

City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department Survey

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Findings
Report

Submitted to Merriam, Kansas by:

ETC Institute
725 W. Frontier Lane,
Olathe, Kansas
66061

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The City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department Survey Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute administered a needs assessment survey for the City of Merriam during the summer of 2016. The survey was administered as the City of Merriam is considering options for the future of the Merriam Aquatic Center and Irene B. French Community Center. The survey will be used to help the City make the most informed decisions possible. The City is working to create a Facilities Master Plan. This Master Plan will provide a roadmap on how to serve the citizens of Merriam now and into the future. As the City faces difficult decisions regarding the future of the Merriam Aquatic Center and the Irene B. French Community Center the results of this survey will ensure the City is taking a resident-driven approach for a long term solution.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Merriam. 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 on-line at www.MerriamParksSurvey.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 on-line version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete the survey. To prevent people who were not residents of the City of Merriam from participating, everyone who completed the survey on-line was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered on-line with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed on-line did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the on-line survey was not counted.

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 375 residents. The goal was exceeded with a total of 522 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 522 households have a precision of at least +/-4.3% 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 City'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 below and on the following pages.

Use of Merriam Aquatic Center

Overall Use: Thirty-five percent (35%) of households surveyed indicated that they had visited the Merriam Aquatic Center during the past two summer seasons. Five percent (5%) indicated they had visited daily, 19% of respondents indicated they had visited the aquatic center a few times per week, 23% visited weekly, 12% visited monthly, and 39% visited once or twice a season.

Ratings: Respondents were asked to rate the overall condition of all the parks they have visited, 96% rated the parks as either “excellent” (55%) or “good” (52%). Only 4% rated the parks as “fair” and no respondents rated any of the parks they had visited as “poor”.

Interest in Amenities for a New Aquatic Center

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement in potential amenities for a new aquatic center. Due to the aging infrastructure of the Merriam Aquatic center and increasing operating costs, the City of Merriam is studying options for the future of the facility. Over half (59%) of respondents indicated they were “very interested” (33%) or “interested” (26%) in a lazy river. The other amenities which respondents indicated high interest were; a zero depth entry pool (54%), water slides (50%), and concessions (49%). Respondents were then asked to indicate which three amenities would be the most important in the design of a new aquatic center. Based on the sum of the respondent’s top three choices the lazy river (48%), zero depth entry pool (46%), and water slides (34%) were the top three.

Use of the Irene B. French Community Center

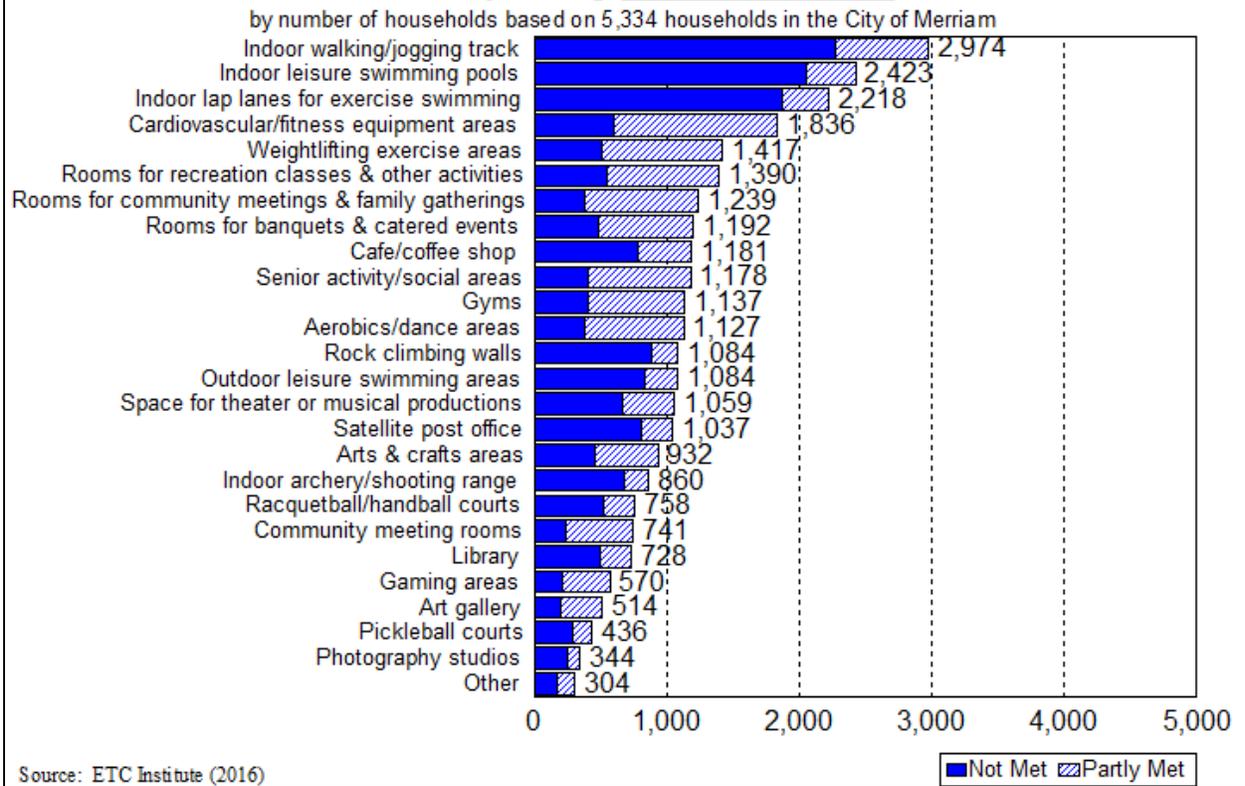
Forty percent (40%) of households surveyed indicated that they had visited the Irene B. Community Center during the past year. Three percent (3%) indicated they had visited daily, 10% of respondents indicated they had visited the community center a few times per week, 12% visited weekly, 15% visited monthly, and 56% visited less than six times.

Indoor Recreation Facility Needs and Priorities

Facility Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 26 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 three recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: indoor walking and jogging track (66%), cardiovascular and fitness equipment areas (63%), and indoor leisure swimming pools (54%). When ETC Institute analyzed the needs in the community, only one facility, large community parks, had a need that affected more than 3,500 households. ETC Institute estimates a total of 2,974 of the 5,334 households in the City of Merriam who have a need have unmet needs for an indoor walking and jogging track. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 26 facilities that were assessed is shown in the table below.

Q8-3. Estimated Number of Households in the City of Merriam Whose Needs for Indoor Recreation Facilities Are Only Being Partly or Not Met

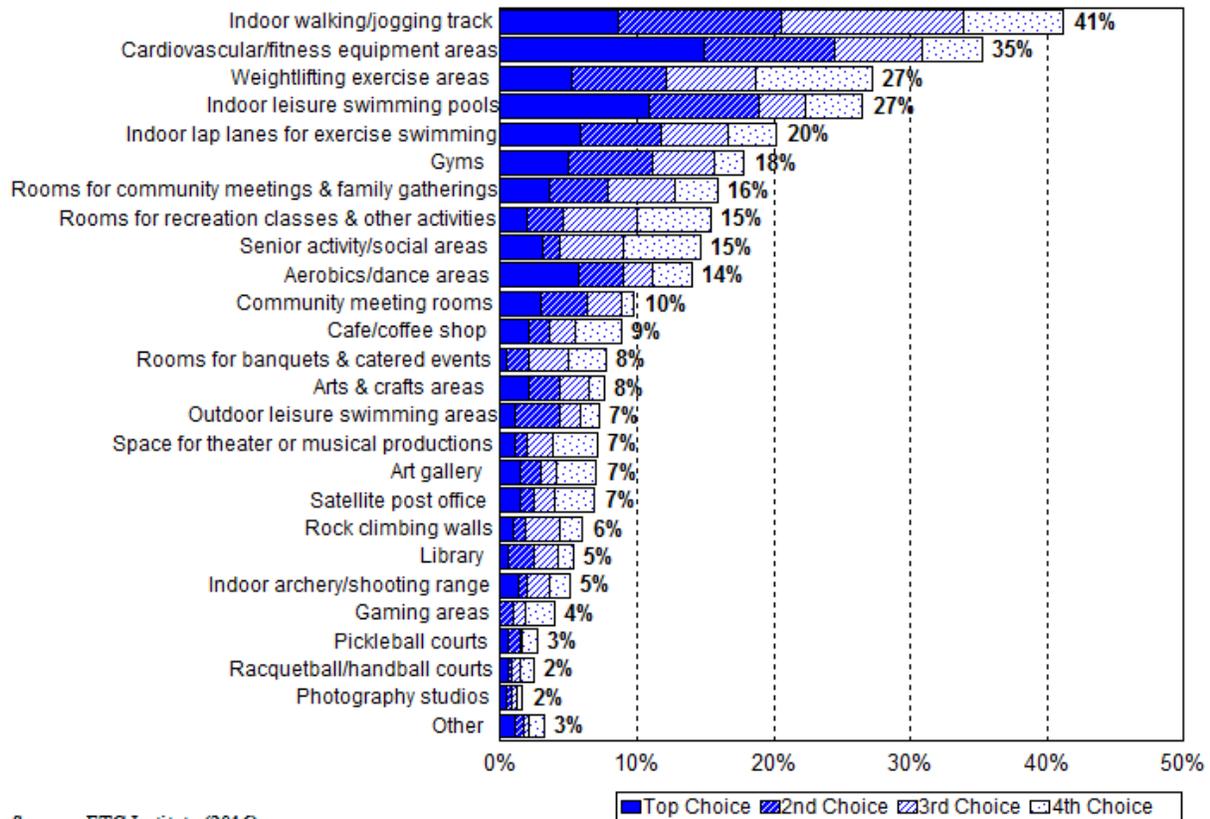


Facility Importance: In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the three most important facilities to residents were: indoor walking and jogging track (41%), cardiovascular and fitness equipment areas (35%), and weightlifting exercise areas (27%). The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the table on the following page.

The City of Merriam asked its residents to indicate how often they would use a new or renovated community recreation center which includes the features they chose as most important. Five percent (5%) indicated they would visit daily, 25% of respondents indicated they would visit a few times per week, 21% would visit weekly, 12% would visit monthly, and 10% indicated they would visit less than six times on an annual basis.

Q9. Indoor Recreation Facilities Most Important to Household

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

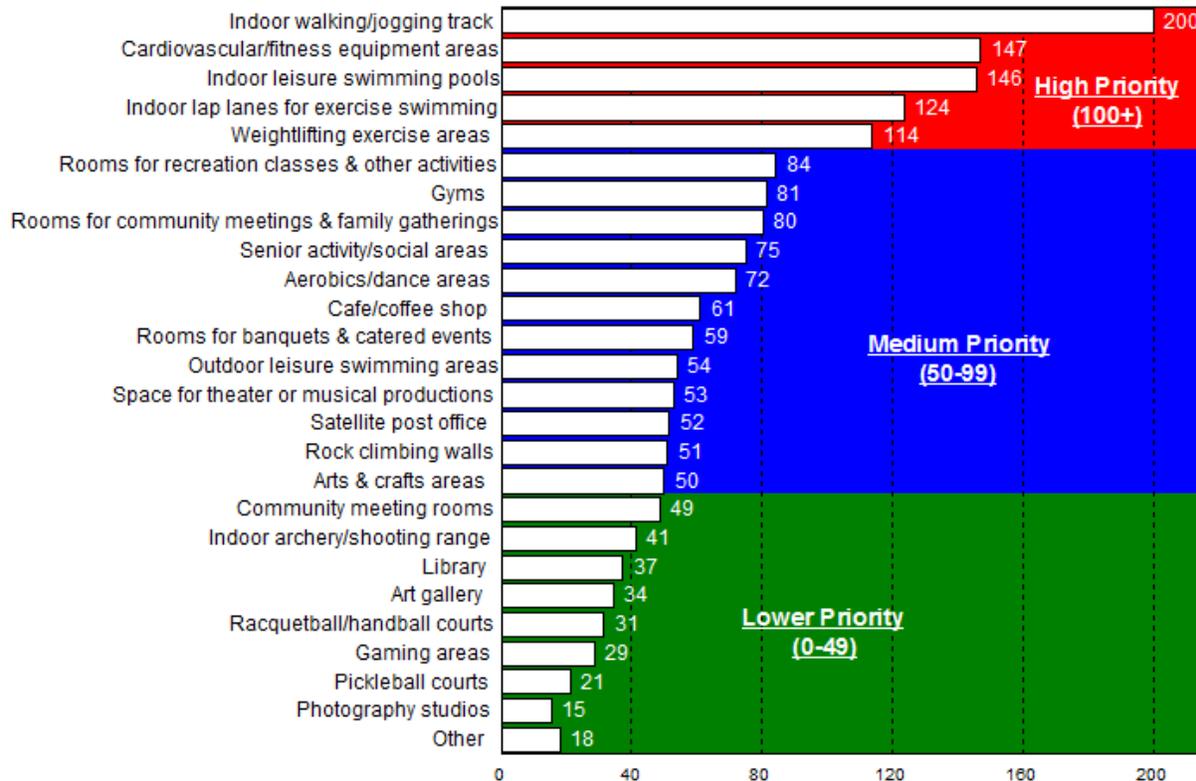
Priorities for Facility Investments: The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) 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 the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following five facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Indoor walking and jogging track (PIR=200)
- Cardiovascular and fitness equipment areas (PIR=147)
- Indoor leisure swimming pools (PIR=146)
- Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming (PIR=124)
- Weightlifting exercise areas (PIR=114)

The chart on the following page shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 26 facilities/amenities that were assessed on the survey.

Top Priorities for Investment for Indoor Recreation Facilities Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Additional Findings

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with various statements regarding the value of having a community center in the City of Merriam. The three statements respondents indicated the strongest level of agreement with are; it is valuable to me to have a community creation center (76%), I believe a community recreation center boosts property values in our community (75%), and a community recreation center should generate revenue from user fees (71%). The statement which respondents showed the lowest level agreement was that the City of Merriam needs a new community recreation center.

It is likely municipal bonds would be required to finance development of a new or renovated community recreation center and respondents were asked what option they would most likely support the City taking in order to repay such bonds. Twenty-five percent (25%) of respondents indicated they would most likely support a local sales tax increase, 6% indicated an increase to local property taxes, 24% indicated a combination of an increase in local property and sales tax, and 21% indicated they wanted no increase in taxes. Respondents were then asked to indicate what options they support the City using to plan for the costs associated with the operation, maintenance, and long term care of a new or renovated community recreation center. User fees paid by patrons to the center (74%) received the most support followed by a local sales tax increase (35%), and an increase to local property taxes (13%).

With the development of a new community center in mind respondents were asked whether or not they would pay to use the services of the new facility. Over half (53%) indicated they would pay, 34% indicated that they would maybe pay, and 11% said no they would not pay. Respondents who indicated they would pay or would maybe pay to use a new community center were asked how much they would pay per visit, per month for an individual, and per month for a family. An overwhelming 68% of respondents indicated they would pay up to \$5 per visit for an individual, 58% would pay up to \$25 per month for an individual, and results were split when it came to costs for a family per month. Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents indicated they would pay up to \$35 per month for a family, 23% would pay up to \$45 per month, 18% would pay up to \$55 per month, and 12% would pay over \$55 per month.

Conclusions and Recommendations

When analyzing the facilities offered by the City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department the same item was the most important to respondent's households and had the highest level of need and unmet need. Focusing on an indoor walking and jogging track within the district would provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents within the City of Merriam. Cardiovascular and fitness equipment areas and an indoor leisure swimming pool were both among the most needed amenities and also had some of the highest unmet need. Focusing on these amenities will give the City the opportunity to provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents.

In order to ensure that the City of Merriam continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as "high priorities" by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed on the following page.

Facility Priorities

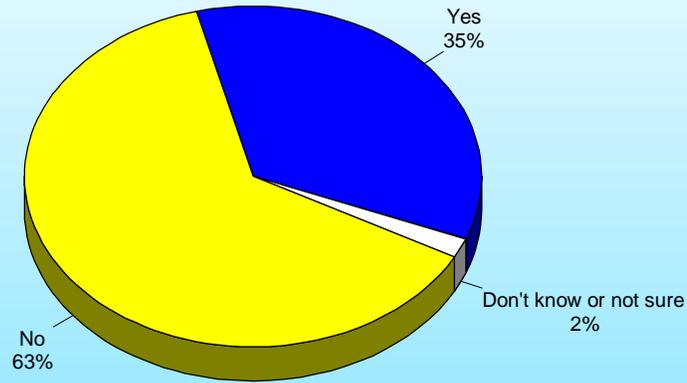
- Indoor walking and jogging track (PIR=200)
- Cardiovascular and fitness equipment areas (PIR=147)
- Indoor leisure swimming pools (PIR=146)
- Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming (PIR=124)
- Weightlifting exercise areas (PIR=114)

Section 1

Charts and Graphs

Q1. Have You or Members of Your Household Visited the Merriam Aquatic Center in the Past Two Summer Seasons

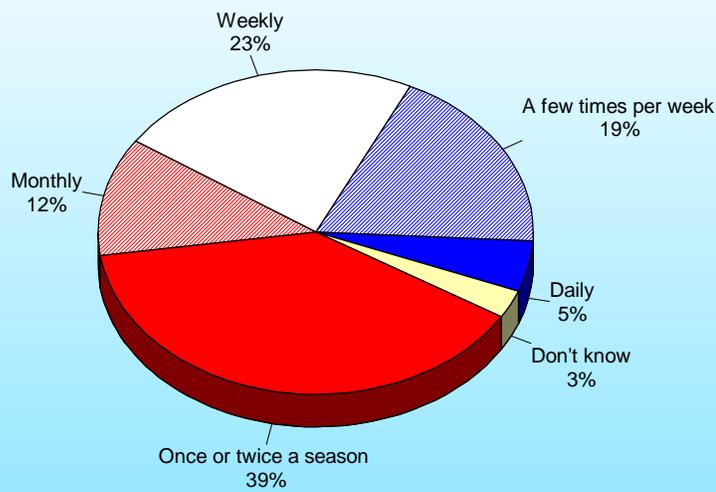
by percentage of respondents



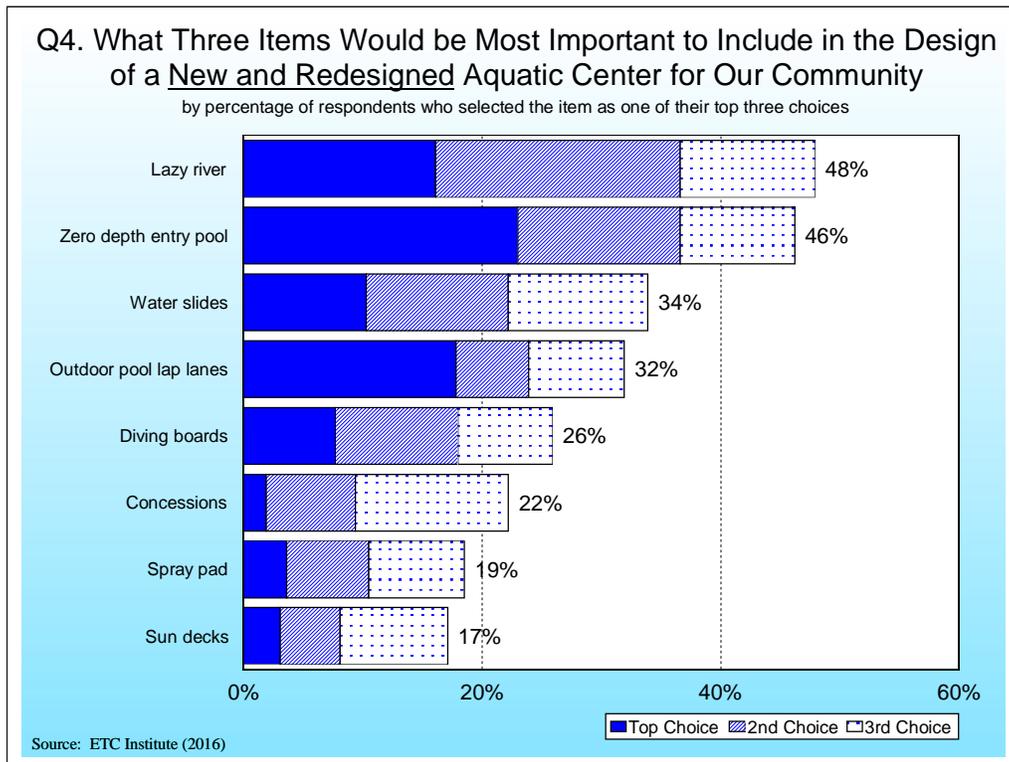
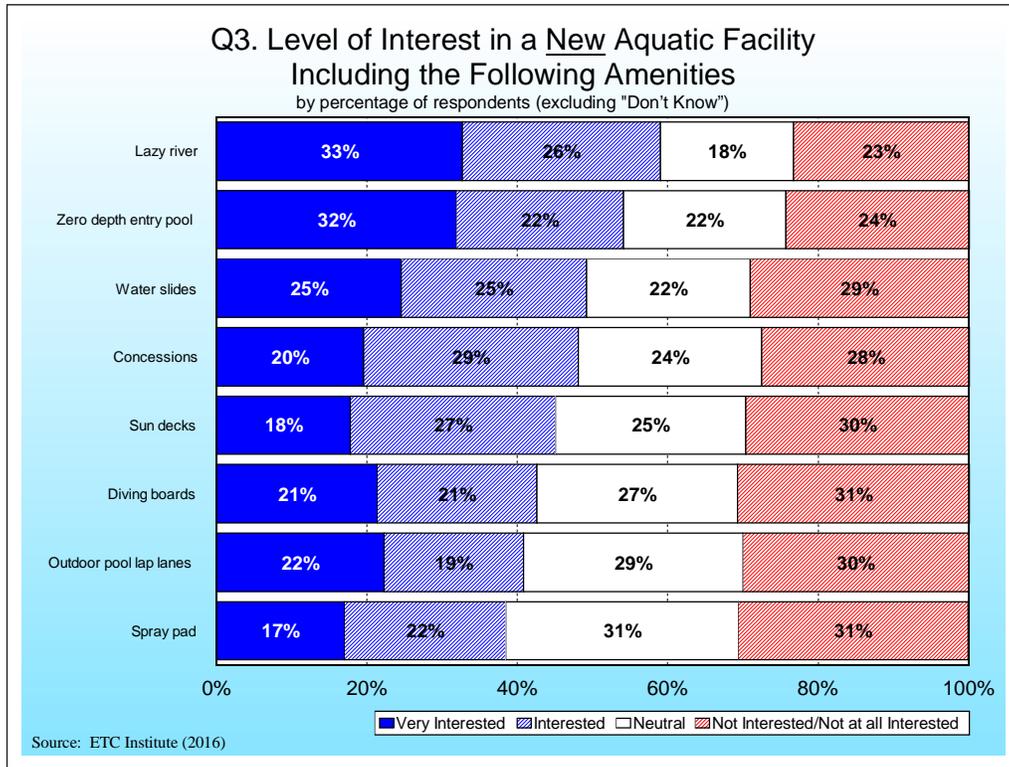
Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q2. How Often Did You Visit the Merriam Aquatic Center in the Past Two Summer Seasons

by percentage of respondents

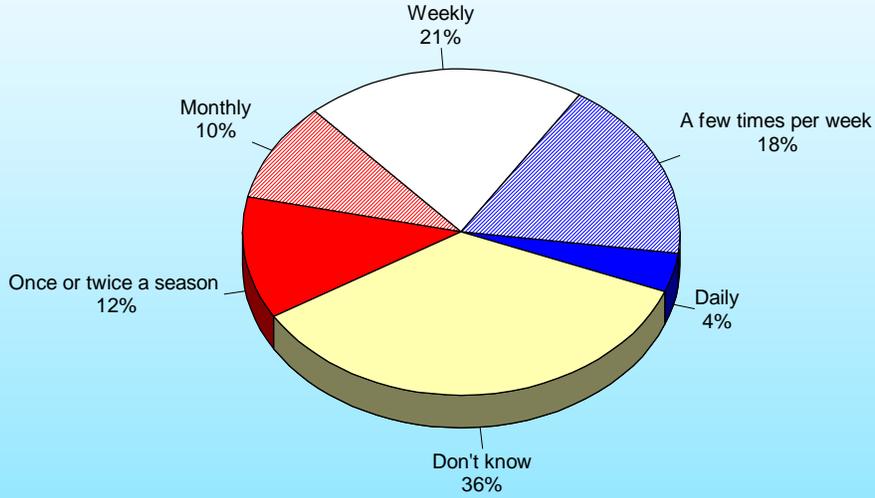


Source: ETC Institute (2016)



Q5. If the New Aquatic Center is Developed Which Included the Features You Chose as Most Important How Often Would You or Other Members of Your Household Use the Facility

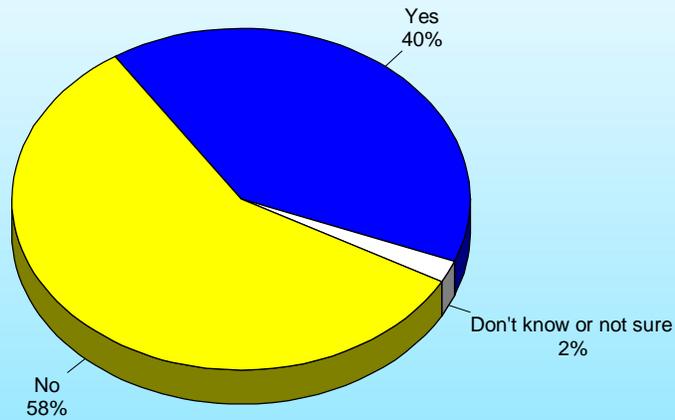
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q6. Have You or Members of Your Household Visited the Irene B. French Community Center (Merriam Community Center) in the Past Year

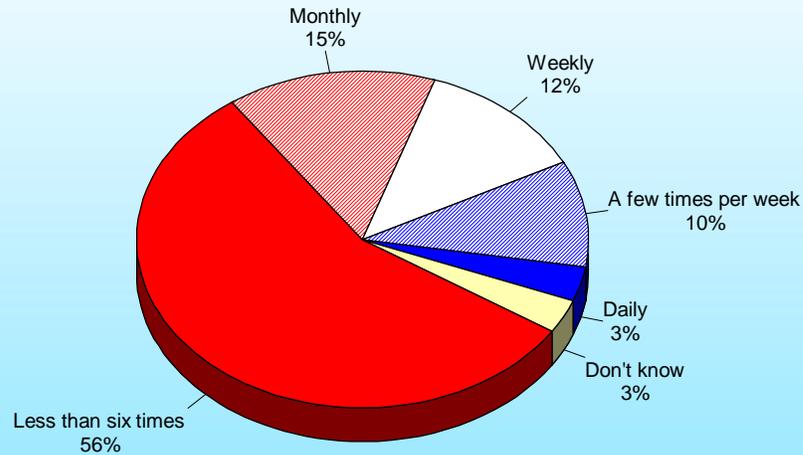
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q7. How Often Did You Visit the Irene B. French Community Center in the Past Year

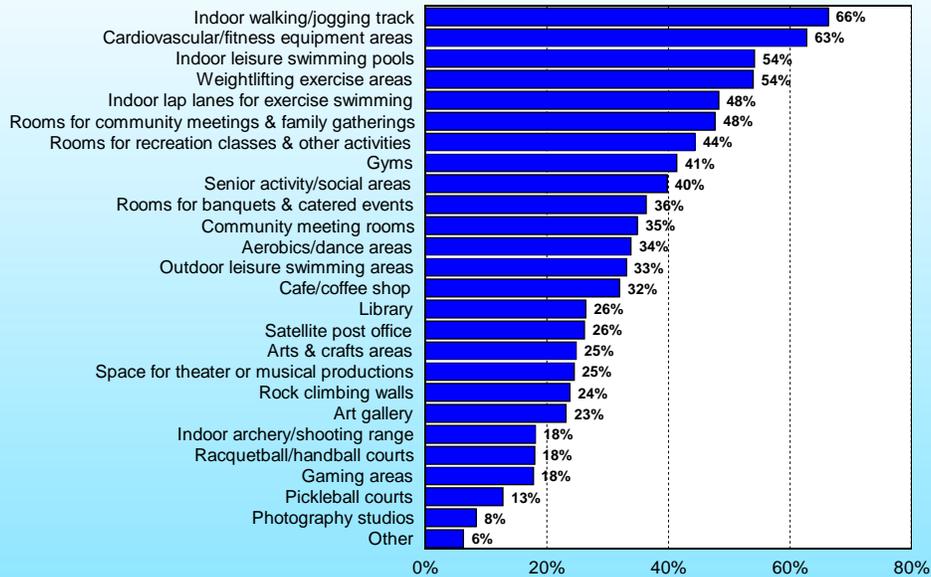
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q8. Households that Have a Need for Indoor Recreation Facilities

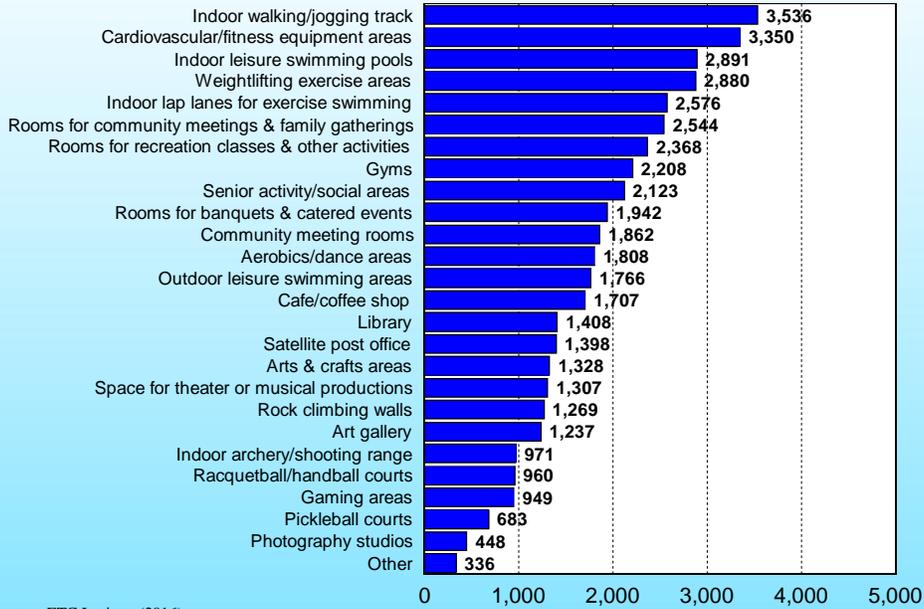
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q8-1. Estimated Number of Households in the City of Merriam that Have a Need for Indoor Recreation Facilities

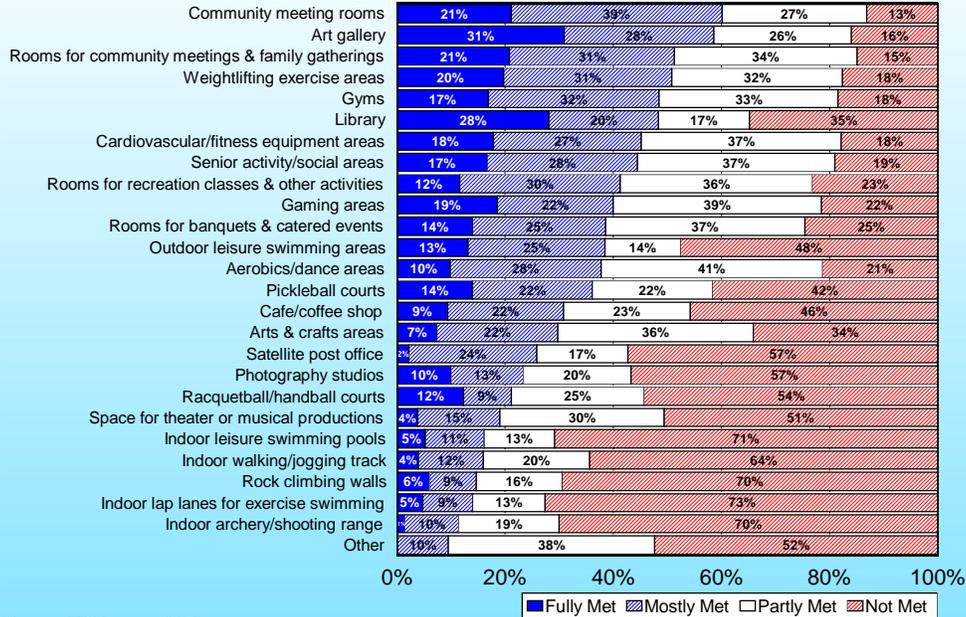
by number of households based on 5,334 households in the City of Merriam



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q8-2. How Well the City of Merriam Indoor Recreation Facilities are Meeting the Needs of Households

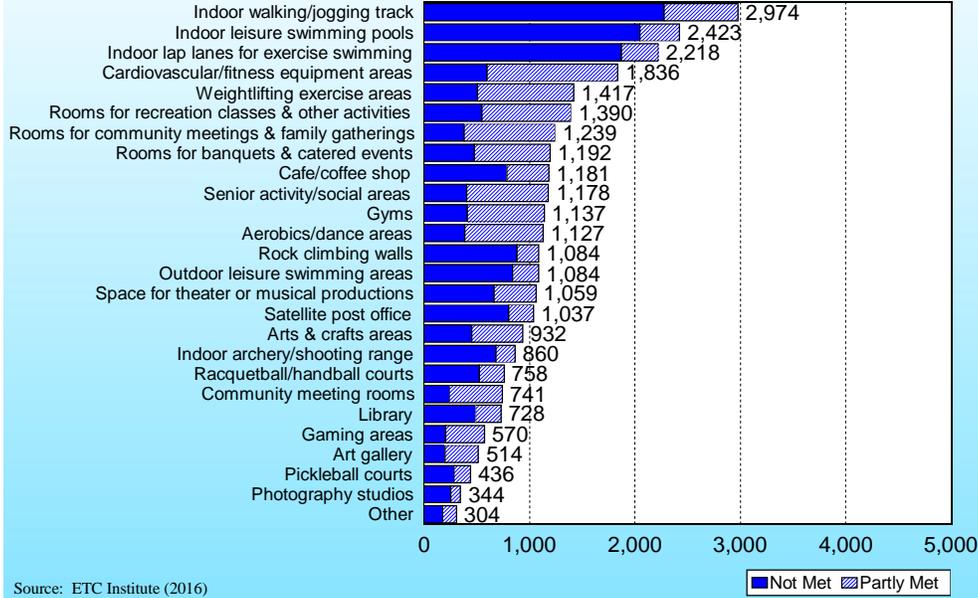
by percentage of households that have a need for facilities



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

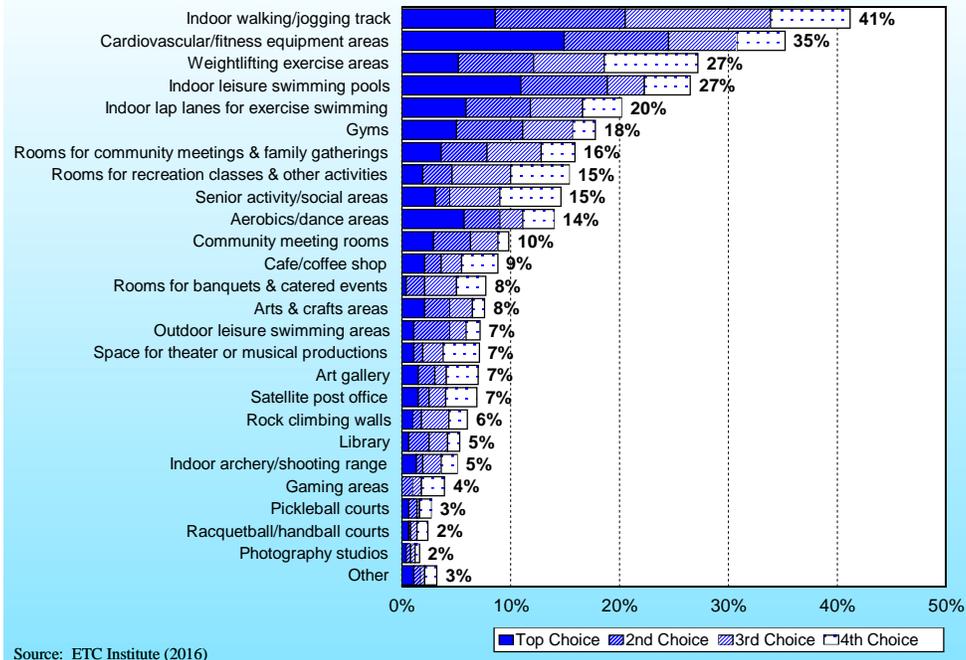
Q8-3. Estimated Number of Households in the City of Merriam Whose Needs for Indoor Recreation Facilities Are Only Being Partly or Not Met

by number of households based on 5,334 households in the City of Merriam

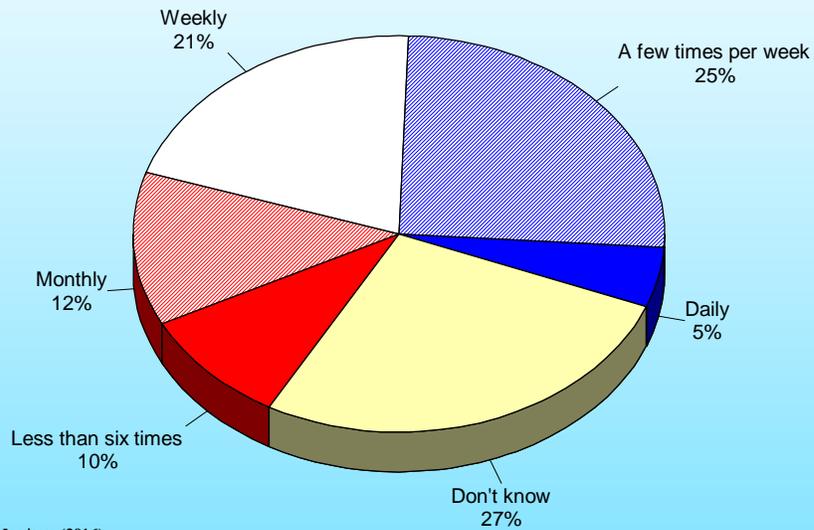


Q9. Indoor Recreation Facilities Most Important to Household

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices

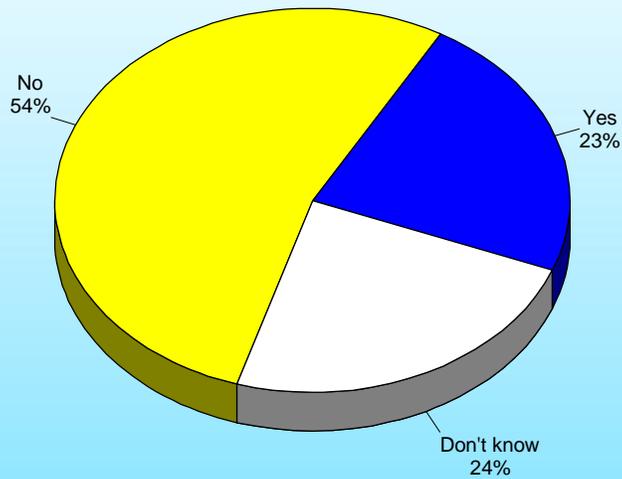


Q10. If a New or Renovated Community Recreation Center is Developed Which Includes the Features You Chose as Most Important How Often Would You or Other Members of Your Household Use the Facility on an Annual Basis
by percentage of respondents

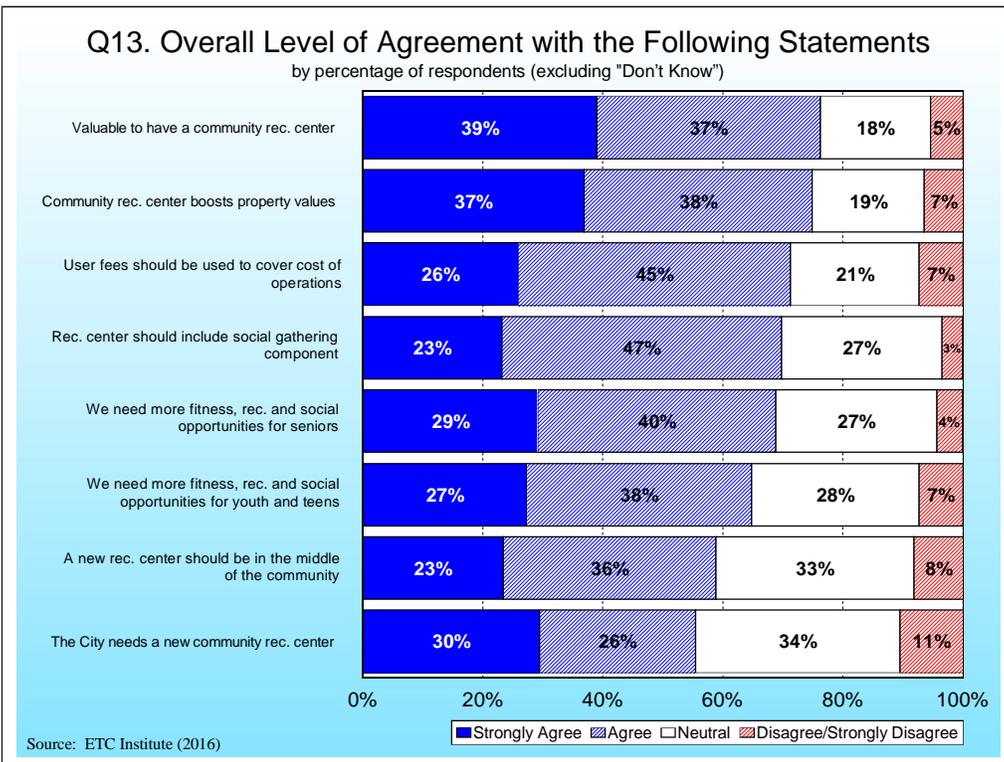
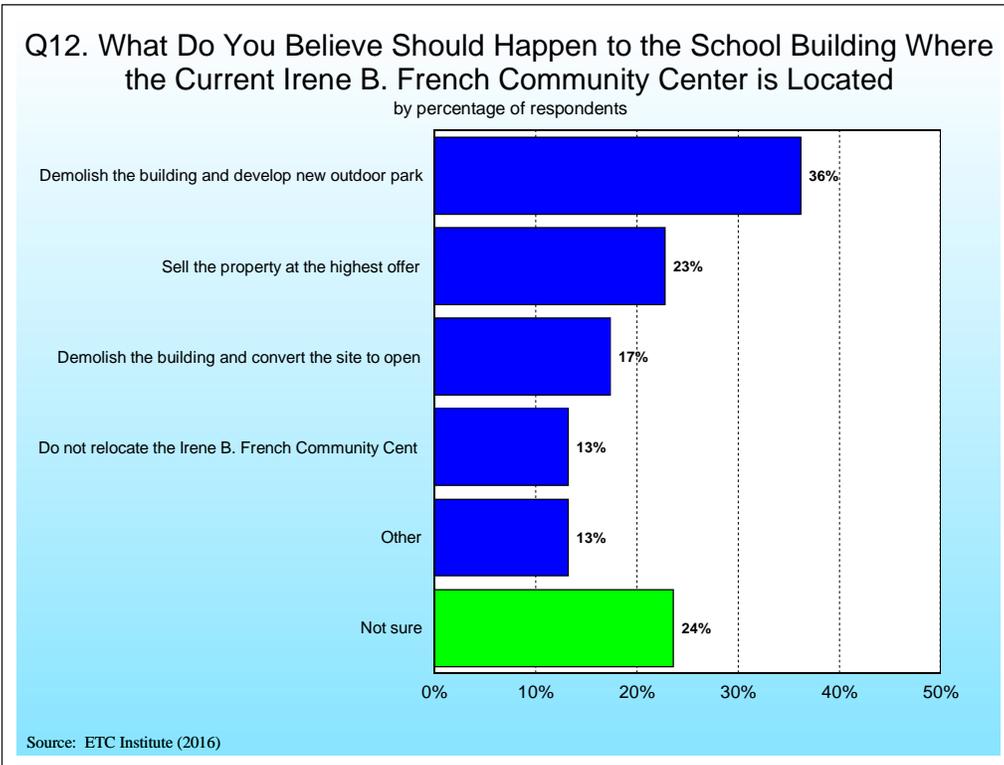


Source: ETC Institute (2016)

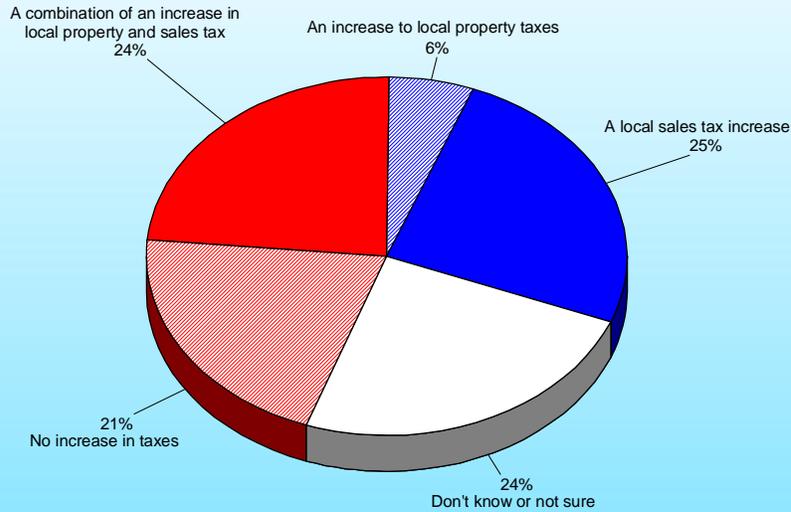
Q11. If a Community Recreation Center Were to Offer Short-Term Childcare Available for People with Children Who Use the Facility, Would You Be More Likely to Use this Facility
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

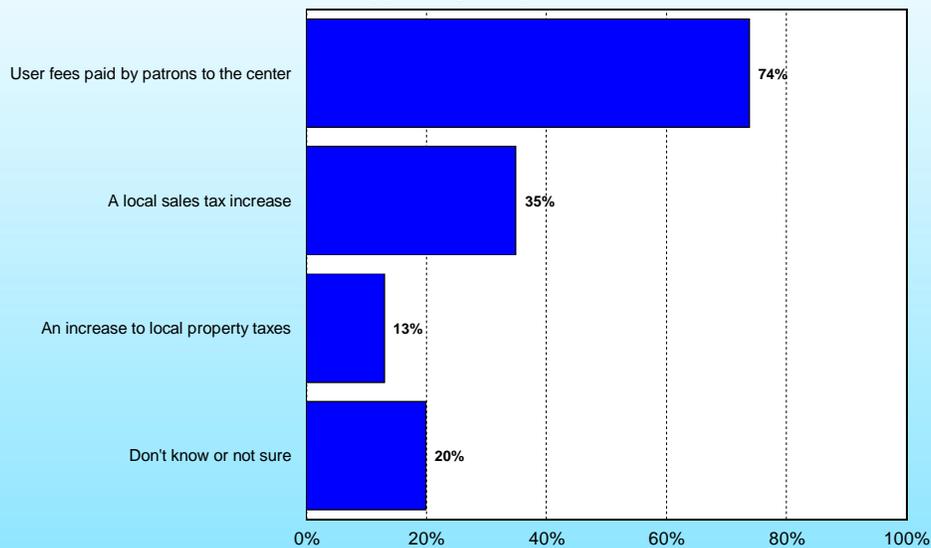


Q14. It is Likely Municipal Bonds Would be Required to Finance Development of a New or Renovated Community Recreation Center, Please Indicate Which Option You Would Most Likely Support the City Taking
by percentage of respondents



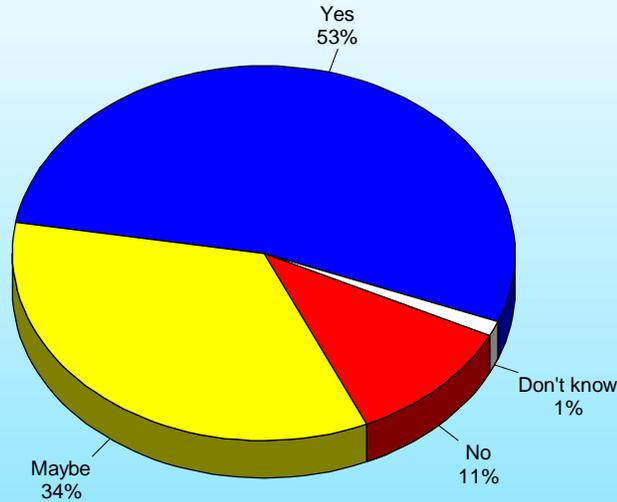
Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q15. Which Options Would You Most Support the City Using to Plan for the Costs Associated with the Operation, Maintenance, and Long Term Care of a New or Renovated Community Recreation Center
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

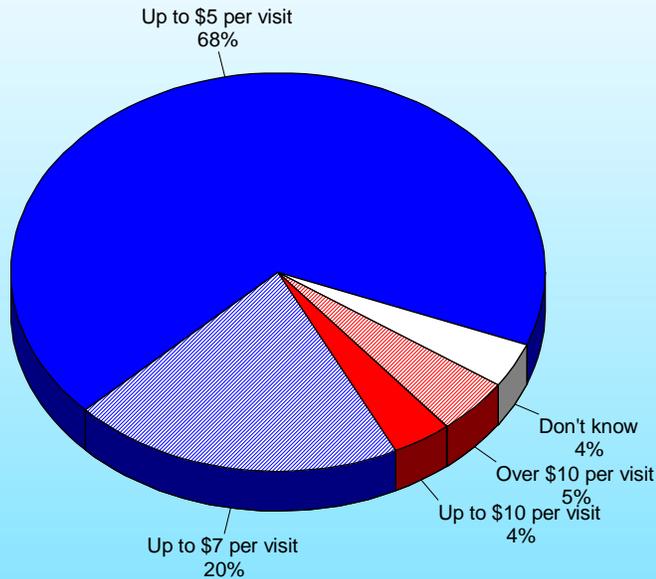
Q16. If a New Community Center is Developed with the Facilities and Programs You Prefer Most, Would You or Other Members of Your Household be Willing to Pay to Use the Services of the Facility
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q16a. Per Visit What is the Maximum Amount Per Person Per Visit Would You Be Willing to Pay to Use the Services and Facilities at a New Community Recreation Center

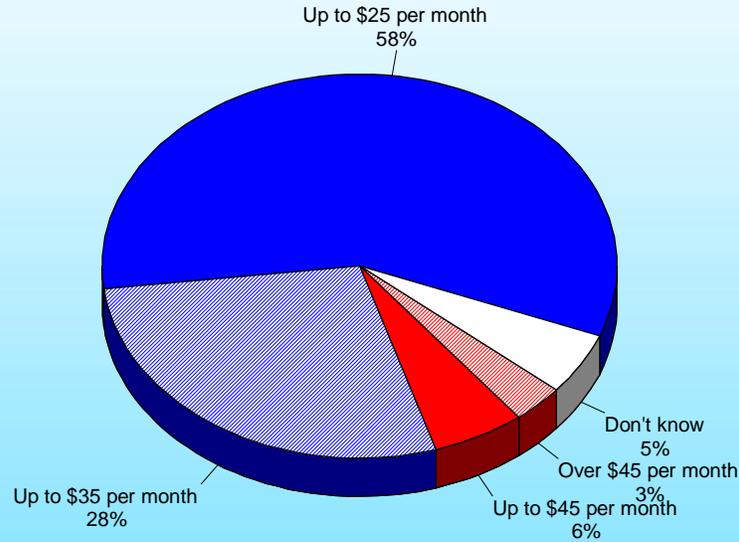
by percentage of respondents who indicated they would be willing to pay to use a new community center



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q16b. Per Month for an Individual What is the Maximum Amount Per Person Per Visit Would You Be Willing to Pay to Use the Services and Facilities at a New Community Recreation Center

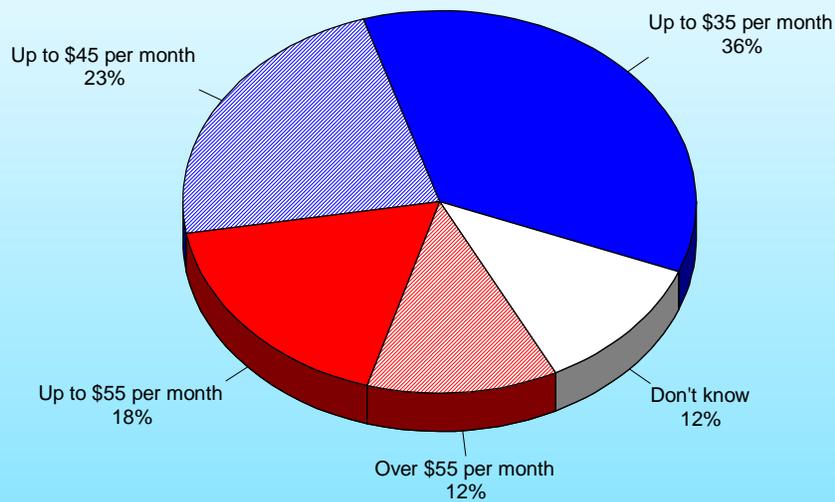
by percentage of respondents who indicated they would be willing to pay to use a new community center



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q16c. Per Month for a Family What is the Maximum Amount Per Person Per Visit Would You Be Willing to Pay to Use the Services and Facilities at a New Community Recreation Center

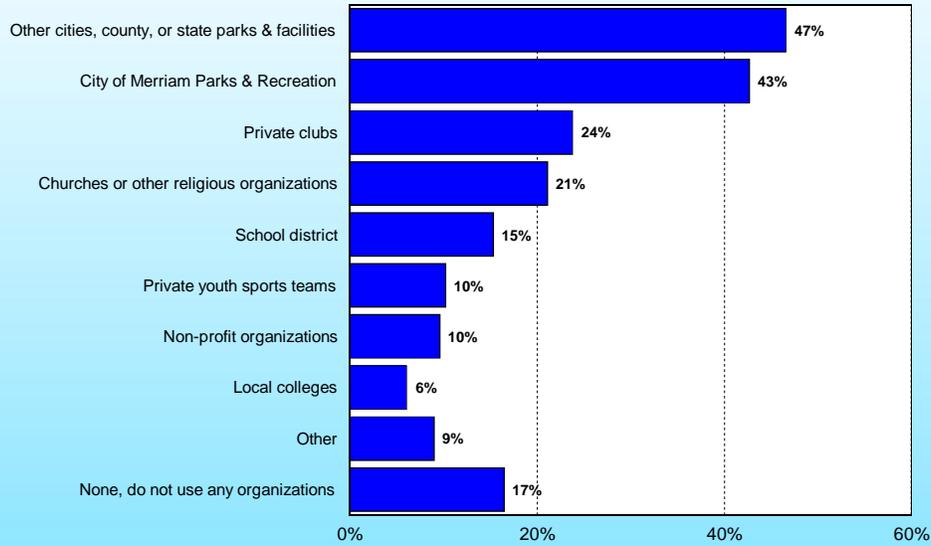
by percentage of respondents who indicated they would be willing to pay to use a new community center



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q17. Which of the Following Organizations Provide Leisure and Recreation Facilities that are Used by You and Other Members of Your Household

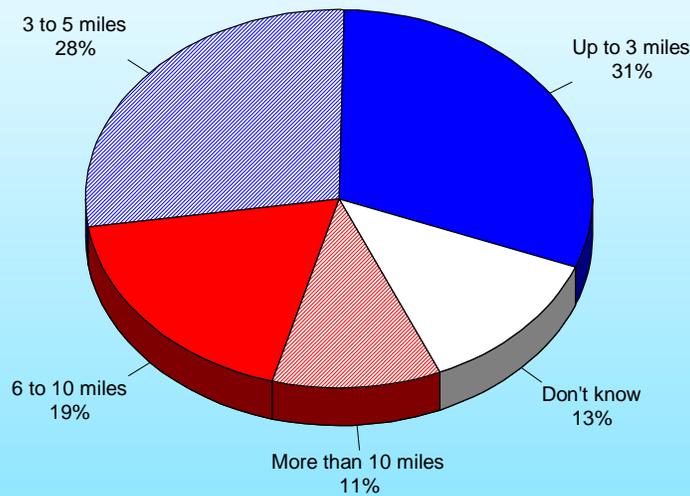
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q18. How Far do You Currently Travel to Use These Types of Leisure and Recreation Facilities

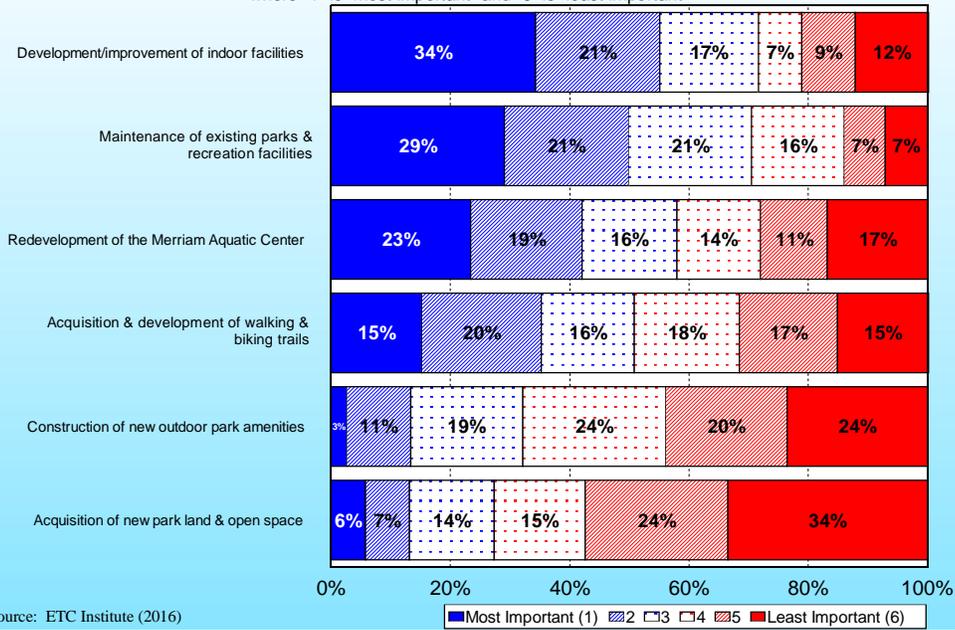
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

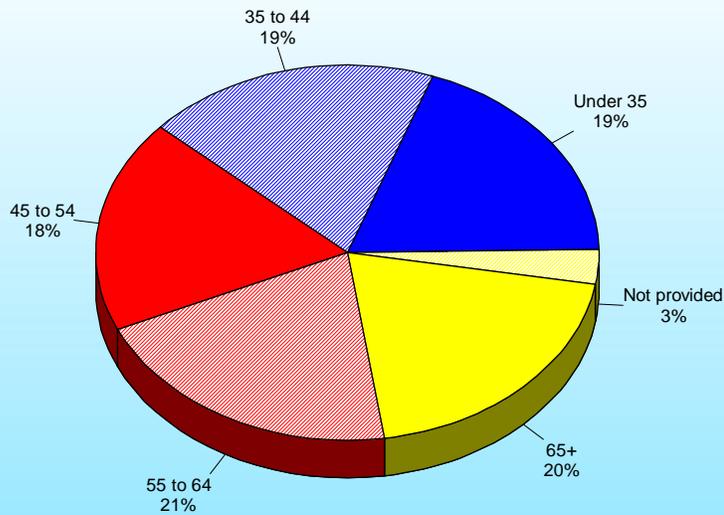
Q19. How Important are the Following Potential Improvements to the City of Merriam Parks, Trails, Arts, and Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents who ranked the importance of each item on a scale of 1 to 6, where "1" is "most important" and "6" is "least important"

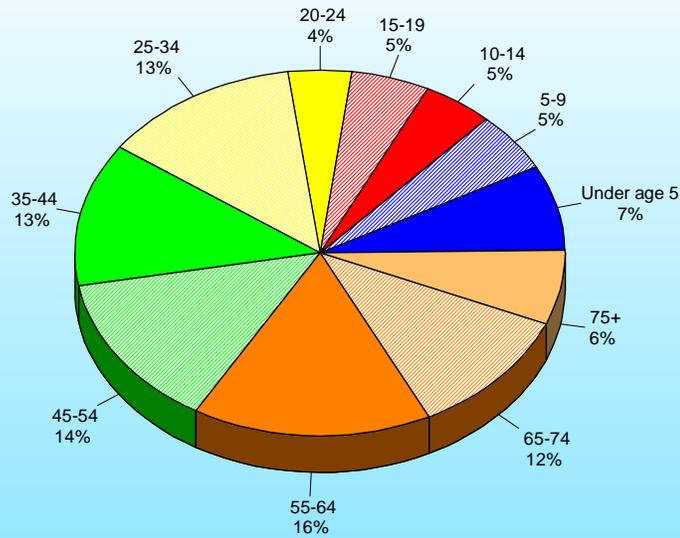


Q20. Demographics: What is Your Age

by percentage of respondents

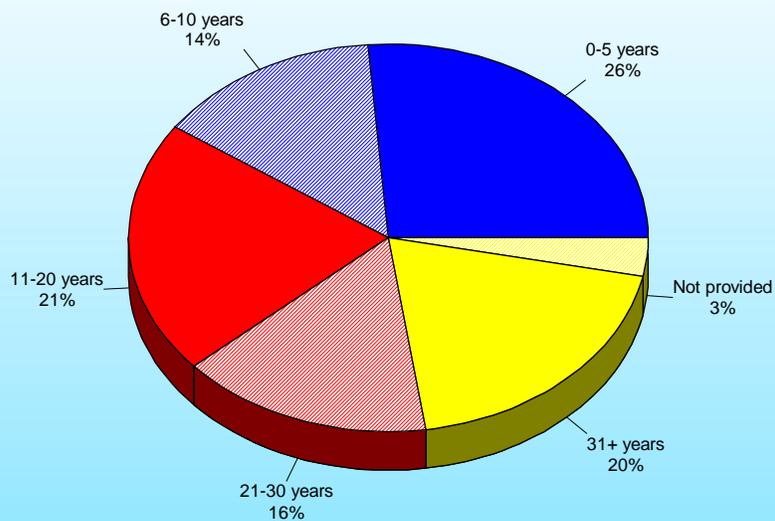


Q21. Demographics: Counting Yourself How Many People in Your Household Are
by percentage of respondents



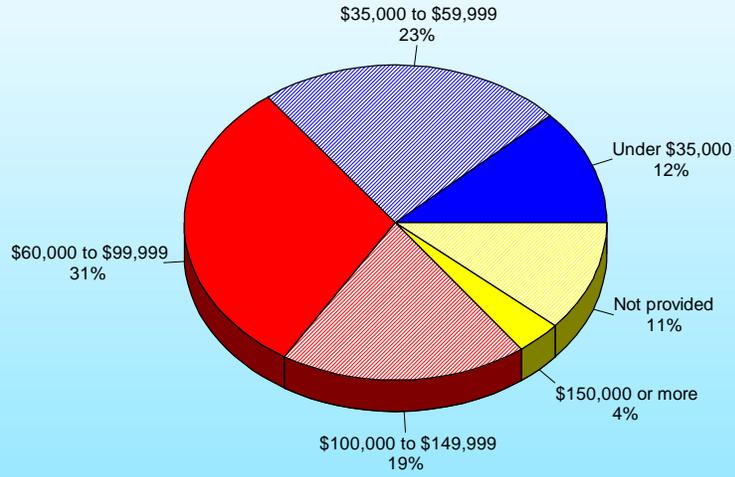
Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q22. Demographics: Approximately How Many Years Have you Lived in the City of Merriam
by percentage of respondents



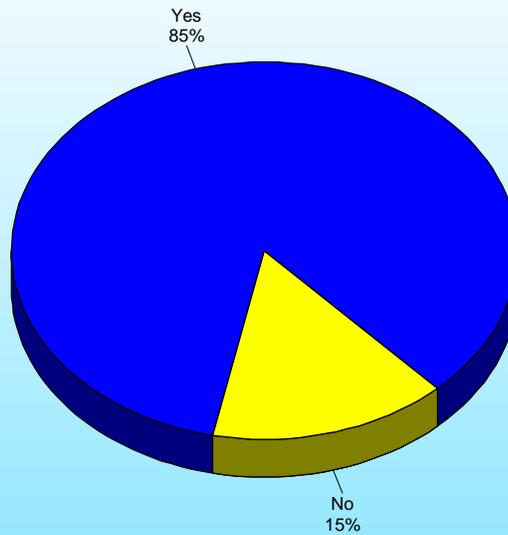
Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q23. Demographics: What is Your Total Annual Household Income by percentage of respondents

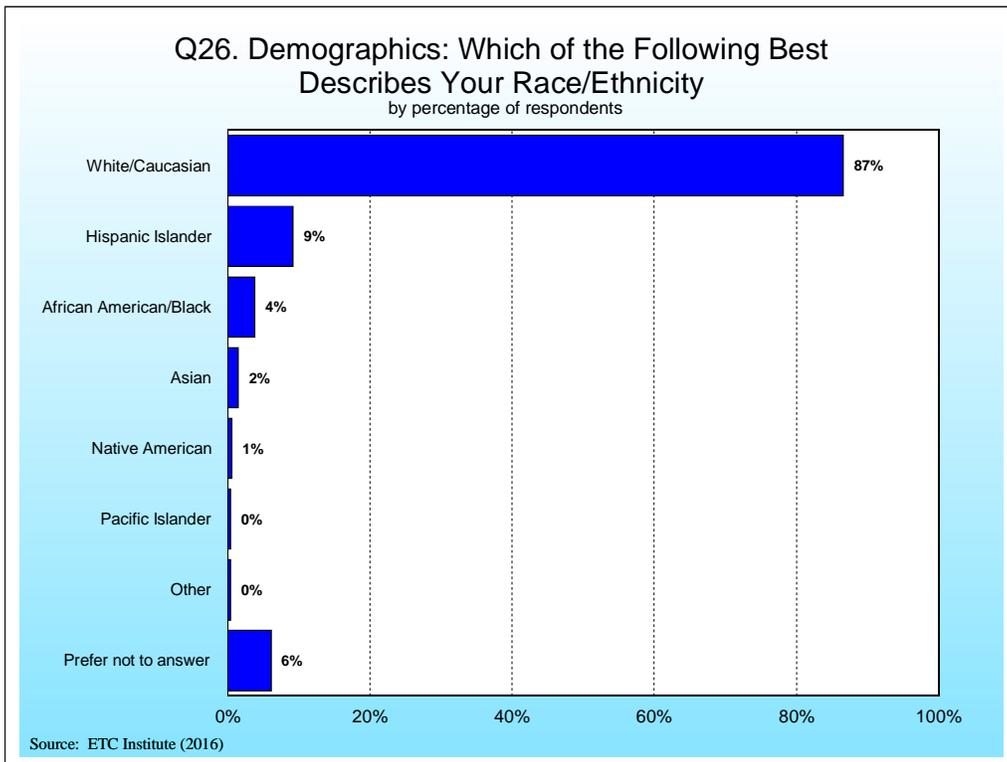
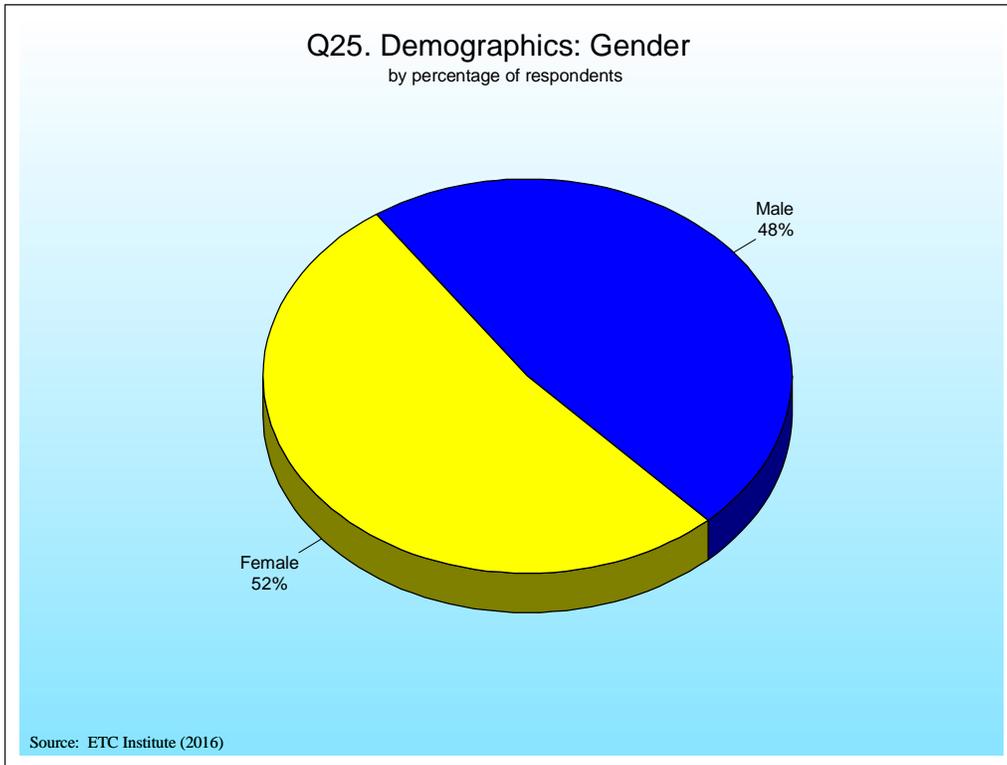


Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Q24. Have You Voted in the Past Two Years by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2016)



Section 2

Priority Investment Rating

Priority Investment Rating

Merriam, Kansas

The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being partly or not met) for each facility/program relative to the facility/program that rated the highest overall. Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities and programs, the PIR weights each of these components equally.

The PIR reflects the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating and the Importance Rating as shown in the equation below:

$$\text{PIR} = \text{UNR} + \text{IR}$$

For example, suppose the Unmet Needs Rating for playgrounds is 26.5 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for playgrounds is 52 (out of 100), the Priority Investment Rating for playgrounds would be 78.5 (out of 200).

How to Analyze the Charts:

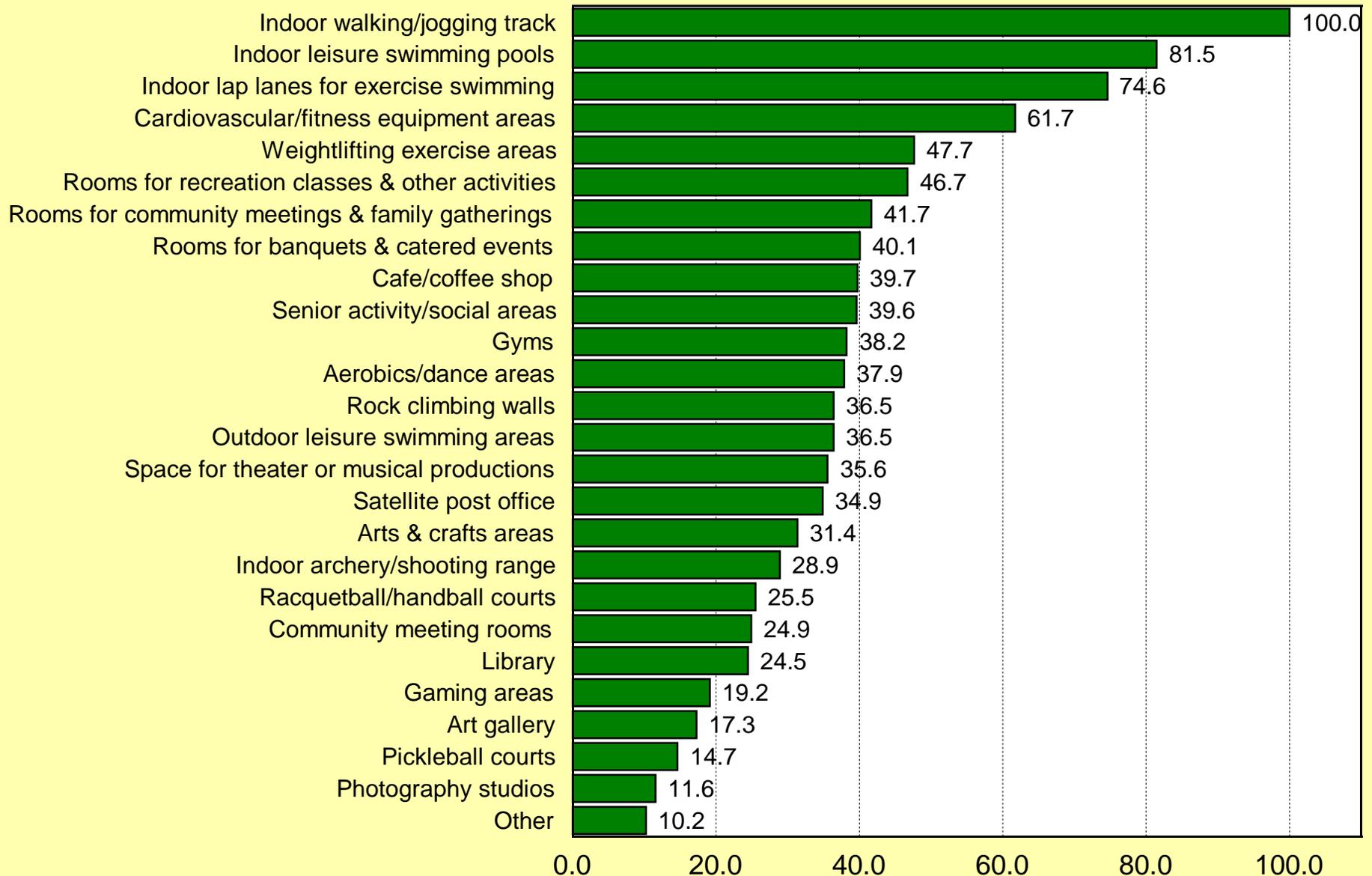
- **High Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.
- **Medium Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.
- **Low Priority Areas** are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and residents do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

The following pages show the Unmet Needs Rating, Importance Rating, and Priority Investment Rating for facilities and programs.

Unmet Needs Rating for Indoor Recreation Facilities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

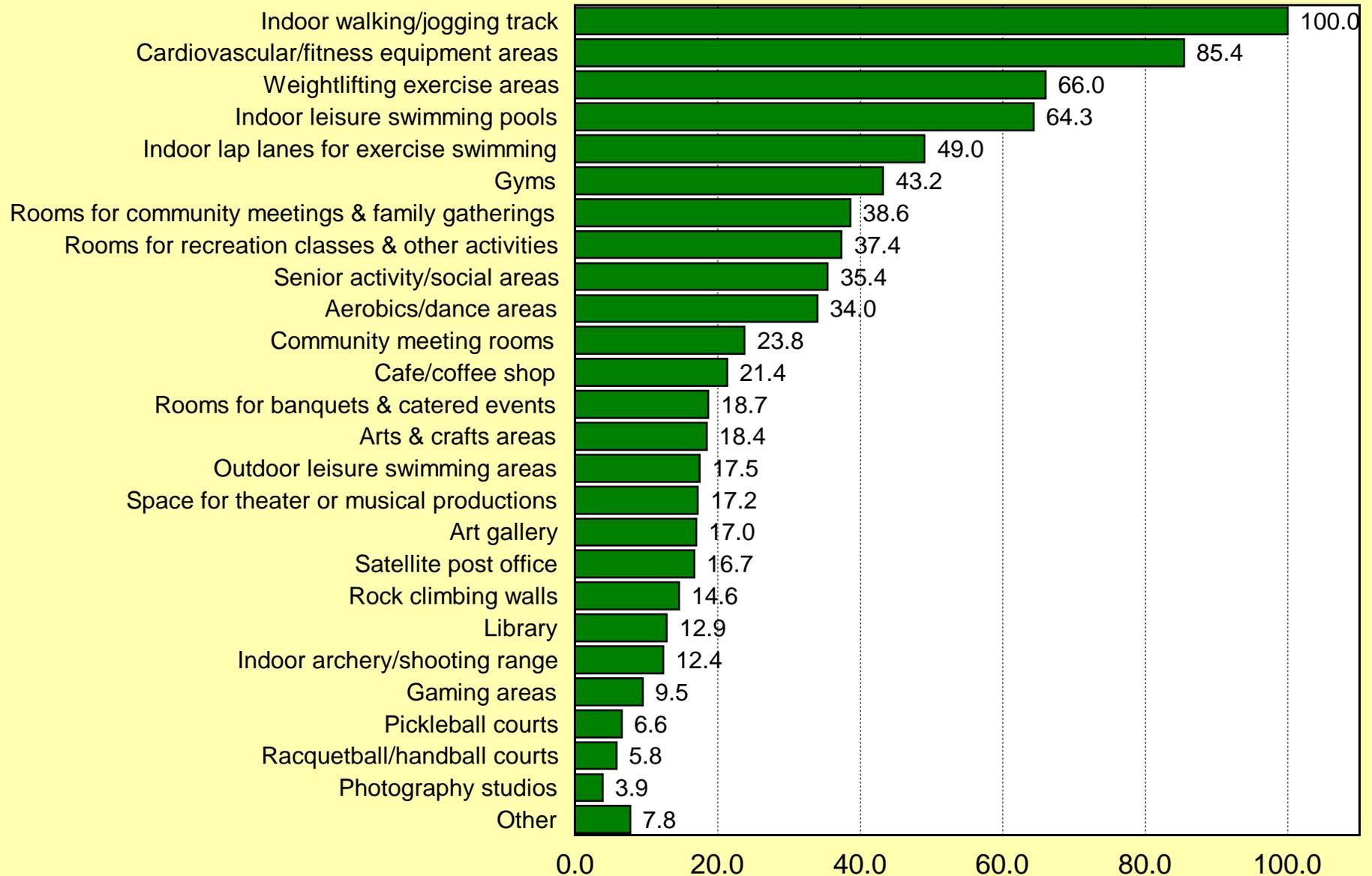
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

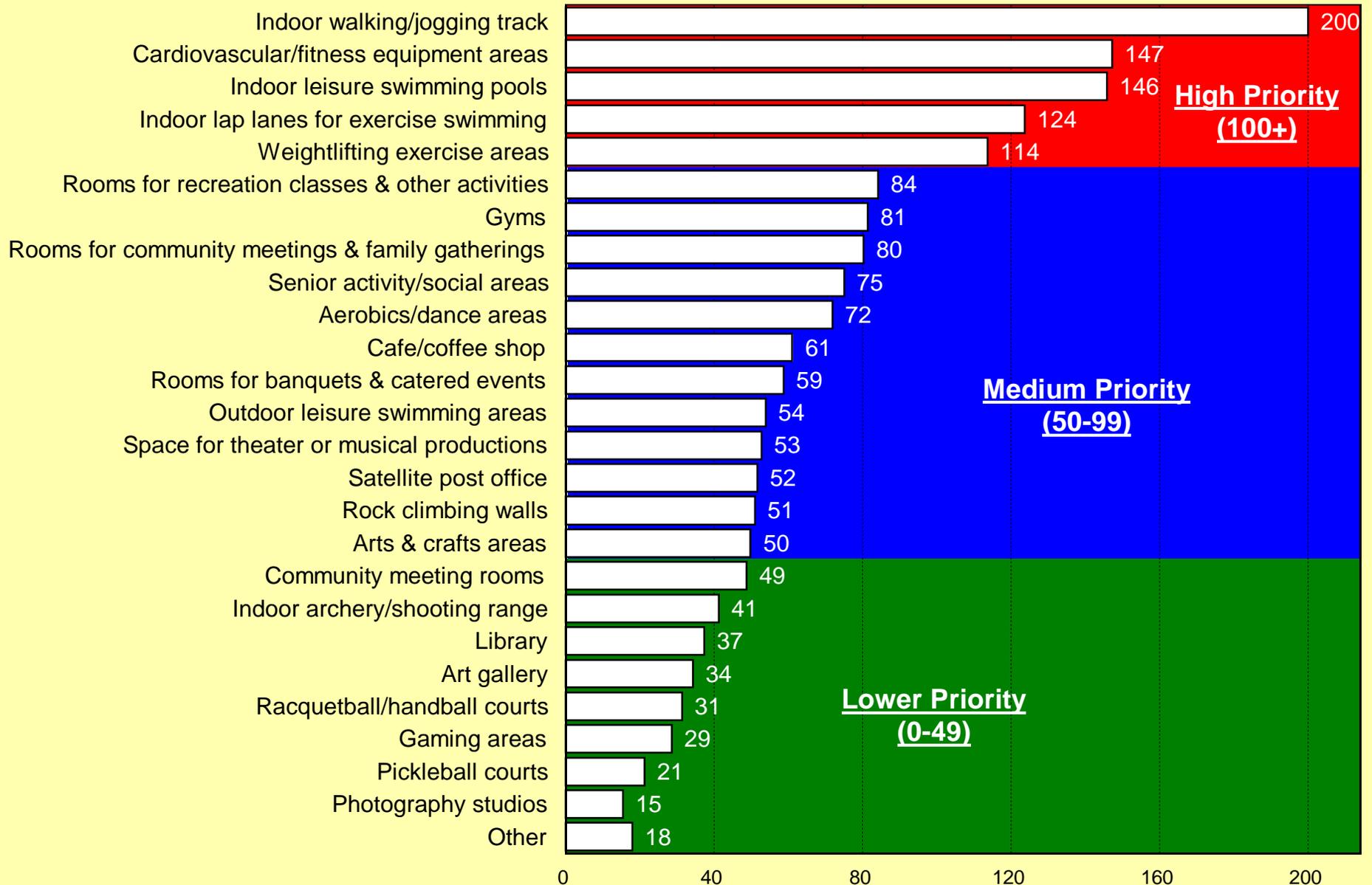
Importance Rating for Indoor Recreation Facilities

the rating for the item rated as the most important=100
 the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Top Priorities for Investment for Indoor Recreation Facilities Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2016)

Section 3

Benchmarking Analysis

Benchmarking Summary Report

Merriam, Kansas

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 400 communities in over 49 states across the country.

The results of these surveys has provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.”

Communities within the data base include a full-range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

“National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

Results from household responses for Merriam, Kansas were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information. A summary of all tabular comparisons are shown on the following page.

Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with the Merriam, Kansas is not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.

Benchmarking for the City of Merriam, Kansas		
	National Average	Merriam 2016
Organizations used for parks and recreation programs and facilities		
Churches	28%	21%
City/County Parks & Recreation Department	46%	47%
College/University Facilities	16%	6%
Private Clubs	21%	24%
Private sports clubs	18%	10%
School District	30%	15%
Parks and recreation facilities that respondent households have a need for		
Indoor Gyms/Multi-Purpose Rec Center	27%	41%
Indoor running/walking track	40%	66%
Indoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Center	41%	54%
Lap Lanes for Swimming (indoor)	30%	48%
Rooms for recreation classes and other activities	24%	44%
Outdoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Center	43%	33%
Senior Centers (Senior activity space)	22%	40%
Most important parks and recreation facilities (sum of top choices)		
Indoor Gyms/Multi-Purpose Rec Center	7%	18%
Indoor running/walking track	16%	27%
Indoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Center	14%	41%
Lap Lanes for Swimming (indoor)	8%	20%
Rooms for recreation classes and other activities	5%	15%
Outdoor Swimming Pools/Aquatic Center	19%	7%
Senior Centers (Senior activity space)	9%	15%

Section 4

Tabular Data

Q1. Have you or members of your household visited the Merriam Aquatic Center, located in Vavra Park on Slater Street in the past two summer seasons?

Q1. Have you or members of your household visited the Merriam Aquatic Center, located in Vavra Park on Slater Street in the past two summer seasons?

	Number	Percent
Yes	181	34.7 %
No	331	63.4 %
Don't know or not sure	10	1.9 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q2. About how often did you visit the Merriam Aquatic Center in the past two summer seasons?

Q2. About how often did you visit the Merriam Aquatic Center in the past two summer seasons?

	Number	Percent
Daily	9	5.0 %
A few times per week	34	18.8 %
Weekly	41	22.7 %
Monthly	21	11.6 %
Once or twice a season	71	39.2 %
Don't know	5	2.8 %
Total	181	100.0 %

Q3. Due to the aging infrastructure of the Merriam Aquatic Center and increasing operating costs, the City of Merriam is studying options for the future of the facility. Regardless if you have visited the Merriam Aquatic Center over the past several years, we would like your opinion on the following questions.

(N=522)

	Very interested	Interested	Neutral	Not interested	Not at all interested	Don't know
Q3-1. Outdoor pool lap lanes	21.8%	18.1%	28.7%	9.6%	19.9%	1.9%
Q3-2. Zero depth entry pool	31.0%	21.6%	21.0%	7.5%	16.3%	2.7%
Q3-3. Water slides	24.1%	24.1%	21.4%	9.4%	19.0%	2.0%
Q3-4. Lazy river	31.9%	25.7%	17.3%	6.6%	16.1%	2.3%
Q3-5. Spray pad	16.4%	20.7%	29.8%	12.2%	17.2%	3.7%
Q3-6. Diving boards	20.9%	20.7%	26.2%	10.4%	19.8%	2.0%
Q3-7. Concessions	19.2%	28.0%	23.9%	8.6%	18.4%	1.8%
Q3-8. Sun decks	17.4%	26.8%	24.9%	8.8%	20.2%	2.0%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

Q3. Due to the aging infrastructure of the Merriam Aquatic Center and increasing operating costs, the City of Merriam is studying options for the future of the facility. Regardless if you have visited the Merriam Aquatic Center over the past several years, we would like your opinion on the following questions. (excluding don't know)

(N=522)

	Very interested	Interested	Neutral	Not interested	Not at all interested
Q3-1. Outdoor pool lap lanes	22.3%	18.5%	29.2%	9.7%	20.3%
Q3-2. Zero depth entry pool	31.9%	22.2%	21.6%	7.7%	16.7%
Q3-3. Water slides	24.6%	24.6%	21.8%	9.6%	19.4%
Q3-4. Lazy river	32.7%	26.3%	17.7%	6.8%	16.5%
Q3-5. Spray pad	17.0%	21.5%	30.9%	12.7%	17.8%
Q3-6. Diving boards	21.4%	21.2%	26.7%	10.6%	20.2%
Q3-7. Concessions	19.6%	28.5%	24.4%	8.8%	18.8%
Q3-8. Sun decks	17.8%	27.3%	25.3%	9.0%	20.6%

Q4. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 3 do you think would be most important to include in the design of a new or redesigned aquatic center for our community?

Q4. Most important	Number	Percent
Outdoor pool lap lanes	93	17.8 %
Zero depth entry pool	120	23.0 %
Water slides	54	10.3 %
Lazy river	84	16.1 %
Spray pad	19	3.6 %
Diving boards	40	7.7 %
Concessions	10	1.9 %
Sun decks	16	3.1 %
None chosen	86	16.5 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q4. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 3 do you think would be most important to include in the design of a new or redesigned aquatic center for our community?

Q4. 2nd most important	Number	Percent
Outdoor pool lap lanes	32	6.1 %
Zero depth entry pool	71	13.6 %
Water slides	62	11.9 %
Lazy river	107	20.5 %
Spray pad	36	6.9 %
Diving boards	54	10.3 %
Concessions	39	7.5 %
Sun decks	26	5.0 %
None chosen	95	18.2 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q4. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 3 do you think would be most important to include in the design of a new or redesigned aquatic center for our community?

Q4. 3rd most important	Number	Percent
Outdoor pool lap lanes	42	8.0 %
Zero depth entry pool	50	9.6 %
Water slides	61	11.7 %
Lazy river	59	11.3 %
Spray pad	42	8.0 %
Diving boards	41	7.9 %
Concessions	67	12.8 %
Sun decks	47	9.0 %
None chosen	113	21.6 %
Total	522	100.0 %

SUM OF TOP 3 CHOICES

Q4. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 3 do you think would be most important to include in the design of a new or redesigned aquatic center for our community? (sum of top three)

Q4. Sum of Top 3 Choices	Number	Percent
Outdoor pool lap lanes	167	32.0 %
Zero depth entry pool	241	46.2 %
Water slides	177	33.9 %
Lazy river	250	47.9 %
Spray pad	97	18.6 %
Diving boards	135	25.9 %
Concessions	116	22.2 %
Sun decks	89	17.0 %
None chosen	86	16.5 %
Total	1358	

Q5. If a new aquatic center is developed which included the features you chose as most important in Question 4 how often would you or other members of your household use the facility?

Q5. If a new aquatic center is developed which included the features you chose as MOST IMPORTANT in Question 4, how often would you or other members of your household use the facility?

	Number	Percent
Daily	20	3.8 %
A few times per week	94	18.0 %
Weekly	108	20.7 %
Monthly	52	10.0 %
Once or twice a season	62	11.9 %
Don't know	186	35.6 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q6. Have you or members of your household visited the Irene B. French Community Center (Merriam Community Center) in the past year?

Q6. Have you or members of your household visited the Irene B. French Community Center (Merriam Community Center) in the past year?

	Number	Percent
Yes	209	40.0 %
No	302	57.9 %
Don't know or not sure	11	2.1 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q7. About how often did you visit the Irene B. French Community Center in the past year?

Q7. About how often did you visit the Irene B. French Community Center in the past year?

	Number	Percent
Daily	7	3.3 %
A few times per week	21	10.0 %
Weekly	26	12.4 %
Monthly	31	14.8 %
Less than six times	117	56.0 %
Don't know	7	3.3 %
Total	209	100.0 %

Q8. Several INDOOR recreation facilities and amenities that could be included in a NEW or renovated community center are listed below. For each one, please indicate if you or others in your household have a need for the item by circling "YES" or "NO."

(N=522)

	Yes	No
Q8-1. Aerobics/dance areas	33.9%	66.1%
Q8-2. Arts and crafts areas	24.9%	75.1%
Q8-3. Art gallery	23.2%	76.8%
Q8-4. Cafe/coffee shop	32.0%	68.0%
Q8-5. Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	62.8%	37.2%
Q8-6. Community meeting rooms	34.9%	65.1%
Q8-7. Gaming areas with video games, billiards, etc.	17.8%	82.2%
Q8-8. Gyms for basketball/volleyball	41.4%	58.6%
Q8-9. Indoor archery/shooting range	18.2%	81.8%
Q8-10. Indoor leisure swimming pools	54.2%	45.8%
Q8-11. Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	48.3%	51.7%
Q8-12. Indoor walking/jogging track	66.3%	33.7%
Q8-13. Library	26.4%	73.6%
Q8-14. Outdoor leisure swimming areas	33.1%	66.9%
Q8-15. Photography studios	8.4%	91.6%
Q8-16. Pickleball courts	12.8%	87.2%
Q8-17. Racquetball/handball courts	18.0%	82.0%
Q8-18. Rock climbing walls	23.8%	76.2%
Q8-19. Rooms for recreation classes and other activities	44.4%	55.6%

Q8. Several INDOOR recreation facilities and amenities that could be included in a NEW or renovated community center are listed below. For each one, please indicate if you or others in your household have a need for the item by circling "YES" or "NO."

	Yes	No
Q8-20. Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	47.7%	52.3%
Q8-21. Rooms for banquets & catered events	36.4%	63.6%
Q8-22. Satellite post office	26.2%	73.8%
Q8-23. Space for theatre or musical productions	24.5%	75.5%
Q8-24. Senior activity/social areas	39.8%	60.2%
Q8-25. Weightlifting exercise areas	54.0%	46.0%
Q8-26. Other	6.3%	93.7%

Q8. Other.

<u>Q8-26. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A place to walk dogs year round, without worrying about snow/ice	1	3.1 %
Activities/space for youth	1	3.1 %
Better walkability on Antioch	1	3.1 %
Bike lanes	1	3.1 %
Childcare	2	6.2 %
Ceramics room	1	3.1 %
Children/toddler play area	1	3.1 %
Don't raise taxes!!	1	3.1 %
Extension of city gov. office.	1	3.1 %
Free movie area	1	3.1 %
Fully eqpt gym	1	3.1 %
History room	1	3.1 %
Indoor playground-hours are awful	1	3.1 %
Indoor tennis courts	1	3.1 %
Kids play area	1	3.1 %
Lazy river/aquatic therapy/indoor pool	1	3.1 %
Music room sound proof, board game room	1	3.1 %
Open gym for kids	1	3.1 %
Playground	2	6.2 %
Ping pong	1	3.1 %
Sand volleyball courts	1	3.1 %
Sauna dry & wet	1	3.1 %
Sauna hot tub	1	3.1 %
Short term child care area	1	3.1 %
Sauna	1	3.1 %
Silver Sneakers yoga, more exercise classes.	1	3.1 %
Yoga	2	6.2 %
Indoor playground	1	3.1 %
<u>Sauna, steam room</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3.1 %</u>
Total	32	100.0 %

Q8. If you or others have a need, please indicate how well your needs for the item are being met.

(N=456)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q8-1. Aerobics/dance areas	9.8%	27.9%	41.0%	21.3%
Q8-2. Arts & crafts areas	7.4%	22.3%	36.2%	34.0%
Q8-3. Art gallery	30.9%	27.7%	25.5%	16.0%
Q8-4. Cafe/coffee shop	9.3%	21.5%	23.4%	45.8%
Q8-5. Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	17.8%	27.4%	37.0%	17.8%
Q8-6. Community meeting rooms	21.1%	39.0%	26.8%	13.0%
Q8-7. Gaming areas with video games, billiards, etc.	18.5%	21.5%	38.5%	21.5%
Q8-8. Gyms for basketball/volleyball	16.9%	31.6%	33.1%	18.4%
Q8-9. Indoor archery/shooting range	1.4%	10.0%	18.6%	70.0%
Q8-10. Indoor leisure swimming pools	5.2%	10.9%	13.0%	70.8%
Q8-11. Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	4.7%	9.3%	13.4%	72.7%
Q8-12. Indoor walking/jogging track	3.9%	12.0%	19.7%	64.4%
Q8-13. Library	28.1%	20.2%	16.9%	34.8%
Q8-14. Outdoor leisure swimming areas	13.1%	25.4%	13.9%	47.5%
Q8-15. Photography studios	10.0%	13.3%	20.0%	56.7%
Q8-16. Pickleball courts	13.9%	22.2%	22.2%	41.7%
Q8-17. Racquetball/handball courts	12.3%	8.8%	24.6%	54.4%
Q8-18. Rock climbing walls	6.1%	8.5%	15.9%	69.5%
Q8-19. Rooms for recreation classes & other activities	11.6%	29.7%	35.5%	23.2%
Q8-20. Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	20.8%	30.5%	33.8%	14.9%

Q8. If you or others have a need, please indicate how well your needs for the item are being met.

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q8-21. Rooms for banquets & catered events	14.0%	24.6%	36.8%	24.6%
Q8-22. Satellite post office	2.2%	23.6%	16.9%	57.3%
Q8-23. Space for theatre or musical productions	3.8%	15.2%	30.4%	50.6%
Q8-24. Senior activity/social areas	16.7%	27.8%	36.5%	19.0%
Q8-25. Weightlifting exercise areas	19.7%	31.1%	31.6%	17.6%
Q8-26. Other	0.0%	9.5%	38.1%	52.4%

Q9. Which FOUR of the items listed in Question 8 do you think are most important to include in the design of a NEW or renovated community recreation center for Merriam?

Q9. Most important	Number	Percent
Aerobics/dance areas	30	5.7 %
Arts & crafts areas	11	2.1 %
Art gallery	8	1.5 %
Cafe/coffee shop	11	2.1 %
Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	78	14.9 %
Community meeting rooms	15	2.9 %
Gyms	26	5.0 %
Indoor archery/shooting range	7	1.3 %
Indoor leisure swimming pools	57	10.9 %
Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	31	5.9 %
Indoor walking/jogging track	45	8.6 %
Library	3	0.6 %
Outdoor leisure swimming areas	6	1.1 %
Photography studios	2	0.4 %
Pickleball courts	3	0.6 %
Racquetball/handball courts	3	0.6 %
Rock climbing walls	5	1.0 %
Rooms for recreation classes & other activities	10	1.9 %
Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	19	3.6 %
Rooms for banquets & catered events	2	0.4 %
Satellite post office	8	1.5 %
Space for theatre or musical productions	6	1.1 %
Senior activity/social areas	16	3.1 %
Weightlifting exercise areas	27	5.2 %
Other	6	1.1 %
None	87	16.7 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the items listed in Question 8 do you think are most important to include in the design of a NEW or renovated community recreation center for Merriam?

Q9. 2nd most important	Number	Percent
Aerobics/dance areas	17	3.3 %
Arts & crafts areas	12	2.3 %
Art gallery	8	1.5 %
Cafe/coffee shop	8	1.5 %
Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	50	9.6 %
Community meeting rooms	18	3.4 %
Gaming areas	5	1.0 %
Gyms	32	6.1 %
Indoor archery/shooting range	3	0.6 %
Indoor leisure swimming pools	42	8.0 %
Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	31	5.9 %
Indoor walking/jogging track	62	11.9 %
Library	10	1.9 %
Outdoor leisure swimming areas	17	3.3 %
Photography studios	2	0.4 %
Pickleball courts	4	0.8 %
Racquetball/handball courts	1	0.2 %
Rock climbing walls	4	0.8 %
Rooms for recreation classes & other activities	14	2.7 %
Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	22	4.2 %
Rooms for banquets & catered events	9	1.7 %
Satellite post office	5	1.0 %
Space for theatre or musical productions	4	0.8 %
Senior activity/social areas	7	1.3 %
Weightlifting exercise areas	36	6.9 %
Other	3	0.6 %
None	96	18.4 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the items listed in Question 8 do you think are most important to include in the design of a NEW or renovated community recreation center for Merriam?

Q9. 3rd most important	Number	Percent
Aerobics/dance areas	11	2.1 %
Arts & crafts areas	11	2.1 %
Art gallery	6	1.1 %
Cafe/coffee shop	10	1.9 %
Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	33	6.3 %
Community meeting rooms	13	2.5 %
Gaming areas	4	0.8 %
Gyms	24	4.6 %
Indoor archery/shooting range	9	1.7 %
Indoor leisure swimming pools	18	3.4 %
Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	25	4.8 %
Indoor walking/jogging track	70	13.4 %
Library	9	1.7 %
Outdoor leisure swimming areas	8	1.5 %
Photography studios	2	0.4 %
Pickleball courts	1	0.2 %
Racquetball/handball courts	3	0.6 %
Rock climbing walls	13	2.5 %
Rooms for recreation classes & other activities	28	5.4 %
Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	26	5.0 %
Rooms for banquets & catered events	15	2.9 %
Satellite post office	8	1.5 %
Space for theatre or musical productions	10	1.9 %
Senior activity/social areas	24	4.6 %
Weightlifting exercise areas	34	6.5 %
Other	2	0.4 %
None	105	20.1 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q9. Which FOUR of the items listed in Question 8 do you think are most important to include in the design of a NEW or renovated community recreation center for Merriam?

Q9. 4th most important	Number	Percent
Aerobics/dance areas	15	2.9 %
Arts & crafts areas	6	1.1 %
Art gallery	15	2.9 %
Cafe/coffee shop	17	3.3 %
Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	23	4.4 %
Community meeting rooms	5	1.0 %
Gaming areas	11	2.1 %
Gyms	11	2.1 %
Indoor archery/shooting range	8	1.5 %
Indoor leisure swimming pools	22	4.2 %
Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	19	3.6 %
Indoor walking/jogging track	38	7.3 %
Library	6	1.1 %
Outdoor leisure swimming areas	7	1.3 %
Photography studios	2	0.4 %
Pickleball courts	6	1.1 %
Racquetball/handball courts	5	1.0 %
Rock climbing walls	9	1.7 %
Rooms for recreation classes & other activities	28	5.4 %
Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	16	3.1 %
Rooms for banquets & catered events	14	2.7 %
Satellite post office	15	2.9 %
Space for theatre or musical productions	17	3.3 %
Senior activity/social areas	29	5.6 %
Weightlifting exercise areas	45	8.6 %
Other	6	1.1 %
None	127	24.3 %
Total	522	100.0 %

SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES**Q9. Which FOUR of the items listed in Question 8 do you think are most important to include in the design of a NEW or renovated community recreation center for Merriam? (sum of top four choices)**

Q9. Sum of Top 4 Choices	Number	Percent
Aerobics/dance areas	73	14.0 %
Arts & crafts areas	40	7.7 %
Art gallery	37	7.1 %
Cafe/coffee shop	46	8.8 %
Cardiovascular/fitness equipment areas	184	35.2 %
Community meeting rooms	51	9.8 %
Gaming areas	20	3.8 %
Gyms	93	17.8 %
Indoor archery/shooting range	27	5.2 %
Indoor leisure swimming pools	139	26.6 %
Indoor lap lanes for exercise swimming	106	20.3 %
Indoor walking/jogging track	215	41.2 %
Library	28	5.4 %
Outdoor leisure swimming areas	38	7.3 %
Photography studios	8	1.5 %
Pickleball courts	14	2.7 %
Racquetball/handball courts	12	2.3 %
Rock climbing walls	31	5.9 %
Rooms for recreation classes & other activities	80	15.3 %
Rooms for community meetings & family gatherings	83	15.9 %
Rooms for banquets & catered events	40	7.7 %
Satellite post office	36	6.9 %
Space for theatre or musical productions	37	7.1 %
Senior activity/social areas	76	14.6 %
Weightlifting exercise areas	142	27.2 %
Other	17	3.3 %
None	87	16.7 %
Total	1760	

Q10. If a NEW or renovated community recreation center is developed which included the features you chose as most important in Question 9, how often would you or other members of your household use the facility on an annual basis?

Q10. If a NEW or renovated community recreation center is developed which included the features you chose as most important in Question 9, how often would you or other members of your household use the facility on an annual basis?

	Number	Percent
Daily	25	4.8 %
A few times per week	133	25.5 %
Weekly	108	20.7 %
Monthly	64	12.3 %
Less than six times	50	9.6 %
Don't know	142	27.2 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q11. If a community recreation center were to offer short-term childcare available for people with children who use the facility, would you be more likely to use the facility?

Q11. If a community recreation center were to offer short-term childcare available for people with children who use the facility, would you be more likely to use the facility?

	Number	Percent
Yes	118	22.6 %
No	280	53.6 %
Don't know	124	23.8 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q12. Assuming the City were to build a NEW community recreation center in Merriam, what do you believe should happen to the school building where the current Irene B. French Community Center is located? From the following list of options, please check the TWO options you would most support.

(N=522)

	Yes	No
Q12-1. Demolish the building and convert the site to open parkland/greenspace	17.4%	82.6%
Q12-2. Demolish the building and develop new outdoor park facilities to encourage use	36.2%	63.8%
Q12-3. Sell the property at the highest offer	22.8%	77.2%
Q12-4. Do not relocate the Irene B. French Community Center & continue operating it as-is	13.2%	86.8%
Q12-5. Not sure	23.6%	76.4%
Q12-6. Other	13.2%	86.8%

Q12. Other:

Q12-6. Other	Number	Percent
A new facility would cost so much more than the current expenditures.	1	1.4 %
Add on to original building	1	1.4 %
Arts/museum	1	1.4 %
as possible.	1	1.4 %
Build a new center on the west Antioch Elam site	1	1.4 %
Build new building on existing lot if can handle parking	1	1.4 %
Build the new one attached to old one and utilize as much of the old one		
Buy property around the current space demolish the old and build		
Co working space	1	1.4 %
Convert it to a history museum for city	1	1.4 %
Convert to all art gallery/theater space	1	1.4 %
Convert to food pantry for poor.	1	1.4 %
Convert update old pool.	1	1.4 %
Demolish and build new center	1	1.4 %
Demolish and develop but in context of Merriam Dr. Master		
Demolish and put something there to attract the kind of traffic		
Demolish and rebuild	3	4.3 %
Demolish building and build tennis courts and volley ball courts.		
Demolish building, rebuild on current site.	1	1.4 %
Demolish it for off leash dog park.	1	1.4 %
Demolish the building & build a new on that space	1	1.4 %
Demolish the building; build the new building here	1	1.4 %
Demolish the center and build a new pool there	1	1.4 %
Demolish. use land for community center	1	1.4 %
Designate as historical and convert to art gallery	1	1.4 %
Designated as historical and see or operate as a museum	1	1.4 %
Dog park off leash	1	1.4 %
Don't demolish a beautiful building and historic value; find another use for it	1	1.4 %
Food pantry food kitchen to serve free meals daily	1	1.4 %
Have an architect firm redesign the Irene B French community center	1	1.4 %
Historic preservation	1	1.4 %
If possible, use the site for a new community building	1	1.4 %
If structural possible, gut the building and use new park facility, as large 'shelter" or outdoor theater.	1	1.4 %
It is such a historic building it would be sad to lose it. However, losing money on it because it is outdated isn't financially sound. Tough call!	1	1.4 %
It's a beautiful building - leave as is!	1	1.4 %
It's a historical building. Do not destroy it.	1	1.4 %
It's a landmark and lovely building. Hate to see it demolished.	1	1.4 %

Q12. Other:

Q12-6. Other	Number	Percent
Keep history intact, keep some parts	1	1.4 %
Keep 'original' bldg - use for art, etc.	1	1.4 %
Keep art center rooms and perhaps some meeting rooms.	1	1.4 %
Keep open as a museum	1	1.4 %
Keep original 1911 building for art gallery, increase green space, move recreation center to Vavra Park (connect to Aquatic Center).	1	1.4 %
Museum child's center; city buildings offices.	1	1.4 %
Merriam needs a dog park.	1	1.4 %
Museum	1	1.4 %
No new facility! Demolish old one and convert to green space!	1	1.4 %
None	1	1.4 %
Old K-mart parking lot is much more convenient.	1	1.4 %
Put up for a vote, before spending our money	1	1.4 %
Plaque history/park	1	1.4 %
Preserve the building and convert to offices or something.	1	1.4 %
Renovate and expand building on site.	1	1.4 %
Re-purpose the site.	1	1.4 %
Rebuild in same location.	1	1.4 %
Renovate and re-purpose as historic structures for community events.	1	1.4 %
Restore the building but add on additional facilities to make the building more useful to residents. I would use the facility as my main exercise facility if there were enough cardio machines to accommodate lots of residents or if there was an indoor lap pool.	1	1.4 %
Still use it for meeting space	1	1.4 %
Try to preserve historic building and find suitable use.	1	1.4 %
Turn into museum or historic landmark	1	1.4 %
Use it for the market place across street parking more vendors.	1	1.4 %
Use it as a historic building.	1	1.4 %
Use part of the current center with the rest new built/ remodeled.	1	1.4 %
We don't use	1	1.4 %
Would like to stay but if new build. Maybe made into lofts	1	1.4 %
Leave historical part of the building	1	1.4 %
Make it a museum	1	1.4 %
Turn it into community space	1	1.4 %
Work with SM school district for after school programs	1	1.4 %

Q13. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree," please rate your level of agreement with the following statements. A rating of 3 indicates that you understand the issue, but are neutral. Circle "9" if you don't have enough information to have an opinion.

(N=522)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q13-1. It is valuable to me to have a community recreation center	37.8%	36.3%	17.7%	2.7%	2.5%	2.9%
Q13-2. I believe a community recreation center boosts property values in our community	34.8%	35.7%	17.6%	4.1%	2.0%	5.9%
Q13-3. The City of Merriam needs a new community recreation center	27.0%	23.8%	31.1%	4.9%	4.7%	8.5%
Q13-4. A new community recreation center should be geographically located as close to the middle of our community as possible	22.3%	33.9%	31.5%	4.9%	2.9%	4.5%
Q13-5. A community recreation center should include a social gathering component	22.3%	44.7%	25.6%	1.6%	1.8%	4.1%
Q13-6. Our community needs more fitness, recreation, & social opportunities for youth & teens	25.3%	34.9%	25.9%	4.5%	2.3%	7.0%
Q13-7. Our community needs more fitness, recreation & social opportunities for seniors	27.0%	36.5%	24.8%	2.1%	1.8%	7.8%
Q13-8. A community recreation center should generate revenue from user fees to help cover the cost of operations	24.9%	43.7%	20.6%	5.1%	2.0%	3.7%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

Q13. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree," please rate your level of agreement with the following statements. A rating of 3 indicates that you understand the issue, but are neutral. Circle "9" if you don't have enough information to have an opinion. (excluding don't know)

(N=522)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q13-1. It is valuable to me to have a community recreation center	39.0%	37.3%	18.3%	2.8%	2.6%
Q13-2. I believe a community recreation center boosts property values in our community	36.9%	38.0%	18.7%	4.4%	2.1%
Q13-3. The City of Merriam needs a new community recreation center	29.5%	26.0%	34.0%	5.4%	5.2%
Q13-4. A new community recreation center should be geographically located as close to the middle of our community as possible	23.4%	35.5%	33.0%	5.1%	3.1%
Q13-5. A community recreation center should include a social gathering component	23.2%	46.6%	26.7%	1.6%	1.8%
Q13-6. Our community needs more fitness, recreation, & social opportunities for youth & teens	27.3%	37.5%	27.9%	4.8%	2.5%
Q13-7. Our community needs more fitness, recreation & social opportunities for seniors	29.2%	39.6%	26.9%	2.3%	1.9%
Q13-8. A community recreation center should generate revenue from user fees to help cover the cost of operations	25.9%	45.4%	21.4%	5.3%	2.0%

Q14. Municipal bonds would likely be required to finance development of a new or renovated community recreation center. From the following list of options, please check the ONE option you would most likely support the City taking in order to repay such bonds.

Q14. From the following list of options, please check the ONE option you would most likely support the City taking in order to repay such bonds.

	Number	Percent
A local sales tax increase	131	25.1 %
An increase to local property taxes	29	5.6 %
A combination of the option 1 & 2	124	23.8 %
Neither option 1 or 2	110	21.1 %
Don't know or not sure	128	24.5 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q15. The City would also need to plan for the costs associated with the operation, maintenance, and long term care of a new or renovated community recreation center. From the following list of options, please check up to TWO options you would most support the City using for this purpose.

(N=522)

	Yes	No
Q15-1. A local sales tax increase	34.9%	65.1%
Q15-2. An increase to local property taxes	13.0%	87.0%
Q15-3. User fees paid by patrons to the center	73.8%	26.2%
Q15-9. Don't know or not sure	19.9%	80.1%

Q16. If a NEW community center is developed with the facilities and programs you prefer most, would you or other members of your household be willing to pay to use the services and facilities?

Q16. If a NEW community center is developed with the facilities and programs you prefer most, would you or other members of your household be willing to pay to use the services and facilities?

	Number	Percent
Yes	278	53.3 %
Maybe	178	34.1 %
No	59	11.3 %
Don't know	7	1.3 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q16a. Per Visit. What is the maximum amount per person per visit that you would be willing to pay to use the services and facilities at a NEW community recreation center?

Q16a. What is the maximum amount per person per visit that you would be willing to pay to use the services and facilities at a NEW community recreation center?

	Number	Percent
Up to \$5 per visit	310	68.0 %
Up to \$7 per visit	91	20.0 %
Up to \$10 per visit	17	3.7 %
Over \$10 per visit	21	4.6 %
Don't know	17	3.7 %
Total	456	100.0 %

Q16b. Per Month for an Individual. What is the maximum amount per MONTH that you would be willing to pay for an individual pass (or membership) to use the services and facilities at a NEW community recreation center?

Q16b. What is the maximum amount per MONTH that you would be willing to pay for an individual pass (or membership) to use the services and facilities at a NEW community recreation center?

	Number	Percent
Up to \$25 per month	263	57.7 %
Up to \$35 per month	127	27.9 %
Up to \$45 per month	27	5.9 %
Over \$45 per month	15	3.3 %
Don't know	24	5.3 %
Total	456	100.0 %

Q16c. Per Month for a Family. What is the maximum amount per MONTH that you would be willing to pay for a family pass (or membership) to use the services and facilities at a NEW community recreation center?

Q16c. What is the maximum amount per MONTH that you would be willing to pay for a family pass (or membership) to use the services and facilities at a NEW community recreation center?

	Number	Percent
Up to \$35 per month	162	35.5 %
Up to \$45 per month	104	22.8 %
Up to \$55 per month	82	18.0 %
Over \$55 per month	54	11.8 %
Don't know	54	11.8 %
Total	456	100.0 %

Q17. Which of the following organizations provide leisure and recreation facilities that are used by you and other members of your household?

(N=522)

	Yes	No
Q17-1. School district	15.3%	84.7%
Q17-2. Churches or other religious organizations	21.1%	78.9%
Q17-3. Private youth sports teams	10.2%	89.8%
Q17-4. Local colleges	6.1%	93.9%
Q17-5. Non-profit organizations	9.6%	90.4%
Q17-6. Private clubs	23.8%	76.2%
Q17-7. City of Merriam Paarks & Recreation	42.7%	57.3%
Q17-8. Other cities, county, or state parks & facilities	46.6%	53.4%
Q17-9. Other	9.0%	91.0%
Q17-10. None, do not use any organizations	16.5%	83.5%

Q17. Other:

<u>Q17-9. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
24 HR SHIFT	1	2.2 %
Apartment complex	2	4.4 %
Apartment building	1	2.2 %
Casino	1	2.2 %
Community center	1	2.2 %
Discount through health insurance and senior	1	2.2 %
Edelweis home association	1	2.2 %
Fitness center	1	2.2 %
Fitness center pool at the apartment	1	2.2 %
Fitness gym	1	2.2 %
Free from insurance	1	2.2 %
Gym membership	2	4.3 %
Health gyms	1	2.2 %
Johnston County parks	1	2.2 %
Johnson County Library	3	6.6 %
KC ballet school	1	2.2 %
Lenexa	1	2.2 %
Libraries	2	4.4 %
Milburn Country Club	1	2.2 %
Mission Sylvester Powell	1	2.2 %
Mission and Overland Park	1	2.2 %
My office	1	2.2 %
Neighborhood pools	1	2.2 %
Olathe community center	1	2.2 %
Powder Creek	1	2.2 %
Sylvester Powell Community Center	4	8.8 %
Shawnee Mission Park dog park	1	2.2 %
Sylvester Powell	1	2.2 %
Sylvester Powell Jr Community Center	1	2.2 %
Town house club house	1	2.2 %
We have a pool and club house	1	2.2 %
We have our own and my company provides facilities.	1	2.2 %
Work	1	2.2 %
World Gym	2	4.4 %
Community center on Armour Rd in KCMO	1	2.2 %
Overland Park Arboretum	1	2.2 %
<u>Other community centers like matt ross</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2.2 %</u>
Total	46	100.0 %

Q18. How far do you currently travel to use these types of leisure and recreation facilities?

Q18. How far do you currently travel to use these types of leisure and recreation facilities?

	Number	Percent
Up to 3 miles	159	30.5 %
3 to 5 miles	144	27.6 %
6 to 10 miles	97	18.6 %
More than 10 miles	55	10.5 %
Don't know	67	12.8 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q19. Please rank the importance of the following potential improvements to City of Merriam parks, trails, arts, and recreation facilities, on a scale of 1 to 6, where "1" is "most important", and "6" is "least important".

(N=522)

	Most Important	2	3	4	5	Least Important	Don't know
Q19-1. Development/improvement of indoor facilities	30.7%	18.6%	14.8%	6.5%	8.0%	10.9%	10.5%
Q19-2. Redevelopment of the Merriam Aquatic Center	20.9%	16.7%	14.2%	12.5%	10.0%	14.9%	10.9%
Q19-3. Construction of new outdoor park amenities	2.3%	9.4%	16.5%	21.1%	17.8%	20.7%	12.3%
Q19-4. Acquisition of new park land & open space	5.0%	6.5%	12.5%	13.4%	20.9%	29.3%	12.5%
Q19-5. Acquisition & development of walking & biking trails	13.4%	17.6%	13.8%	15.5%	14.6%	13.4%	11.7%
Q19-6. Maintenance of existing parks & recreation facilities	25.9%	18.6%	18.4%	13.8%	6.1%	6.3%	10.9%

WITHOUT DON'T KNOW

Q19. Please rank the importance of the following potential improvements to City of Merriam parks, trails, arts, and recreation facilities, on a scale of 1 to 6, where "1" is "most important", and "6" is "least important". (excluding don't know)

(N=522)

	Most Important	2	3	4	5	Least Important
Q19-1. Development/improvement of indoor facilities	34.3%	20.8%	16.5%	7.3%	9.0%	12.2%
Q19-2. Redevelopment of the Merriam Aquatic Center	23.4%	18.7%	15.9%	14.0%	11.2%	16.8%
Q19-3. Construction of new outdoor park amenities	2.6%	10.7%	18.8%	24.0%	20.3%	23.6%
Q19-4. Acquisition of new park land & open space	5.7%	7.4%	14.2%	15.3%	23.9%	33.5%
Q19-5. Acquisition & development of walking & biking trails	15.2%	20.0%	15.6%	17.6%	16.5%	15.2%
Q19-6. Maintenance of existing parks & recreation facilities	29.0%	20.9%	20.6%	15.5%	6.9%	7.1%

Q20. What is your age?

<u>Q20. What is your age?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under 35	101	19.3 %
35 to 44	98	18.8 %
45 to 54	95	18.2 %
55 to 64	108	20.7 %
65+	105	20.1 %
Not provided	15	2.9 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sum</u>
Avg household size	2.34	1223
Q21. Under age 5	0.17	91
Q21. Ages 5-9	0.13	66
Q21. Ages 10-14	0.11	58
Q21. Ages 15-19	0.12	63
Q21. Ages 20-24	0.09	49
Q21. Ages 25-34	0.31	162
Q21. Ages 35-44	0.29	153
Q21. Ages 45-54	0.33	170
Q21. Ages 55-64	0.37	191
Q21. Ages 65-74	0.27	141
Q21. Ages 75+	0.15	79

Q22. Approximately how many years have you lived in the City of Merriam?

<u>Q22. Approximately how many years have you lived in the City of Merriam?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-5 years	137	26.2 %
6-10 years	74	14.2 %
11-20 years	110	21.1 %
21-30 years	82	15.7 %
31+ years	103	19.7 %
Not provided	16	3.1 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q23. What is your total household income?

<u>Q23. What is your total household income?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under \$35,000	62	11.9 %
\$35,000 to \$59,999	122	23.4 %
\$60,000 to \$99,999	162	31.0 %
\$100,000 to \$149,999	98	18.8 %
\$150,000 or more	19	3.6 %
<u>Not provided</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>11.3 %</u>
Total	522	100.0 %

Q24. Have you voted in the past two years?

<u>Q24. Have you voted in the past two years?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	443	84.9 %
No	79	15.1 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q25. What is your gender?

<u>Q25. What is your gender?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	249	47.7 %
Female	273	52.3 %
Total	522	100.0 %

Q26. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

(N=522)

	Yes	No
Q26. White/Caucasian	86.6%	13.4%
Q26. Asian	1.5%	98.5%
Q26. Pacific Islander	0.4%	99.6%
Q26. Hispanic Islander	9.2%	90.8%
Q26. African American/Black	3.8%	96.2%
Q26. Native American	0.6%	99.4%
Q26. Other	0.4%	99.6%
Q26. Prefer not to answer	6.1%	93.9%

Q26. Other:

Q26. Other	Number	Percent
American Mexican	1	50.0 %
Middle East	1	50.0 %
Total	2	100.0 %

Section 5

Survey Instrument



Dear City of Merriam Resident:

The City of Merriam is considering options for the future of the Merriam Aquatic Center (located in Vavra Park on Slater Street) and the Irene B. French Community Center (located at 5701 Merriam Dr.). Whether or not you have used these facilities in the past, as a resident and taxpayer, you have a say in their future.

The Merriam Aquatic Center was built in 1985, with a renovation in 1999. A recent facility evaluation identified that the filtration system does not meet the current Johnson County Health and Environmental standards and the filters are showing signs of failure. The bath house does not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, there are lighting issues in the main basin as well as deteriorating concrete in all basins, and the slide tower and slides are going to require major repairs in the next two years. Lastly, since the last renovation is nearing 20 years of age, the facility is lacking features that patrons have come to expect in a facility, such as family restrooms and lockers.

The Irene B. French Community Center was purchased by the City of Merriam in 1988 after sitting vacant for many years. The original building was built in 1911 and operated as the Merriam School. Additions to the building occurred in 1937, 1951, and 1989. The facility evaluation identified life safety concerns with the facility not having a sprinkler system, as well as an outdated fire alarm and security system. There are numerous mechanical issues with the heating, air conditioning and plumbing, causing the City to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep them operational. In addition, structural issues were identified in the roof, basement and in various spaces throughout the building.

Due to these findings, the City of Merriam is faced with difficult decisions in order to best serve the citizens of Merriam. To make the most informed decisions possible, the City is working to create a Facilities Master Plan. This Master Plan will provide a roadmap on how to serve our citizens now and into the future. Enclosed is a survey to allow citizens the opportunity to provide feedback on these facilities and services currently offered and what is needed in the future. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete and return this survey.

We have selected ETC Institute, an independent consulting company, as our partner to administer this survey. They will compile the data received and present the results to the City of Merriam. **Your responses will remain confidential.** Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061. If you prefer, you may complete this survey online at www.merriamparkssurvey.org.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director at 913.322.5556. For more information about this exciting process and further opportunities to become involved visit www.merriam.org. The survey is a tool that will benefit all residents. Please take this opportunity to let your voice be heard!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ken Sissom

The City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department would like your input to help determine park and recreation priorities for our community. This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We greatly appreciate your time.

1. Have you or members of your household visited the Merriam Aquatic Center, located in Vavra Park on Slater Street in the past two summer seasons?

- ___(1) Yes [Please got to Question #2.]
- ___(2) No [Please go to Question #3.]
- ___(3) Don't Know or Not Sure [Please go to Question #3.]

2. About how often did you visit the Merriam Aquatic Center in the past two summer seasons?

- ___ (1) Daily
- ___ (2) A few times per week
- ___ (3) Weekly
- ___ (4) Monthly
- ___ (5) Once or twice a season
- ___ (6) Don't know

3. Due to the aging infrastructure of the Merriam Aquatic Center and increasing operating costs, the City of Merriam is studying options for the future of the facility. Regardless if you have visited the Merriam Aquatic Center over the past several years, we would like your opinion on the following questions.

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Interested," and 1 means "Not at All Interested," please indicate your interest in each of the following potential amenities.

Potential Amenities	Very Interested	Interested	Neutral	Not Interested	Not at All Interested	Don't Know
1. Outdoor pool lap lanes	5	4	3	2	1	9
2. Zero depth entry pool	5	4	3	2	1	9
3. Water slides	5	4	3	2	1	9
4. Lazy river	5	4	3	2	1	9
5. Spray pad	5	4	3	2	1	9
6. Diving boards	5	4	3	2	1	9
7. Concessions	5	4	3	2	1	9
8. Sun decks	5	4	3	2	1	9

4. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 3 do you think would be most important to include in the design of a new or redesigned aquatic center for our community? (Write your top 3 choices below using the numbers from the list in Question 3; if you do not think any of these are needed, circle "NONE.")

1st: ___ 2nd: ___ 3rd: ___ NONE

5. If a new aquatic center is developed which included the features you chose as most important in Question 4 how often would you or other members of your household use the facility?

- ___ (1) Daily
- ___ (2) A few times per week
- ___ (3) Weekly
- ___ (4) Monthly
- ___ (5) Once or twice a season
- ___ (6) Don't know

The City currently operates the former Merriam school building as the Irene B. French Community Center, located at 5701 Merriam Dr. The facility was initially built in 1911, with expansions in 1937, 1951 and 1989. As a result of its age, the City faces major costly repairs to continue to keep it operational. In addition, the facility was not originally designed to function as a community center and that limits the City's ability to provide all of the programs and services the community desires.

6. Have you or members of your household visited the Irene B. French Community Center (Merriam Community Center) in the past year?

- ___(1) Yes [Please got to Question #7.]
- ___(2) No [Please go to Question #8]
- ___(3) Don't Know or Not Sure [Please go to Question #8.]

15. The City would also need to plan for the costs associated with the operation, maintenance, and long term care of a new or renovated community recreation center. From the following list of options, please check up to TWO options you would most support the City using for this purpose.

- (1) A local sales tax increase
- (2) An increase to local property taxes
- (3) User fees paid by patrons to the center
- (4) Don't know or not sure

16. If a **NEW** community center is developed with the facilities and programs you prefer most, would you or other members of your household be willing to pay to use the services and facilities?

- (1) Yes [Please go to Question #16a.]
- (2) Maybe [Please go to Question #16a.]
- (3) No [Please go to Question #17.]

16a. **Per Visit.** What is the maximum amount per person per visit that you would be willing to pay to use the services and facilities at a **NEW** community recreation center?

- (1) Up to \$5 per visit (2) Up to \$7 per visit (3) Up to \$10 per visit
- (4) I would pay a reasonable amount over \$10 per visit depending on the services offered.

16b. **Per Month for an Individual.** What is the maximum amount per MONTH that you would be willing to pay for an individual pass (or membership) to use the services and facilities at a **NEW** community recreation center?

- (1) Up to \$25 per month (2) Up to \$35 per month (3) Up to \$45 per month
- (4) I would pay a reasonable amount over \$45 per visit depending on the services offered.

16c. **Per Month for a Family.** What is the maximum amount per MONTH that you would be willing to pay for a family pass (or membership) to use the services and facilities at a **NEW** community recreation center?

- (1) Up to \$35 per month (2) Up to \$45 per month (3) Up to \$55 per month
- (4) Not applicable (I live alone)

17. Which of the following organizations provide leisure and recreation facilities that are used by you and other members of your household? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) School District | <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Private clubs (tennis, fitness & dance) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Churches or other religious organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> (07) City of Merriam Parks and Rec. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Private youth sports teams | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Other cities', county, or state parks and facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Local colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Non-profit organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) None. Do not use any organizations. |

18. How far do you currently travel to use these types of leisure and recreation facilities?

- (1) Up to 3 miles (2) 3 to 5 miles (3) 6 to 10 miles (4) More than 10 miles

19. Please rank the importance of the following potential improvements to City of Merriam parks, trails, arts, and recreation facilities, on a scale of 1 to 6, where **"1" is "most important", and "6" is "least important"**.

- (1) Development/improvement of indoor facilities (Rec Center, indoor track, fitness centers, art center, gyms, etc.)
- (2) Redevelopment of the Merriam Aquatic Center
- (3) Construction of new outdoor park amenities (shelters, amphitheater, playgrounds, etc.)
- (4) Acquisition of new park land and open space
- (5) Acquisition and development of walking and biking trails
- (6) Maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities

DEMOGRAPHICS

20. What is your age? _____ years
21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:
 Under age 5: _____ Ages 15-19: _____ Ages 35-44: _____ Ages 65-74: _____
 Ages 5-9: _____ Ages 20-24: _____ Ages 45-54: _____ Ages 75+: _____
 Ages 10-14: _____ Ages 25-34: _____ Ages 55-64: _____
22. Approximately how many years have you lived in the City of Merriam? _____ years
23. What is your total household income?
 _____(1) Under \$35,000 _____(3) \$60,000 to \$99,999 _____(5) \$150,000 or more
 _____(2) \$35,000 to \$59,999 _____(4) \$100,000 to \$149,999
24. Have you voted in the past two years? _____(1) Yes _____(2) No
25. What is your gender? _____(1) Male _____(2) Female
27. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)
 _____ (1) White/Caucasian _____ (5) African American/Black
 _____ (2) Asian _____ (6) Native American
 _____ (3) Pacific Islander _____ (7) Other: _____
 _____ (4) Hispanic/Latin _____ (8) Prefer not to answer
28. Please share any additional comments that could assist the City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department in improving parks, trails, open space, or recreational facilities and services.
-
-

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:
 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your response will remain Completely Confidential. The address information on the sticker to the right will ONLY be used to help identify areas with special interests. Thank you.