

# Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study

## FACILITY SPOTLIGHT

2022-23





**Krista White**

Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management Ph.D. Student  
RRS Graduate Assistant



**Charlynnne Smith, Ph.D.**

RRS Director



THANK  
YOU

## Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study

FACILITY SPOTLIGHT  
2022-23



# About the Services Study

- Conducted yearly by Recreation Resources Service
- Collects crucial information from you, the directors
- Now in its the 73rd year of assessment for municipal leisure service providers and the 53rd year for county leisure service agencies.

## Goals:

- Understand the recreation landscape of NC
- Provide data to help *you* with decision making

# This Year's Study



**Indoor/Outdoor  
Facilities**



**Trail Usage  
Types/Miles**



**FTE Staff**



**State budget data  
for  
recreation  
expenditures and  
revenues across NC**

1

# Survey of Departments

CONCESSION  
STAND IS OPEN  
AT FRONT OF  
BUILDING

# Section 1: Representation

<b>Department Type</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Response (%)</b>
<b>All types</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Combination</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>County</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Municipal</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>52</b>

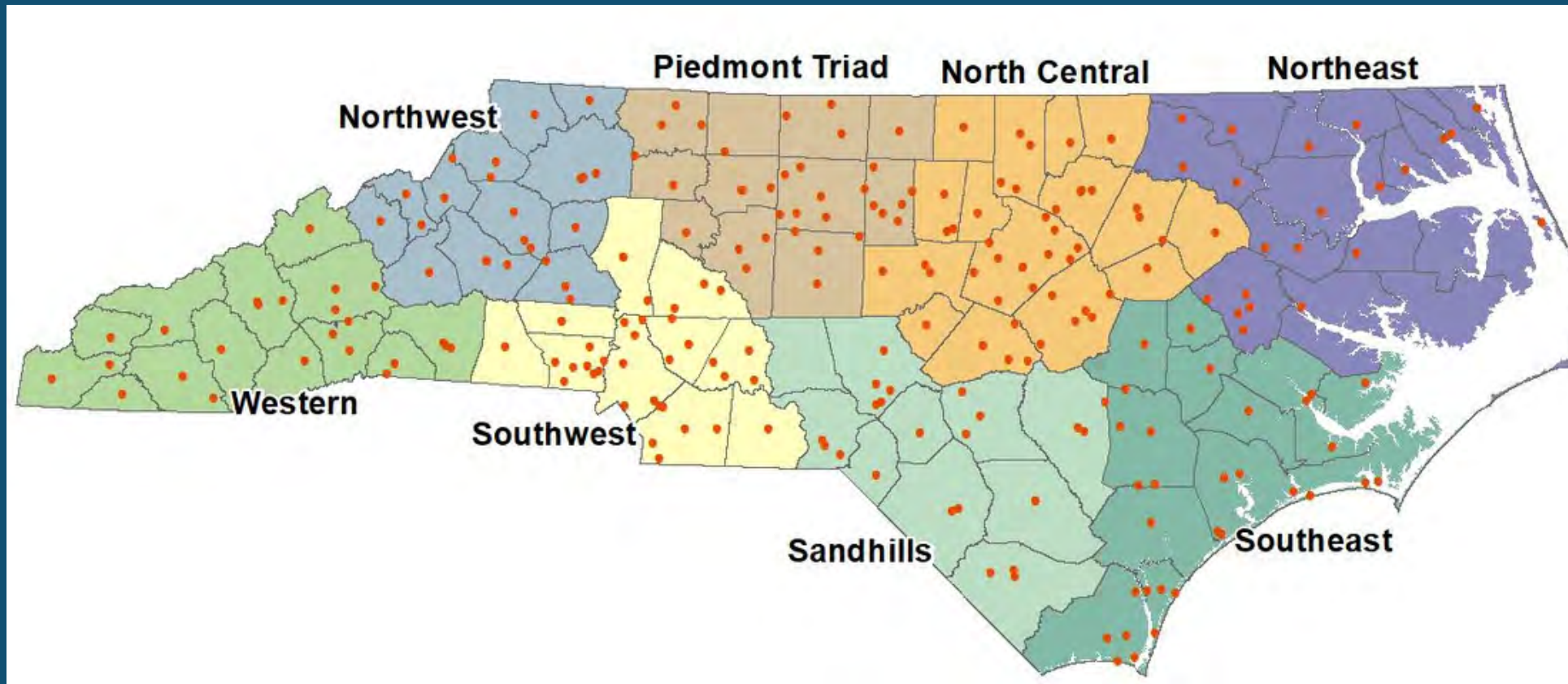
Table 1: Department type across NC and MCPRSS

**TABLE 2: DEPARTMENT  
RESPONSES BY  
POPULATION CLASS  
ACROSS NC AND IN  
MCPRSS**

<b>Population Class</b>	<b>Population Served</b>	<b>Departments Statewide</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Response (%)</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>100,000 and up</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>50,000 to 99,999</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>25,000 to 49,999</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>10,000 to 24,999</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>5,000 to 9,999</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>4,999 and under</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>



# Economic Prosperity Zones



**Fig. 1. NC Economic Prosperity Zones and public parks and recreation departments**

*Administrative regions established to offer better collaboration between state and local agencies in an effort to enhance communication and interaction for constituents.*



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT of**  
**COMMERCE**

Prosperity Zone	Departments Statewide	Respondents	Response Rate (%)
North Central	48	25	52
Northeast	20	10	50
Northwest	26	12	46
Piedmont-Triad	35	19	54
Sandhills	23	11	48
Southeast	37	21	57
Southwest	40	21	53
West	24	15	63

**Table 3.** Department by prosperity zone across NC and in M CPRSS

# Section 2: Facilities



- a** Indoor Active Facilities
- b** Outdoor Active Facilities
- c** Outdoor Passive Facilities
- d** Universal Design Facilities
- e** Support Facilities
- f** Trail Use Type / Surface
- g** Trail Miles / Park Acres

# Indoor Active Facilities

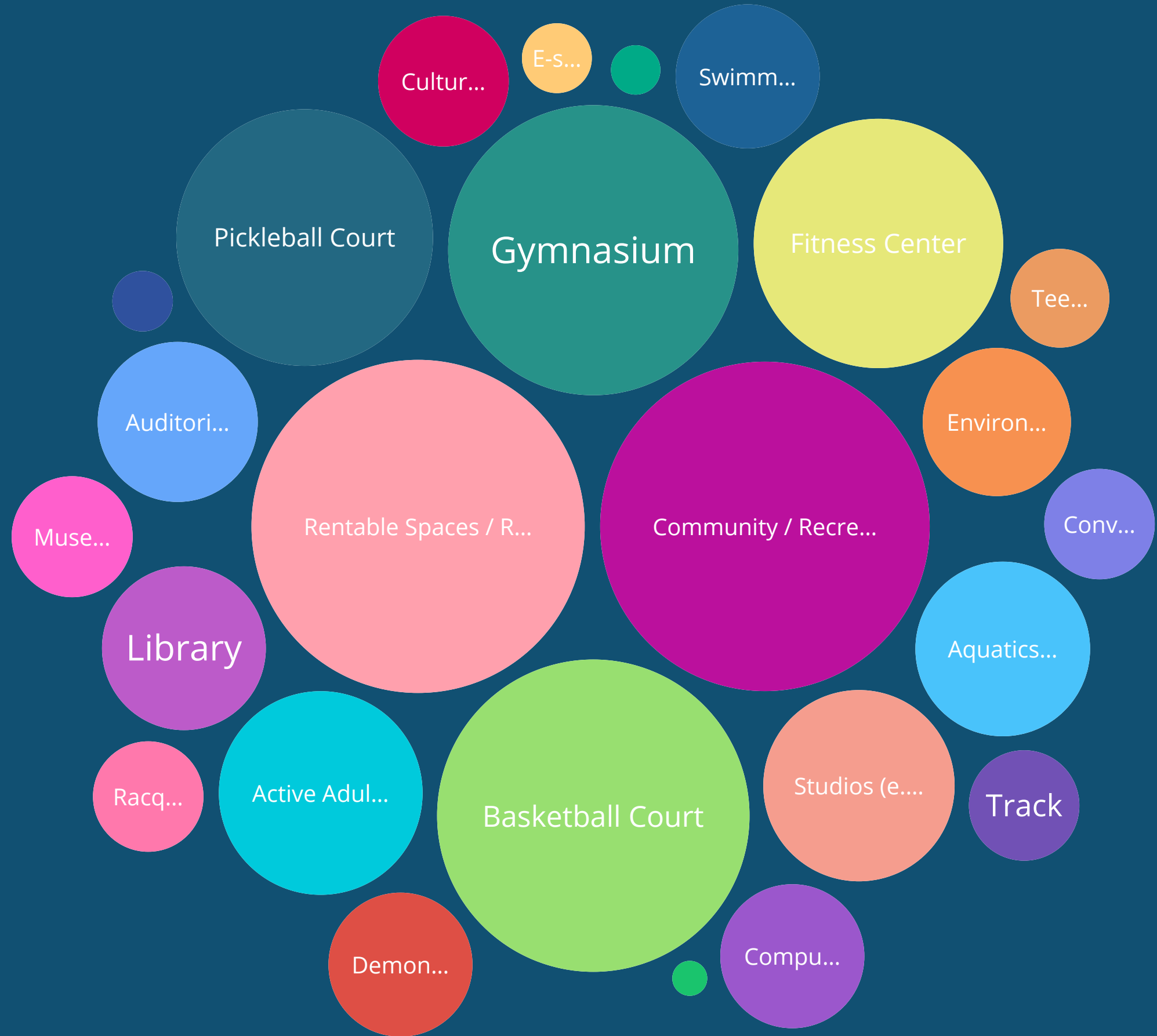


Fig. 2. Number of departments that reported the presence of an indoor facility

# INDOOR ACTIVE FACILITIES

Indoor Facility	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min	Indoor Facility	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Active Adult Center	34	29	1.45	1	3	1	Climbing Wall	2	2	1	1	1	1
Aquatics Center	25	21	1.86	1	7	1	Gymnasium	69	57	2.98	1	26	1
Auditorium	21	18	1.28	1	2	1	Ice Rink	0	-	-	-	-	-
Convention / Conference Center	10	6	1	1	1	1	Pickleball Court	54	46	3.74	3	10	1
Computer Lab	17	14	2.5	1	8	1	Swimming Pool / Waterpark	17	17	1.53	1	5	1
Community / Recreation Center	89	77	2.82	2	18	1	Tennis Court	3	2	6.5	6.5	12	1
Cultural Center	14	14	1.14	1	3	1	Track	10	10	1.1	1	2	1
Demonstration Kitchen	17	16	1.31	1	3	1	Library	22	17	2.29	1	22	1
Environmental Education / Nature Center	18	18	1.83	1	5	1	Museum	12	9	1.33	1	3	1
E-sports Facility	4	3	1.33	1	2	1	Racquetball Court	10	7	2.14	2	5	1
Fitness Center	51	43	1.63	1	8	1	Rentable Spaces / Rooms	91	69	14.41	4	461	1
Basketball Court	80	65	3.92	2	74	1	Studios (e.g., aerobic, dance)	30	26	2.73	1	22	1
Bouldering	1	0	0	0	0	0	Teen Center	8	8	2.38	1	9	1
							Trampoline Park	0	-	-	-	-	-

Top five highest averages of facility types per department highlighted in red

# ADDITIONAL INDOOR FACILITIES

Volleyball Courts

Soccer Arena

Art Rooms

Gatekeepers House  
(Historic Site)

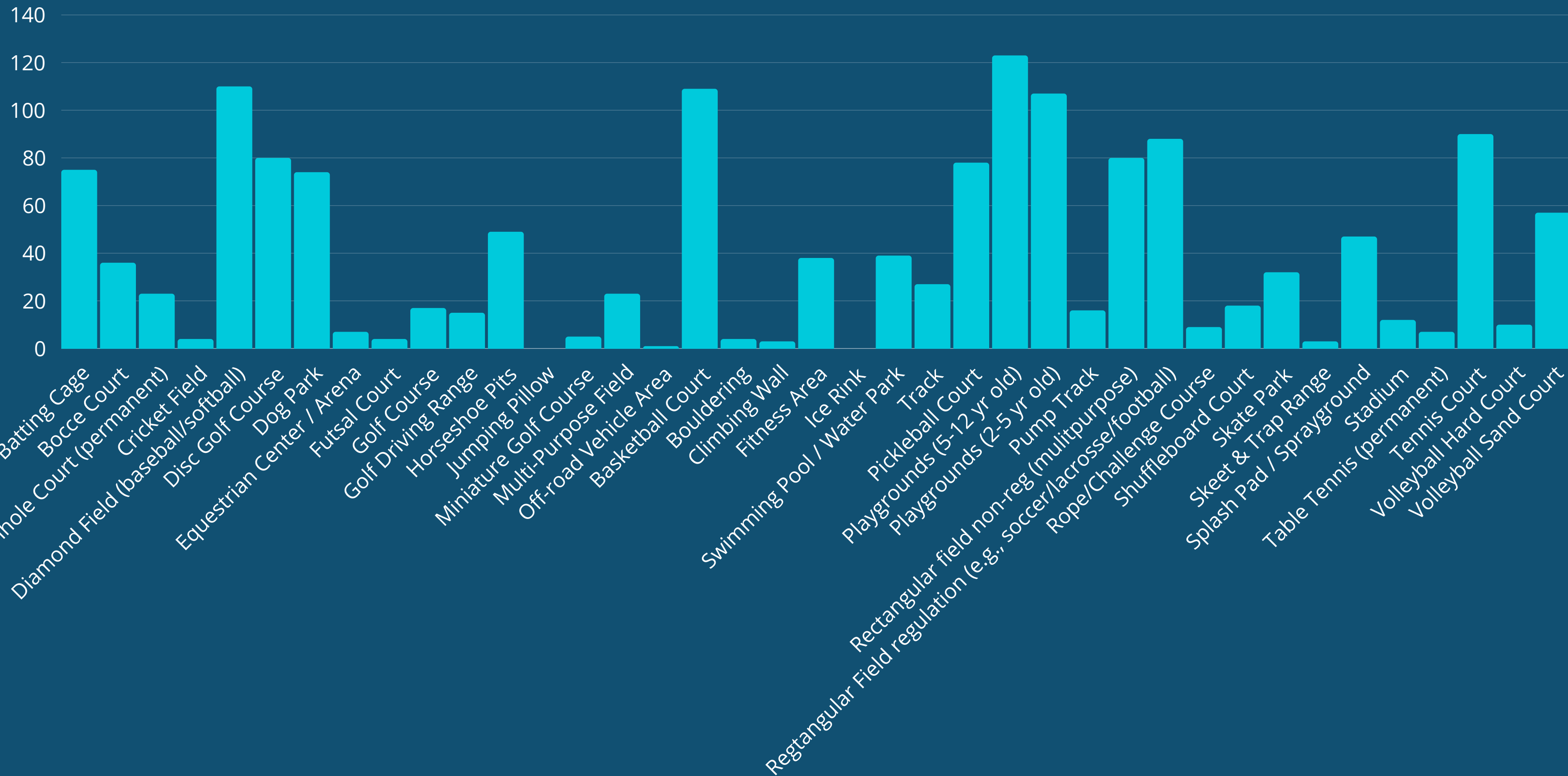
Senior Art Center

Overnight Lodge

Skate Park

Fitness Rooms

# Outdoor Active Facilities



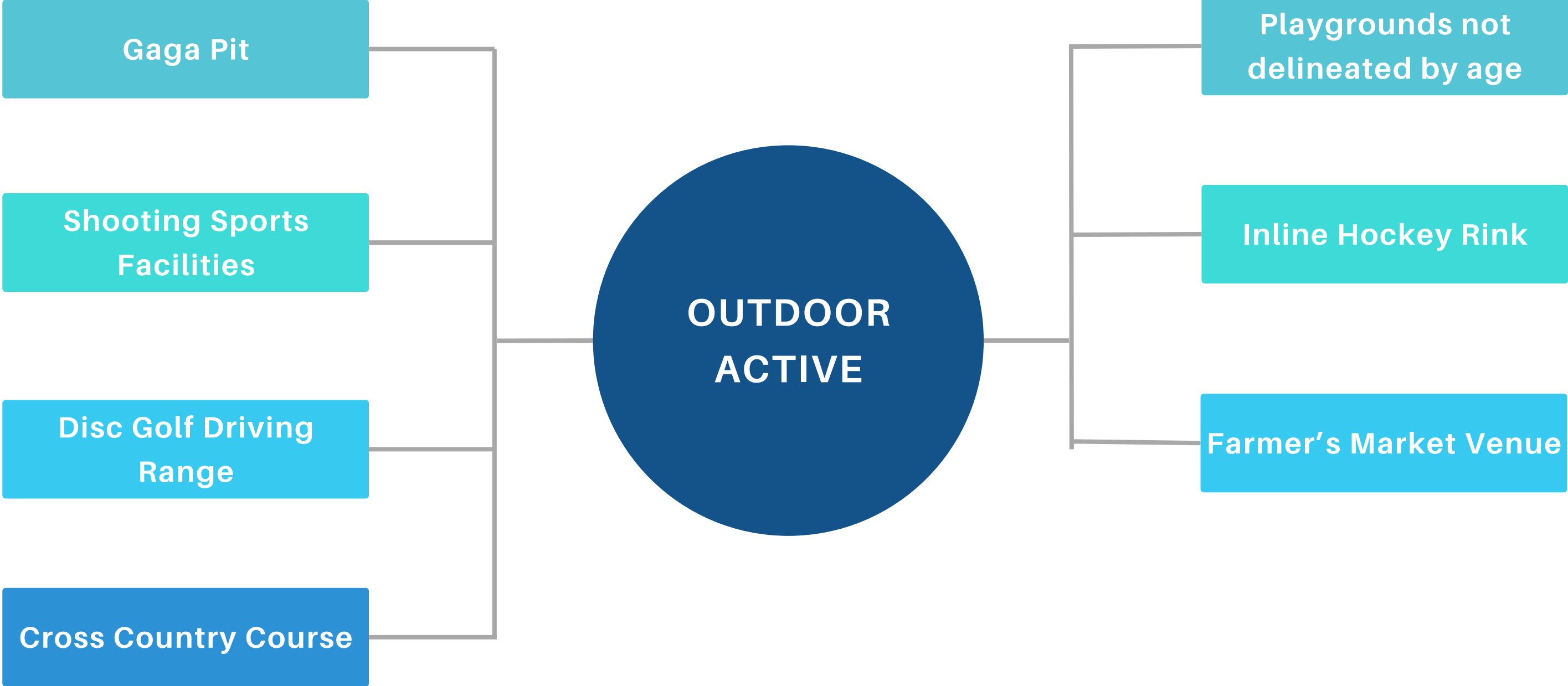
# Outdoor Active Facilities

Outdoor Active	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Batting Cage	75	66	3.82	3	21	1
Bocce Court	36	29	2.17	2	8	1
Cornhole Court (permanent)	23	21	1.62	1	4	1
Cricket Field	4	3	1.67	1	3	1
Diamond Field (baseball/softball)	110	100	9.98	5	105	1
Disc Golf Course	80	71	1.58	1	14	1
Dog Park	74	66	1.64	1	8	1
Equestrian Center/ Arena	7	7	1.14	1	2	1
Futsal Court	4	4	1.75	1	4	1
Golf Course	17	15	1.47	1	5	1
Golf Driving Range	15	13	1.54	1	6	1
Horseshoe Pits	49	42	4.19	2	16	1
Jumping Pillow	0	-	-	-	-	-
Miniature Golf Course	5	4	1.25	1	2	1
Multi-Purpose Court	23	19	4	2	25	1
Off-road Vehicle Area	1	1	1	1	1	1
Basketball Court	109	90	4.99	2	108	1
Bouldering	4	3	1	1	1	1
Climbing Wall	3	3	1	1	1	1

Outdoor Active	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Fitness Area	38	35	2.6	1	30	1
Ice Rink	0	-	-	-	-	-
Swimming Pool/Water Park	39	35	1.94	1	11	1
Track	27	26	1.81	1	8	1
Pickleball Court	78	66	6.21	5	20	1
Playgrounds (5-12 yr old)	123	106	9.14	3	200	1
Playgrounds (2-5 yr old)	107	94	5.52	2	178	1
Pump track	16	14	1.36	1	4	1
Rectangular field non-regulation size (multipurpose field)	80	64	3.97	2	50	1
Rectangular field regulation (e.g., soccer/football/lacrosse)	88	74	8.5	3	200	1
Rope/Challenge Course	9	8	1.13	1	2	1
Shuffleboard Court	18	16	2.19	2	6	1
Skate Park	32	27	1.22	1	4	1
Skeet & Trap Range	3	2	1	1	1	1
Splash Pad / Sprayground	47	42	2.05	1	15	1
Stadium	12	12	1.17	1	2	1
Table Tennis (permanent)	7	7	1.43	1	2	1
Tennis Court	90	80	11.36	4.5	153	1
Volleyball Hard Court	10	8	2.5	2	8	1
Volleyball Sand Court	57	49	3.76	2	50	1

Top five highest averages of facility types per department highlighted in red

# ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

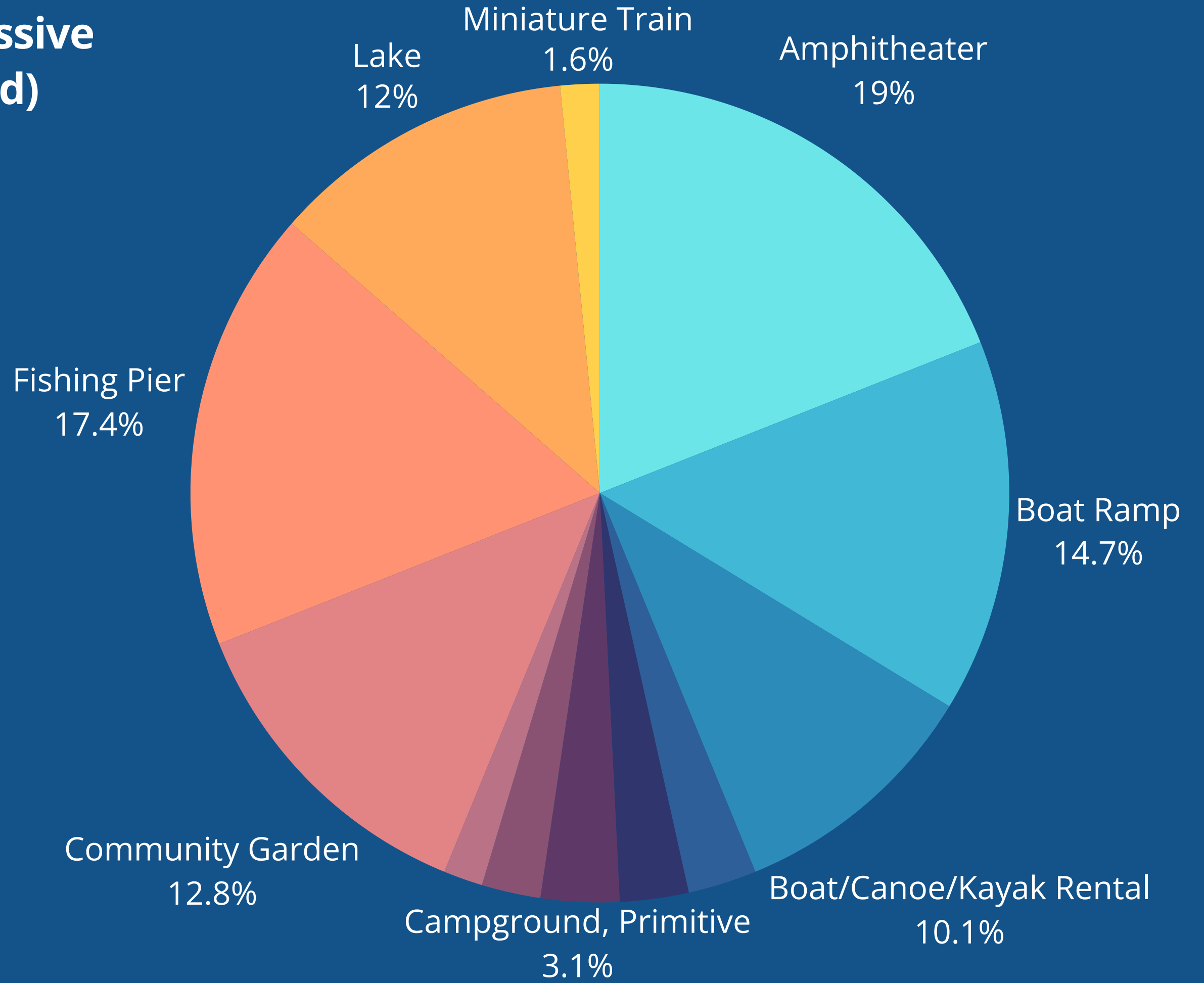




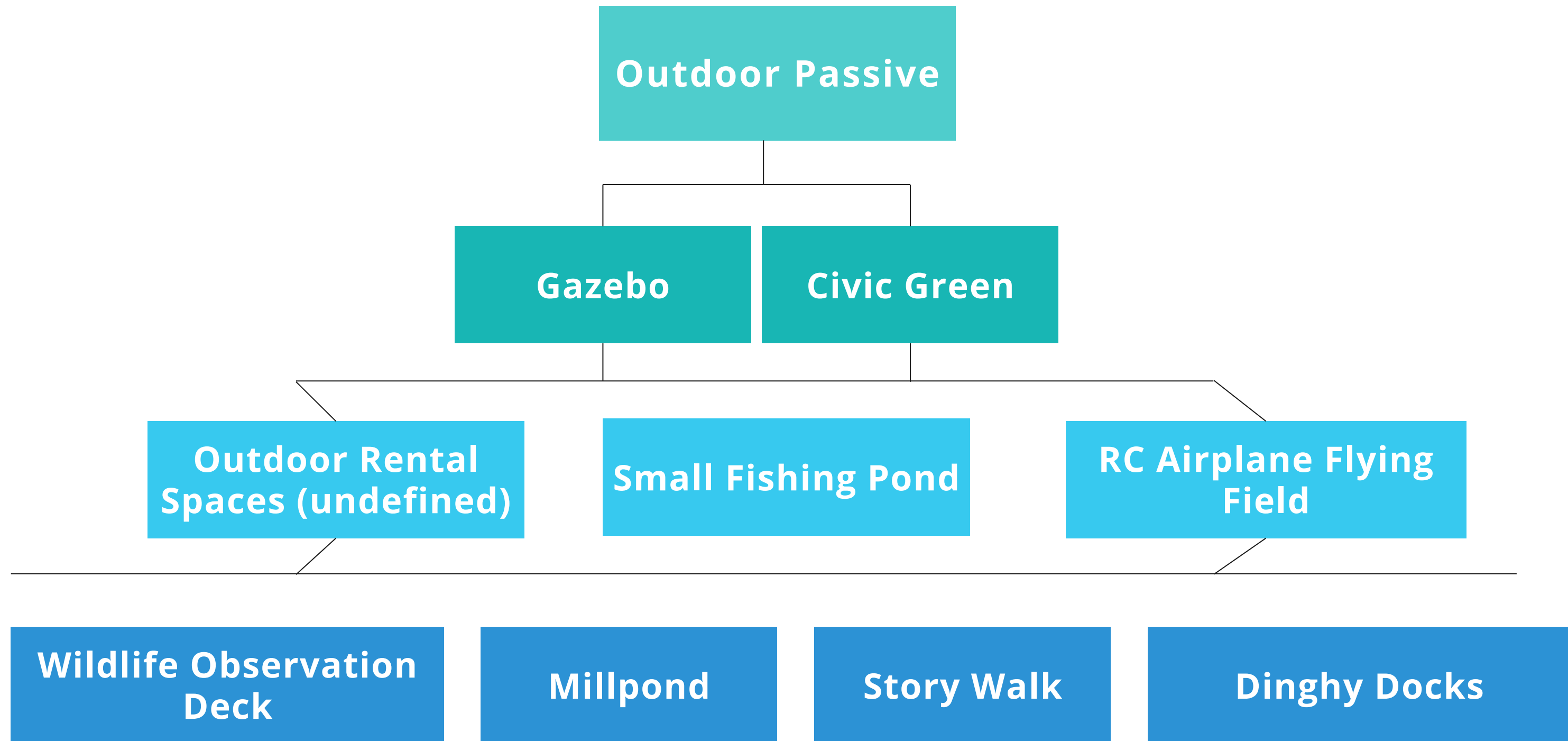
# OUTDOOR PASSIVE FACILITIES

Outdoor Passive	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Amphitheater	57	49	1.35	1	11	1
Boat Ramp	46	38	2.03	1	7	1
Boat/Canoe/Kayak Rental	29	26	2.77	1	15	1
Cabin	8	7	3.57	5	6	1
Campground, Tent	9	7	10	1	40	1
Campground, Primitive	11	8	3.38	1	10	1
Campground, RV	9	6	17	1	70	1
Carousel	5	4	1.25	1	2	1
Community Garden	39	33	1.5	1	5	1
Fishing Pier	57	45	2.76	2	17	1
Lake	41	31	1.94	2	5	5
Miniature Train	5	4	1	1	1	1

# Percentage of Outdoor Passive Facility (Details provided)



# ADDITIONAL FACILITIES



# UNIVERSAL DESIGN FACILITIES

Universal Design Facilities	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Miracle Field	6	6	1	1	1	1
Inclusive Playground	54	45	1.27	1	3	1
Inclusive Fishing Pier	21	16	1.44	1	3	1
Inclusive Paddle Access (canoe/kayak)	19	17	1.24	1	2	1

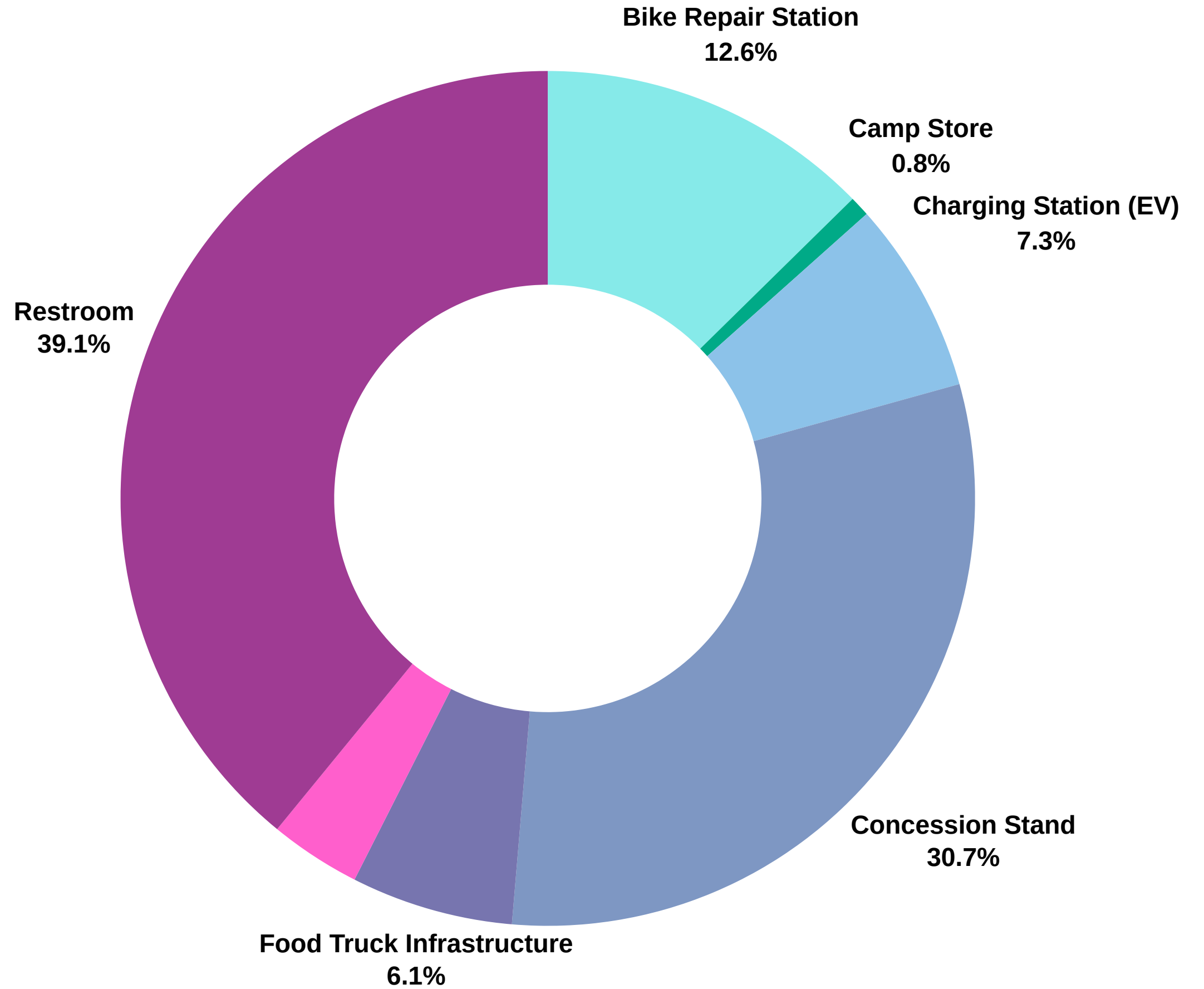
# Support Facilities

Support Facilities	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Bike Repair Station	39	33	2.42	2	12	1
Camp Store	2	2	1	1	1	1
Charging Stations (EV)	24	19	2.95	2	8	1
Concession Stand	90	80	3.2	2	33	1
Food Truck Infrastructure	21	16	3.44	2	10	1
Marina	12	9	2	1	5	1
Restroom	122	102	11.55	6	377	1



# SUPPORT FACILITIES % (DETAILS)

- BIKE REPAIR STATION
- CAMP STORE
- CHARGING STATION (EV)
- CONCESSION STAND
- FOOD TRUCK INFRASTRUCTURE
- MARINA
- RESTROOM



2

# TRAILS



# TRAIL USE TYPE

**Table 9.** Trail use types presence and details. Average, median, maximum, and minimum are in miles.

Trail Use Type Option	Present	Detail	Average	Median	Max	Min
Blueway / Paddle Trail	19	16	19.32	4	90	1
Boardwalk (may be portion or length of entire trail)	44	33	2.38	1	20	0.06
Equestrian Trail (designated trail)	8	8	8.81	7.25	20	1
Mountain Bike Trails (designated trails)	38	32	9.58	5	70	1



# Total Trail Surface Type and Total Park Acres

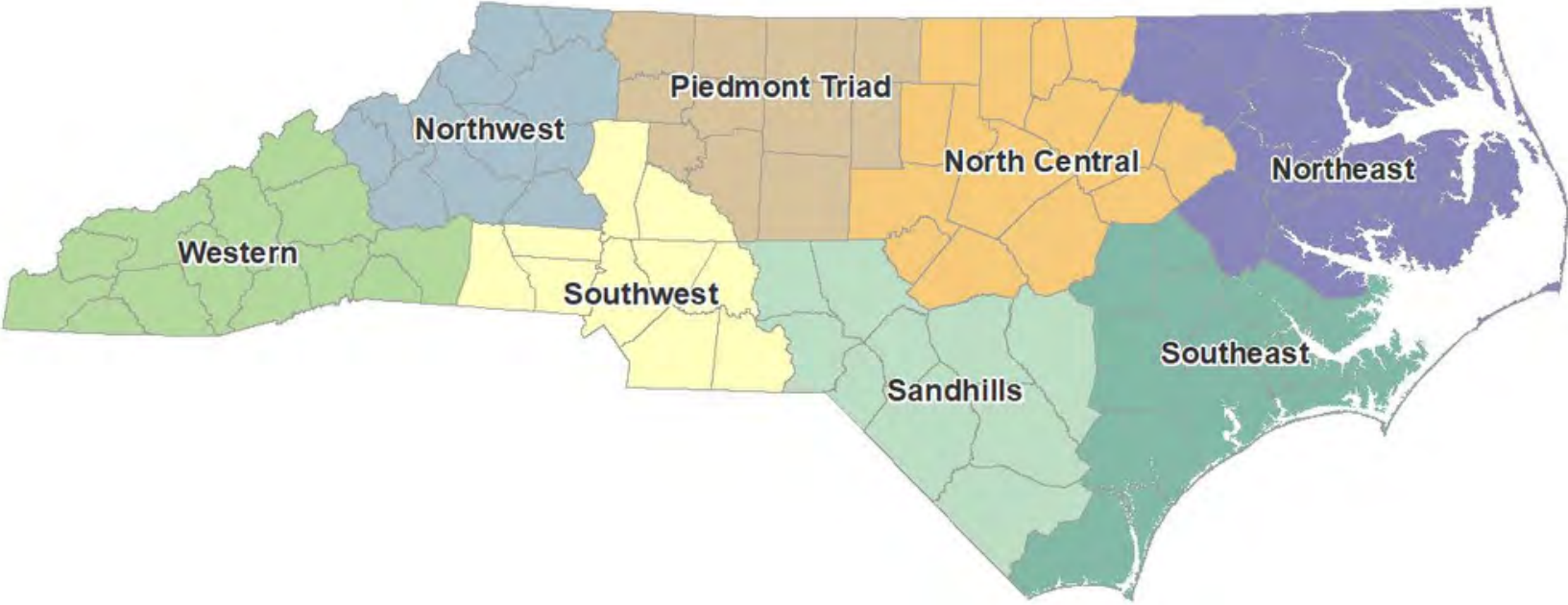
**Table 10.** Trail miles by surface type.

Trail Surface Type	Present	Detail	Total	Average	Median	Max	Min
Natural Surface Type	86	78	672.35	82	3	71.95	.07
Paved or Hard Surface Type	97	91	801.76	94	3	109.65	.25
<b>Total</b>	183	169	<b>1474.11</b>	176	6	181.6	.32

**Table. 11.** Total park acres reported. Acres are rounded.

Park Acres	Detail	Total Park Acres Reported	Average	Median	Max	Min
	117	<b>84,874</b>	725	167	22,000	3

# Trail miles reported by prosperity zone



**Table 12.** Trail miles reported by prosperity zone. FTE and trail miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had natural and/or hard/paved trails, but gave no detail regarding length.

Prosperity Zone	FTE OP/M reported	Natural Surface Trail	Hard/Paved Surface Trail	Total Trail Miles	FTE OP/M per Mile
North Central	434.5	190.28	254.51	444.79	1.02
Northeast	75.5	11.25	16.2	27.45	.36
Northwest	35	57	36	93	2.66
Piedmont-Triad	277	184.75	83.8	268.55	.97
Sandhills	139	32.45	21.75	54.2	.39
Southeast	130	48	72.7	120.7	.93
Southwest	305	111.52	287.05	398.57	1.31
West	102.25	37.1	29.75	66.85	.65

# Trail Use Miles by Prosperity Zone

**Table 13.** Trail use type miles reported by prosperity zone. Trail use type miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had blueway/paddle, boardwalk, equestrian, and mountain bike trails, but gave no detail regarding length.

Prosperity Zone	Blueway/Paddle	Boardwalk	Equestrian	Mountain Bike	Total Trail Use Type Miles
North Central	64.15	17.41	6.5	41.35	129.41
Northeast	5	1.25	1	6	13.25
Northwest	-	6	-	42.5	48.5
Piedmont-Triad	150	3.5	34	87	274.5
Sandhills	-	.25	6	23	29.25
Southeast	3	6.65	-	1.5	11.15
Southwest	84	43.3	23	101	250.3
West	3	.11	-	4.2	7.31

# Trail Miles by Population Class

**Table 14.** Trail miles reported by Population class. FTE and trail miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had natural and/or hard/paved trails, but gave no detail regarding length.

Population Class	FTE OP/M reported	Natural Surface Trail	Hard/Paved Surface Trail	Total Trail Miles	FTE OP/M per Mile
A	794	412.78	466.29	879.07	1.11
B	275.75	93.3	103.95	197.25	.72
C	171.5	41.95	113.5	155.45	.91
D	149	59.82	51.75	111.57	.75
E	61	20.5	26.3	46.8	.77
F	47	44	39.97	83.97	1.79

# Trail Use Type Miles by Population Class



**Table 15.** Trail use type miles reported by population class. Trail use type miles data comes from reported data. Some respondents marked they had blueway/paddle, boardwalk, equestrian, and mountain bike trails, but gave no detail regarding length.

Population Class	Blueway/Paddle	Boardwalk	Equestrian	Mountain Bike	Total Trail Use Type Miles
A	99.15	49.95	63.5	198.85	411.45
B	146	8.8	-	52.7	207.5
C	15	6.41	-	17.5	38.91
D	49	6.5	7	29.5	92
E	-	5.16	-	2	7.16
F	-	1.68	-	6	7.68



CONNECT NC  
INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

3

# Personnel

# Personnel

**Table 16.** Summary of personnel data.

FTE Position Type	Number of Departments Reporting	Average Number of Staff	Median Number of Staff
Operations/Maintenance	120	13.03	5
Programming	122	10.59	4
Administration	132	4.53	2

**Table. 17.** Number of FTE staff per park acre.

Department	Detail Reported	Total FTE OP Staff	Total Park Acres	Average FTE OP/M per Acre	Average Acre
County	41	433.50	44,184.50	10.57	1194.18
Municipal	77	940.72	38,949.35	12.89	499.35
Combination	2	124	1,740.50	62	870.25
<b>Total</b>	120	1,498.22	84,874.50	<b>28.49</b>	854.59

## FTE Operations/Maintenance Staff per Park Acre/Trail Miles



**Table. 18.** Total reported trail miles (natural, paved) per FTE operations/maintenance staff. It is assumed that mountain bike and equestrian trail miles were reported under the three listed trail types.

Department	Average FTE OP Staff per mile	Total FTE OP Staff	Boardwalk	Natural Surface	Paved/Hard Surface	Total Miles
County	1.61	433.5	46.48	340.5	308.85	695.83
Municipal	.89	940.75	31.99	326.85	477.91	836.75
Combination	.016	124	0	5	15	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>.97</b>	1,498.25	78.47	672.35	801.76	1552.58



The image shows the North Carolina state flag waving against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The flag is divided into three horizontal stripes: red at the top, white in the middle, and blue at the bottom. On the left side, there is a blue square containing a white five-pointed star, with the letters 'N' and 'C' in yellow on either side. Two yellow arrows curve around the star. A silver flagpole is visible on the left side of the frame.

4

# STATE BUDGET DATA

# POPULATION REPRESENTED IN 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION REPORT (AFIR)

**Table 19.** Response to AFIR and population representation by government unit type.

Government Unit Type	Units Statewide	Respondents	Response Rate (%)	Population Represented
County	100	81	81	9,425,780
Municipality	550	299	54	4,428,353
<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9,861,300<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>The total does not equal the sum of county and municipality populations because the majority of NC residents within municipalities were already accounted for in county populations

**Table 20.** Statewide expenditures by government unit type. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Government Unit Type	Capital (\$M)	Operating (\$M)	Total (\$M)	Capital Dollars per Capita	Operating Dollars Per Capita	Total Dollars Per Capita
County (n=81)	88	162	250	9.31	17.17	26.48
Municipality (n=299)	169	405	574	38.20	91.36	129.56
<b>Total (n=380)</b>	257	566	823	26.06	57.44	<b>83.49</b>

<sup>1</sup>The total population of those within municipalities (4,428,353), including those also captured by a county unit, was used to calculate this number

# Statewide Expenditures/Revenue

**Table 21.** Total and per capita statewide sales and service revenue by government unit type. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Government Unit Type	Sales and Service Revenue (\$M)	Revenue Dollars Per Capita
County (n=81)	34	3.62
Municipality (n=299)	74	16.81
<b>Total</b>	109	<b>11.00</b>

<sup>1</sup>The total population of those within municipalities (4,428,353), including those also captured by a county unit, was used to calculate this number

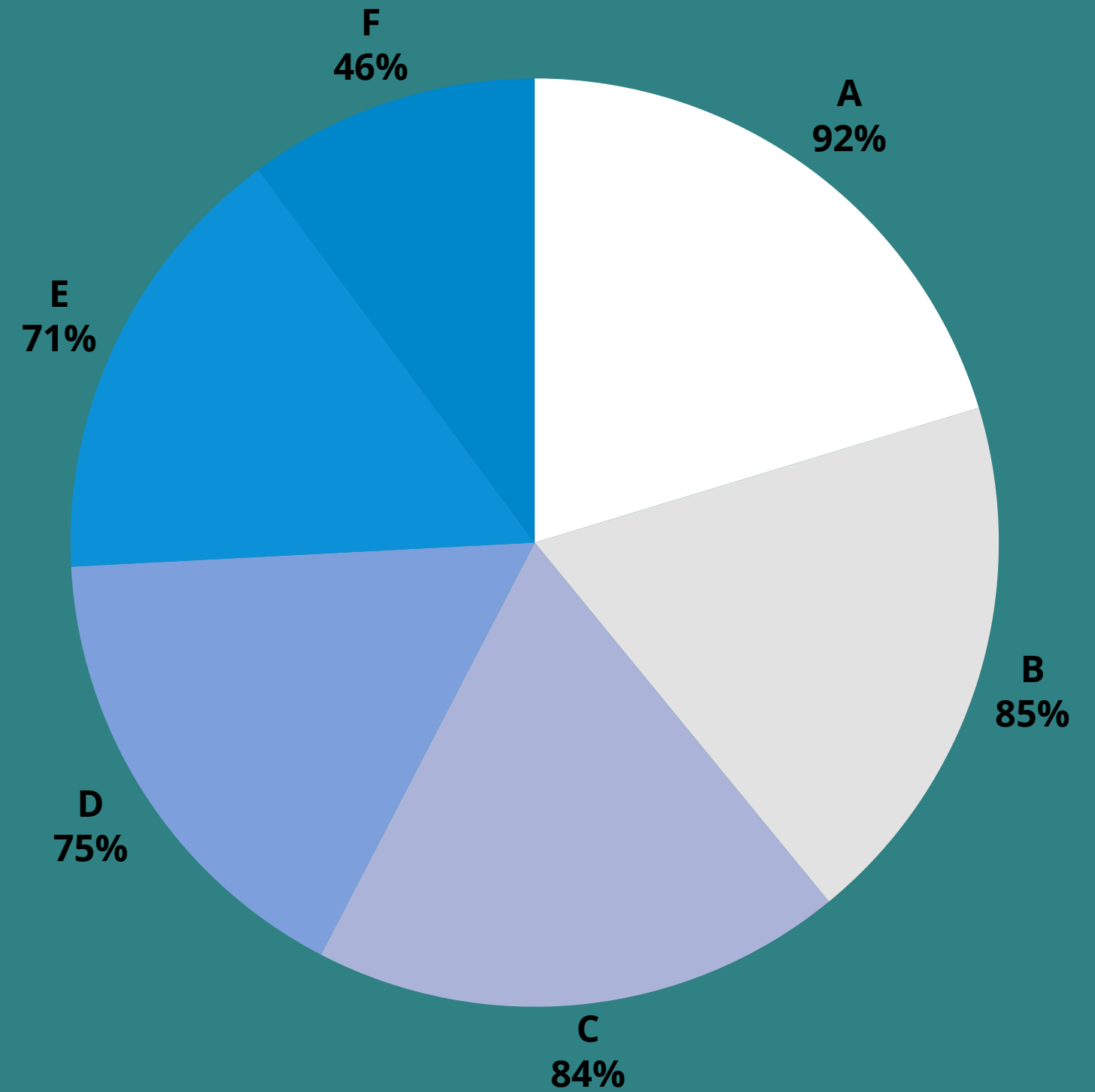
# Population Class Representation

**Table 22.** Response to AFIR and population representation by population class.

Population Class	Units Statewide (N)	Respondents (n)	Response Rate (%)	Population Represented
A	39	35	92	7,580,938
B	33	28	85	1,201,307
C	45	38	84	646,416
D	68	51	75	310,182
E	52	37	71	48,015
F	413	191	46	74,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>9,861,300<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>Note that the total population represented does not equal the sum of each population class population represented because, when considering total population represented, some individuals are captured within both a county and a municipality. These individuals are not counted twice in the final population calculation. Thus, this value represents unique population represented.

# Population Class Response Rate



# Population Class Expenditures

**Table 23.** Statewide expenditures by population class. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

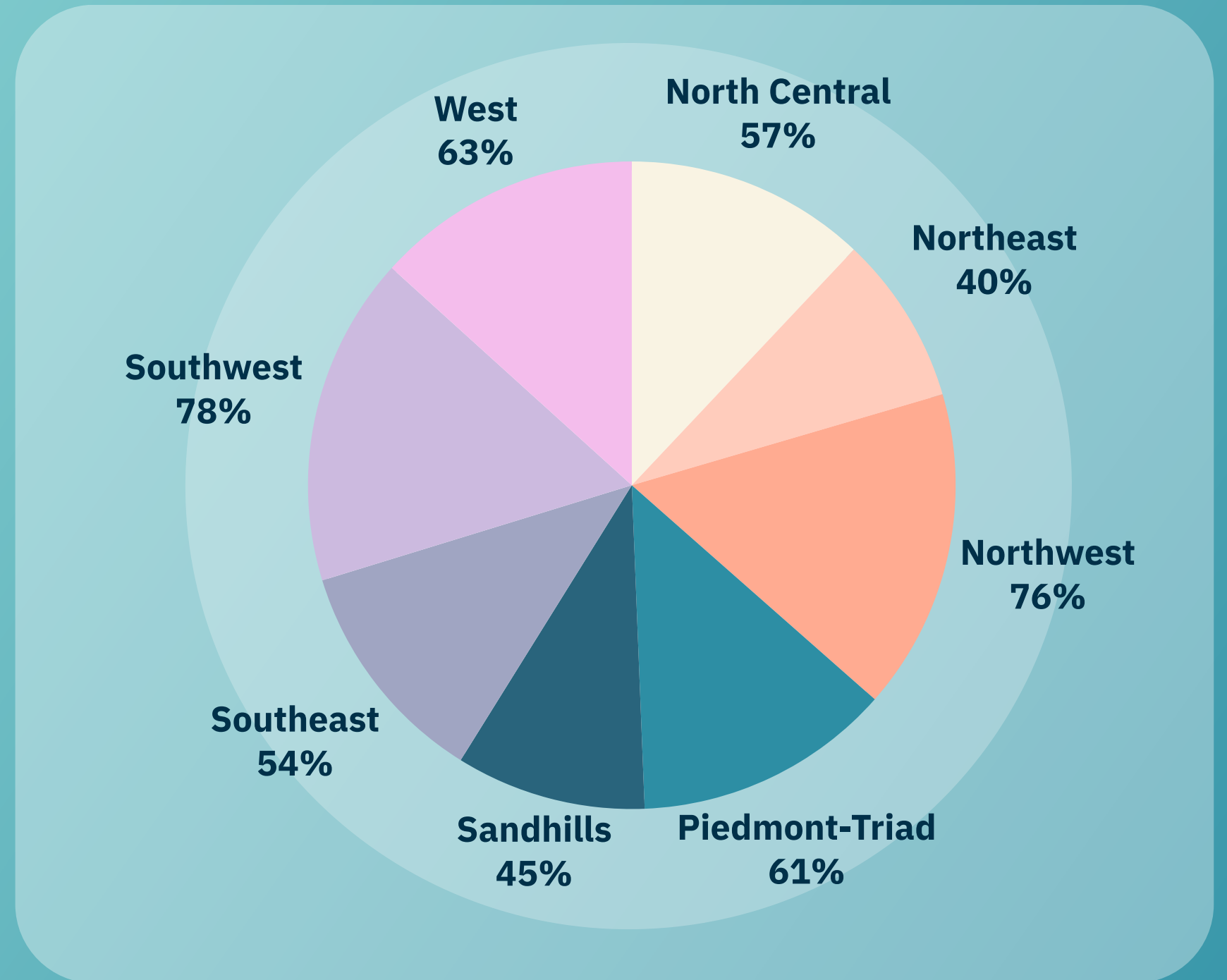
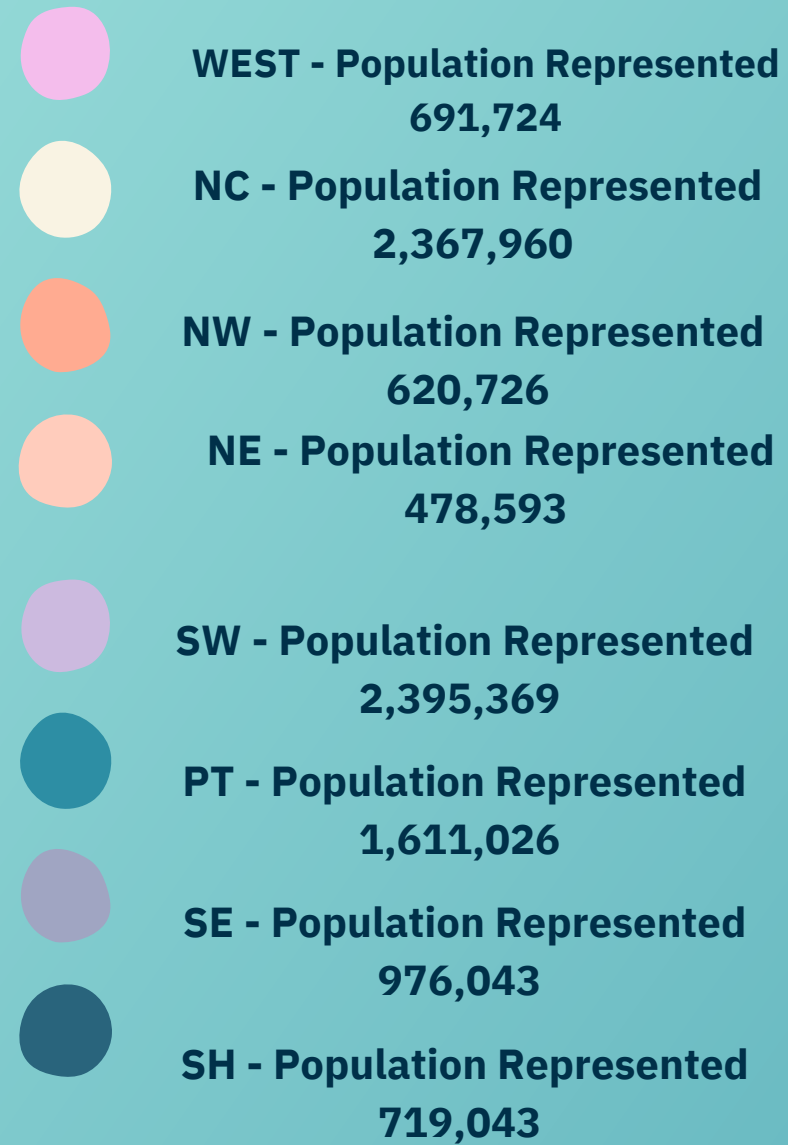
Population Class	Capital (\$M)	Operating (\$M)	Total (\$M)	Dollars Per Capita
A (n=35)	146	305	450	50.37
B (n=28)	47	87	134	68.80
C (n=38)	31	79	110	80.96
D (n=51)	12	49	61	76.49
E (n=37)	10	21	31	115.10
F (n=191)	11	27	38	103.40
<b>Total (n=380)</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>60.24</b>

# Population Class Revenue

**Table 24.** Statewide revenues by population class. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Population Class	Sales and Service (\$M)	Revenue Dollars Per Capita
A (n=35)	53	\$5.89
B (n=28)	23	\$11.61
C (n=38)	13	\$9.71
D (n=51)	11	\$13.23
E (n=37)	4	\$16.18
F (n=191)	5	\$14.08
<b>Total (n=380)</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>\$7.93</b>

# AFIR Prosperity Zone Response Rate





# AFIR Prosperity Zone Response Rate

**Table 25.** Response to AFIR and population representation by prosperity zone.

Prosperity Zone	Units Statewide (N)	Respondents (n)	Response Rate (%)	Population Represented
North Central	93	53	57	2,367,960
Northeast	88	35	40	478,593
Northwest	58	45	76	620,726
Piedmont-Triad	74	45	61	1,611,026
Sandhills	86	39	45	719,043
Southeast	99	53	54	976,043
Southwest	95	74	78	2,395,369
West	57	36	63	691,724
<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>9,861,300<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>Note that the total population represented does not equal the sum of each population zone population represented because, when considering total population represented, some individuals are captured within both a county and a municipality. These individuals are not counted twice in the final population calculation. Thus, this value represents unique population represented.

# Prosperity Zone Expenditures

**Table 26.** Statewide expenditures by prosperity zone. Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Prosperity Zone	Capital (\$M)	Operating (\$M)	Total (\$M)	Dollars Per Capita
North Central (n=53)	63	185	248	\$104.85
Northeast (n=35)	9	9	19	\$39.05
Northwest (n=45)	13	18	31	\$49.31
Piedmont-Triad (n=45)	52	101	153	\$95.19
Sandhills (n=39)	2	22	24	\$33.83
Southeast (n=53)	18	49	66	\$68.06
Southwest (n=74)	82	138	220	\$92.22
West (n=36)	18	34	52	\$74.76
<b>Total (n=380)</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>\$82.58</b>

# Prosperity Zone Revenue

**Table 27.** Total revenue and per capita estimates by prosperity zone. Dollar amounts rounded to the nearest million.

Prosperity Zone	Sales and Service (\$M)	Revenue Dollars Per Capita
North Central (n=53)	34	\$14.48
Northeast (n=35)	2	\$5.09
Northwest (n=45)	6	\$9.58
Piedmont-Triad (n=45)	20	\$12.11
Sandhills (n=39)	2	\$2.51
Southeast (n=53)	11	\$10.92
Southwest (n=74)	30	\$12.52
West (n=36)	4	\$5.61
<b>Total (n=380)</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>

# Statewide Expenditures & Revenues

total and per capita

## PARKS & RECREATION EXPENDITURES REPORTED

**\$823 Million**

or

**\$ 83 per Resident**

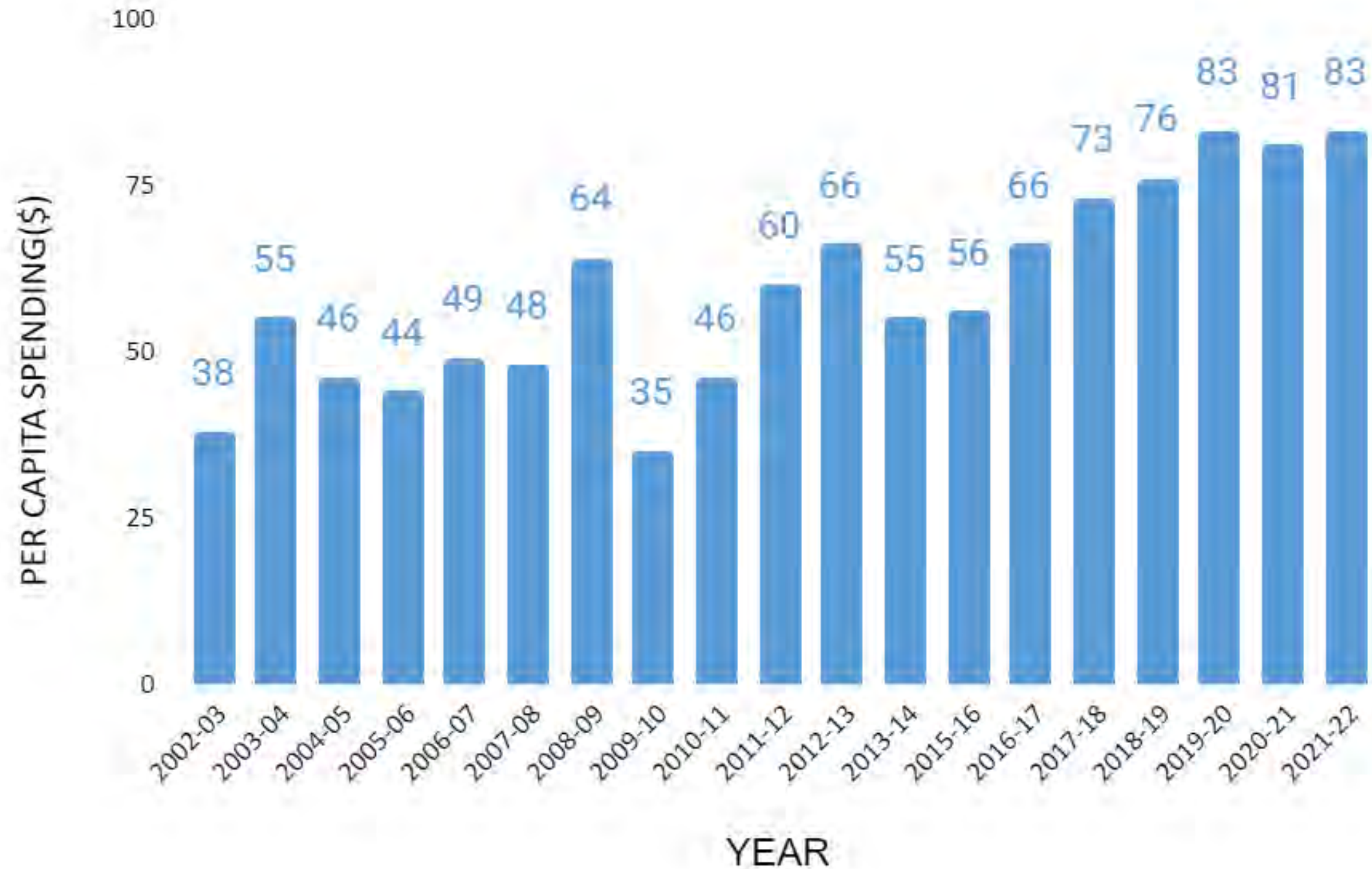
## PARKS & RECREATION REVENUES REPORTED

**\$109 Million**

or

**\$11 per Resident**

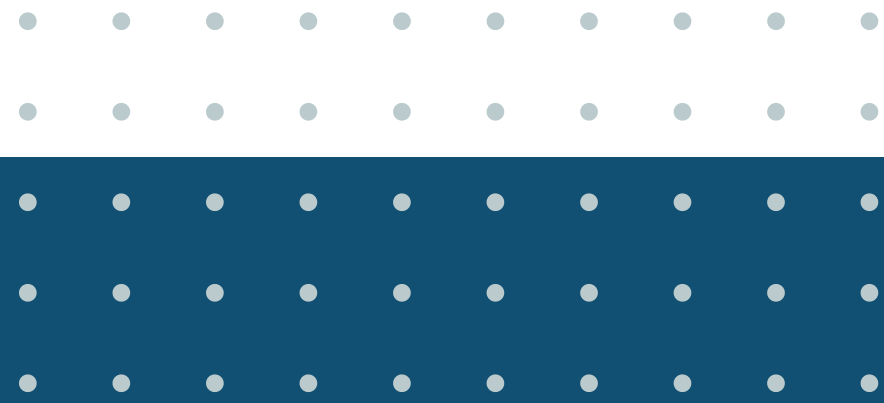
# Per Capita Spending Chart 2002-22



**Figure 3.** Statewide parks and recreation spending per capita since 2002-03. The 2014-15 year is blank due to lack of data.

# Limitations

- **State budget data obtained from Office of Treasurer, depends on accuracy of reporting government units.**
- **MCPRSS data inferences limited to provided responses**



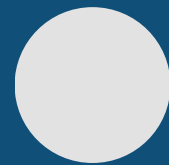
## IN THE FULL REPORT...

- Full exploration of state budget data
- Will be available on the RRS Website in the near future

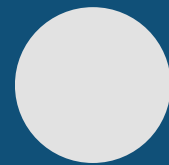
[rrs.cnr.ncsu.edu/resource-library/](https://rrs.cnr.ncsu.edu/resource-library/)



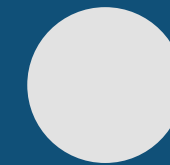
# FINAL THOUGHTS



What do you need for  
decision-making?



Presenting your case to  
others?



GIS...coming soon

## Any Questions?

Email: [klwhite7@ncsu.edu](mailto:klwhite7@ncsu.edu)

