

Local Government Parks and Recreation Services 2001

The Local Government Parks and Recreation Services surveys were mailed in spring and summer 2001 to the Chief Administrative Officers in municipalities with populations 10,000 and over and to the Chief Administrative Officers of counties with populations 50,000 and over. Of the 3,329 municipalities and counties that received surveys, 1,778 responded (53.4%).

For more information on the ICMA's Parks and Recreation Services survey, please contact [Survey Research](#).



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Following is the survey text with the aggregate results shown in bold next to each answer. Each answer represents the percentage reporting for that question, except where noted.

For purposes of this survey, **providing** the service means that it is in your local government's operating budget. Even if your local government contracts with a private sector firm to operate and maintain the service, as long as it is in your local government's budget, the local government provides the service.

1. Does your local government provide parks and recreation services?

89.2 Yes **10.8** No

- A. If "No," are those services provided by:

10.5 Another city **9.9** Another county **16.4** A regional authority **21.6** Other **41.5** Park district

2. Which of the following programs does your local government offer **through its parks and recreation department**?

Program	Yes	No
Extended before/after school programs (starting before 8 am & continuing after 5 pm)	32.3	67.7
Regular before/after school programs	48.3	51.7
Summer day camp for youth	81.4	18.6
Dance classes (e.g., ballet)	64.2	35.8
Fitness classes (e.g., aerobics)	75.6	24.4
Sports lessons (e.g., tennis, swimming)	86.4	13.6
Organized team sports (e.g., baseball teams)	86.2	13.8

Program	Yes	No
Performing arts (concerts, plays)	66.3	33.7
Cultural festivals and community events	85.2	14.8
Environmental education/nature programs	61.0	39.0
Special programs for people with disabilities	54.4	45.6
Special programs for seniors	78.5	21.5
Field trips to cultural events	65.5	34.5
Other	86.9	13.1
Other	77.1	22.9

3. Which of the following facilities does your local government offer **through its parks and recreation department**?

Facility	Parks & recreation department					
	Offers this facility		Charges a fee for use of facility		Rents the facility for private use	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
a. Recreation/community center	71.5	28.5	73.3	26.7	90.0	10.0
b. Visitor center	9.2	90.8	24.5	75.5	43.9	56.1
c. Playground	98.4	1.6	3.2	96.8	9.7	90.3
d. Tennis court	91.2	8.8	23.4	76.6	30.2	69.8
e. Basketball court	92.6	7.4	13.7	86.3	25.1	74.9
f. Swimming pool	66.1	33.9	92.6	7.4	79.2	20.8
g. Beach or lake	38.8	61.2	36.4	63.6	22.5	77.5
h. Aquatics center (water park)	17.4	82.6	91.2	8.8	84.6	15.4
i. Skateboard park	33.4	66.6	25.1	74.9	19.1	80.9

	Parks & recreation department					
	Offers this facility		Charges a fee for use of facility		Rents the facility for private use	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
j. Senior center	55.0	45.0	35.8	64.2	59.0	41.0
k. Horseback riding	10.5	89.5	60.8	39.2	41.3	58.7
l. Ice skating rink	23.6	76.4	53.8	46.2	54.7	45.3
m. Football/soccer fields	90.8	9.2	39.6	60.4	53.9	46.1
n. Baseball/softball fields	97.1	2.9	48.3	51.7	64.1	35.9
o. Museum	19.2	80.8	48.3	51.7	50.0	50.0
p. Sport stadium/arena	16.6	83.4	80.8	19.2	85.8	14.2
q. Campgrounds	16.6	83.4	89.6	10.4	67.8	32.2
r. Lake fishing	45.9	54.1	17.8	82.2	6.7	93.3
s. Boat launches	41.5	58.5	35.0	65.0	10.8	89.2
t. Water skiing	8.3	91.7	34.7	65.3	18.5	81.5
u. Picnic areas with shelters	89.7	10.3	57.8	42.2	79.7	20.3
v. Gymnasium	53.7	46.3	63.6	36.4	78.7	21.3
w. Rock climbing wall	5.2	94.8	71.0	29.0	63.5	36.5
x. Golf course	31.7	68.3	99.3	0.7	77.9	22.1
y. Hiking/biking trails	73.4	26.6	4.2	95.8	3.2	96.8
z. Other	82.1	17.9	65.4	34.6	57.1	42.9

4. Please identify which five facilities generate the most revenue for your local government. Place the letter that corresponds to the facility listed above. **Top 5 facilities listed:**

A 15.5% F 12.3% N 12.0% X 10.0% U 8.7%

5. What percentage of your total parks and recreation operating budget comes from the following sources?

SOURCE	%
Your local government general fund	74.6
Another local government (for example, if your local government provides parks and recreation programs for a neighboring jurisdiction)	17.4
Private grants/funding	4.2
State grants/funding	7.3

SOURCE	%
Federal grants/funding	7.1
User/participant fees	28.3
Fundraising by your local government	7.5
Other	20.6
Other	14.1

REGISTRATION

Do you offer on-line registration? **14.2** Yes **85.8** No

Do you offer registration by FAX? **49.1** Yes **51.0** No

Do you offer interactive voice response registration? **5.8** Yes **94.2** No

PARTNERSHIPS

Does your local government parks and recreation department partner with any of the following to provide services? (For example, by subsidizing classes at the YMCA/YWCA.)

PARTNER	Yes	No
YMCA/YWCA	32.7	67.3
Schools/colleges/universities	71.9	28.1
Health clubs	13.3	86.7
Other	77.1	22.9
Other	60.5	39.5

MARKETING YOUR PROGRAMS

10. Which of the following tools does your parks and recreation department use to market your programs and facilities?

58.3	Catalog mailed to residents	89.3	Flyers
82.3	Advertisements in local papers	27.3	Inserts in utility or other bills
77.2	Announcement on your web site	23.4	Other
44.5	Radio announcements	4.1	Other
63.8	Local cable TV announcements		

USER FEES: GOLF COURSES

11. Does your local government own a golf course or lease a private golf course for public use? 33.8 Yes 66.2 No

A. If "No," please skip to question 16.

B. If "Yes," how many golf courses does it own or lease? 1.7 Average

12. Is the golf course operated by

66.9	Local government employees
41.9	Contract with a private firm
5.1	Other

13. Are non-residents allowed to use this golf course? 100.0 Yes 0.0 No

A. If non-residents are allowed to use this golf course, do they pay a higher fee than residents do? 49.7 Yes 50.3 No

14. What were the total revenues from user fees for **all** of the golf courses owned or leased by your local government in fiscal year 2000? \$ 1,402,154 Average

15. What were the total operating and maintenance expenditures for **all** of the golf courses owned or leased by your local government in fiscal year 2000? \$ 1,373,314 Average

USER FEES: SWIMMING POOLS

16. Does your local government own a swimming pool or lease a private swimming pool for public use? 66.5 Yes 33.5 No

A. If "No," please skip to question 21.

B. If "Yes," how many swimming pools does it own or lease? 2.4 Average

17. Is the swimming pool operated by:

91.4	Local government employees
5.9	Contract with a private firm
6.4	Other

18. Are non-residents allowed to use this swimming pool? 94.8 Yes 5.2 No

A. If non-residents are allowed to use this swimming pool, do they pay a higher fee than residents do? 47.6 Yes 52.4 No

19. What were the total revenues from user fees for **all** swimming pools owned by your local government in fiscal year 2000?
\$ 157,974 Average

20. What were the total operating and maintenance expenditures for **all** of the swimming pools owned by your local government in fiscal year 2000? \$ 279, 330 Average

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFFING

21. How many full-time positions are in your parks and recreation department budget? **34.7 Average**
A. Are any of these positions vacant? **33.7 Yes 66.3 No**
B. If some positions are vacant, how many are vacant? **4.9 Average**
22. How many part-time year-round positions are in your parks and recreation department budget? **37.1**
A. Are any of these positions vacant? **29.6 Yes 70.4 No**
B. If some positions are vacant, how many are vacant? **11.2 Average**
23. How many seasonal employee positions are in your parks and recreation department budget? **89.3 Average**
(Seasonal employees are employed during the peak usage months.)
24. What was the total personnel expenditure for parks and recreation department employees for fiscal year 2000?
\$ 1,820,751 Average (Include salaries, wages, and benefits for full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees.)

RISK MANAGEMENT

25. Have you implemented a formal risk management program in your parks and recreation department? **61.3 Yes 38.7 No**
26. Which of the following tools does your local government use to publicize and reduce risk?

PUBLICITY	Yes	No
Public safety announcements in local mass media re: problems that may affect recreation activities (e.g., tornados)	55.0	45.0
Warning signs	93.0	7.0
Handouts	71.6	28.4
Require parental permission for youth/children	93.5	6.5
Require waivers to be signed	92.6	7.4
Other	82.3	17.7
Other	62.7	37.3

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

27. Have residents, staff, or users of parks and recreation facilities identified any of the following as a concern?

CONCERN	Yes	No
Jet skis	16.4	83.6
Motor boats	11.3	88.7
Motor bikes	21.2	78.8
Other	63.3	36.7
Other	41.0	59.0