

Results Of Stony Creek Park District #1 Spring 2005 Survey

Summary

Approximately 1300 surveys were sent out and 84 returned for a 6.5% return. This compares with the 1995 survey when 1000 were sent out and 59 returned (6%). 42 responses (50%) came from households with no children. The most important facility to meet a family's recreational interests is multipurpose trails with 45% ranking it as their top choice. 64 percent of respondents ranked trails in their top two choices and 43% ranked playground equipment in their top two choices. 71% want the district to provide more trails, while 52% want new modernized playground equipment. 38% would support more taxes to build a new park while 46% would not. 45% agree that the parks are maintained to their satisfaction while 20% think they are not. The most requested maintenance improvement was for a better general appearance in the parks. 63% want the district to refurbish existing entrance signs and 23% want new signs.

Detailed Results

Question 1: Please rank the following 7 items in order from 1 to 7 (item 1 is most important, item 2 is next, etc, blank non-important) as to importance in meeting your family's recreational interests:

- Multipurpose trails Basketball court Roller blade hockey rink
 Tennis court Playground Equipment Ice rink
 Volleyball court

Results:

	Rank 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Blank	Ave Rank*	% Rank1	% Rank 1+2
Multipurpose Trails	38	16	9	2	1	2	4	8	1.97	45	64
Play Equipment	18	18	6	9	5	4	3	20	2.78	21	43
Tennis Court	5	18	8	5	9	7	8	24	3.58	6	27
Ice Rink	2	9	14	11	9	10	7	22	4.19	2	13
Roller Blade Rink	2	8	14	11	8	12	7	23	4.34	2	12
Basketball Court	4	3	8	13	18	7	7	24	4.45	5	8
Volley Ball	5	1	8	15	5	9	14	26	4.62	6	7

* (Sum(rank x number of respondents))/ respondents who ranked

Question 2: I would like to see the park district provide the following facilities that are not currently supplied:

Multipurpose trails	60 Yes	9 No	15 No opinion
Fitness stations along a trail	20 Yes	27 No	37 No opinion
More tennis courts	31 Yes	24 No	29 No opinion
Roller blade hockey court	19 Yes	26 No	39 No opinion
Multipurpose ball field	42 Yes	18 No	24 No opinion
Modern playground equipment	44 Yes	12 No	28 No opinion

Other: 1 Volleyball Courts, 2 Skateboard Park , 1 Connecting trail between developments, 1 Baseball field, 1 More Trees & plants, 1 Paved trails
1 sledding hill, 1 pavilion, 1 skateboard area

Question 3: I would be willing to support higher taxes for development of a new park (see *Vision For A Park*).
32 Yes 39 No 13 No opinion

Question 4: The parks are maintained to my satisfaction.
38 Agree 17 Disagree 28 No opinion

Question 5: Which of the following maintenance items would you like to see improved:
21 Mowing frequency 21 Entrance Signs 13 Entrance Plantings 23 Park Equipment
12 Mowing quality 23 Trail condition 26 General park appearance
Other (list) **Brush overgrowth, gravel on trails, Huntwood trails, cleanup, trash removal, patrol parks**

Question 6: Should the park district refurbish (estimated cost of \$1000) existing signs at development entrances or purchase new signs (average cost \$3,000)?
53 Refurbish 20 Purchase new 11 No Opinion

Question 7: Which development (or street if no development) do you live in?

Shirewood 10	Aspenwood 15	Huntwood 12	Woodcrest Pointe 6
Stoney Creek 2	Grooms Pointe 1	Village Green 3	Presidential Estates 4
Annondale 1	Birch Knolls 1	Other Streets 8	Englemore Landing 1
Crounryman Estates 6		Countryman Estates North 14	

Question 8: What are the ages of any children you may have?
42 households reported having no children. The remaining 37 households reported children in the following age groups:
1-4: 21 children, 5-8: 23 children, 9-12: 19 children, 13-17: 18 children
18-22: 12 young adults

Comments Received:

Shirewood:

Standing water in ice rink breeds mosquitoes.

Thanks

Need tennis court, better quality mowing, trimming along creeks in Shirewood.

Park along creek is a mess. It's all overgrown and never mowed. It used to be well taken care of but since the weeping willows were cut down there are stumps and it's never cleaned up.

Some people do not use their parks but play in the street. Educate the people to use the parks you have. Otherwise it looks good on paper but not in reality.

The trails are well groomed and a lot of fun to walk on. My dog loves them too.

There are so many boys/girls now using skateboards and they have no place to go. They are always getting put out of school parking lots, shopping centers, etc. The sport/activity is really growing. We should build a real nice challenging area for them to use.

Aspenwood:

Thanks for all that you do! The entrance plantings and holiday wreaths look great.

In addition to renovations at our local park, I would encourage Town officials to consider investment in upgrading the playground at the Common. Woefully outdated, dangerously unsafe (exposed nails, missing planks, unsafe seating, etc.) I drove to the Crossing in Colonie to use playground equipment with my grandchildren with the latest technology for safe playing surfaces. What an asset for those town residents. Why can't Clifton Park use its vision and resources to create something similar?

I would live to see a better volleyball court in Sugerbrush Park. We have weekly games and it is a focal point of the neighborhood in good weather. It would also be nice if the basketball court was maintained.

Thank you for informing us about the ice rink in the middle of April, very helpful. I would not be willing to pay higher taxes for a new park due to the fact that the existing parks are in poor shape as it is. How can you build a new park and not be able to maintain the existing parks. Sugerbrush items: Sink holes, wasp nests, over growth of existing basketball court and 2 volley ball courts, 2 poles in the middle of a field that are upheaved from winter.

Please investigate the feasibility of a path from Countryman Estate to Aspenwood along parkland that exists between 16 and 18 Mystic lane. Also it would be okay to leave 75 acres off Moe Rd between Huntwood and Countryman Estate undeveloped. Natural areas are disappearing at an alarming rate.

I have mowed, raked leaves and cleaned up Park #4 for the past 20 years. No neighbors have agreed to help. In fact some neighbors contribute to the problem by not keeping up their property. The bench needs a couple of new 2x4 slats and repainting.

My sons play volleyball every Wednesday with a bunch of neighbors at the neighborhood park. They love the new court that was just put in at the Sugarbush Road Park. This is a great family activity for our neighborhood and it encourages everyone to utilize the park.

Keep our kids safe. They would not have to go to the malls, parking lots, or on the streets if they had at least 1 skateboarding area. Residents only; could charge a small fee/pass for upkeep.

Please continue the bike trail to the end of Moe Road. It is very dangerous to ride your bike from Aspenwood up to where the trail starts.

I think our signs are new, but there really needs to be a light shining up at them.

Our reps have done a nice job at the entrances. (Are they “in charge of” the graduation congrats each year?)

Woodcrest Pointe:

Again, I think walking/bike trails along or around developments provide a safe opportunity for residents. During the 90’s a lot of people were “NIMBY” – possibly now new people living in areas would not be as selfish and think of safety and enjoyment for all.

Would like to see the new park left as pristine as possible. Do not put a lot of stuff in the park and no parking lots.

We are seniors and all we need to do is to walk.

Only use parks when grandchildren come. Rarely used. Do not need another park.

Huntwood:

The trails in Huntwood need new gravel pathways. The existing gravel is hardly visible. Thank you!

We have a child with special needs as does a neighbor. Could we please get info on how to go about getting signs (“SLOW” or “SLOW CHILDREN”) in our neighborhood?

In land (woods) between Huntwood and Barkwood (my back yard) are filled with logs and debris etc. The right of way path is impassable. Why aren’t these land cleaned up so one can walk and explore nature and bike ride. Clean our back yard before you go and spend money for more “play”. I would be happy with a cleanup of the area around Huntwood and Barkwood.

Walking park from the Huntwood neighborhood should be appealing and properly landscaped.

Stoney Creek:

If there is a roller blade hockey court, time should be set-aside for people to use the facility for just roller blading. It would be great to have a roller blading oval like the one in Troy by the Knickerbocker Ice Arena.

Presidential Estates:

I encourage our town to develop it into a walking community. Please connect our bikepaths – Grooms to Moe to Vichers Ferry to RT 146 and continue on! The Moe Rd path is enjoyed by so many. Please add on to a good thing.

Village Green:

We have a wonderful tennis court/ice ring in our neighborhood, but it is poorly maintained and has high poplar trees. Unable to use in summer due to mosquitoes.

Grooms Pointe:

Sign work should depend on condition of sign, subject to review- i.e. is it possible to satisfactory refurbish or not.

Annondale:

We'd love to see some sort of bike path on Grooms Rd. that connects to the one on Moe Rd. and would eventually connect to the "New Park"

Englemore Landing:

If we are going to create a new park it should be something different with modern unique playground equipment. There already are enough tennis courts in Clifton Park. I like the trail idea but no playground equipment? All but one house in my neighborhood has kids.

Countryman Estates:

I am very supportive, especially of trails! I see no good reason to have (or spent any money on) entrance signs to developments. I am not sure who cares what the development is called.

Countryman Estate North:

Other than the Vischer Ferry Preserve, there are very few natural areas left in S.E. Clifton Park. Keeping parkland treed is key. Nature trails through wooded area would be great. Take advantage of existing fields for ball games or courts – don't take trees in park areas. A nature trail with signs labeling the plant life would be a neat idea.

There should be no increase in taxes that is not presented to the public as an opportunity to vote. That decision cannot be made as a result of an informal survey such as this! It appears to be a satisfactory budget supplemented by volunteers.

Tennis courts in area with little tree cover. Gets very buggy with a lot of trees.

The entrance to Countryman Estates North off Lapp Rd and onto Equestrian Way need to be lit; it is difficult to locate at night.

We purchased our house from Amedore Homes and were told this area would remain wooded! We pay plenty of taxes already and there are ENOUGH parks already in existence! We also have plenty of schools with playgrounds and sports fields. People in this area with kids have ample yards and plenty of swing set and pools have been erected. Leave our community ALONE!

The more involved in the projects the more community will use these things. I know from past experience.

No Developments:

No more taxes for services in developments where we do not live. This park district should tax those who live in developments and not those who do not have easy access.

I am in favor of district parks and realize funds are needed to create and maintain them. However, good management can help decrease and minimize the tax increase and community impact.