

# Craven County



## Recreation and Parks Department

### 2022 Master Plan Update



## CRAVEN COUNTY



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### RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

#### **Executive Summary**

The 2022 Master Plan is an update from the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan for Craven County Recreation & Parks Department that was approved in 2015 by the Craven County Board of Commissioners. Part of the Master Plan process and included in this update, was a Recreational Needs Assessment. This update will also include public recreation and park facilities, programs, accessibility, and outside group usage.

A countywide needs assessment was conducted for 6 weeks from January 14 to February 28, 2022. This assessment was conducted with hard copies located in every district in Craven County. We were able to utilize town halls, libraires, health department locations, our office, and youth sports organizations to provide access to all districts. We advertised on Facebook, our website, with the recreation advisory committee and promoted the Needs Assessment within all youth sports organizations in our county. Citizens were able to complete the Needs Assessment on our website and QR codes were on each hard copy. In the 6 weeks, all areas of Craven County were represented. The results of the assessment will be in this Master Plan update.

Public Park facilities are a large part of the quality of life for citizens in any county. Included in this plan update are the park facilities we manage, and you will see the additions since 2015 marked by year. In addition to the support of the Craven County Commissioners, our department has been successful in seeking grants and donations in the amount of 1.5 million dollars since the 2015 Master Plan.

Programs are an essential part of a successful recreation department. Our department offers several programs including leagues, instructional classes, camps, and special events, in addition to managing both Special Olympics and Senior Games programs. We also work with numerous youth sports organizations, nonprofit groups, public and private schools, and travel sport groups to meet the recreational needs of our citizens. In this update you will find a list of our partners that we work with each year.

Everybody should have the opportunity to participate in public recreation. In this packet of information, you will find the list of accessibility updates since 2015. This has been a focus of our department and the updates are listed in this Master Plan update. We will continue to strive to make Craven County Parks accessible to all Craven County citizens.

Craven County is a growing community and with that the recreational needs of our citizens are growing as well. Our department will use the information gathered in the Recreation Needs Assessment to guide our capital requests and program offerings in the years to come.



# Craven County Recreation and Parks 2022 Needs Assessment

Happy New Year, Craven County! The Recreation and Parks Department is excited for all of the wonderful things a new year brings, and we look forward to growing with you. As part of our growth in 2022, we would like to hear from the community about what programs and facilities you would like to see in our community in the future. This Needs Assessment will help guide our department's decisions over the next several years, as we look to build new parks and offer more programs for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your help in gathering this information!

Once completed, please return this form to the location where it was picked up, any **Craven-Pamlico Regional Library**, or:

Scan Here for a digital version of this Survey!



**Craven County Recreation Office**  
1821 Old Airport Rd  
New Bern, NC 28562

**Cove City Town Hall**  
204 S Main Street  
Cove City, NC 28523

**Vanceboro Town Hall**  
7905 Main Street  
Vanceboro, NC 28586

**Bridgeton Town Hall**  
202 B Street  
Bridgeton, NC 28519

**Dover Town Hall**  
105 N Main Street  
Dover, NC 28526

**River Bend Town Hall**  
45 Shoreline Dr  
New Bern, NC 28562

**Trent Woods Town Hall**  
898 Chelsea Rd  
Trent Woods, NC 28562

**Godette Head Start**  
125 Godette School Rd  
Havelock, NC 28532

If you have any questions, please contact us at [recreation@cravencountync.gov](mailto:recreation@cravencountync.gov), or call our office at 252-636-6606

## Section 1: Recreation Program Needs

1. How many Craven County Recreation and Parks programs did your household participate in during the past year?

- 0
- 1 - 3
- 4 - 6
- 7 or more

2. How effective are each of the following methods for communicating information about Craven County Recreation's programs to your household?

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Neither Effective nor Ineffective	Somewhat Ineffective	Very Ineffective
Facebook Post	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Word of Mouth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Craven County Recreation and Parks Website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flyers/Signs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newspaper Advertisement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radio Advertisement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How well are your household's needs for Instructional Recreation Opportunities currently being met?

	Fully met, no need for more	Mostly met, more would be beneficial	Somewhat met, but would like more options	Poorly met, current options are not enough	Not at all met, current options are insufficient or nonexistent
Youth Tennis Lessons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Golf Lessons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Tennis Lessons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Golf Lessons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beginner Kayak Lessons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Are there Instructional Recreation Opportunities your household would be interested in that are not listed?

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5. How well are your household's needs for athletic leagues currently being met?

	Fully met, no need for more	Mostly met, more would be beneficial	Somewhat met, but would like more options	Poorly met, current options are not enough	Not at all met, current options are insufficient or nonexistent
Youth Basketball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Flag Football	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Indoor Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Sand Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Basketball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Flag Football	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Kickball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Sand Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Soccer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Ultimate Frisbee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Are there Athletic Leagues your household would be interested in that are not listed?

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## Section 2: Parks & Recreation Facilities Needs

7. How well are your household's needs for Athletic Fields currently being met?

	Fully met, no need for more	Mostly met, more would be beneficial	Somewhat met, but would like more options	Poorly met, current options are not enough	Not at all met, current options are insufficient or nonexistent
Youth Baseball Fields	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Softball Fields	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Baseball Fields	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Softball Fields	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Sport Fields (Football/Soccer/Lacrosse)	0	0	0	0	0

8. How well are your household's needs for Outdoor Fitness Facilities currently being met?

	Fully met, no need for more	Mostly met, more would be beneficial	Somewhat met, but would like more options	Poorly met, current options are not enough	Not at all met, current options are insufficient or nonexistent
Outdoor Pickleball Courts	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Basketball Courts	0	0	0	0	0
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Running Track	0	0	0	0	0
Paved Walking/Biking Trails	0	0	0	0	0
Unpaved Walking/Biking Trails	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Fitness Equipment Stations	0	0	0	0	0

9. How well are your household's needs for Outdoor Recreational Facilities currently being met?

	Fully met, no need for more	Mostly met, more would be beneficial	Somewhat met, but would like more options	Poorly met, current options are not enough	Not at all met, current options are insufficient or nonexistent
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash Pad/Spray Ground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-Leash Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Areas/Shelters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disc Golf Course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural Area/ Wildlife Habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kayak/Canoe/ Paddle Board Launch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Are there any recreational facilities your household would like to see provided that are not listed?

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## Section 3: Demographics

11. What is your date of birth? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 or More

14. How many children, by age, are in your household?

- 0 - 5 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 - 11 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 - 18 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_

15. How many adults, by age, are in your household?

- 18 - 24 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 - 34 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 34 - 44 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 45 - 54 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 55 - 64 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 65 - 74 Years Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 75 Years or Older \_\_\_\_\_

16. Which of these best describe your race?

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

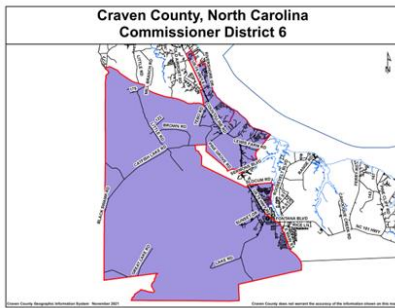
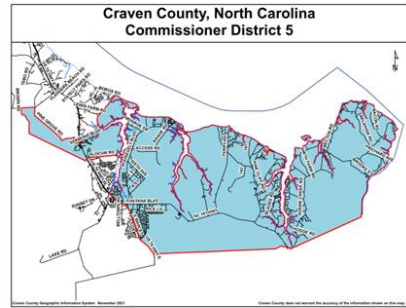
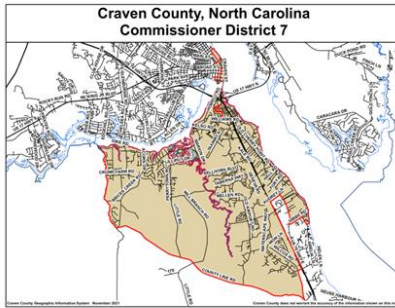
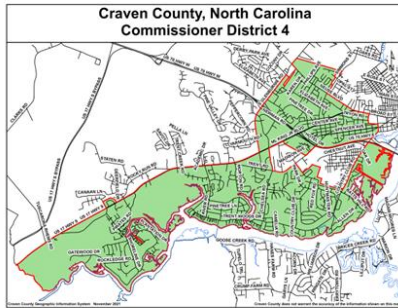
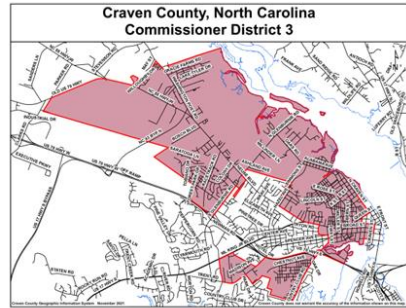
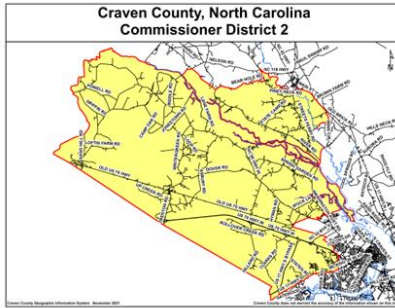
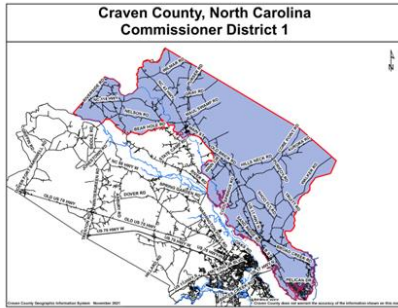
17. Which of the following best describe your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin
- Not Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin



18. What Craven County Commissioner District do you live in?

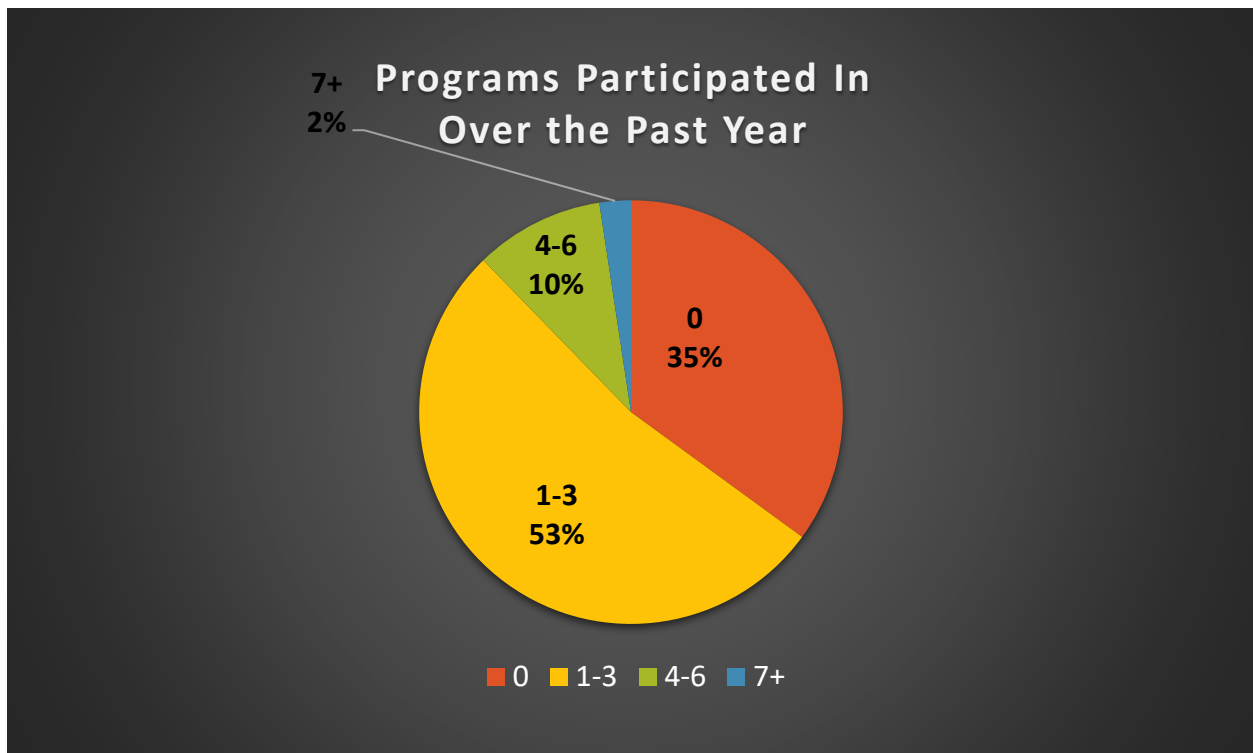
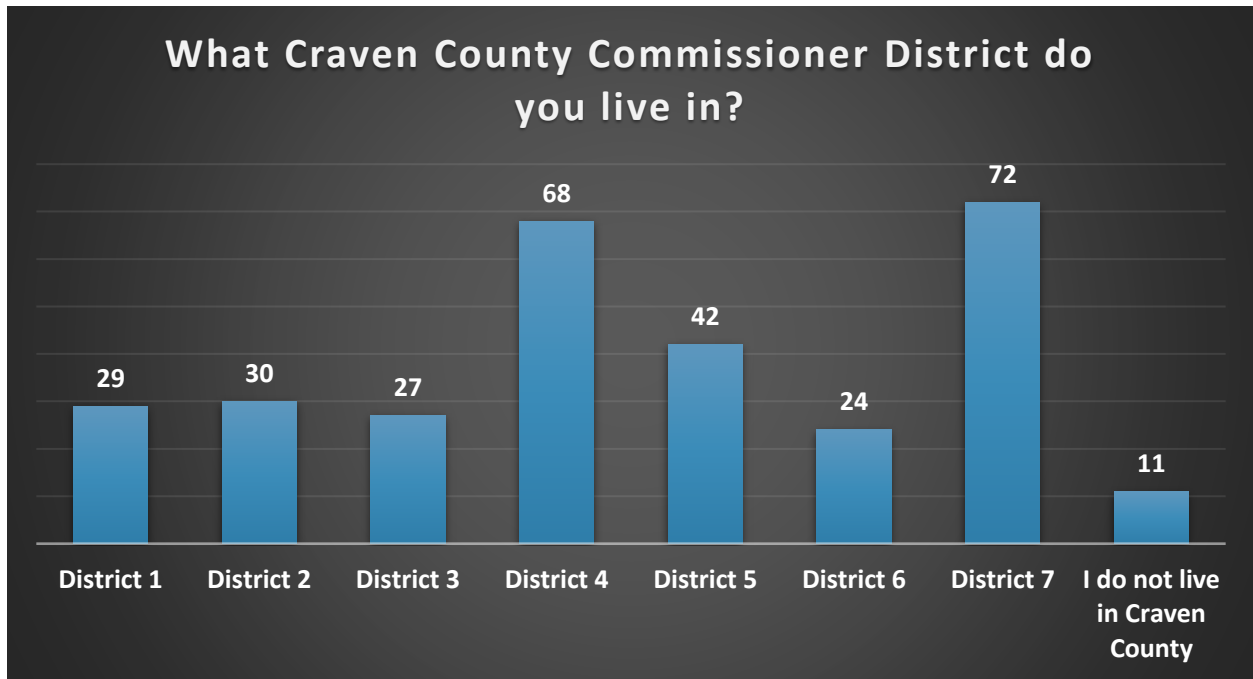
For more detailed maps, please visit: <https://www.cravencountync.gov/1565/Commissioner-District-Maps>



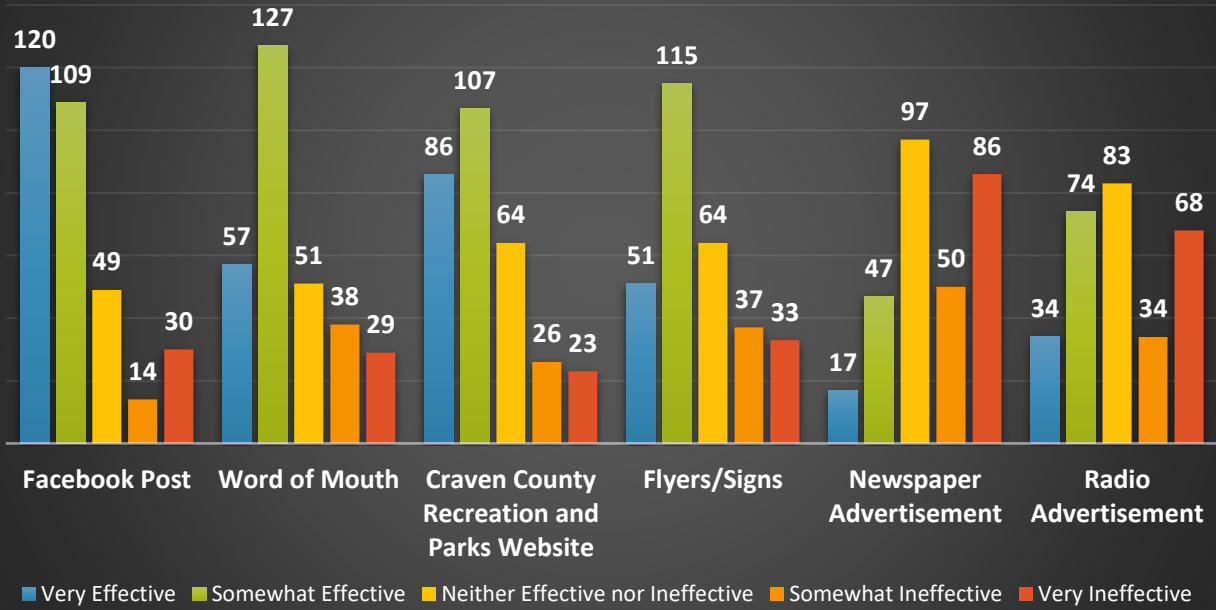
- |                                  |  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> District 1 | <input type="radio"/> District 2                     | <input type="radio"/> District 3 |
| <input type="radio"/> District 4 | <input type="radio"/> District 5                     | <input type="radio"/> District 6 |
| <input type="radio"/> District 7 | <input type="radio"/> I do not live in Craven County |                                  |

*Thank you for your help! We look forward to using this information to better serve our community!*

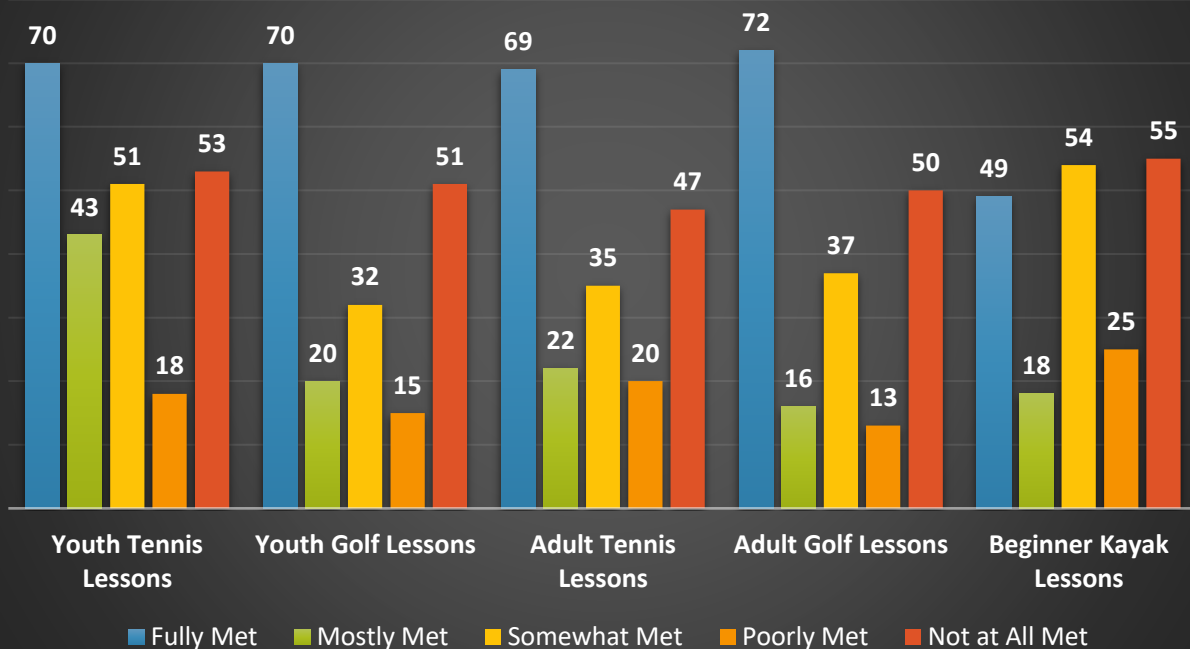
## Needs Assessment Responses



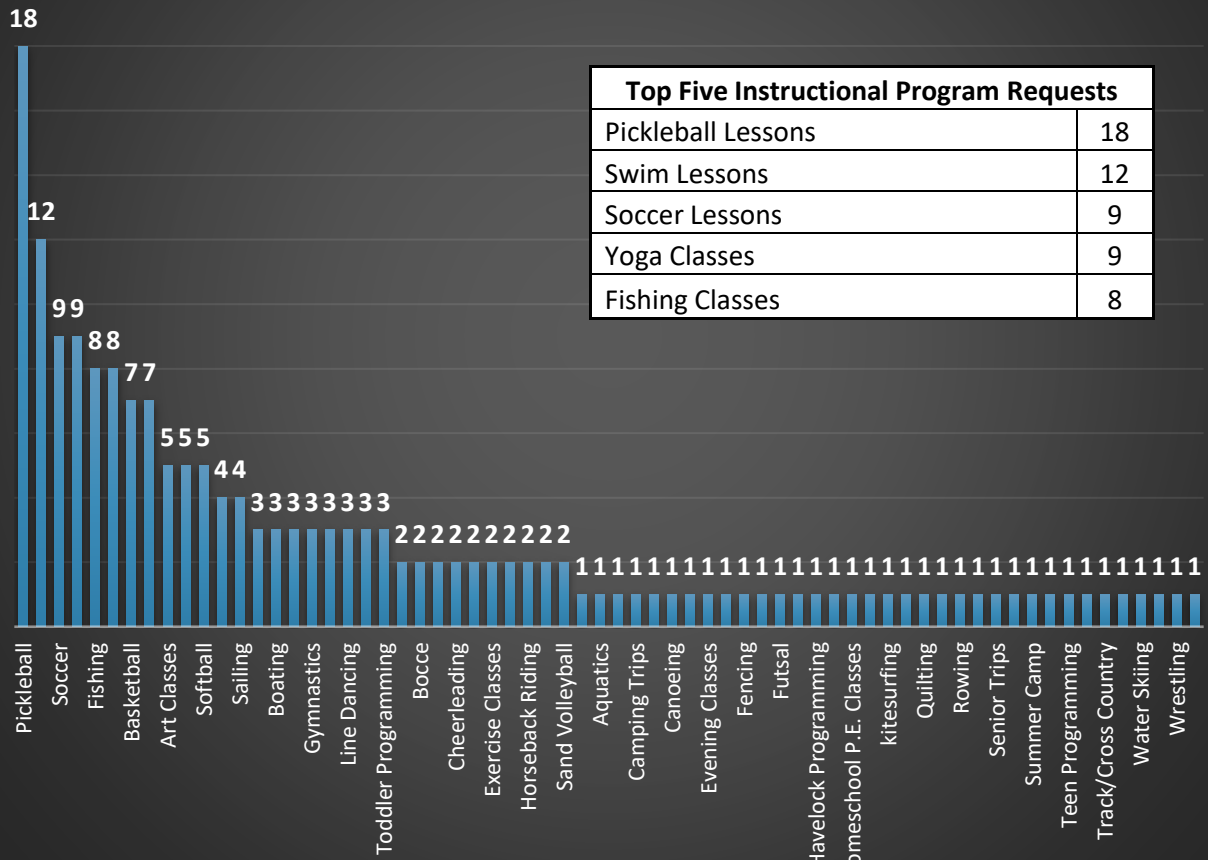
### How effective are each of the following methods for communicating information about Craven County Recreation's programs to your household?



### How well are your household's needs for Instructional Recreation Opportunities currently being met?

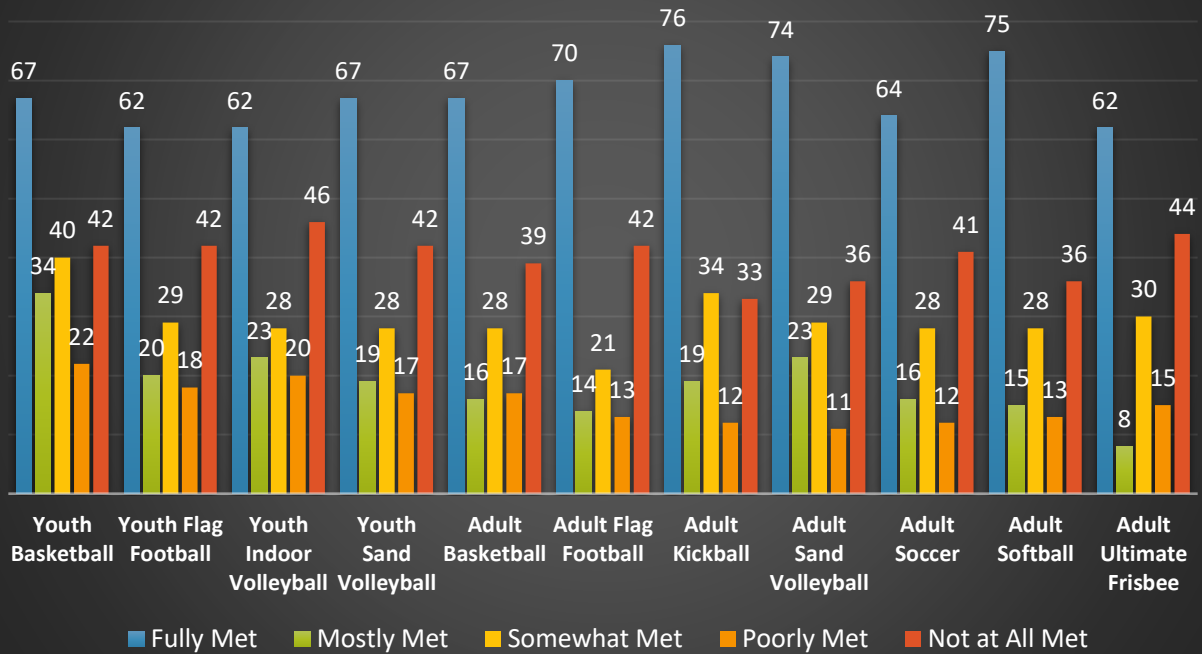


## Are there Instructional Recreation Opportunities your household would be interested in that are not listed?

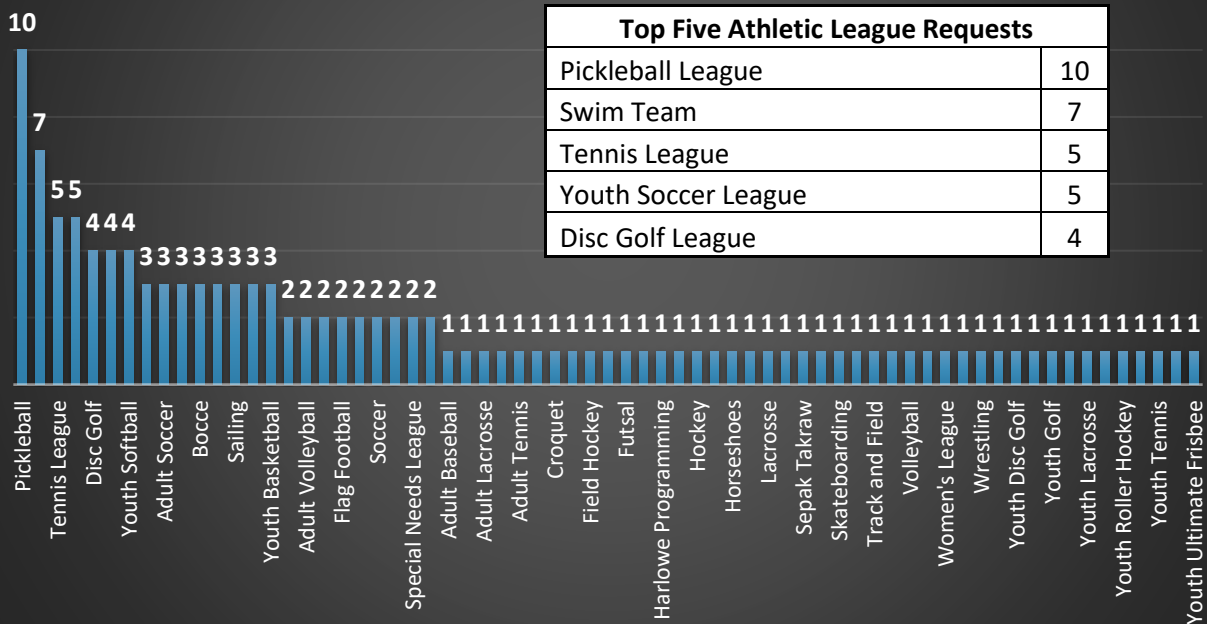


Top Five Instructional Program Requests	
Pickleball Lessons	18
Swim Lessons	12
Soccer Lessons	9
Yoga Classes	9
Fishing Classes	8

## How well are your household's needs for Athletic Leagues currently being met?

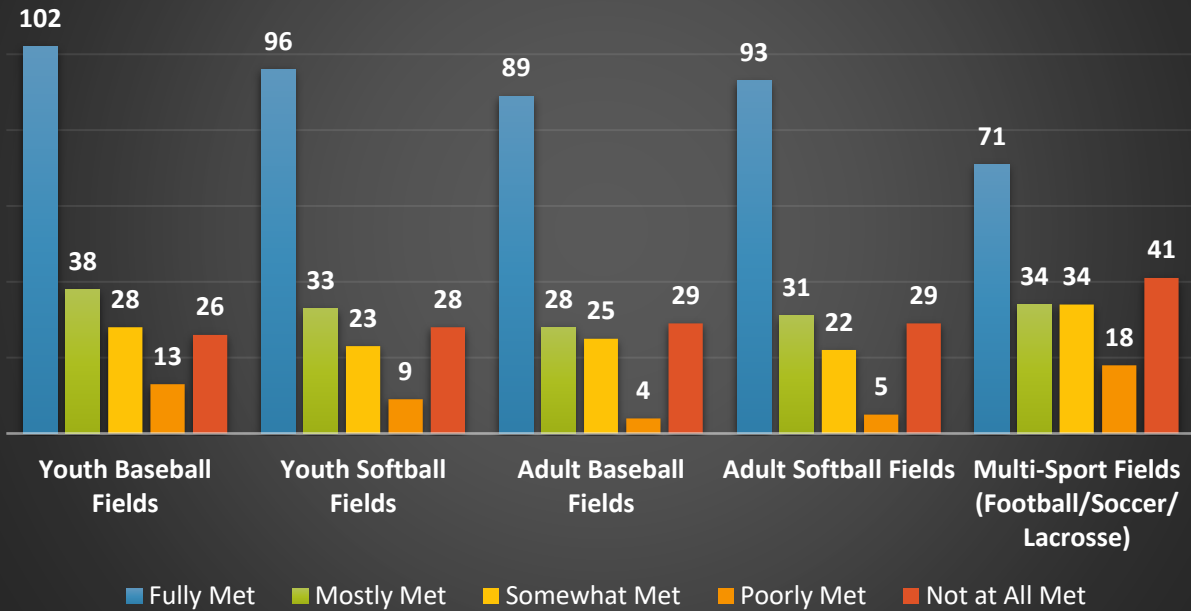


## Are there Athletic Leagues your household would be interested in that are not listed?

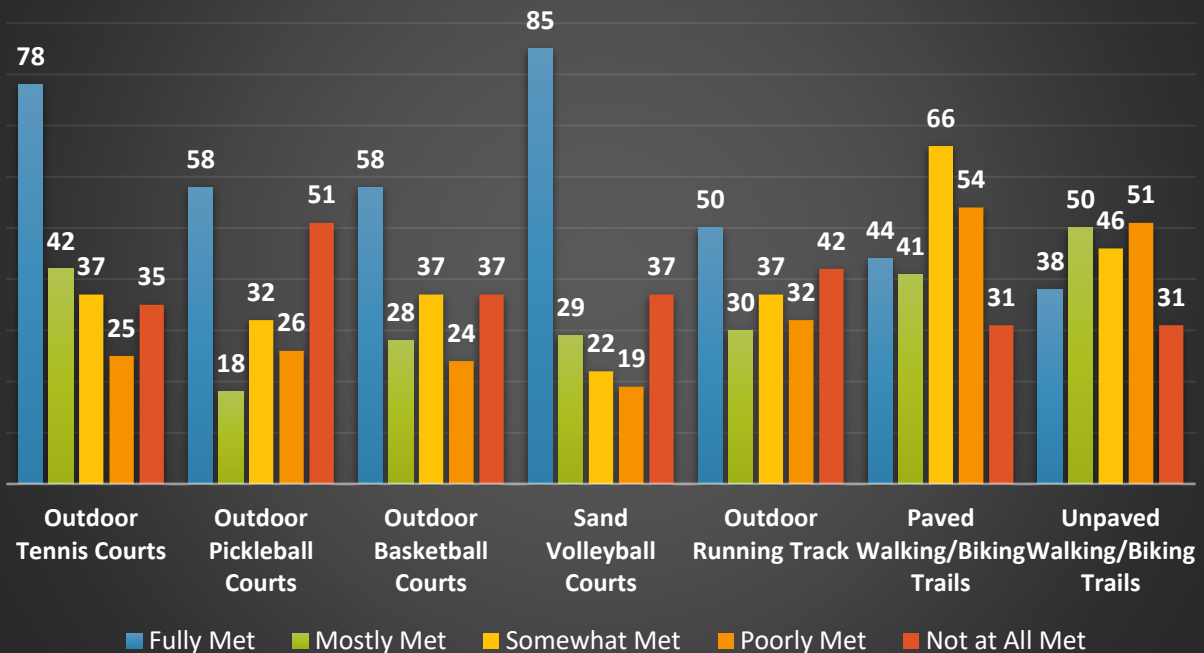


Top Five Athletic League Requests	
Pickleball League	10
Swim Team	7
Tennis League	5
Youth Soccer League	5
Disc Golf League	4

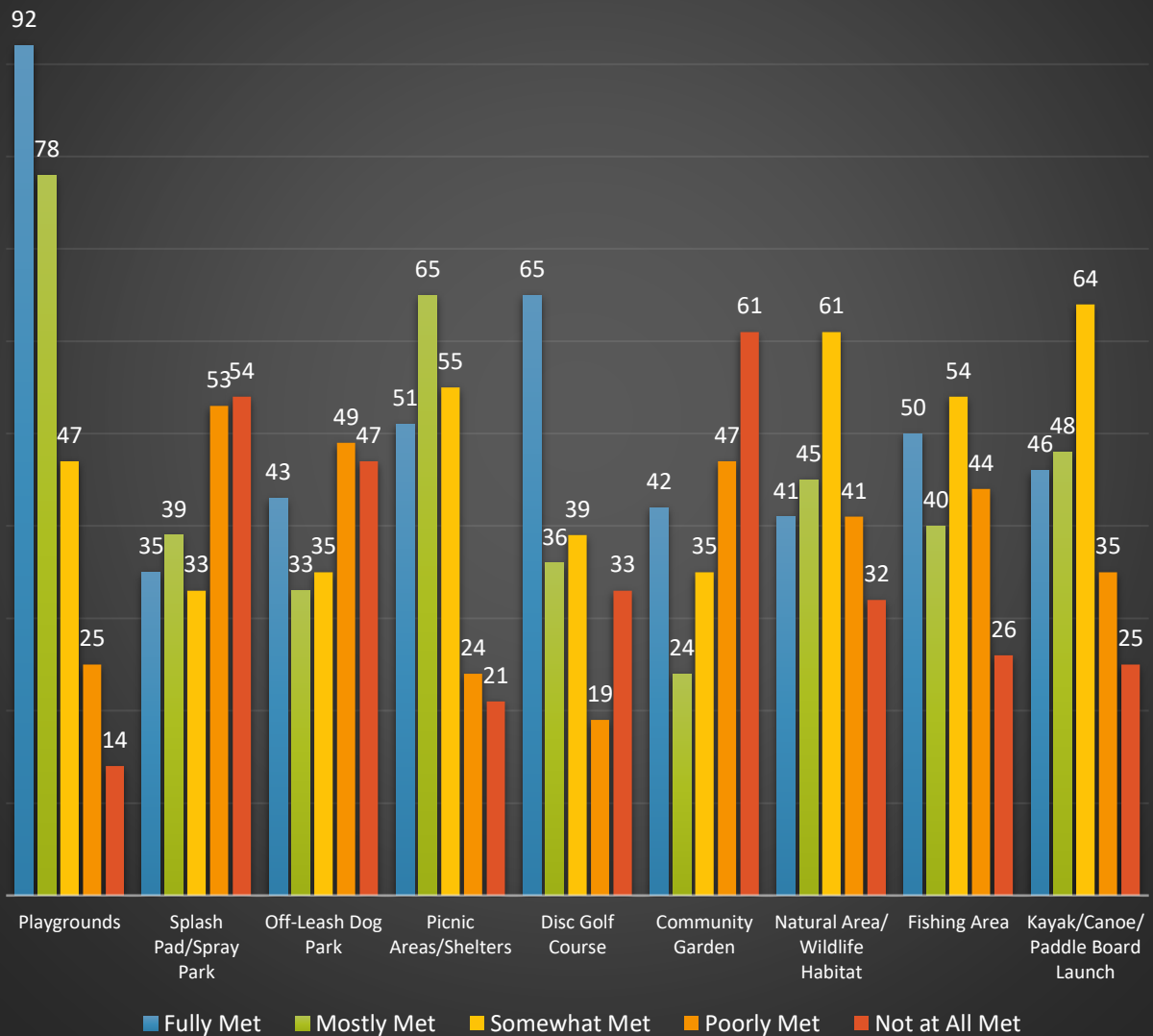
## How well are your household's needs for Athletic Fields currently being met?



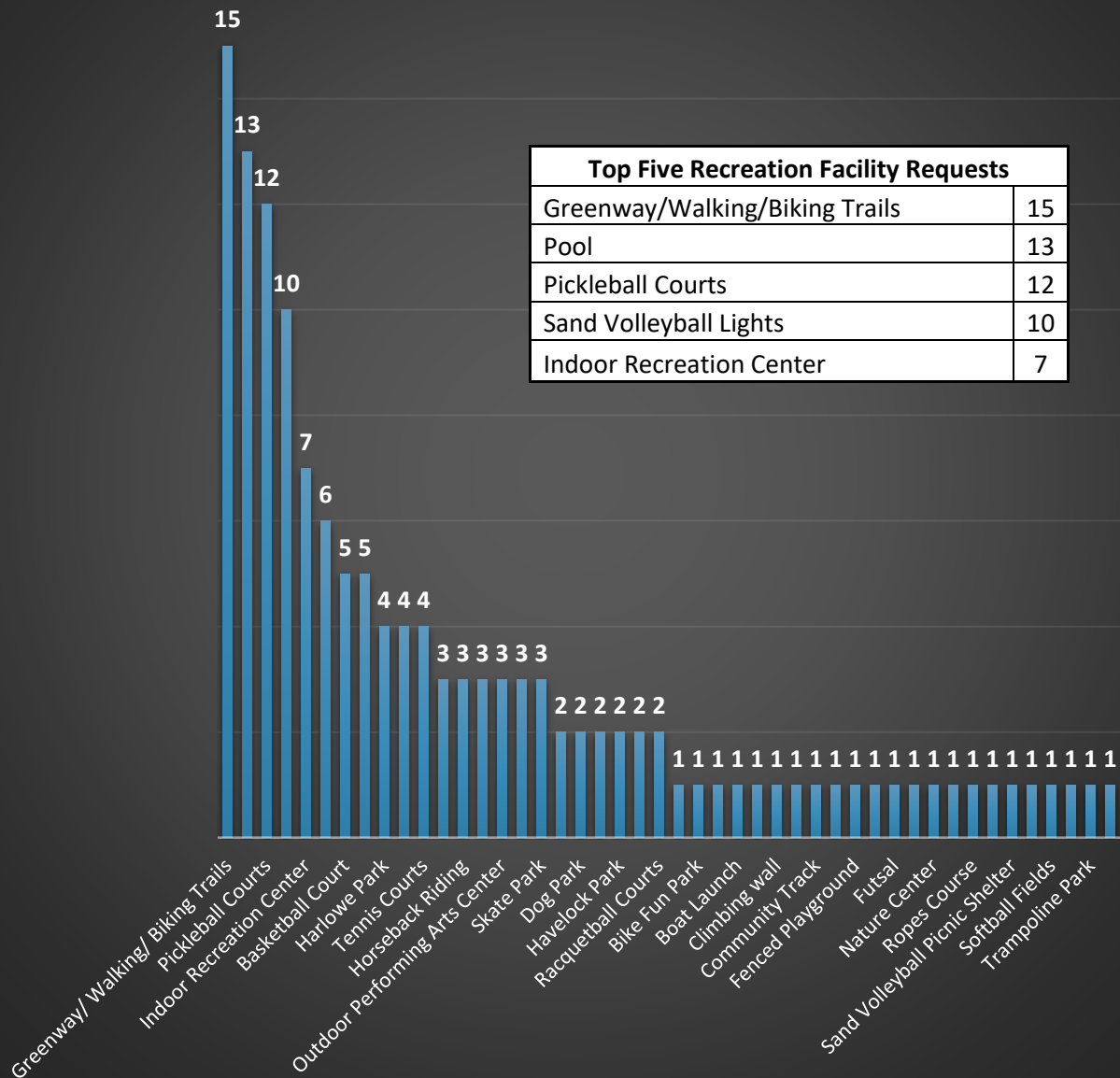
## How well are your household's needs for Outdoor Fitness Facilities currently being met?



## How well are your household's needs for Outdoor Recreational Facilities currently being met?



## Are there any Recreational Facilities not listed your household would like to see provided?





## Public Recreation and Parks Facilities

Identified below are the amenities and locations of the four parks managed by the Craven County Recreation and Parks Department. The seven classifications mentioned above were used to compare the parks with state standards. The Inventory of Amenities and Facilities Operated by the Craven County Recreation and Parks Department are listed below. All park updates since 2016 are noted in bold. The classification of parks is based upon the seven NCSCORP groupings is found below:

### 1. Neighborhood Parks:

#### Rocky Run Park

Rocky Run Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park located just off Highway 17 south on Rocky Run Drive. This park offers playground equipment, a picnic shelter, basketball court and open space. This park opened to the public in 1982. Reservations can be made for a nominal fee.

Amenities include:

- New Playground (2021)
- New Swing Set (2021)
- Renovated Basketball Court (2019)
- Picnic Pavilion with Tables

### 2. Community Parks:

None maintained by County.

### 3. District / Metro Area Parks:

#### Creekside Park

Creekside is Craven County's largest athletic park. Located on 111 acres adjacent to the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport. Opened in 1997, it is home of the Coastal United Soccer Association, New Bern Babe Ruth Girls Softball, New Bern HS Beach Volleyball, New Bern Sunday School Baseball, Special Needs Baseball, New Bern Christian Academy, Epiphany School, Craven Community College, Co-Ed Softball, along with Adult Kickball, Adult and Youth Volleyball leagues.

Amenities include:

- 4 Full-Size Soccer Fields
- 2 Youth Baseball Fields
- 2 Youth Softball Fields
- 3 Adult Softball Fields
- 1 Older Youth/Adult Baseball Field
- 3 Playgrounds (1 New Inclusive, built 2016)
- 8 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 4 Picnic Shelters
- 1 Gazebo
- Open Space
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- 2-Mile Walking Trail (Completed 2022)
- 2 Maintenance Buildings
- 3 Restroom Concession Buildings
- 3 Tennis Courts (Lighted 2020)
- 3 Batting Cages (Renovated 2021)
- Waterfront Dock overlooking Brice's Creek (Renovated 2021)
- 18-hole Disc Golf Course
- 2 Canoe/Kayak Launches

### West Craven Park

West Craven Park was developed with assistance from a \$500,000 State Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant and was dedicated on April 25, 2009. It is comprised of 90 acres and its sandy soil makes this park an attractive location for tournaments, since the quick drainage allows the athletic fields to be playable after a heavy rain. Located across the street from West Craven High School, makes it a great addition for recreation opportunities to the citizens of western Craven County. Organizations utilizing West Craven Park include NB Youth Lacrosse, West Craven Pop Warner Football, Vanceboro T-Ball, West Craven High School Tennis and Soccer and Craven Jaguars Football.

Amenities include:

- 4 Full-Size Football/Soccer/Lacrosse Fields
- 3 Youth Baseball Fields
- 1 300-Foot Baseball Field
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Rope Climber (2020)
- 6 Tennis Courts (Lighted 2020)
- Walking Trail
- Golf Driving Range
- Maintenance Building
- Restroom/Concession Building
- Quarter mile walking Track (2021)
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment (2021)
- Batting Cage (Renovated 2021)

### Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park

Craven County's Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park opened in 2011 and is comprised of 133 acres of preserved pristine coastal land. This is Craven County's first nature park, which is geared towards the natural environment, as it will offer hiking, nature observation, bird watching and access to Broad Creek by way of a boardwalk, approximately one mile north from Lee's Landing. Amenities include:

- 3 Miles of Trails
- Picnic Shelter
- Gazebo
- 2 Restroom Facilities
- Signage describing plant life in park
- 2,000-foot Dock overlooking Broad Creek
- Canoe and Kayak Launch

#### 4. **Local Parks:**

None maintained by County

#### 5. **Regional/State Park:**

None maintained by County

#### 6. **Dispersed Use/Conservancy Are:**

None maintained by County

#### 7. **Wilderness Area:**

None maintained by County

## Craven County Recreation & Parks

The department has a staff of 9 full-time employees operating a budget of \$1,157,935.

The Craven County Recreation and Parks Department serves the citizens of Craven County.

### ***Public Recreation Programs***

Craven County Recreation and Parks Department provides a variety of seasonal programs. Below is a summary of the programs offered for Youth Programs, Adult Programs, and Special Populations/Seniors.

#### **Craven County Recreation and Parks Department Seasonal Programs**

	<b>Camps</b>	<b>Classes, Lessons &amp; Clinics</b>	<b>Leagues</b>
<b>Youth Programs</b>	Basketball Everyone Loves P.E. Tennis Indoor Volleyball Beach Volleyball	Golf Tennis Beach Volleyball	Summer Basketball Winter Basketball Indoor Volleyball Beach Volleyball
<b>Adult Programs</b>		Golf Tennis Kayak	Co-Ed Softball Co-Ed Kickball Co-Ed Beach Volleyball

	<b>Special Olympics</b>	<b>Senior Programs</b>
<b>Special Populations &amp; Senior Programs</b>	Basketball Bocce Track and Field Swimming	Neuse River Senior Games Senior Games Practices Softball

#### **Programs that Utilize our Parks**

##### Youth Sports

Babe Ruth Girls Softball (New Bern)  
 Cal Ripken Baseball (New Bern Sunday School League)  
 Coastal United Soccer Association  
 Craven Jaguars Football  
 Epiphany Baseball, Cross Country & Beach Volleyball Teams  
 New Bern Bruins Lacrosse  
 New Bern High School Beach Volleyball Team  
 New Bern Christian Academy Soccer, Baseball and Softball  
 West Craven Pop Warner  
 West Craven Soccer & Tennis Teams  
 Vanceboro T-ball  
 Special Needs Baseball

### Special Events

Beach Volleyball Tournaments for Crystal Coast Volleyball  
Adult Softball Tournaments Benefiting Pediatric Cancer  
Disc Golf Tournaments by Craven Chains  
Disc Golf Clinics by Craven Chains  
Babe Ruth Girls Softball State and District Tournaments  
Cal Ripken Baseball State and District Tournaments  
MLB Pitch, Hit & Run  
MLB Jr. Home Run Derby  
Colonial Capital Humane Society Adoption Drive  
Carolina East Employee Appreciation Day  
5K Road Race for Coastal Women's Shelter

### Special Olympics

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser  
Christmas Social

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### ***Craven County Recreation and Parks Acreage***

Parks maintained by Craven County Recreation and Parks Department cover a total of 343 acres.

### ***Other Public Recreation Sites***

In addition to the countywide Recreation and Parks Department, Havelock, New Bern, and Fairfield Harbor each have their own Recreation and Parks Departments, programs, and parks, with additional acres of parks available to county residents and visitors.

## Accessibility Updates

In our 2015 Master Plan process, accessibility was discussed throughout. We found through surveys and discussions with community members and staff, the need to make our facilities more accessible. Below is a list of the updates that have occurred since the 2015 Recreational Master Plan.

### Creekside Park

- Inclusive Playground – Craven County’s first inclusive playground with walkways, accessible surfacing, ramps, and a wheelchair swing. This project included a parking pad and sidewalks to the playground.
- Bocce Courts – Special Olympics Bocce was added as a sport, and we added accessible Bocce Courts.
- Additional walking trails – The request for additional trails has been constant and we have added two additional accessible trails at Creekside and resurfaced the existing trail.
- Parking and Sidewalks – Several accessible parking areas have been added including youth ballfield parking, adult ballfield parking, and walking trail parking lots. These all have concrete parking pads. Sidewalks have been added to the youth fields and waterfront areas.
- The new accessible waterfront dock was completed with a walkway and railings.
- Wheelchair accessible picnic tables were added to two shelters.
- Swing sets with the high back option were added at two of our playground locations.

### West Craven Park

- An accessible ¼ mile walking trail and outdoor fitness equipment were added.
- Parking pads and sidewalks were added to the youth baseball field area, tennis courts, walking trail area and the picnic shelter area.
- An accessible water fountain was added.
- Swing sets with a high back option were added to the existing playground.

### Rocky Run Park

- New playground equipment with accessible pieces were added.
- New swing set with a high back option was added.