



PARKS

IAPD Key Metric Agency Data Results

The Illinois Association of Park Districts is dedicated to helping our members thrive through education, research and advocacy.

The information in this brochure is based on 2021 statewide research of IAPD agencies conducted by aQity Research & Insights, Inc.

Visit ILparks.org for more information on IAPD's research initiatives.



Convenient Access to Parks and Open Space

On average, local park districts and other conservation and recreation agencies report over 1,400 residents served per park within their jurisdictions.

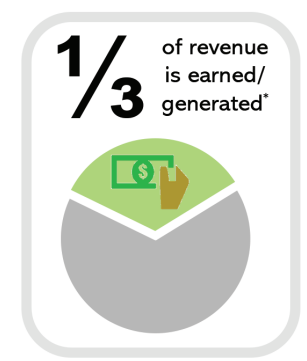


In terms of acreage per capita, park districts and other conservation and recreation agencies report 12 improved acres per 1,000 residents. Forest preserves and conservation districts report 86% of their acreage remains in a natural state.



Benefits Delivered to Communities Are Affordable

On average, more than one-third of park district revenue for operating cost is self-generated from user fees, memberships and other non-tax



On average, less than 5% of an Illinois resident's property tax goes to their local park agency and less than 2% goes to forest preserves and conservation districts.

Capital expenditures, spent primarily on renovations, are only \$28 per resident.

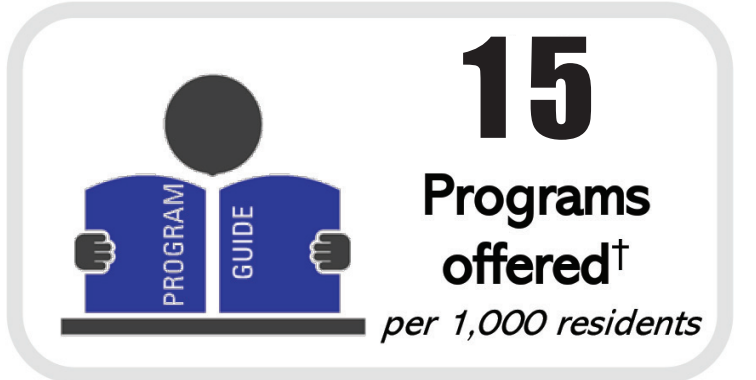


On average,[†] local park agencies report nearly 70 volunteers who assist through the year. The largest park districts, as well as forest preserves and conservation districts, average more than 400 volunteers.

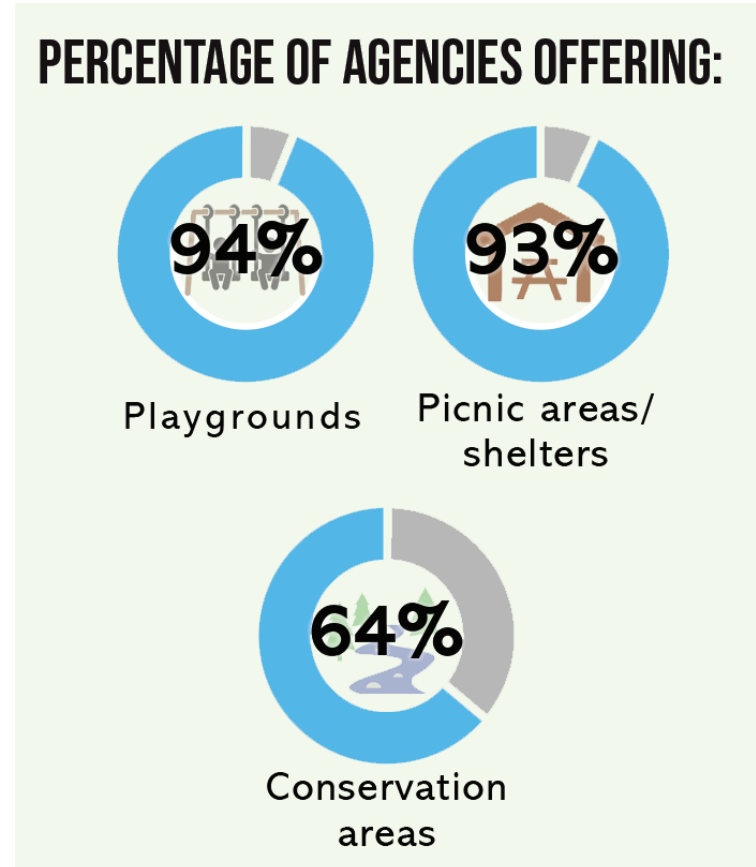


A Wide Array of Programs and Facilities Are Offered

On average, park districts offer about 15 different programs for every 1,000 residents in their jurisdiction.



Outdoor opportunities essential during the pandemic are prevalent.



* Average
† Median



PARKS

Benchmark for Success

Research results offer valuable information to park districts, forest preserves, conservation, and recreation agencies that can be used to draw benchmark comparisons statewide, as well as with selected agencies of similar size, location, and offerings.

IAPD

Illinois Association of Park Districts

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In 2020, the Illinois Association of Park Districts engaged aQity Research & Insights, Inc. to collect key metrics from park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, and municipal park and recreation agencies to identify the scope of their services, programs, facilities, open space, investment/spending and other financial information. The study builds upon previous IAPD research which measured program and facility usage that quantified the excellent value that these local agencies provide to their communities.

A total of 146 agencies from throughout Illinois participated in the research, representing a very strong 47% response rate. Data collection ran from mid-April through December 2020 and is based upon the financial, facility, and program information from fiscal year 2019 (pre-pandemic).

The primary goal of this research is to provide agencies with sufficient data from other agencies to draw benchmark comparisons both statewide and with selected agencies of similar size, location, and offerings. Additionally, numerous statewide findings also provide valuable information about these local agencies, collectively.

For example:

- 1,480 residents are served per park (median)
- 15 programs offered per 1,000 residents (median)
- Less than 5% of property taxes go to park districts
- Earned revenue covers over one-third of operating costs.

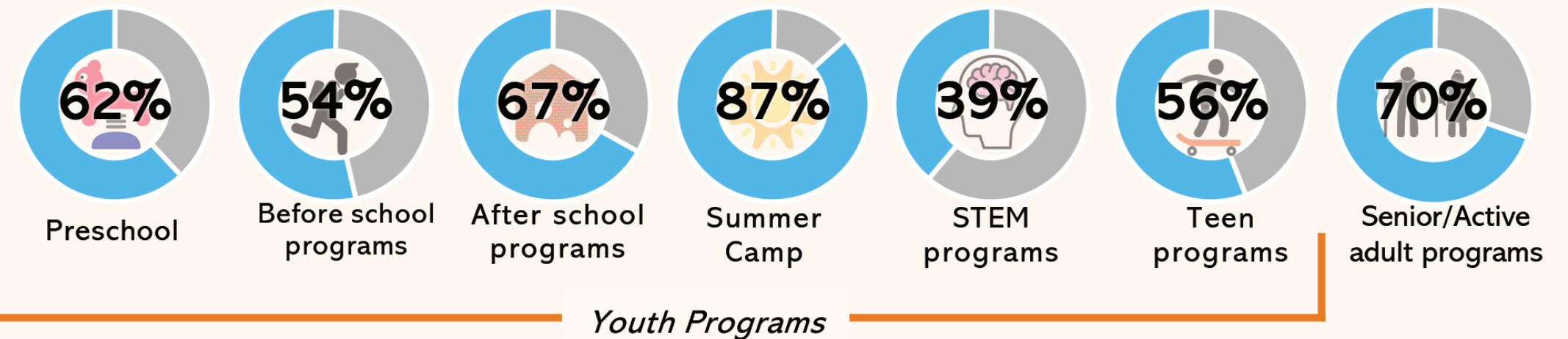
This research demonstrates that local park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts and municipal park and recreation agencies continue to offer convenient and affordable access to a wide range of programs, facilities, and services to their entire communities.

Peter M. Murphy
IAPD President / CEO

Park Districts and Forest Preserves Serve the Entire Community By Programming to Young and Old Alike

On average, IAPD member agencies offer approximately 300 different programs to their residents each year, serving nearly 14,000 program participants per agency.[†]

Percentage of Agencies Offering Age-Base Programming



Mean Average % of Resident Property Taxes Going to Local Agencies*



* Total is comprised of 135 responding agencies (125 park districts and parks and recreation departments, and 10 forest preserves and conservation districts).