1/2 Basketball court, bags, bocce
- VI. Parking Lot
- VII. Dog Park
- VIII. Soccer / Athletic Field

Hoffman Estates Park District Community Interest and Opinion Survey Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute administered an interest and opinion assessment during the Fall of 2018 for the Hoffman Estates Park District (HE Parks) to assess its parks, recreation, trails, programs, cultural arts, events, and open space. After conducting this comprehensive study, HE Parks will create a Comprehensive Master Plan to establish priorities for the future improvement of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households within the boundaries of HE Parks. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at www.HoffmanEstatesSurvey.org.

Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails and placed phone calls to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete. To prevent people who were not residents of HE Parks from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 800 residents. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 905 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 905 households have a precision of at least +/-3.23% at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs (Section 2)
- Benchmarking analysis comparing the Park District's results to national results (Section 3)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 4)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 5)

The major findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

Overall Use and Ratings of HE Parks' Parks

Parks Use. Over three-quarters of survey respondents (78%) indicated their household has visited HE Parks' parks during the past 12 months. Twenty-six percent (26%) visited the parks between 1 to 5 times, 18% visited between 6 to 10 times, 13% visited between 11 to 15 times, and 43% visited 16 or more times.

Parks Ratings. Of the percentage of households that have used the parks (78%); thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents indicated they were in "excellent" physical condition, 59% indicated they were in "good" physical condition, 8% rated the physical condition as "fair," and 1% gave the parks physical condition a "poor" rating.

Overall Participation and Ratings of Programs

Program Participation. Over half of respondents (52%) indicated they or members of their household had used HE Parks' programs, activities, or facilities during the past 12 months. Of these respondent households, thirty-seven percent (37%) indicated they had participated in 1 program/activity, 40% participated in 2 or 3 programs/activities, 15% participated in 4 to 6 programs/activities, 4% participated in 7 to 10 programs/activities, and 5% participated in 11 or more programs/activities. The following reasons were the highest rated explanations why respondent households have chosen to participate in HE Parks' programs and activities: location of the program facility (76%), times program is offered (39%), and fees charged for class (37%).

Program Ratings. Of the respondents who participated in programs, activities, or facilities in the past year (52%), twenty-eight percent (28%) rated them as "excellent," 61% rated them as "good," 9% rated them as "fair," and 2% rated them as "poor."

Methods to Learn About Programs or Activities

The highest rated methods of communication that respondent households use to learn about programs or activities during the past 12 months were: HE Parks brochure (78%), HE Parks website (37%), direct mailings (32%), and HE Parks email (29%).

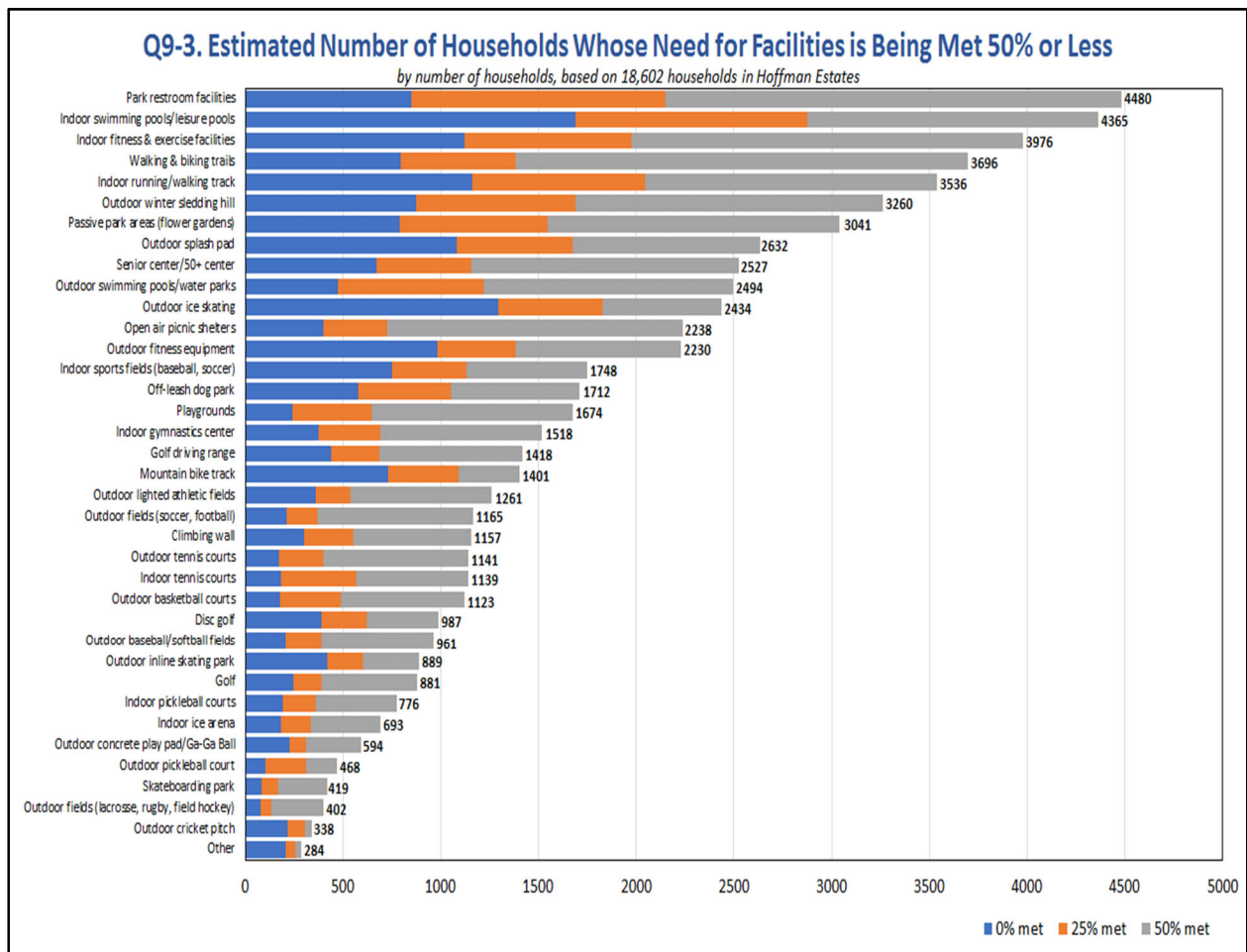
Reasons that Prevent Usage of Parks and Facilities

From a list of 18 various reasons that would prevent respondent households from using the parks and facilities more often, the top four reasons were: too busy (30%), use other park districts (22%), fees are too high (21%), and not interested (21%). An overwhelming number of respondents (92%) indicated they have learned about HE Parks' programs and activities from the social media platform Facebook.

Facility Needs and Priorities

Facility Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 36 recreation facilities and amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities.

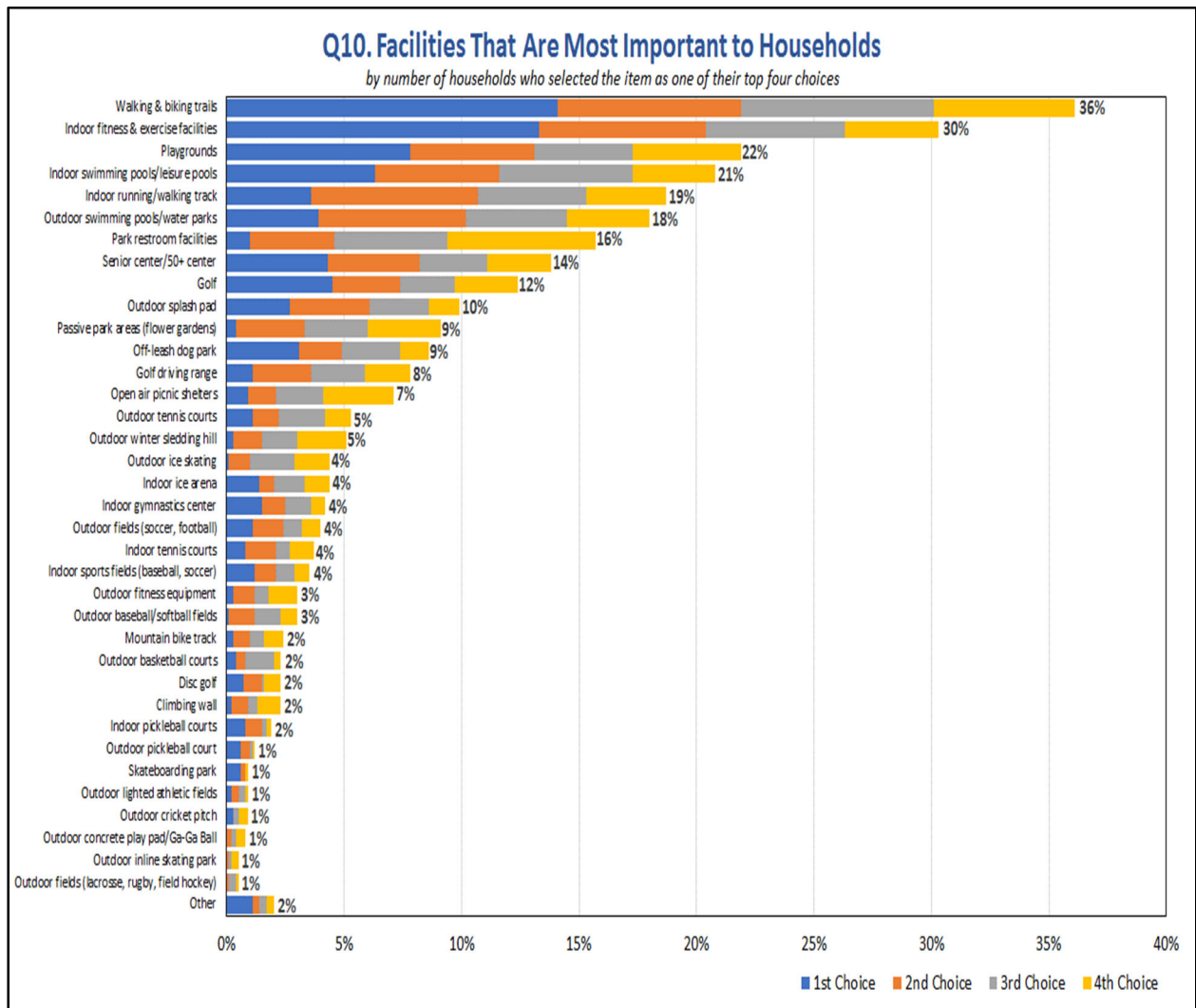
The top four recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: walking and biking trails (62%), indoor fitness and exercise facilities (60%), park restroom facilities (56%), and indoor swimming pools/leisure pools (49%). ETC Institute estimates a total of 11,515 households out of the estimated 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have a need for walking and biking trails, an estimated 11,105 households out of the estimated 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have a need for indoor fitness and exercise facilities, and an estimated 10,492 households out of the estimated 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have a need for park restroom facilities. ETC Institute estimates a total of 4,480 households out of the 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have unmet needs for park restroom facilities, an estimated 4,365 households out of the 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have unmet needs for indoor swimming pools/leisure pools, and an estimated 3,976 households out of the 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have unmet needs for indoor fitness and exercise facilities. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 36 facilities that were assessed is shown in the table below.



Facility Importance: In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the four most important facilities to residents were:

1. Walking and biking trails (36%),
2. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (30%),
3. Playgrounds (22%), and
4. Indoor swimming pools/leisure pools (21%).

The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

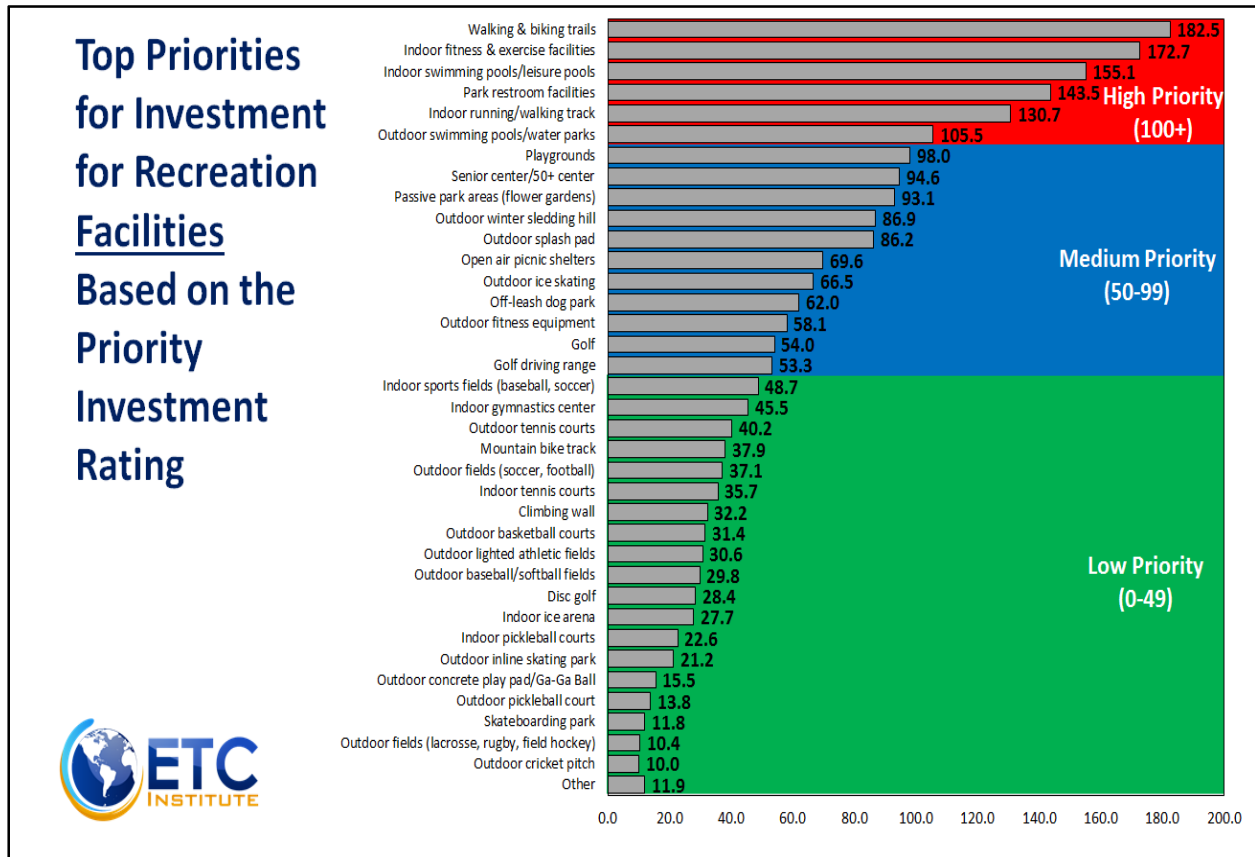


Priorities for Facility Investments. The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 2 of this report.]

Based on the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)**, the following six facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Walking and biking trails (PIR=182.5)
- Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (PIR=172.7)
- Indoor swimming pools/leisure pools (PIR=155.1)
- Park restroom facilities (PIR=143.5)
- Indoor running/walking track (PIR=130.7)
- Outdoor swimming pools/water parks (PIR=105.5)

The following chart shows the **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** for each of the 36 facilities that were assessed on the survey.



Programming Needs and Priorities

Programming Needs. Respondents were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 31 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each program.

The four programs with the highest percentage of households that had needs were: adult fitness and wellness programs (48%), outdoor fitness (42%), community special events (35%), and swim programs (28%). ETC Institute estimates a total of 8,966 households out of the estimated 18,602 households in Hoffman Estates have a need for adult fitness and wellness programs, an estimated

COMMITTEES:

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**ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
44th DISTRICT**

Fred Crespo

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Grant Management and Assistance
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1272

Re: OSLAD Grant for Hoffman Estates Park District's project at Birch Park

Dear OSLAD Grant Committee:

As a *State Representative* in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago, I am writing this letter to voice my strong support of the Hoffman Estates Park District's OSLAD project on the east side of Hoffman Estates. Birch Park is adjacent to an elementary school which was demolished in 1980. The park district recently purchased the 6.9 acres from the school district and would like to beautify the area for the neighborhood. Some of the amenities included in this project are an 8 ft. wide walking/biking path, passive areas, a picnic shelter, and a new playground and sports area.

The residents on the east side of Hoffman Estates are extremely excited about this project. This area is in dire need of a park like this.

Please consider awarding an OSLAD Grant to the Hoffman Estates Park District for their Birch Park project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Crespo".

State Rep. Fred Crespo
Assistant Majority Leader
44th District

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



MICHELLE MUSSMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 56TH DISTRICT

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Grant Management and Assistance
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1272

Re: OSLAD Grant for Hoffman Estates Park District's project at Birch Park

Dear OSLAD Grant Committee:

As a State Representative in northern Illinois, I am writing you to voice my support for the Hoffman Estates Park District's OSLAD project on the east side of Hoffman Estates. Birch Park is adjacent to an elementary school which was demolished in 1980. The park district recently purchased the 6.9 acres from the school district and would like to beautify the area for the neighborhood. Some of the amenities included in this project are an 8 ft. wide walking/biking path, passive areas, a picnic shelter, a new playground and sports area.

The residents on the east side of Hoffman Estates are extremely excited about this project. This area is in dire need of a park such as this.

Please consider awarding an OSLAD grant to the Hoffman Estates Park District for their Birch Park project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Mussman".

Michelle Mussman
State Representative
56th District

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

115 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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August 5, 2019

OSLAD Grant Administrators
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to express my support for Hoffman Estates Park District's application for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant to redevelop Birch Park. The proposed project would be a tremendous asset to Hoffman Estates residents and would revitalize the recreational opportunities available to constituents in the 8th Congressional District of Illinois.

Birch Park has been dormant for several years since an elementary school was demolished, leaving the land vacant. Thus, repairing the park would be a valuable service. Utilizing the deserted, wide-open space to beautify the land would encourage residents to take advantage of the park. The total cost of this expansion would be \$450,000, and the park district is seeking \$225,000 in OSLAD funding for planning, bidding, and minor ground work.

Specifically, the proposed improvements to Birch Park include bike paths, picnic shelters, gardens, and a new playground. The park refurbishment proposal was raised at a recent town hall and was widely supported by the residents of Hoffman Estates. The neighborhood would benefit from the redevelopment, since a park of comparable size does not currently exist.

I would like to reiterate my full support for the requested grant. I concur that this development will assist in meeting many of the needs of the citizens and will serve to enrich their lives as well. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of Hoffman Estates Park District's application. I would sincerely appreciate your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress