



Bend Metro Park & Recreation District

March 3, 2026

Board of Directors

Agenda and Reports

www.bendparksandrec.org



play for life



Our Vision

To be a leader in building a community connected to nature, active lifestyles and one another.

Our Mission

To strengthen community vitality and foster healthy, enriched lifestyles through parks, trails and recreation.

Our Community Pledge

To reflect our community, welcome and serve equitably, and operate with transparency and accountability.

We Value

COMMUNITY by interacting in a responsive, considerate and efficient manner to create positive patron experiences and impact in the community.

INCLUSION by reducing physical, social and financial barriers to our programs, facilities and services, and making them more equitable for all.

SAFETY by promoting a safe and healthy environment for all who work and play in our parks, trails, facilities and programs.

STAFF by honoring the diverse contributions of each employee and volunteer, and recognizing them as essential to accomplishing our mission.

SUSTAINABILITY by fostering a balanced approach to fiscal, environmental and social assets to support the health and longevity of the district, the environment and our community.



District Office

799 SW Columbia St., Bend, Oregon 97702 | www.bendparksandrec.org | (541) 389-7275

March 3, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

1. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with High Desert Horticultural Center: *Rachel Colton* (15 min)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MEETING SUMMARY – 2/17/2026

REPORTS- Project Update, Second Quarter Admin Update, Second Quarter Recreation Update, Volunteer summary

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR

GOOD OF THE ORDER

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Accessible Meeting/Alternate Format Notification

This meeting location is accessible. Sign and other language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate format or other accommodations are available upon advance request. Please contact the Executive Assistant no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting at nataliem@bendparksandrec.org or 541-706-6151. Providing at least 2 business days' notice prior to the meeting will help ensure availability.

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE:	March 3, 2026
SUBJECT:	Administrative Services Intern Program
STAFF RESOURCE:	Kristin Toney, Administrative Services Director Eric Baird, Finance Manager Dave Arnold, IT Manager
PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:	The 2025-26 budget was previously adopted by the board on June 3, 2025
ACTION PROPOSED:	For informational purposes only
STRATEGIC PLAN:	
Priority:	Community
Goal:	Expand and leverage collaborations to increase impact
Strategy:	Strategically align with partners that enhance the district's efforts

BACKGROUND

The Administrative Services Paid Intern Program is a three-trimester internship opportunity designed to support students pursuing careers in accounting business and information technology while also meeting the organization's operational and project-based needs. The program provides paid, part time internship placements across key Administrative Services functions creating a mutually beneficial experience for both students and the district.

The program directly advances the district's Strategic Plan by expanding and leveraging collaborations to increase impact by strategically aligning with partners to enhance the district's efforts. By partnering with local colleges and universities, the district aligns academic learning with real world public service experience and strengthens relationships with educational institutions and invests in local workforce development. These partnerships extend the district's impact beyond internal operations by supporting students, strengthening the regional talent pipeline and reinforcing the district's role as an engaged and collaborative community partner.

The program offers students valuable professional experience while helping Administrative Services develop entry-level talent and increase temporary capacity for busy periods or special projects. Interns support core functions such as finance, information technology purchasing and contracts, while gaining exposure to public sector operations systems and professional standards.

In the current fiscal year Administrative Services was approved for part time internships and successfully placed two Oregon State University student interns during the fall and winter terms. Mariela Baza is our Finance Intern and Xander Bailey is our IT Intern. As those internships conclude, the program is expanding to include a third internship focused on Purchasing and Contracts. During the board meeting, staff will introduce the interns and share a bit about their experiences.

Overall, the Administrative Services Paid Intern Program increases our capacity, reinforces the district's commitment to career development and community partnerships, and delivers measurable value to both students and the district.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

This was part of the FY26 budget appropriations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None

MOTION

None

ATTACHMENT

None

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE:	March 3, 2026
SUBJECT:	Community Awareness and Perception Survey
STAFF RESOURCE:	Rachel Colton, Park Planner
GUEST PRESENTERS:	Adam Probolsky, Probolsky Research
PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:	None
ACTION PROPOSED:	None
STRATEGIC PLAN:	
Priority:	Community
Goal:	Deliver positive patron and community experiences by offering services that are accessible, responsive to patron feedback, and welcoming to all
Strategy:	Plan and create welcoming, inclusive, safe and accessible opportunities and programs that address barriers to participation.

BACKGROUND

The district conducts a community survey about every three years to gauge community perception and awareness of the district, and to measure general satisfaction with programs and services. The results of these surveys provide the district with important insight into public sentiment and are used to help set priorities and inform decision-making on a variety of issues. In addition, the survey results are tracked over time, allowing the district to compare and measure progress on certain issues.

Prior surveys were conducted in 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022. Probolsky Research conducted the most recent survey in November and December 2025. The 2025 survey results are benchmarked against prior survey results from 2010 through 2022 to help illustrate how community sentiment is evolving over time. Probolsky Research will be at the board meeting to present the 2025 survey results and discuss their findings.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The funding for the survey was included in the 2025-2026 Planning and Development Department budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None – for board review and discussion only.

MOTION

None

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2025 Statistically Valid Awareness and Perception Survey Report
- B. 2025 Open Link Awareness and Perception Survey Report
- C. Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison

Bend Park and Recreation District Community Awareness and Perception Survey

Statistically Valid Results Presentation

February 2026



Opinion Research on
Elections and Public Policy



PROBOLSKY RESEARCH
23 Corporate Plaza Suite 150 Newport Beach CA 92660

Newport Beach
(949) 855-6400

San Francisco
(415) 870-8150

Washington DC
(202) 559-0270

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Bend Park and Recreation District – Community Awareness and Perception Survey

Survey Methodology*

	Survey Details
Mode	Phone (landline and mobile) Online (email, mail, text to web)
Language	English and Spanish
Length	12 minutes
Target Respondents	BPRD residents
Survey Fielding	November 1 – 24, 2025
Margin of Error	+/-5%
Survey Participants	400

Sample

The quotas were designed after carefully matching the BPRD boundaries to consumer data, allowing us to accurately model the resident population within the district based on 2024 ACS data.

Data Collection Explained

Interviews were conducted with live interviewers by phone and online. Respondents in all modes chose their preferred language, English (98%) and Spanish (2%).

Security measures precluded individuals from completing the survey more than once.

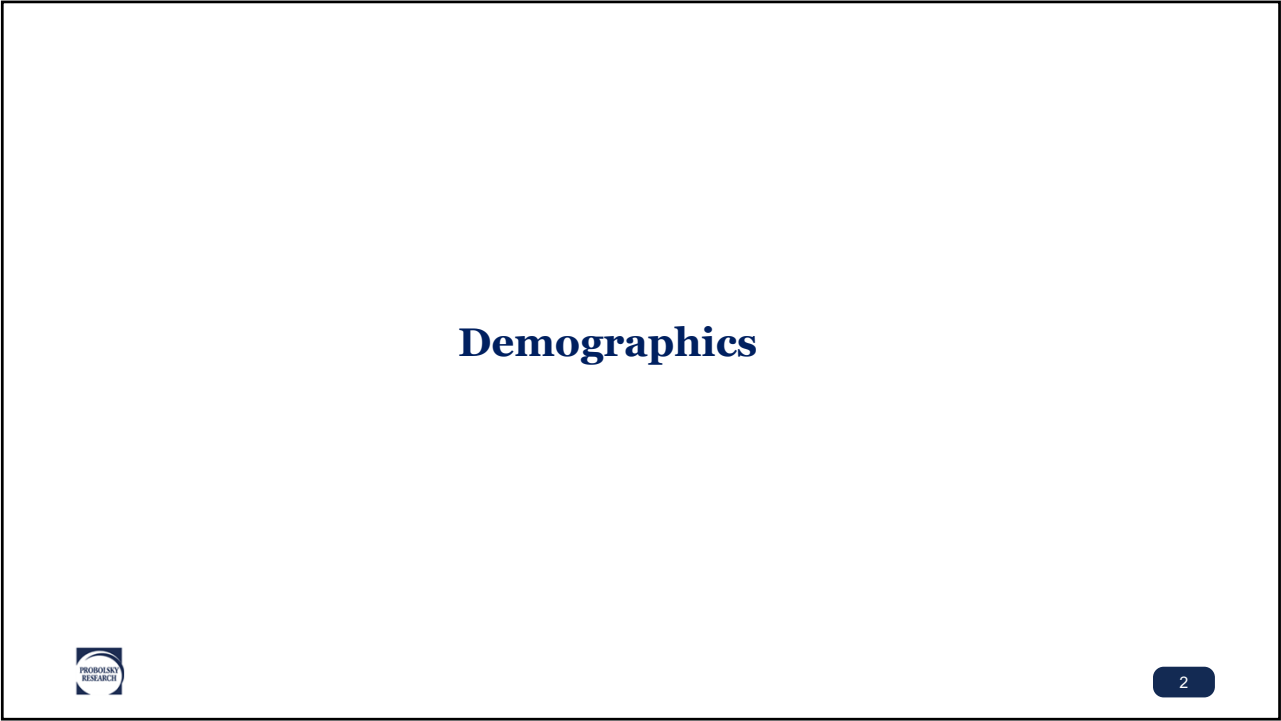


Probolsky Research is a Latina- and woman-owned market and opinion research firm with corporate, election, government, and non-profit clients.

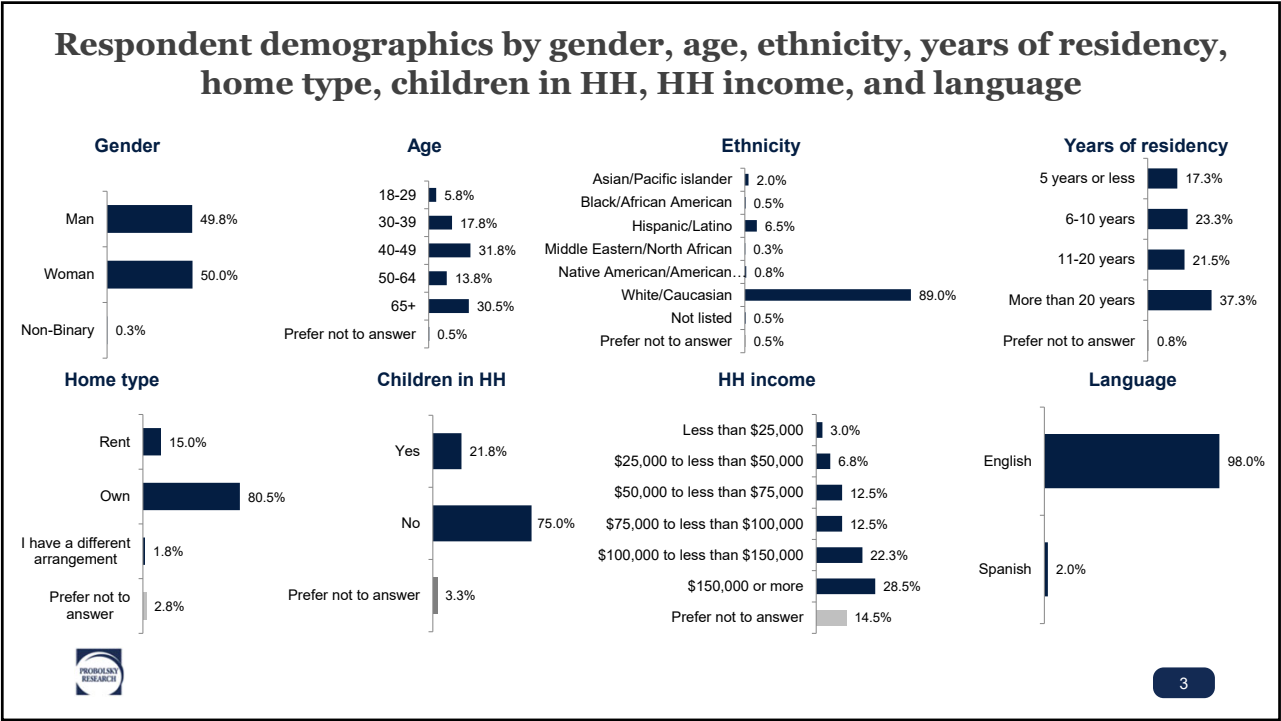
*Due to rounding, totals shown on charts may not add up to 100%

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Executive Summary

Overall Satisfaction and Quality of Life

Residents express overwhelmingly positive views of Bend as a place to live, with a vast majority (93%) describing the quality of life as good. Local government performance is viewed moderately well (57%), though not as favorably as the services delivered by the District. BPRD stands out among public agencies, and when respondents rated the value of various local services, parks, trails, and recreation received the highest rating by a large margin (mean: 8.2). This indicates that outdoor recreation access is central to Bend's livability and identity.

Familiarity, Trust, and Direction of the District

Awareness of BPRD is exceptionally high, with the overwhelming majority of residents (93%) reporting they are familiar with the District. While only about half correctly identify BPRD as a separate agency, this lack of governmental distinction does not impede positive attitudes. A strong majority believe the District is headed in the right direction (71%) and express trust (74%) in the organization. Most image ratings are positive, including environmental stewardship, maintenance quality, and the overall caliber of programs and facilities. The lowest—though still majority-positive—ratings relate to perceptions of transparency and community partnerships, suggesting areas where additional outreach and communication could further strengthen public confidence.



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Executive Summary

Usage and Satisfaction with Services

Parks and recreation amenities are not just appreciated but are widely used. Virtually all residents report visiting a park or trail in the past year, and nearly three-quarters have used facilities or participated in programs. Overall satisfaction is extremely high, with the vast majority satisfied with District services. Residents draw a direct connection between access to recreation and quality of life. Large majorities agree that parks and recreation enhance their personal well-being, contribute to the local economy (89%), and shape what makes Bend unique. Residents also report that they feel welcome (92%) and safe (93%) when using District spaces, reinforcing their role as accessible, inclusive community assets.

Perceptions of Fiscal Stewardship

Views about BPRD's financial management are largely positive. Most residents (67%) believe the District uses taxpayer funds responsibly and feel that the amount they pay toward recreation services is appropriate. Fees for programs and facility use are generally seen as reasonable and aligned with the quality delivered. While financial perceptions are favorable overall, there is room for continued communication—especially around transparency (59%) — given that trust in budgeting and planning is closely tied to future community support.



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Executive Summary

Funding Mechanisms and Policy Preferences

Support for bonding to fund parks and recreation infrastructure is strong (72%). More than seven in ten residents express willingness to vote for a bond measure to fund acquisition, development, and renovation of facilities. Nearly six in ten (58%) say they would pay up to \$50 or more in additional annual property taxes to support such investments. These results indicate that residents understand the relationship between funding and maintaining the community quality they value. Residents also weigh tradeoffs thoughtfully. While recognizing the importance of housing affordability, most oppose reducing revenue for parks through fee waivers or property tax exemptions. This resistance reflects the high value residents place on maintaining existing parks and recreation services and ensuring new development contributes to continued access and quality.

Service Levels and Planning for Growth

A strong majority of residents (71%) believe the current level of services is “just about right.” Looking ahead to Bend’s growth and increasing density, residents prioritize strategies that preserve access to green spaces, with expanding park land emerging as a top preference. This reflects both appreciation for current offerings and a desire to proactively plan for population increases while maintaining the outdoor character that defines Bend.

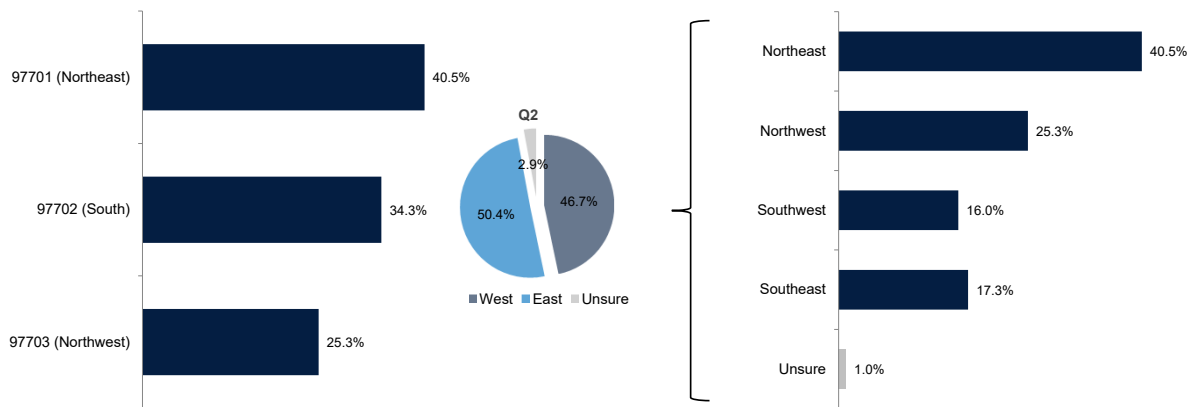


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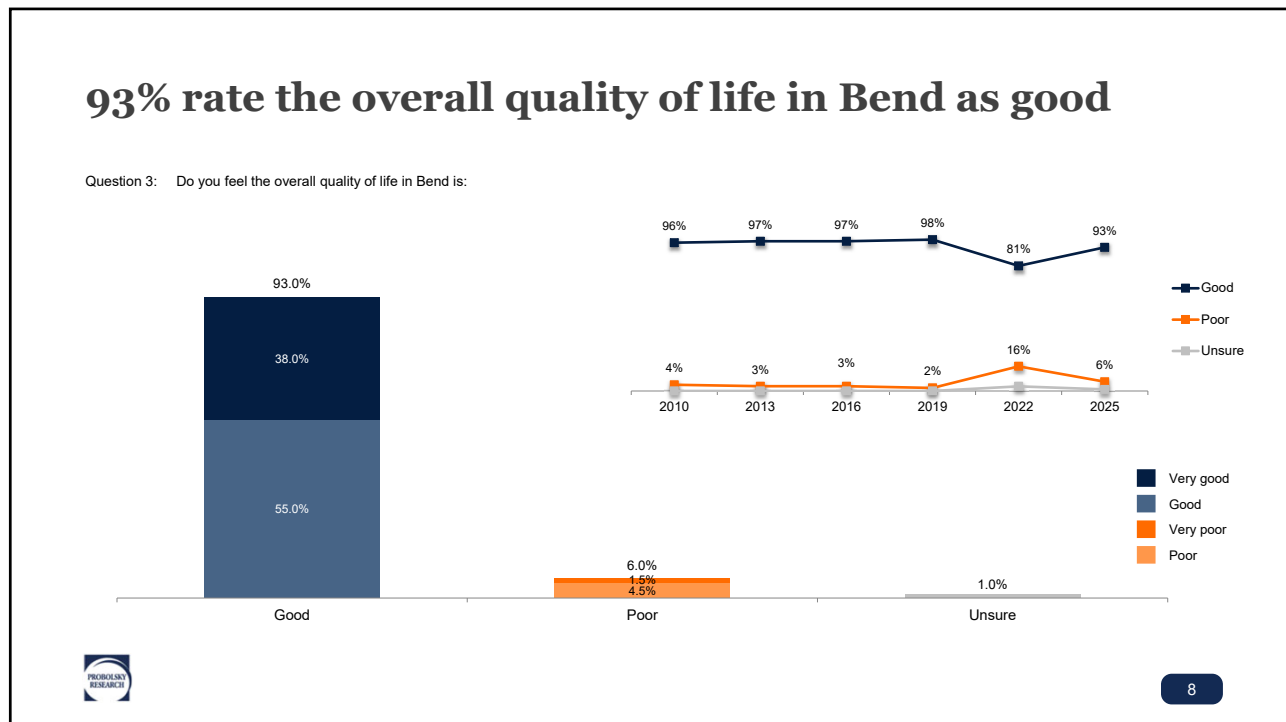
100% of respondents live in the designated zip codes

Question 1: What is your zip code?
Question 2: Do you live west or east of the Parkway (Highway 97)?
[IF ANSWERED '97702' TO Q1]

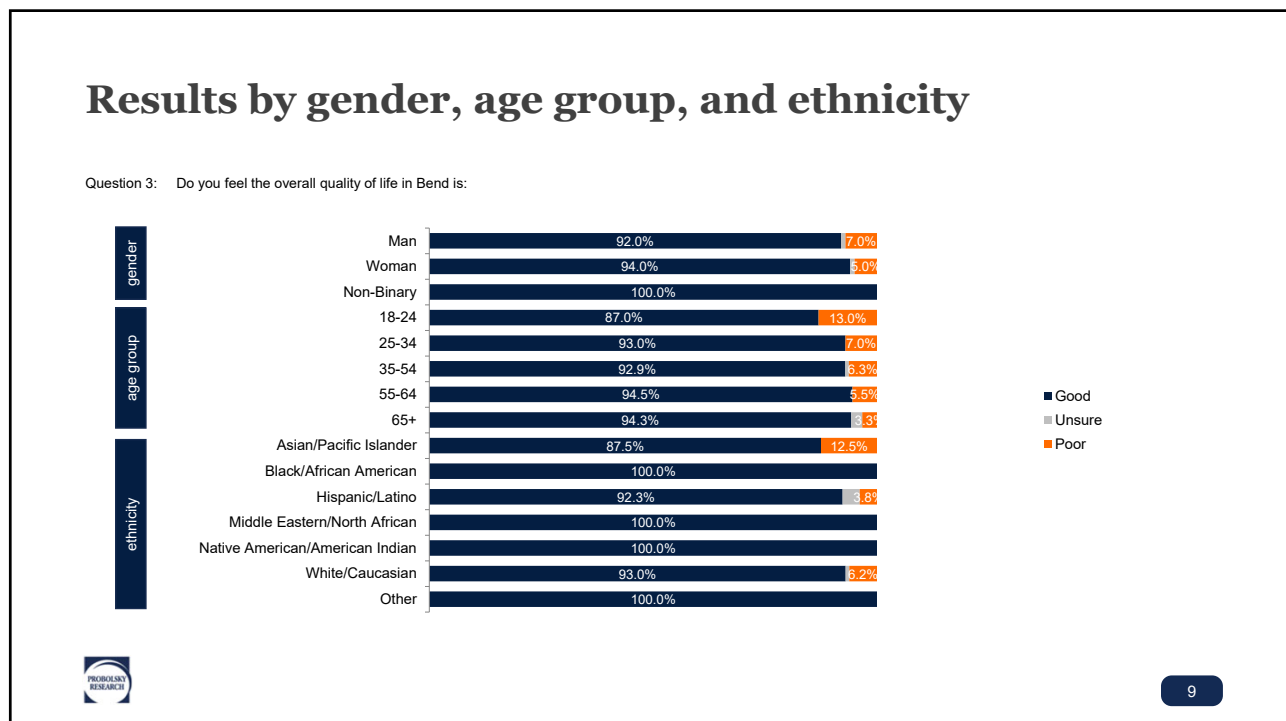


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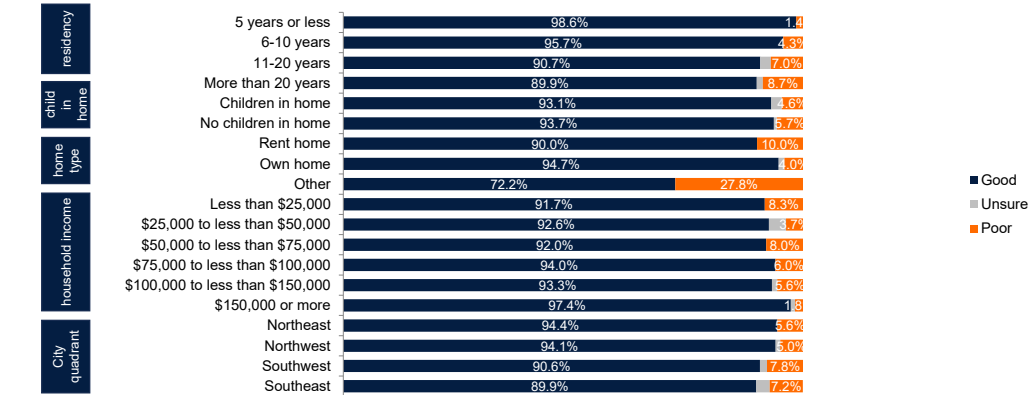
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:

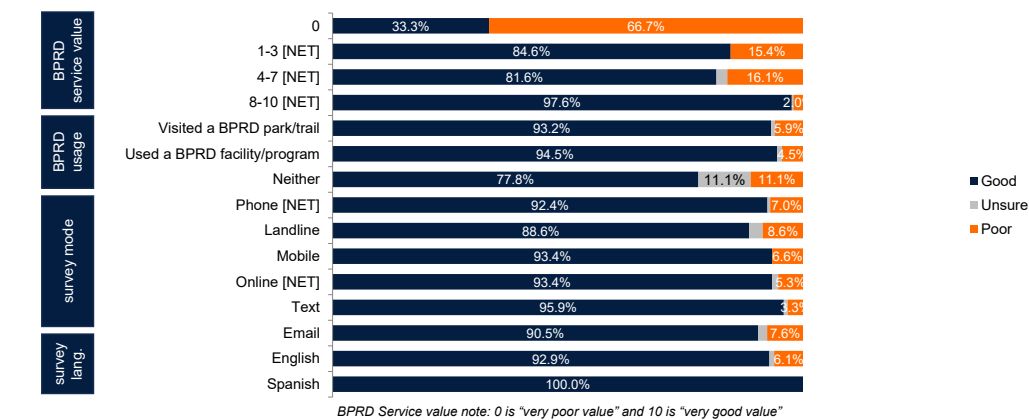


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

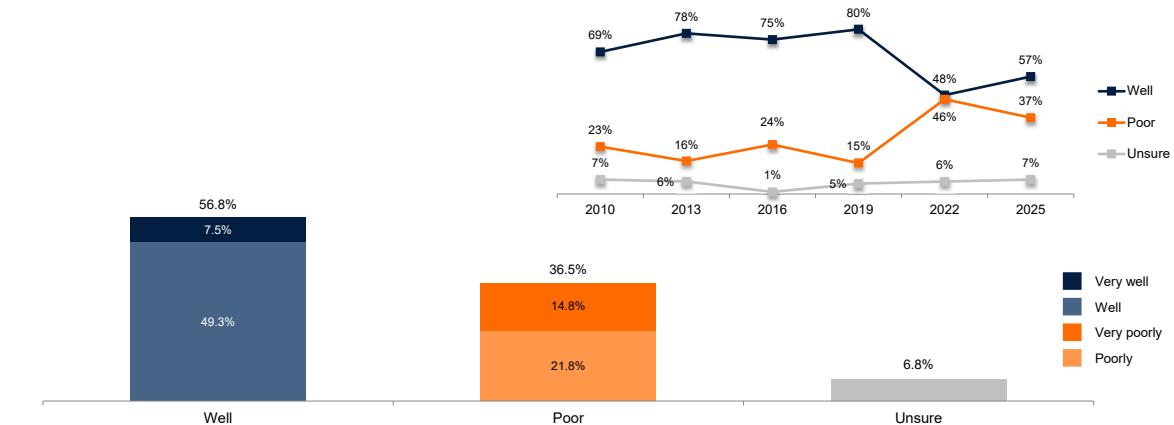


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57% say local government is serving the community well

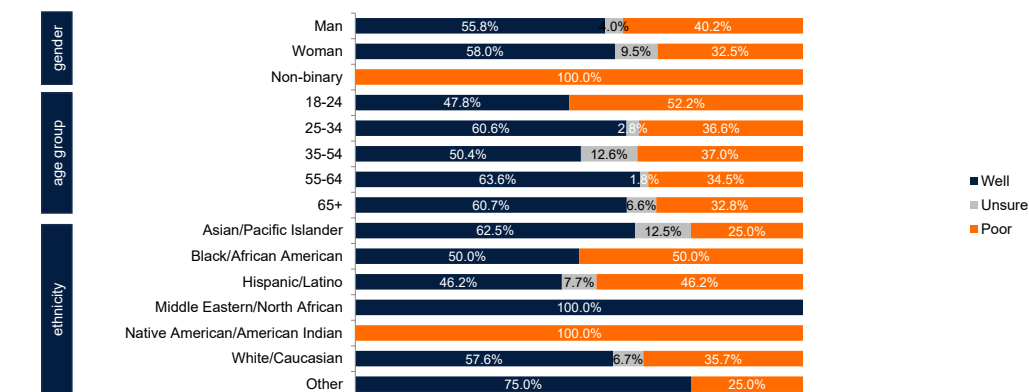
Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?



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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

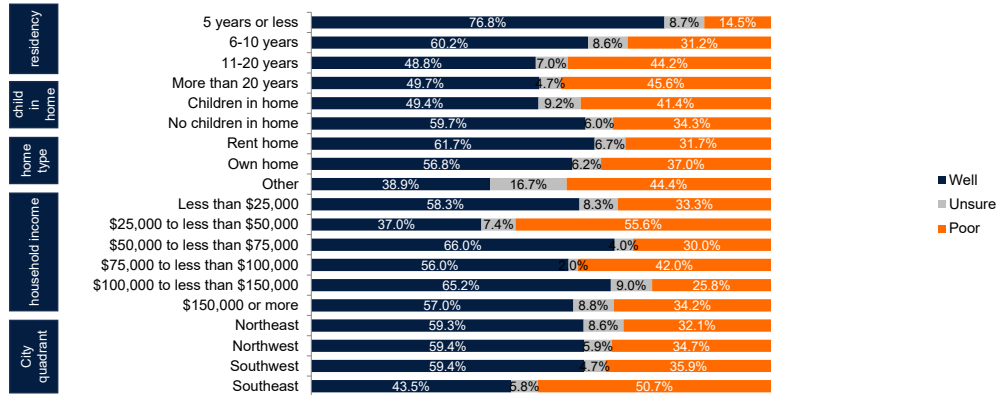
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?

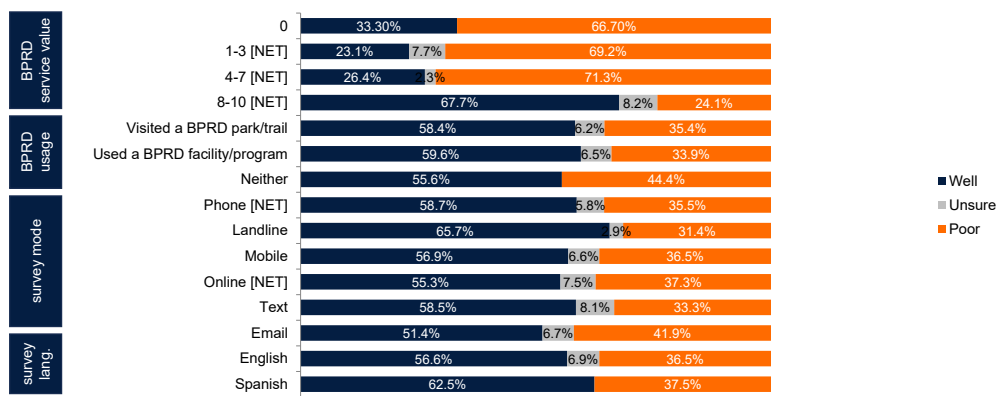


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

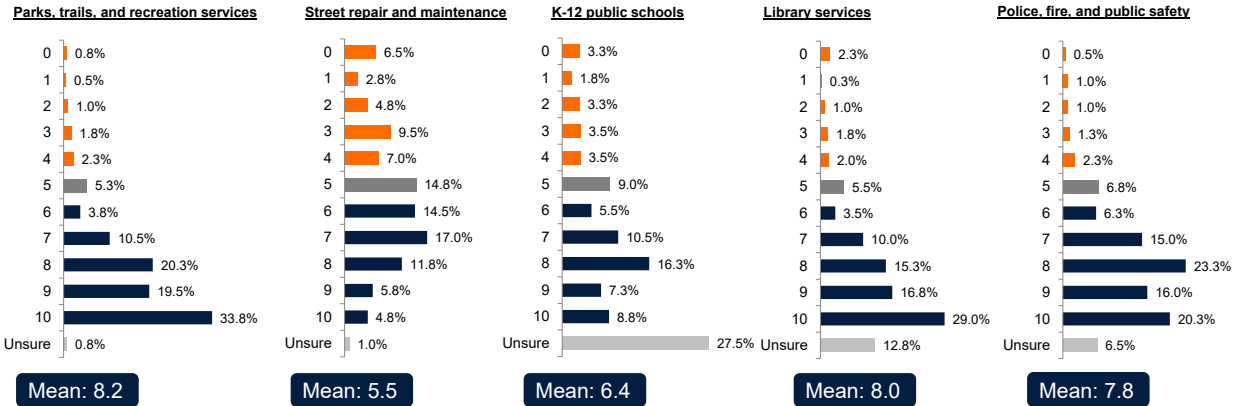


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Parks, trails, and recreation services are the top-rated government service

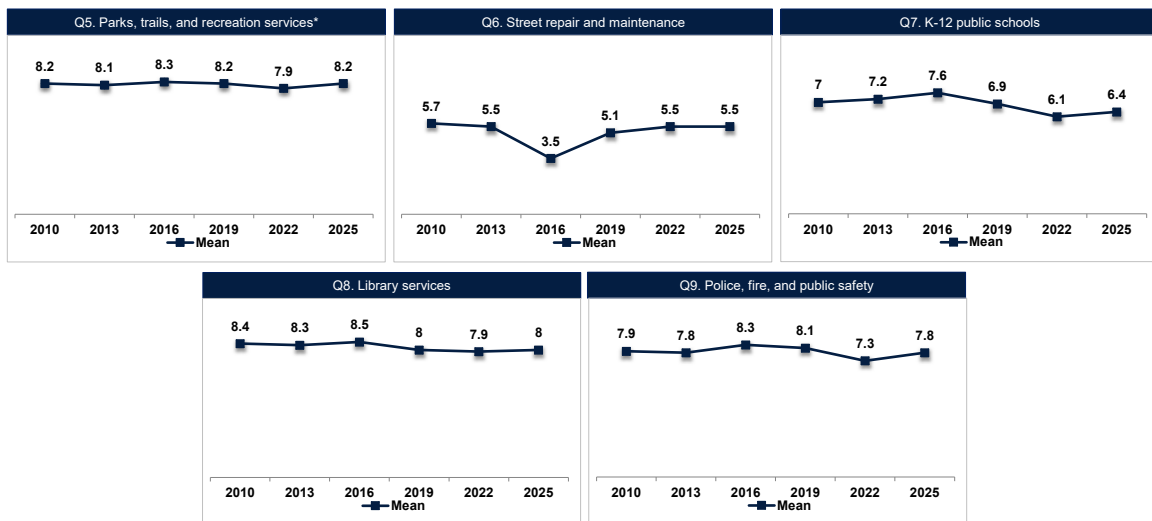
Questions 5-9: Now we have a list of services provided by different local government agencies in Bend. How would you rate each service based on the value received for the tax dollar being spent? Use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value".



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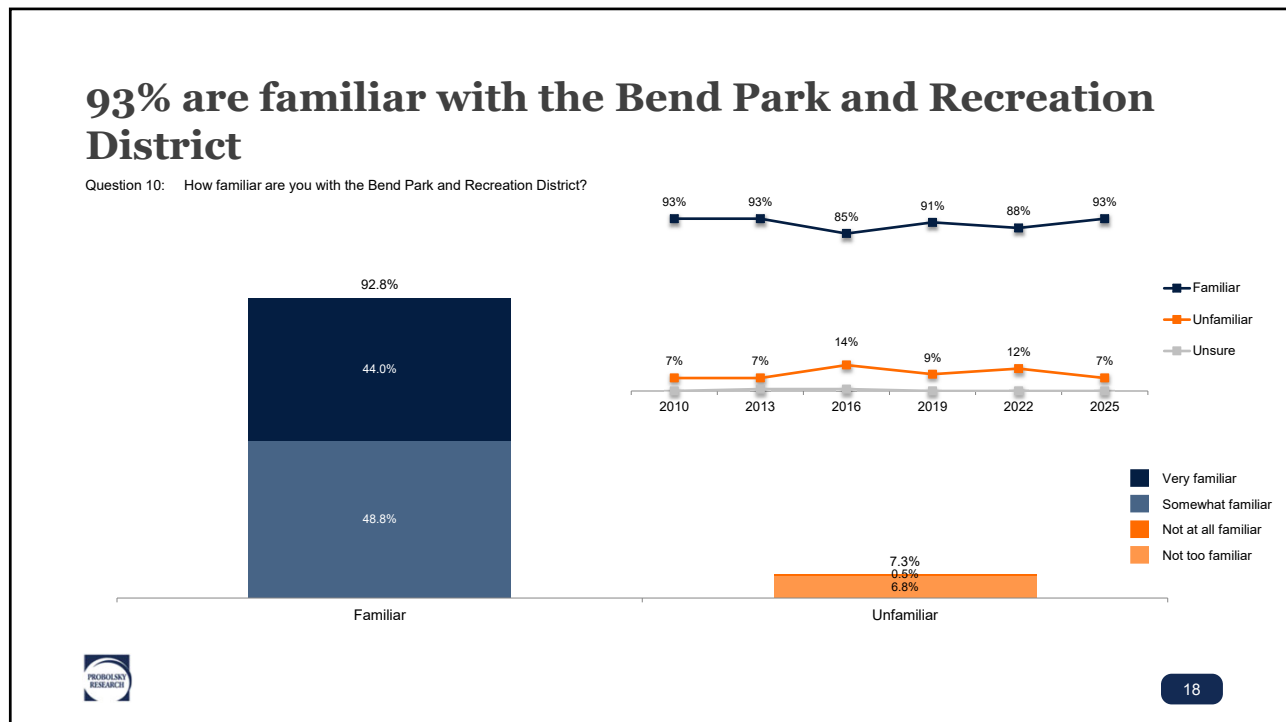
Services value mean



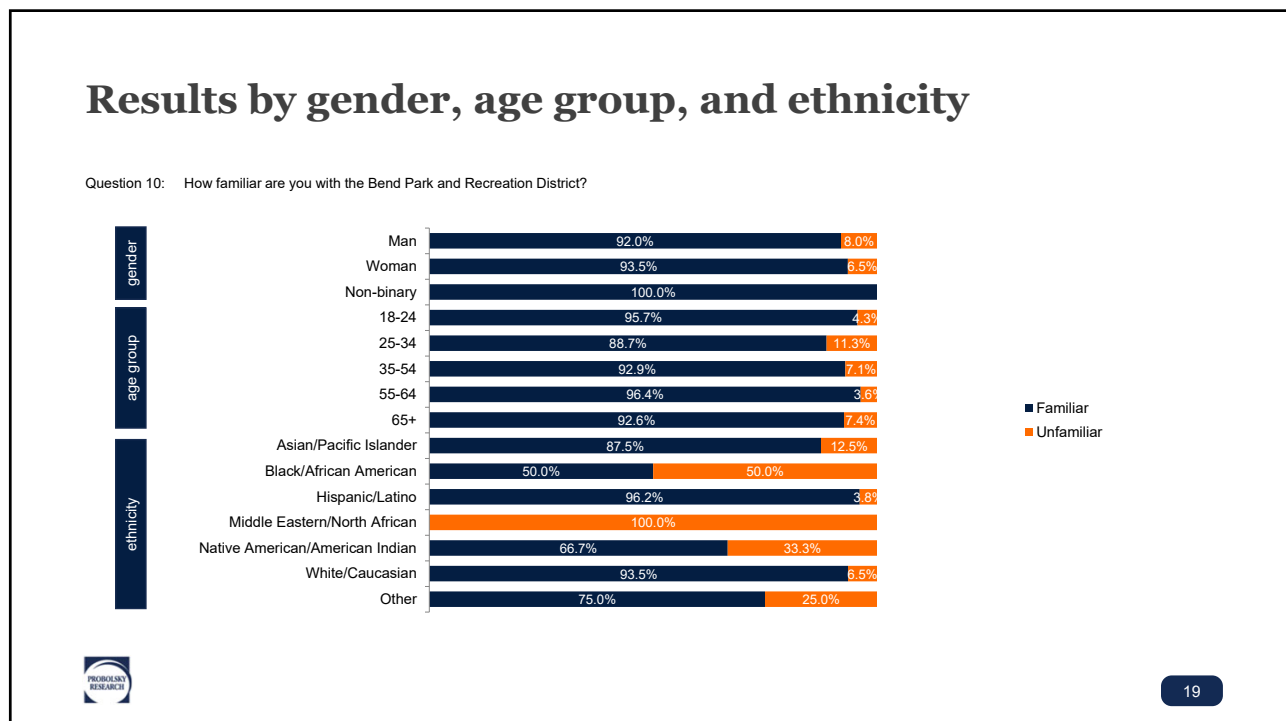
*2016 question: Parks and trails in the City of Bend
*2010 and 2013 question: Parks, recreation programs, walking and biking

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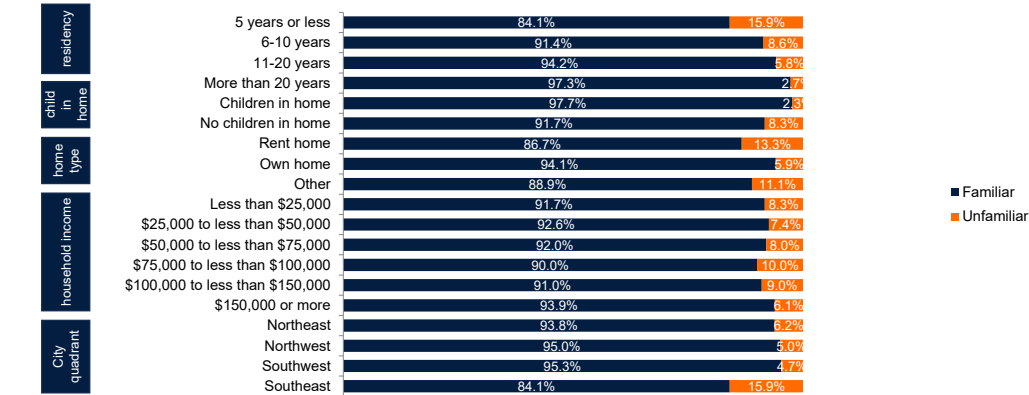
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?

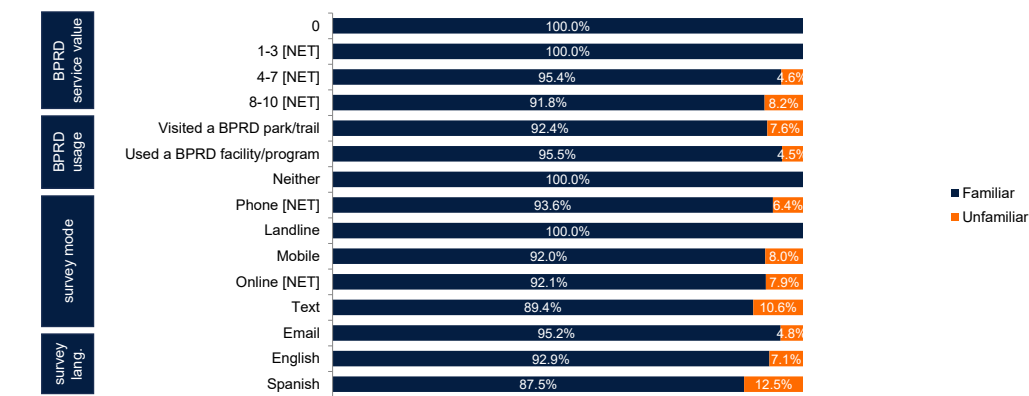


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

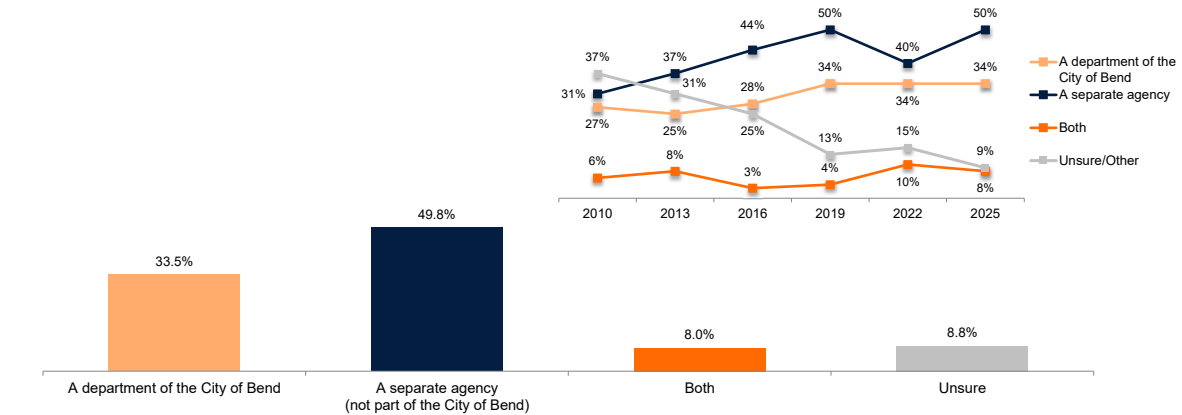


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Half of residents correctly recognize BPRD as a separate agency

Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:

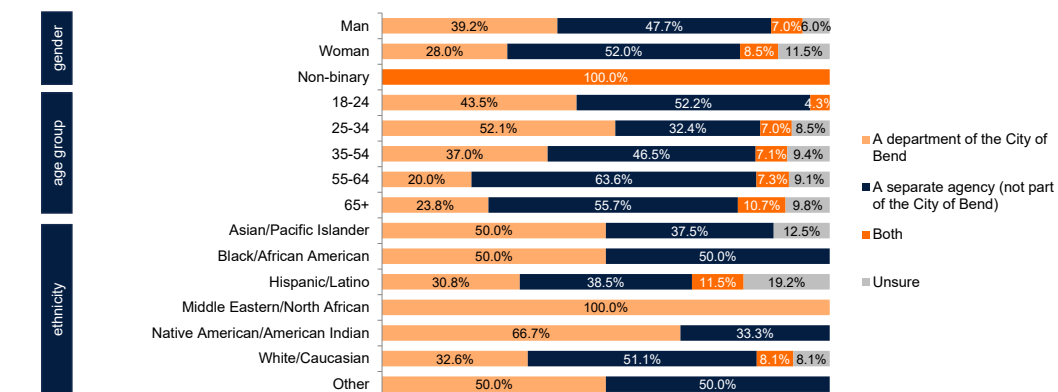


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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:

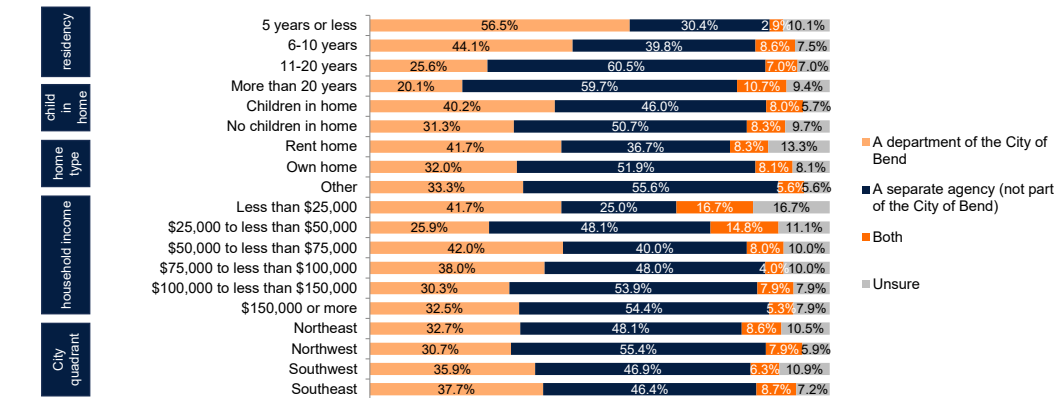


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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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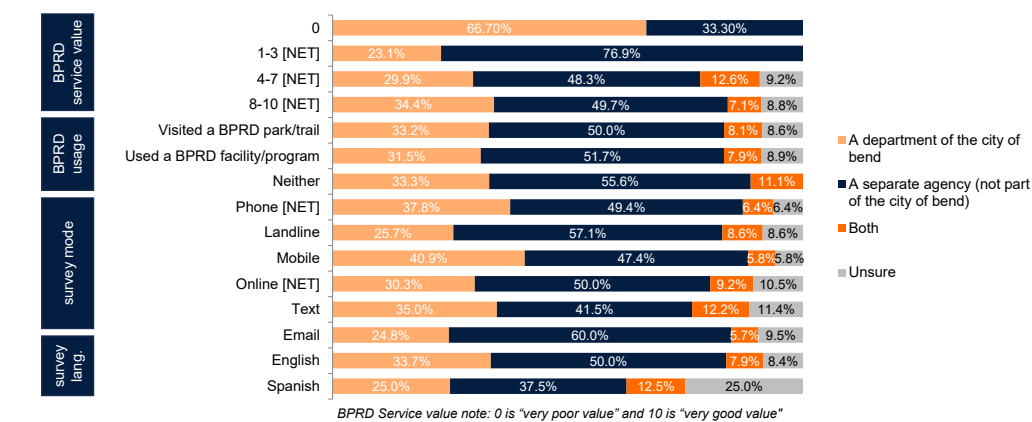


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:

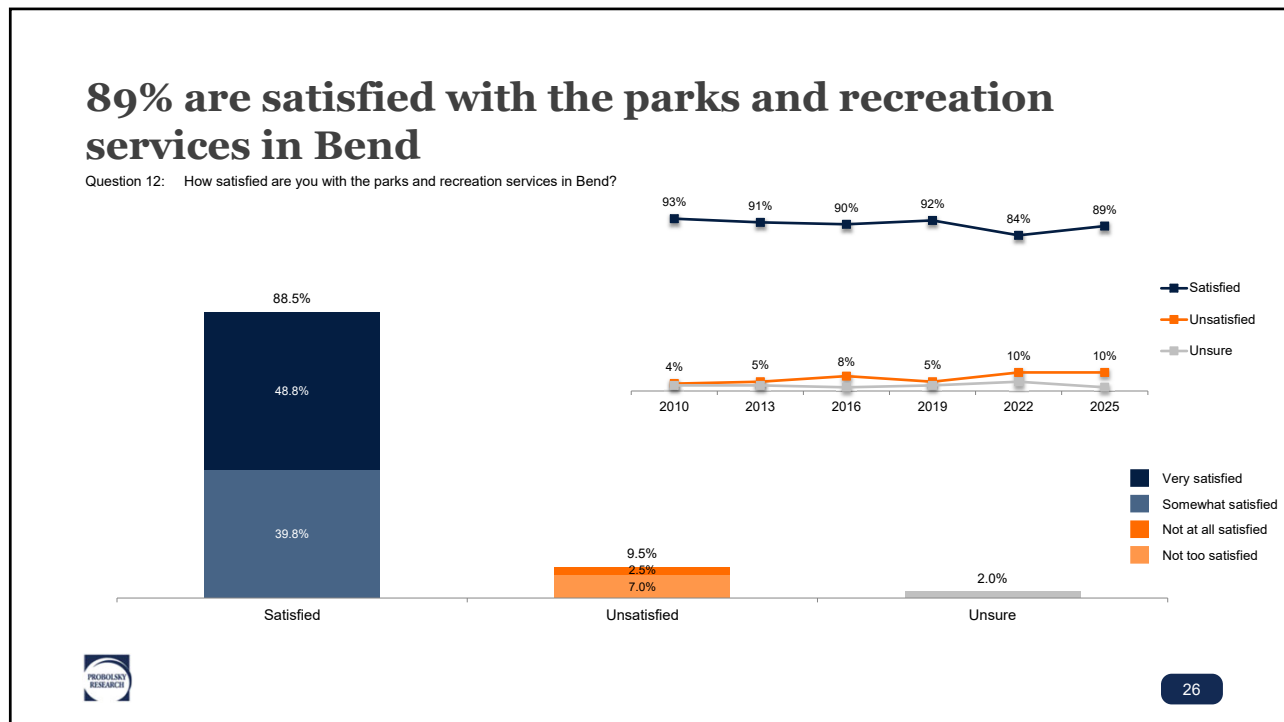


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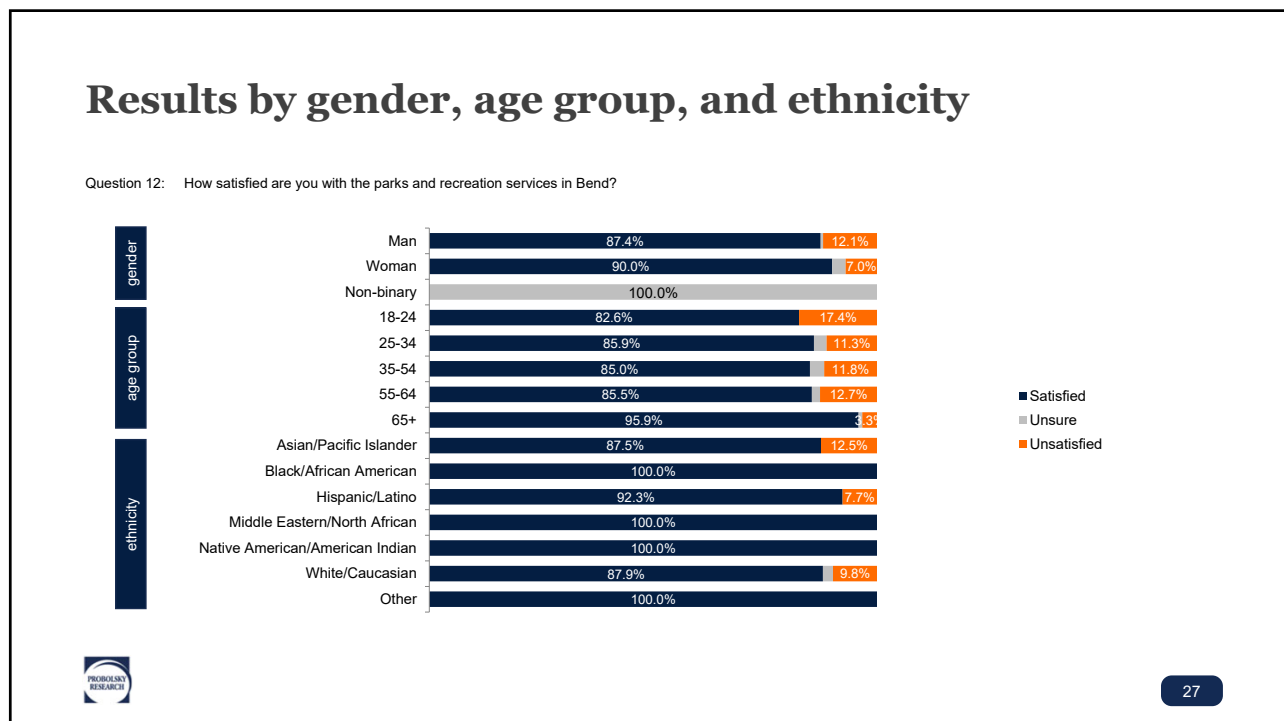


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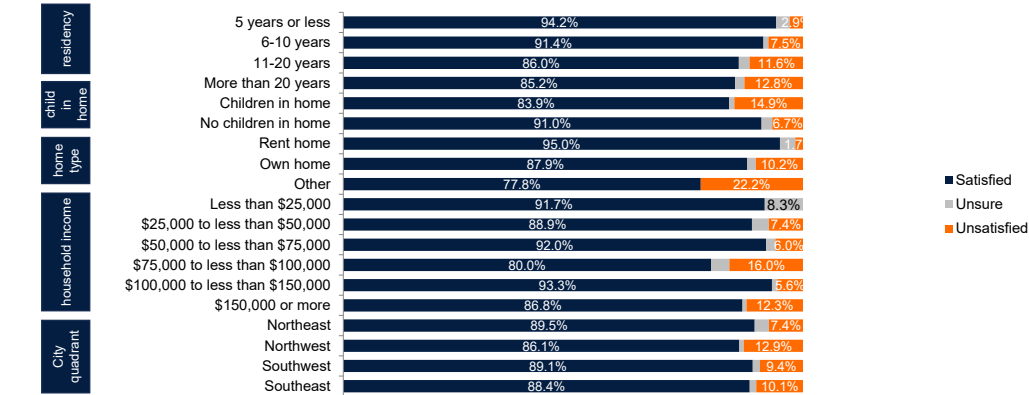
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?

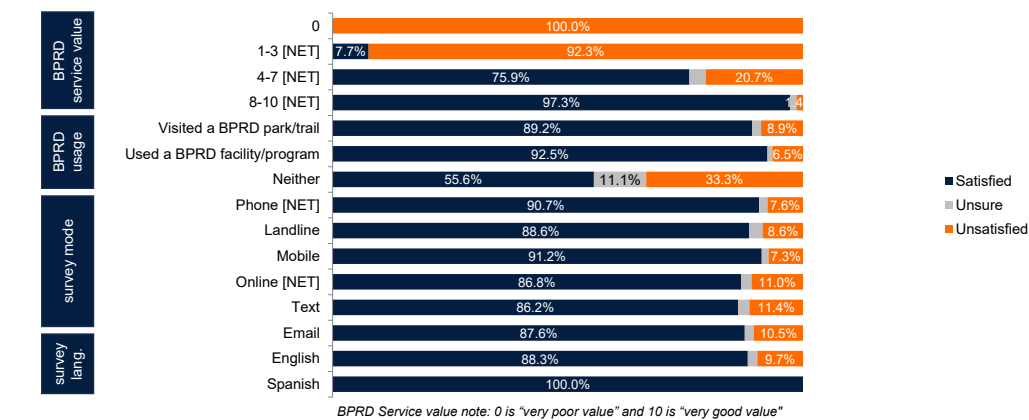


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?

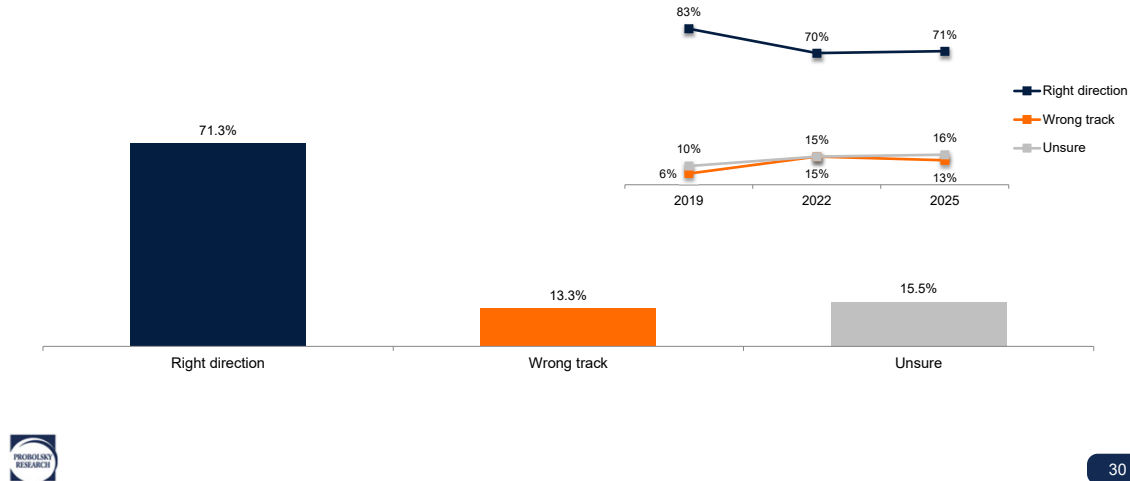


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71% say BPRD is headed in the right direction

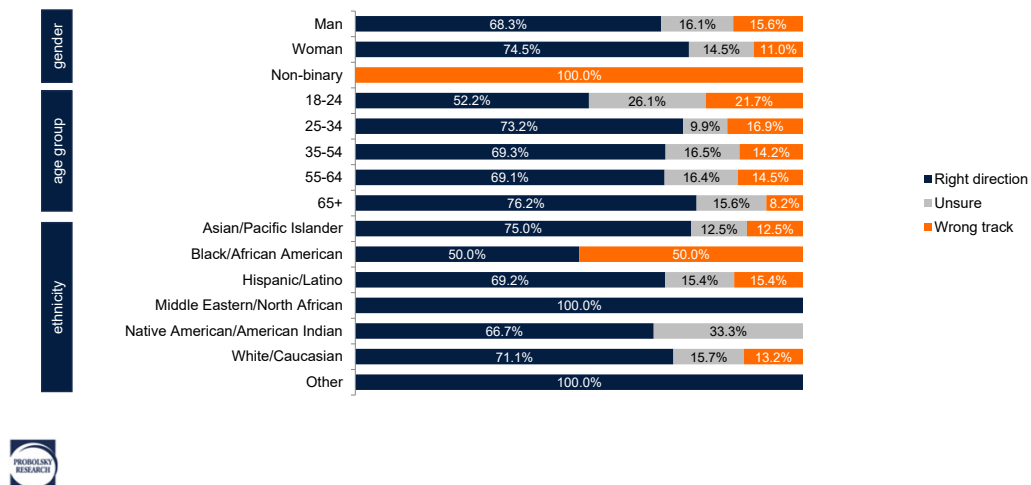
Question 13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?



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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

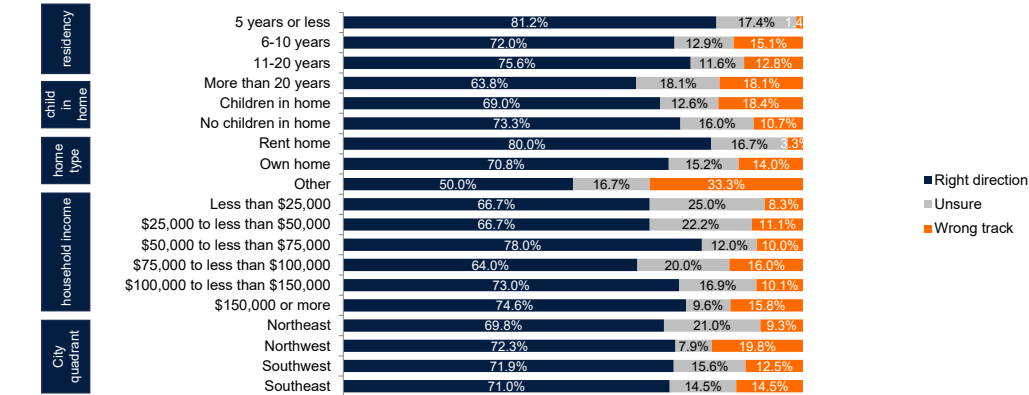
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?

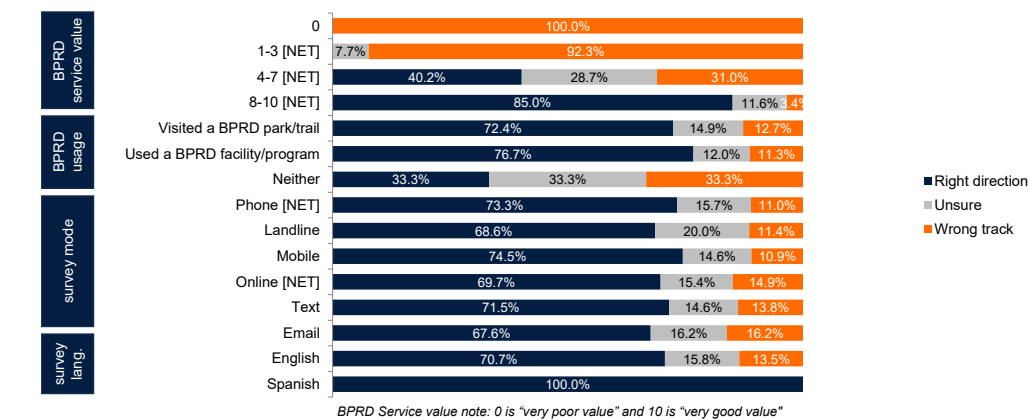


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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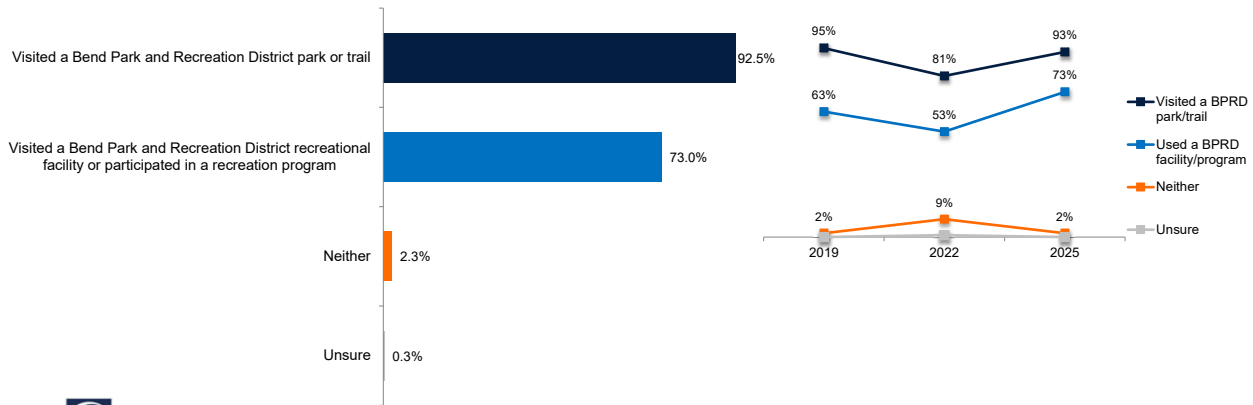


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93% have visited a BPRD park or trail in the past year, 73% have visited recreational facilities or participated in recreational programs

Question 14: During the past year, have you or any member of your household done any of the following? Select all that apply.



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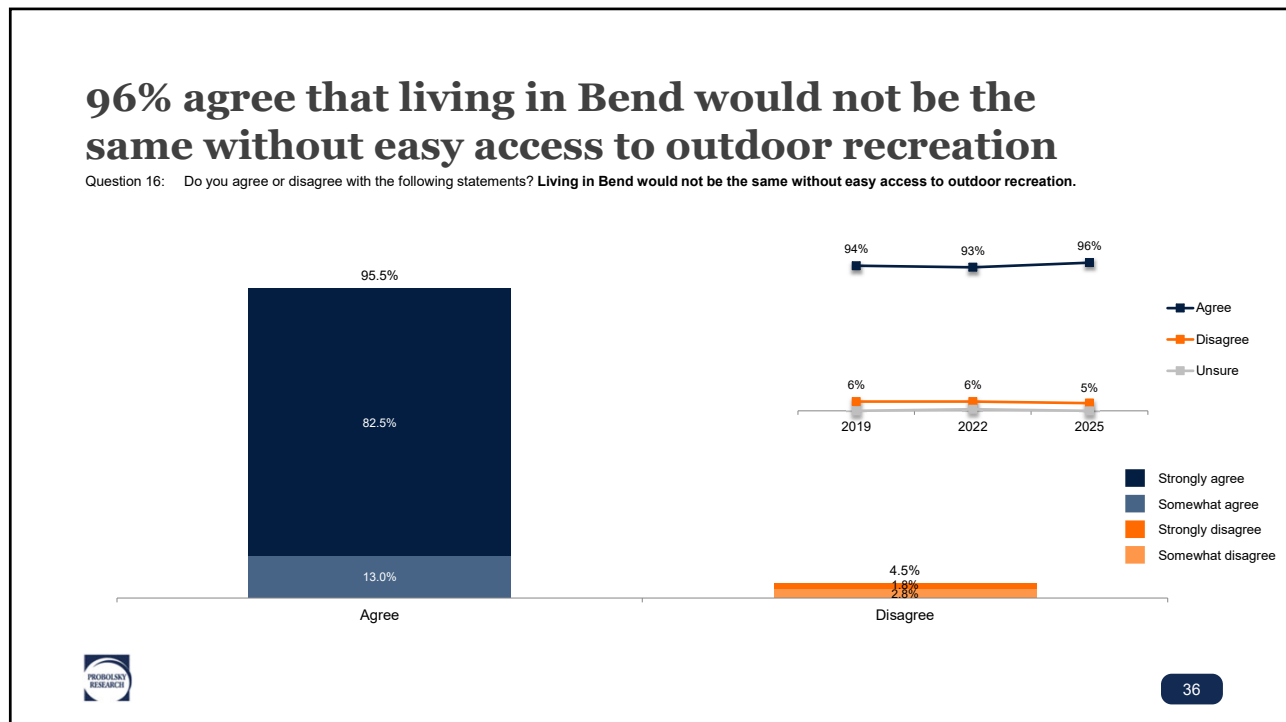
Statements effectiveness

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation	95.5%	4.5%	-
Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life	94.0%	5.0%	1.0%
I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.	92.8%	5.8%	1.5%
I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities	92.3%	5.5%	2.3%
Having a park near my home is important to me	91.8%	7.8%	0.5%
Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy	89.3%	8.0%	2.8%

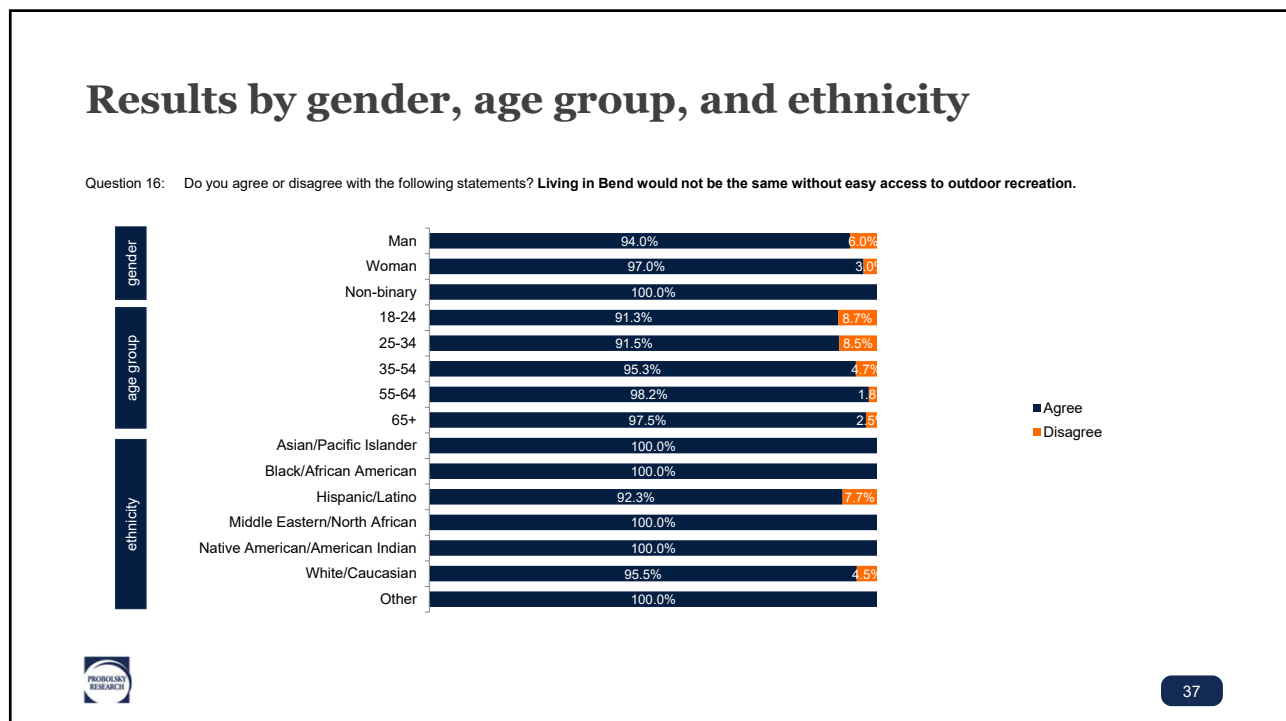


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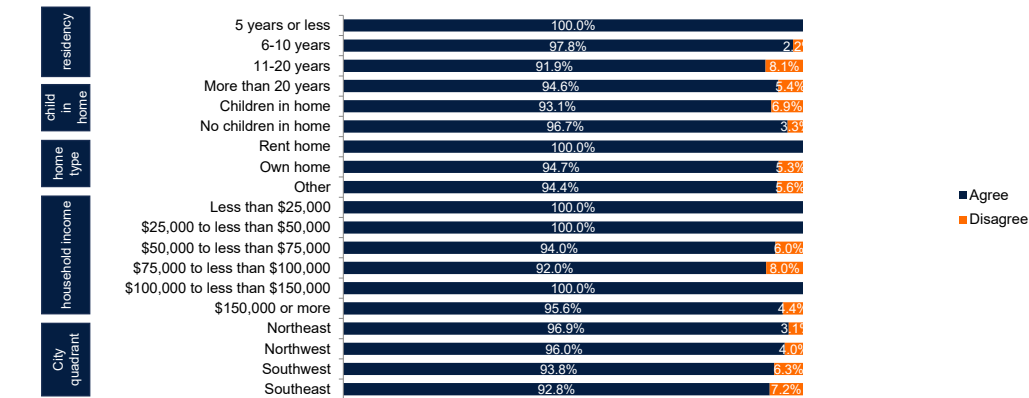
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 16: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation.

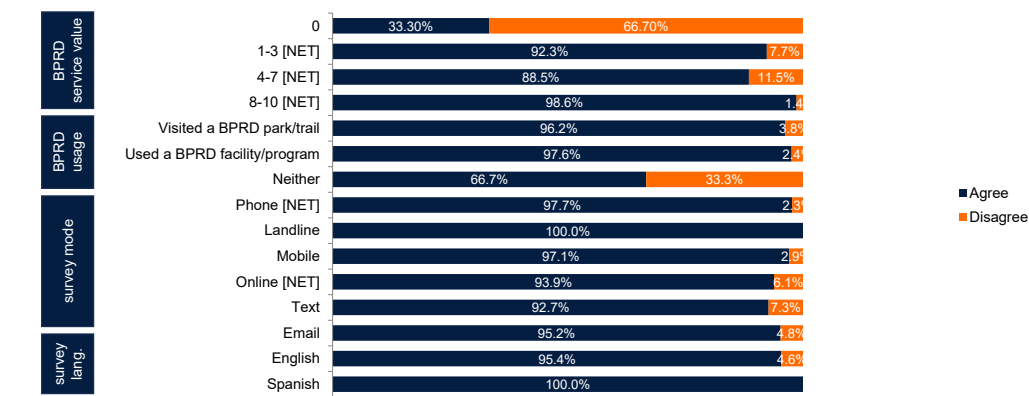


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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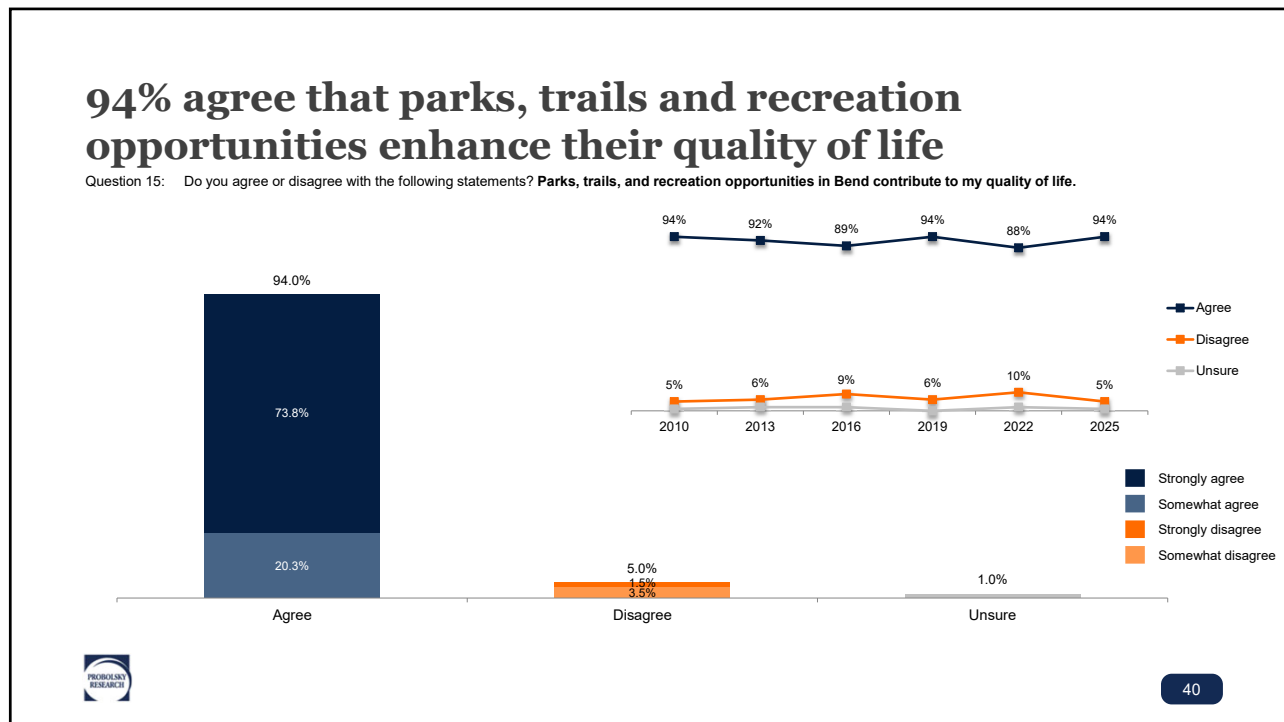


BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

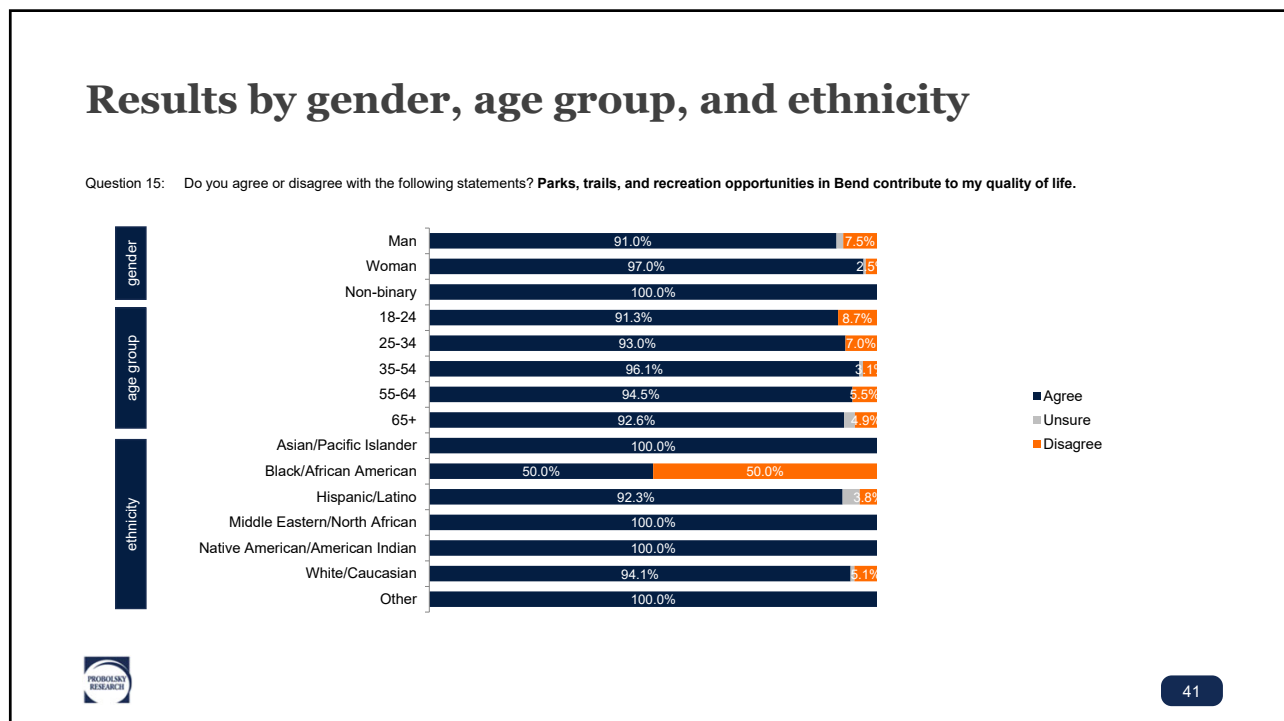


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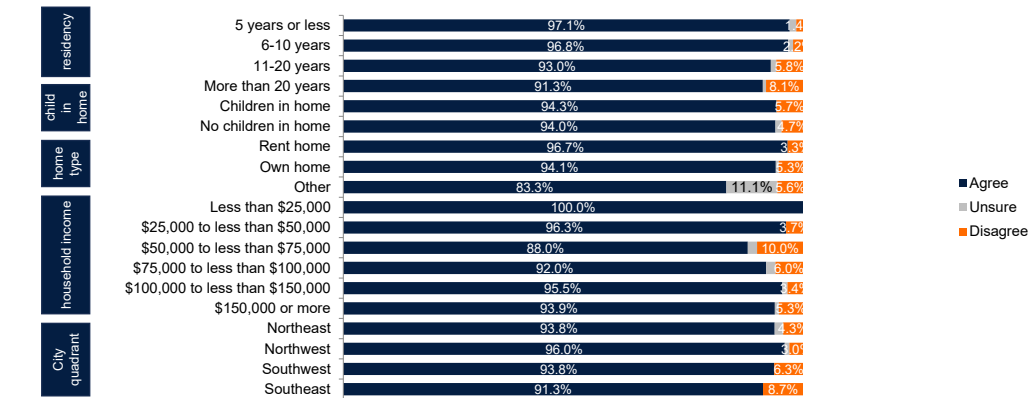
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life.**

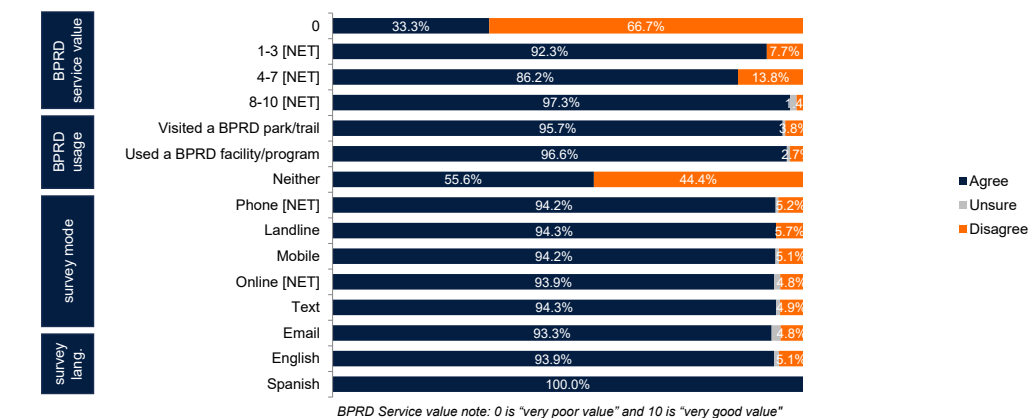


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life.**

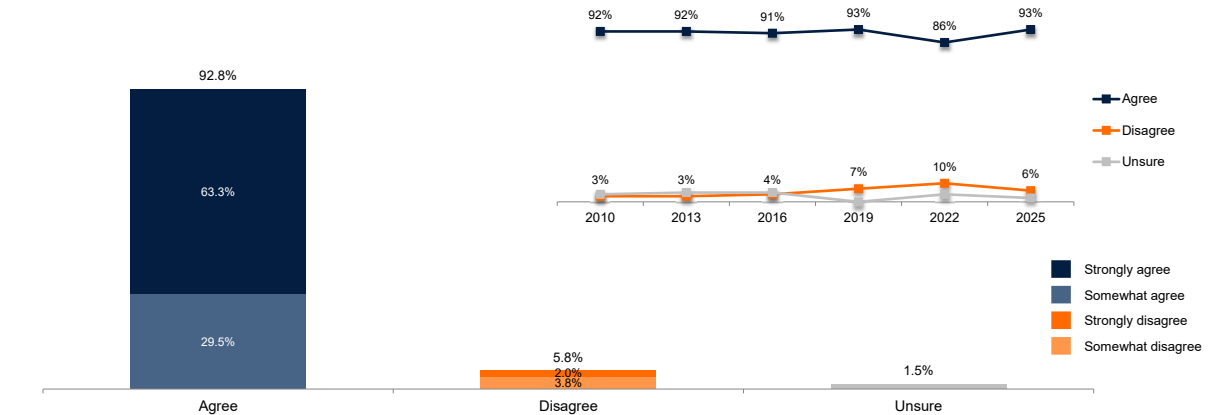


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93% feel safe when using district parks, trails, and facilities

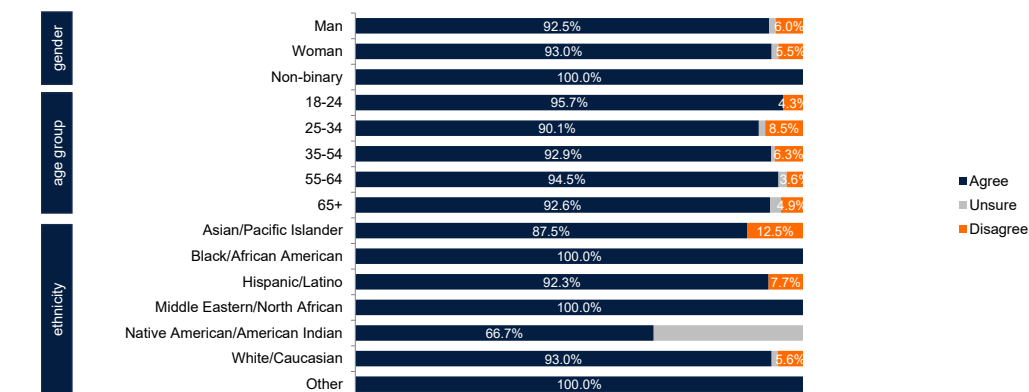
Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.



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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

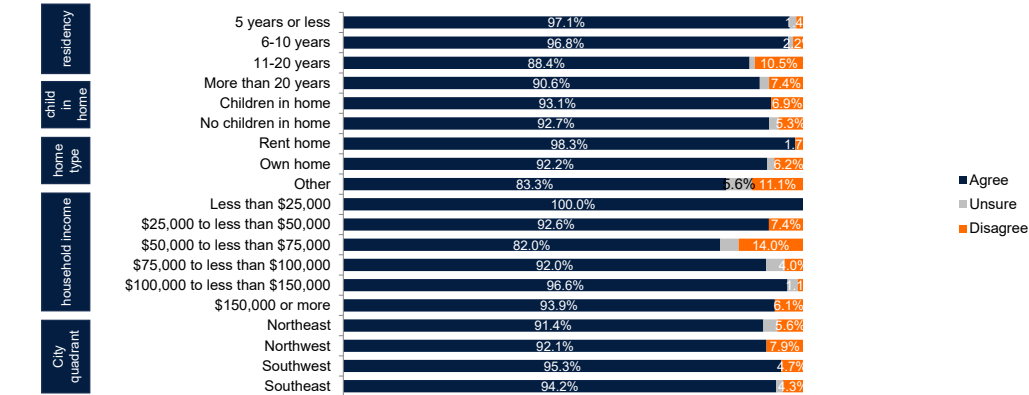
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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.

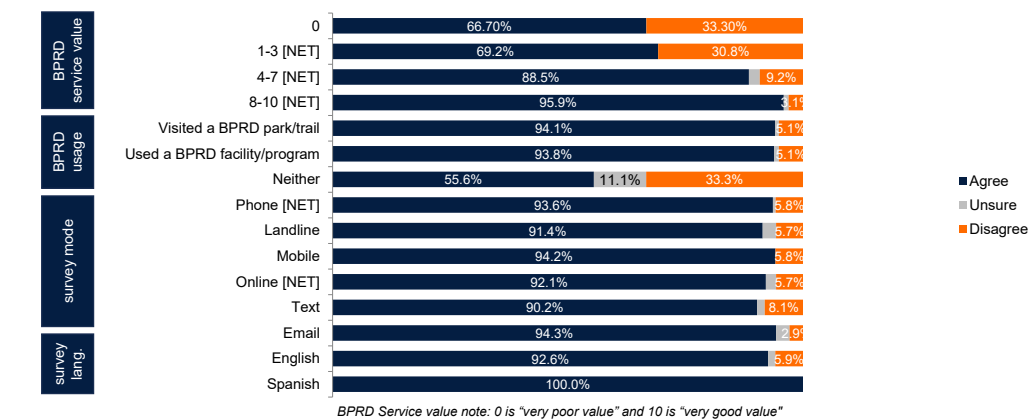


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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.

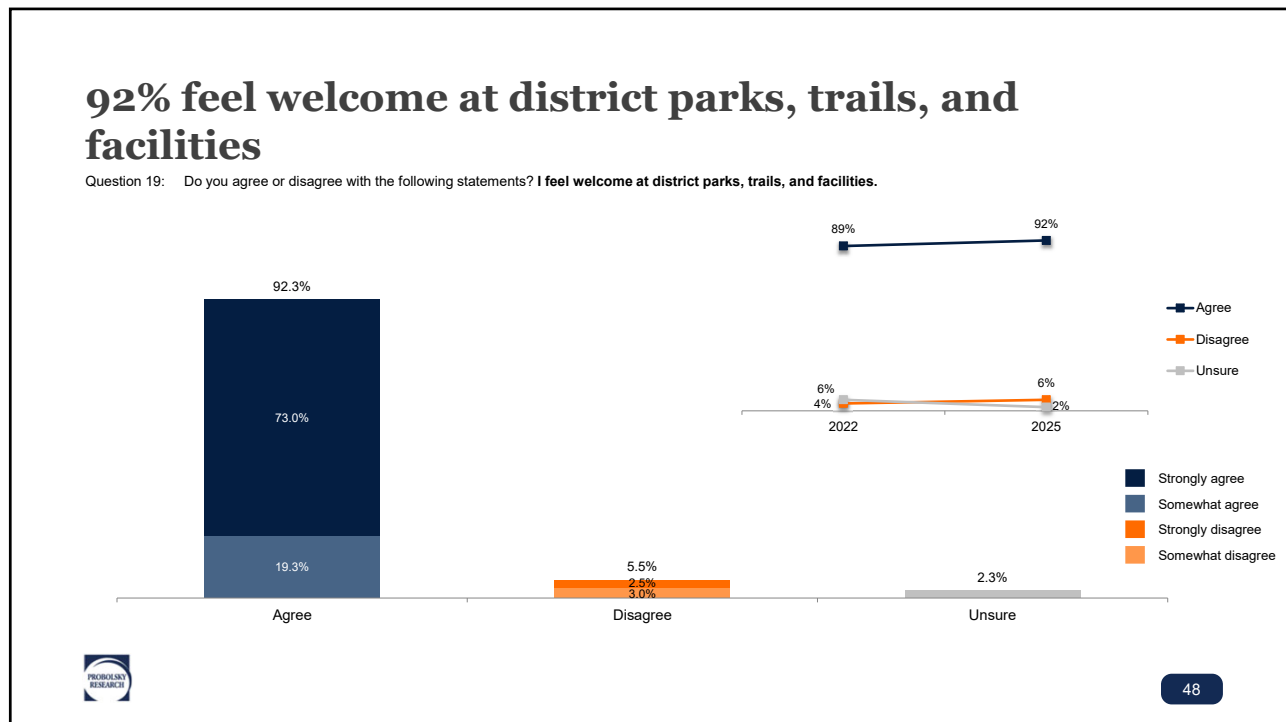


BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

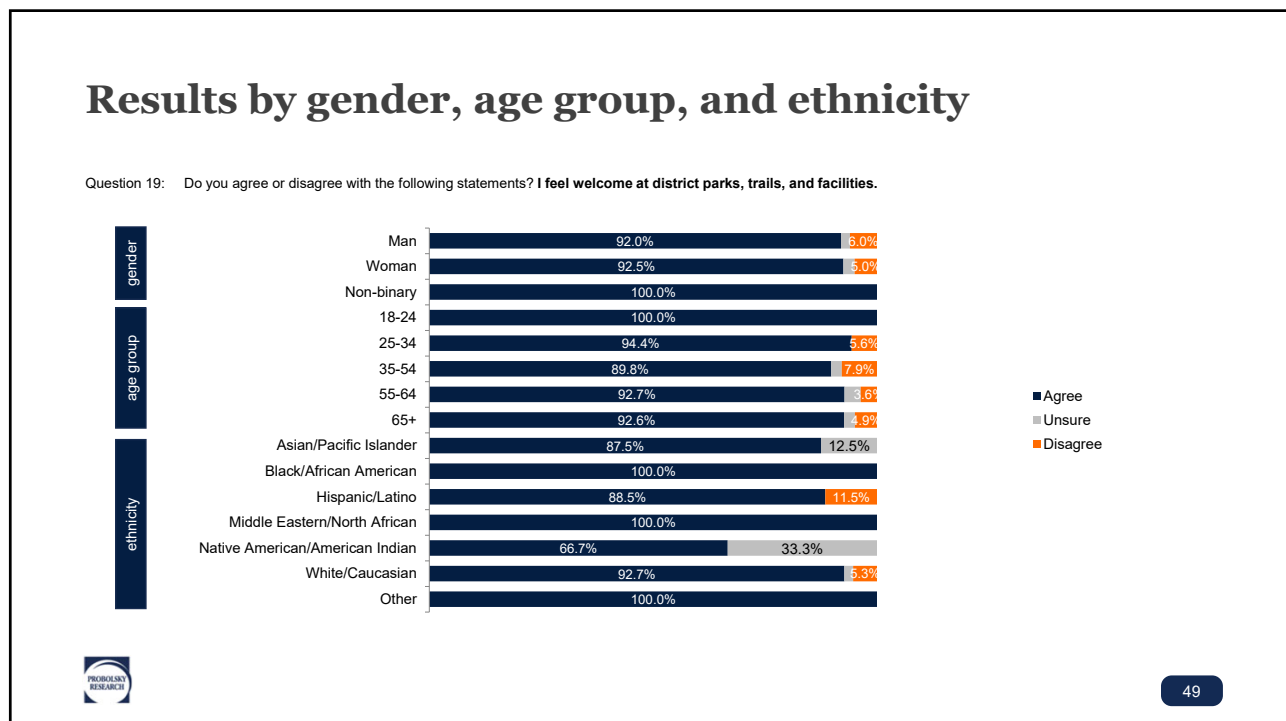


47

47



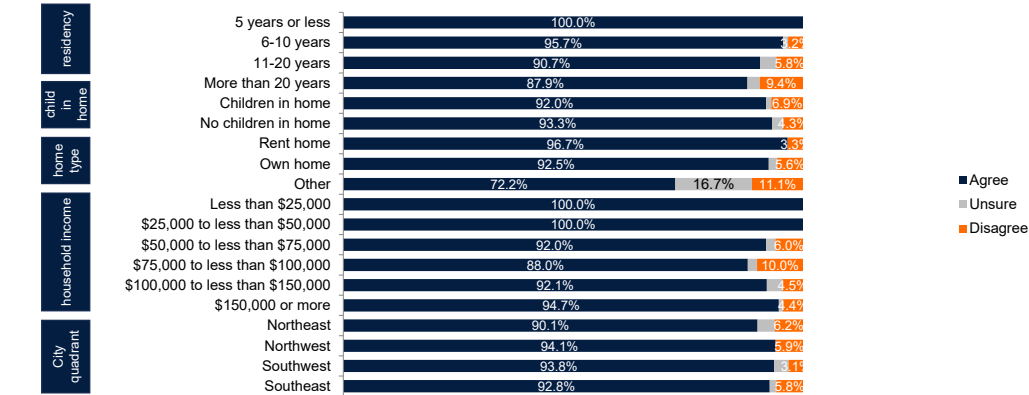
48



49

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.

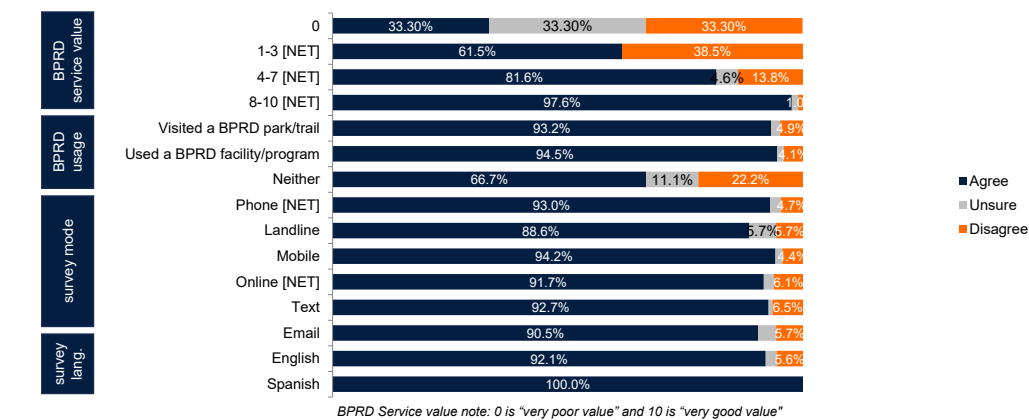


50

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Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.

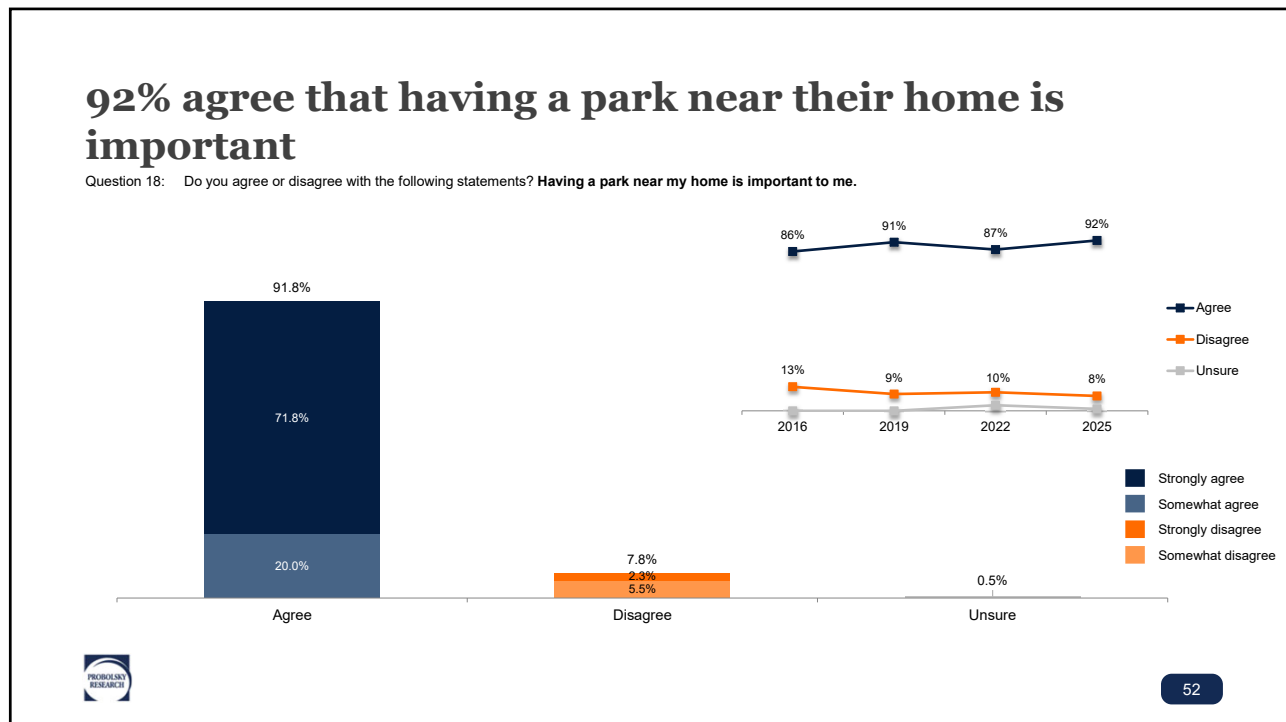


BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

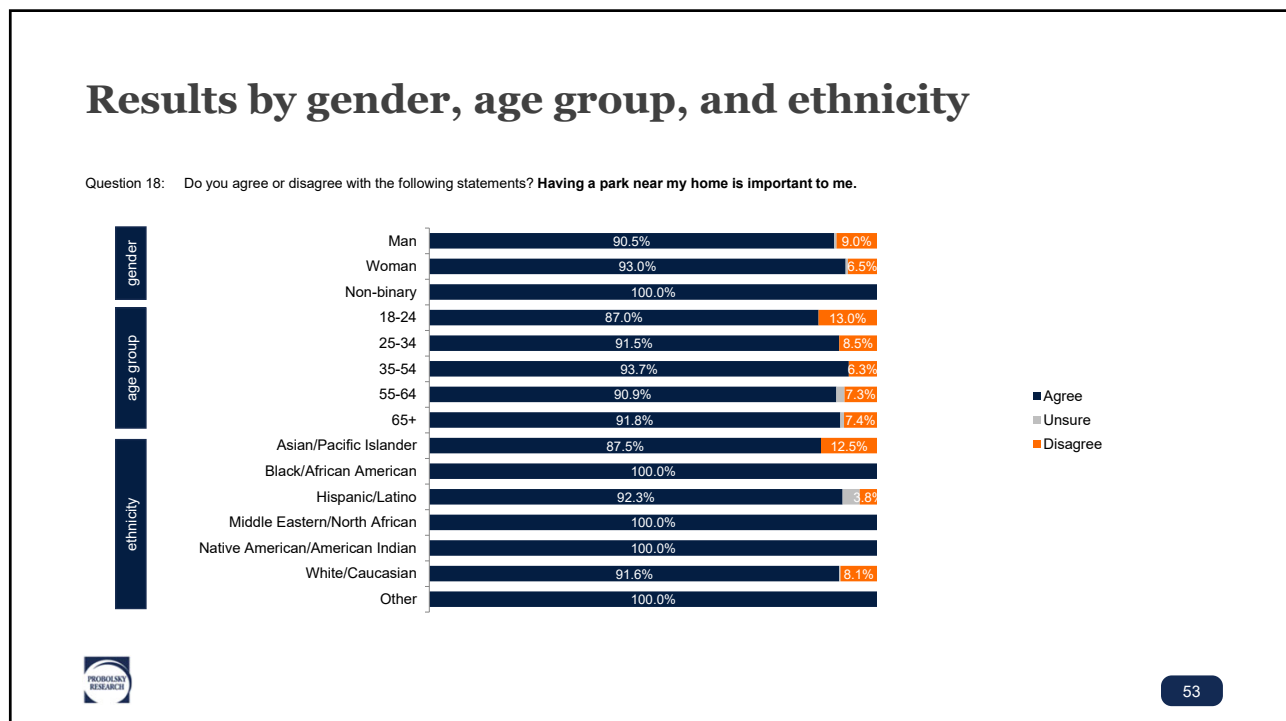


51

51



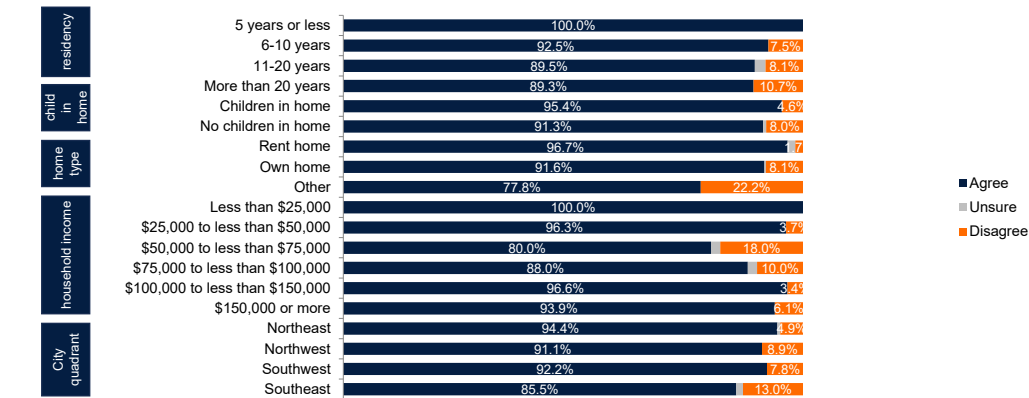
52



53

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

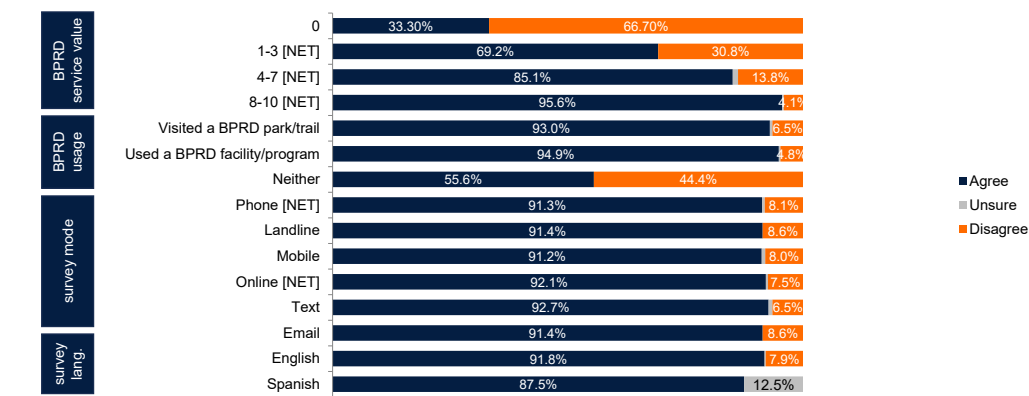
Question 18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Having a park near my home is important to me.**



54

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

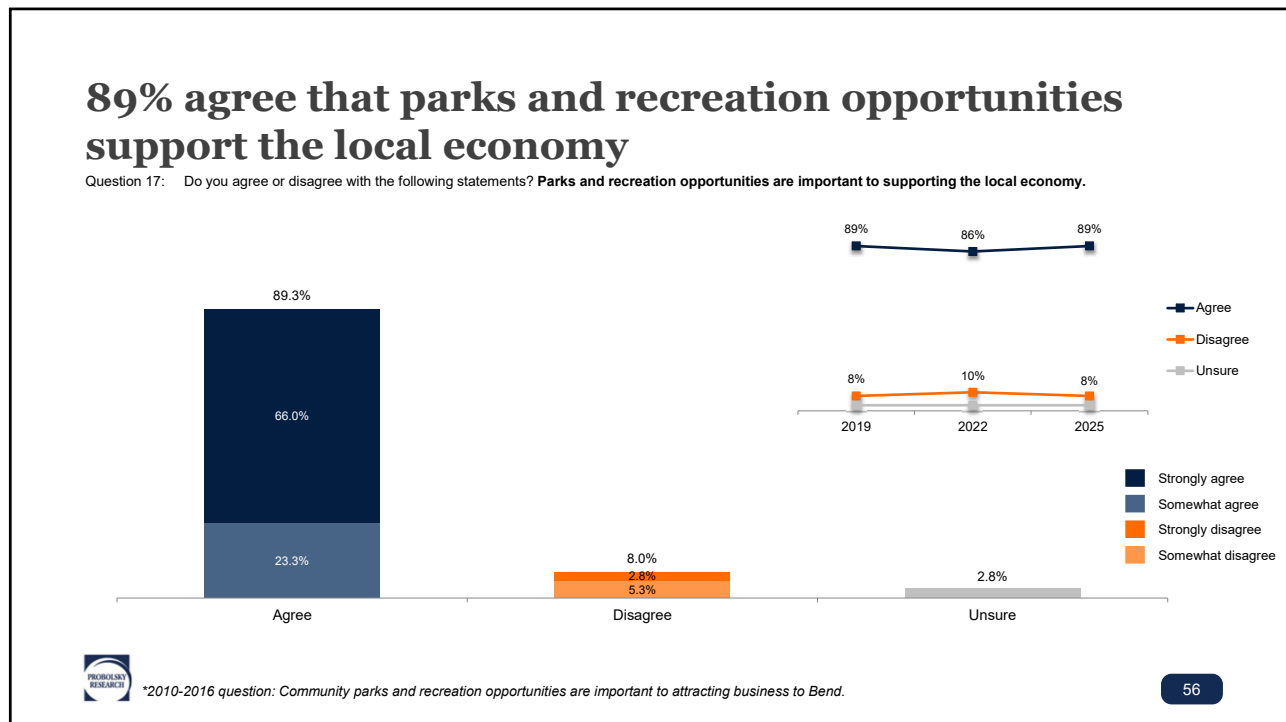
Question 18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Having a park near my home is important to me.**



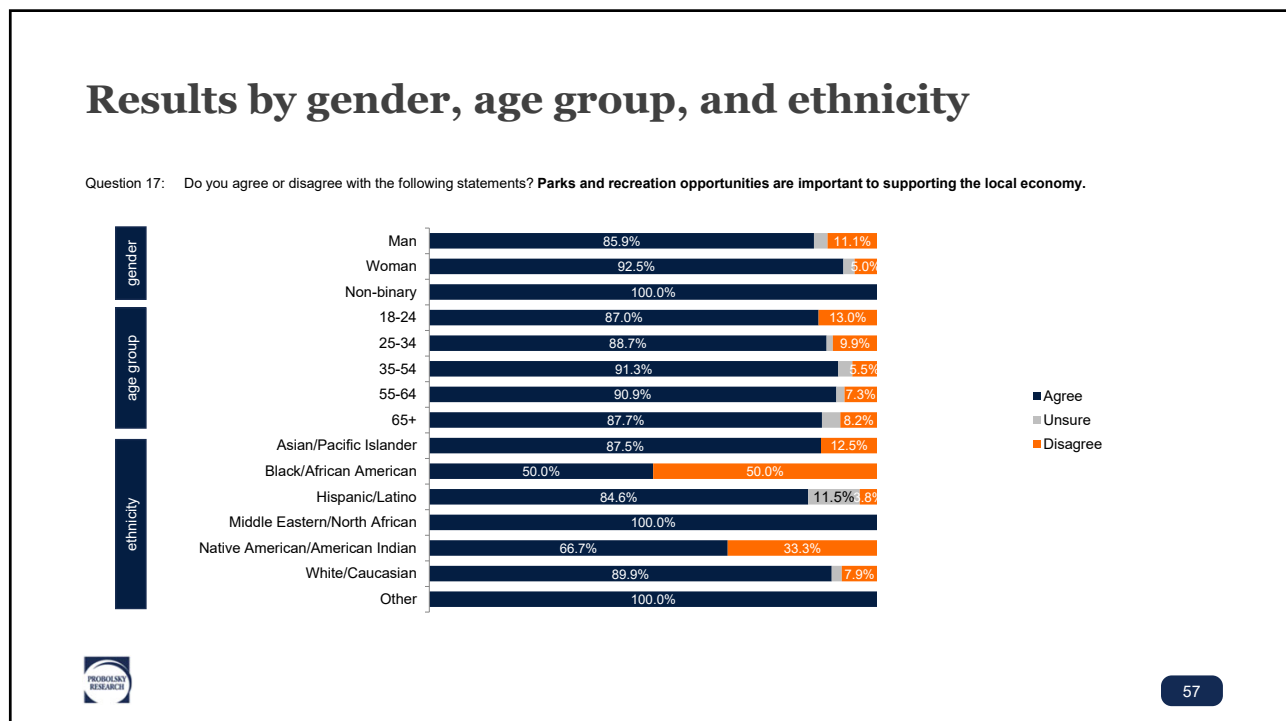
BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"



55



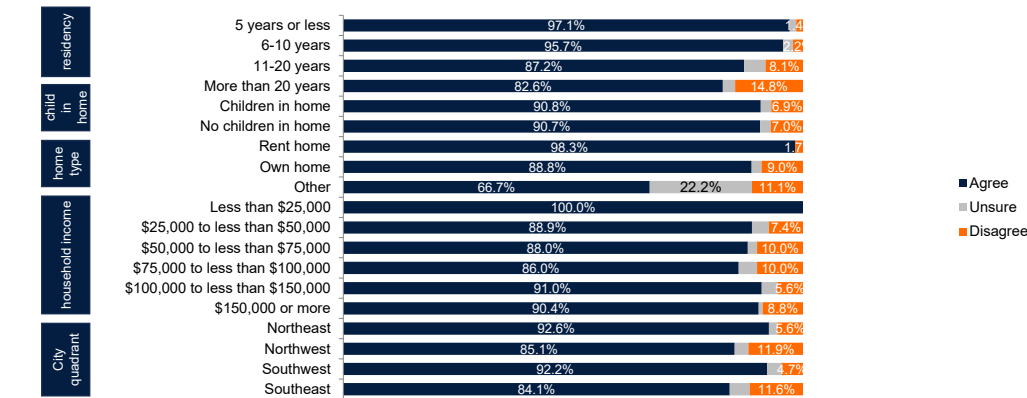
56



57

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.**

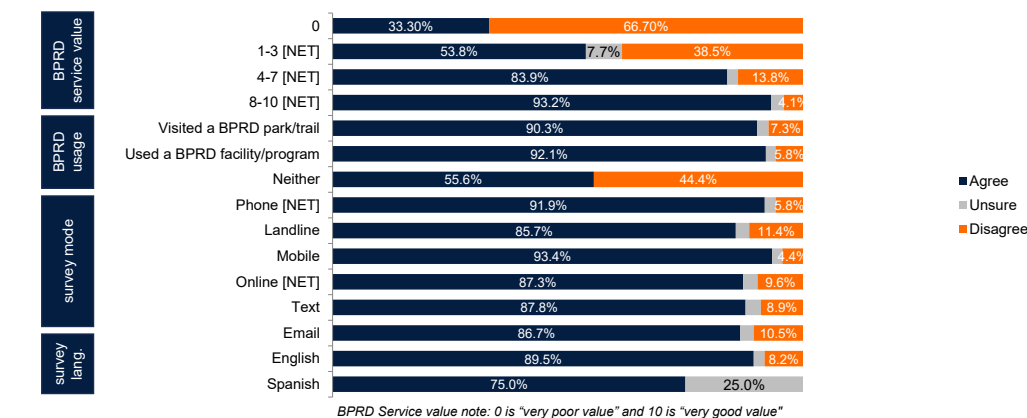


58

58

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.**



59

59

Statements effectiveness

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Maintains parks and trails very well	91.8%	6.0%	2.3%
Offers quality recreation programs and facilities	87.8%	5.8%	6.5%
Is a good steward of our environment	83.5%	7.3%	9.3%
Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community	79.0%	8.8%	12.3%
Is well managed	72.0%	12.3%	15.8%
Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use	70.3%	17.0%	12.8%
Provides good customer service	66.0%	9.3%	24.8%
Partners effectively with others in the community	56.8%	14.0%	29.3%

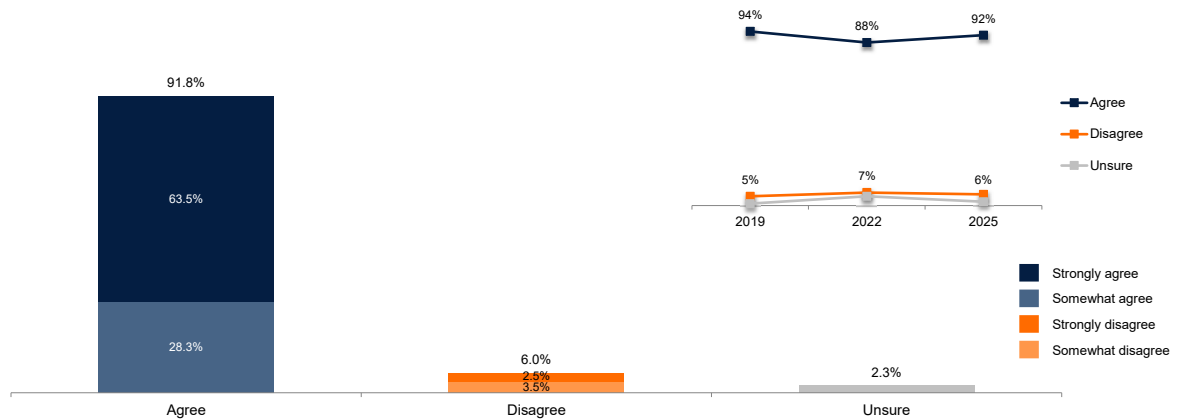


60

60

92% agree that BPRD maintains parks and trails very well

Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**

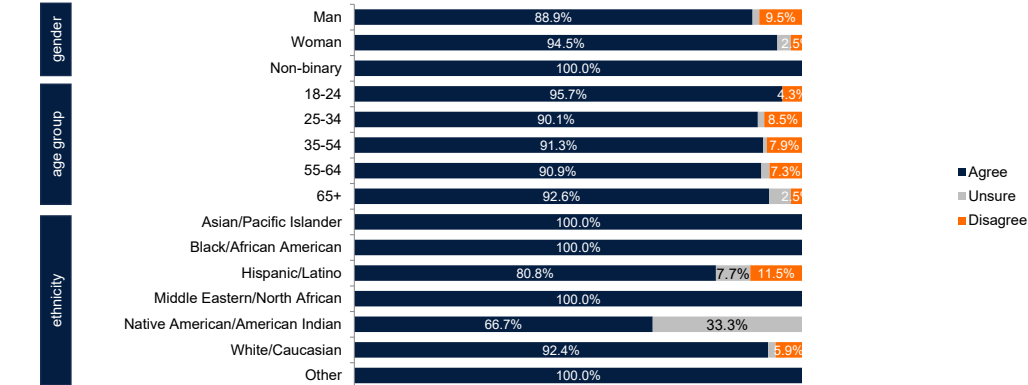


61

61

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**

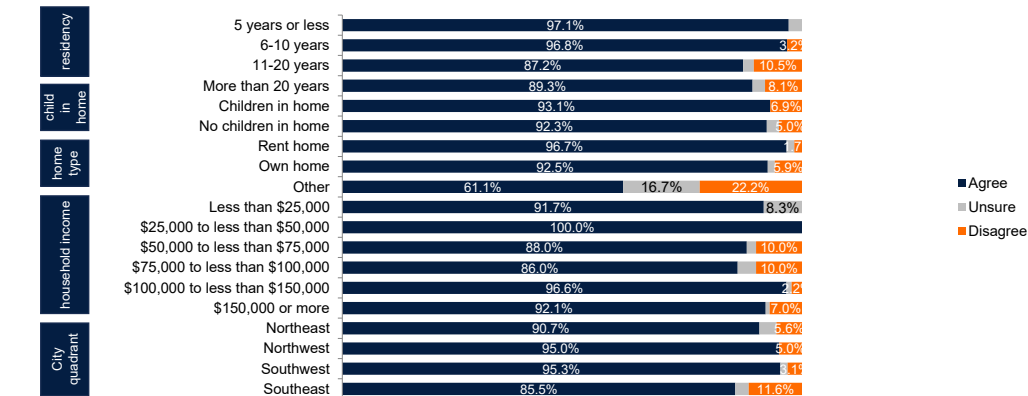


62

62

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**

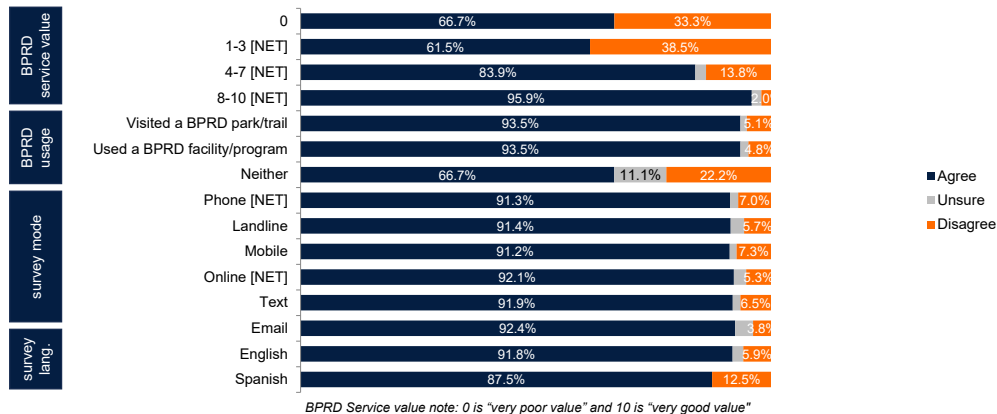


63

63

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**

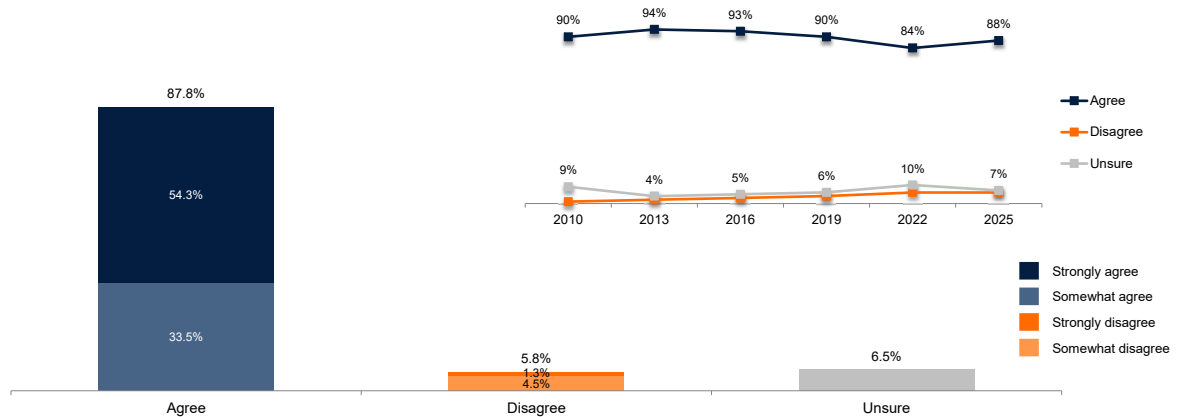


64

64

88% agree that BPRD offers quality recreation programs and facilities

Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**

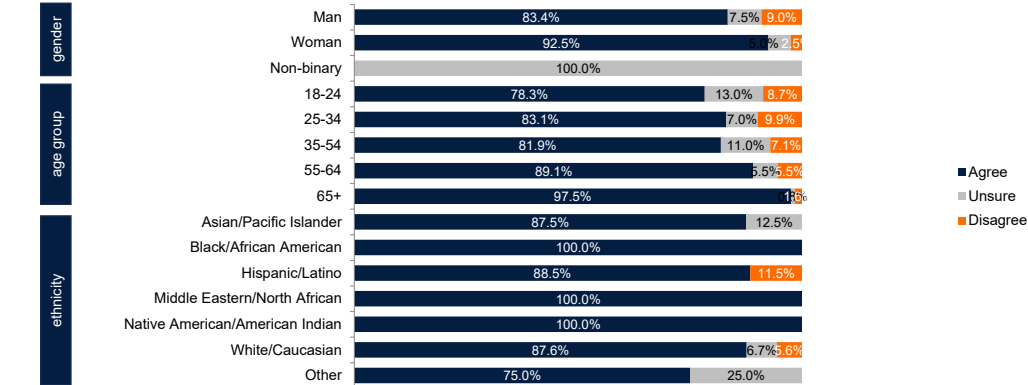


65

65

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**

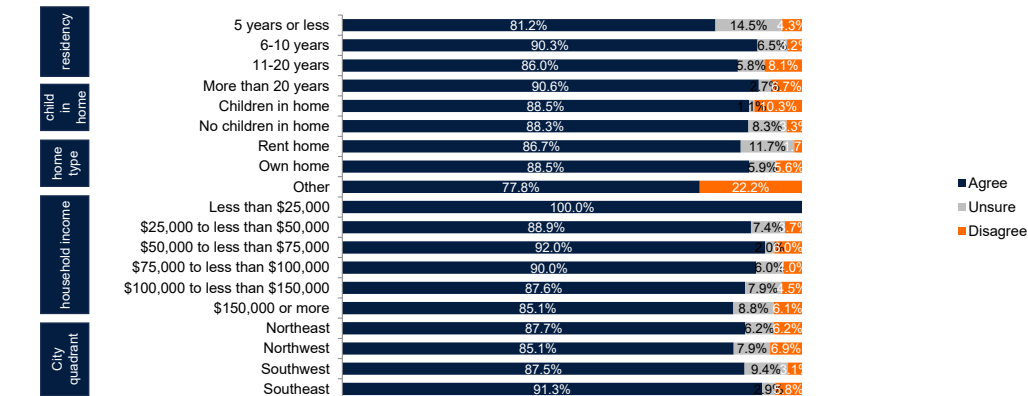


66

66

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**

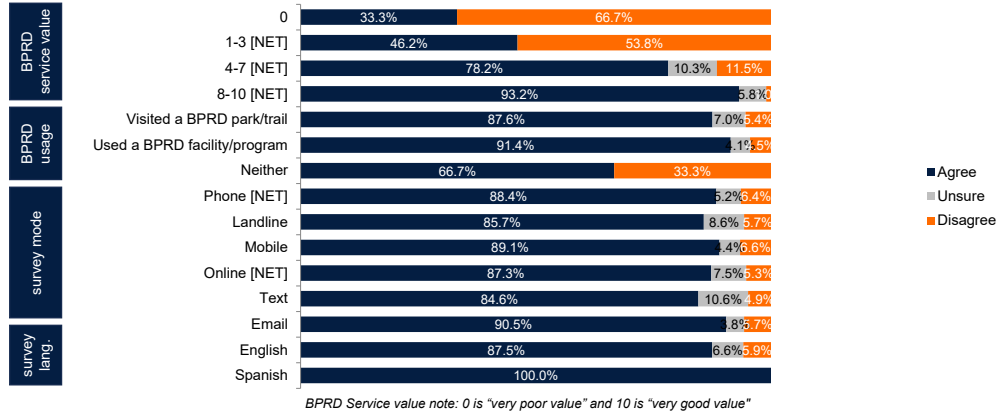


67

67

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**

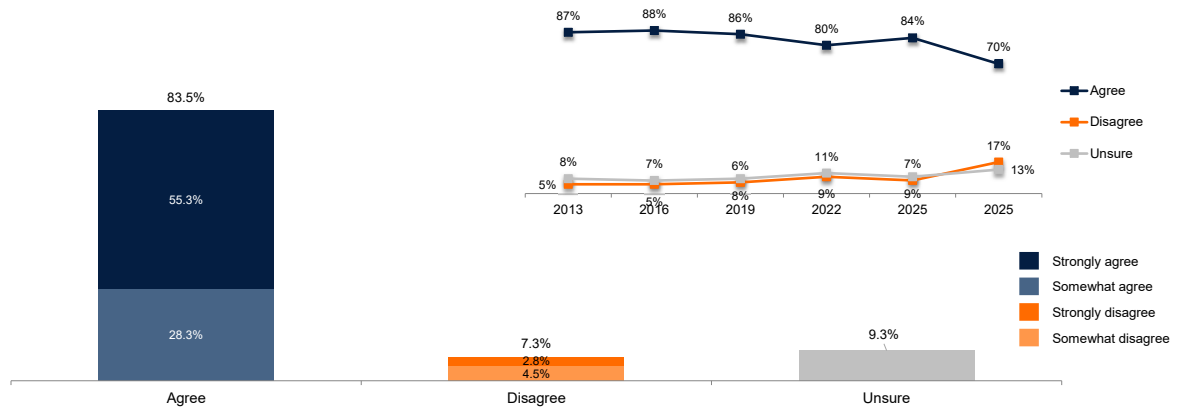


68

68

84% agree that BPRD is a good environmental steward

Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**

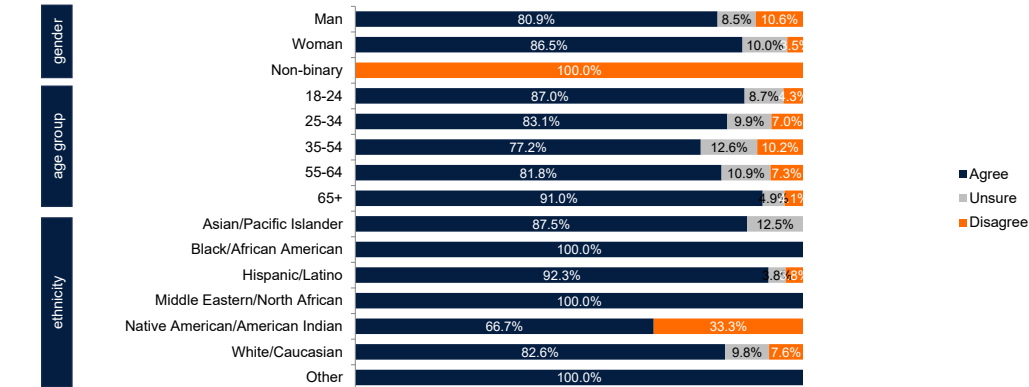


69

69

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**

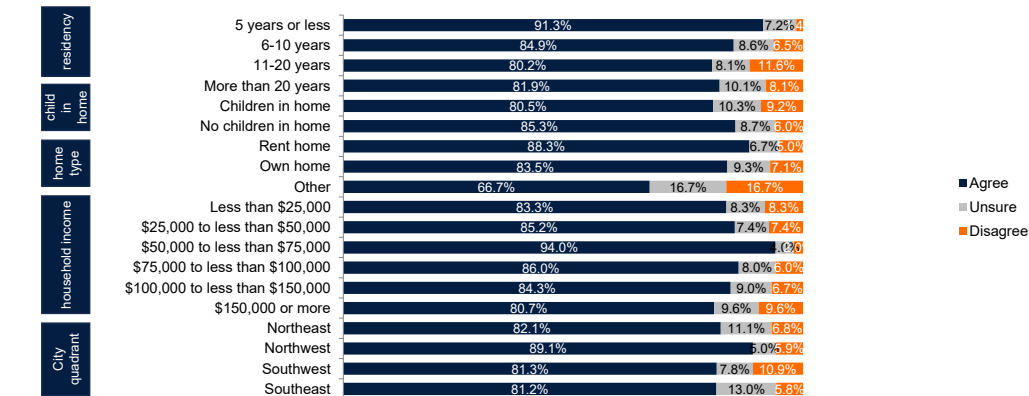


70

70

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**

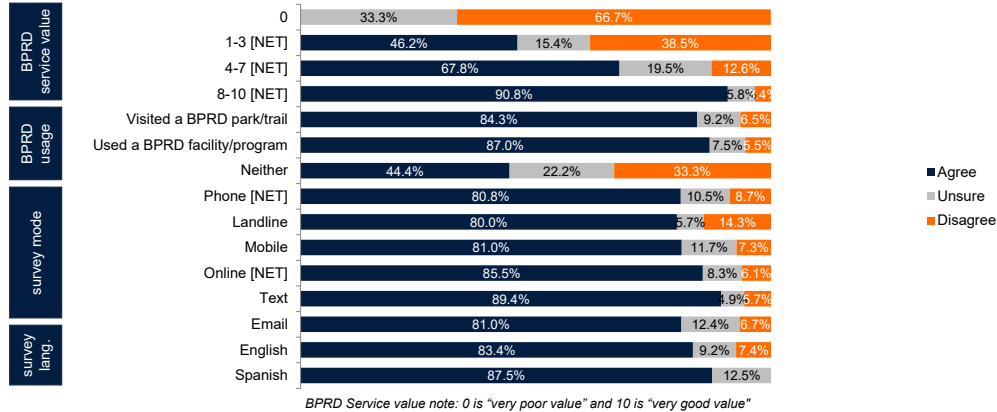


71

71

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**

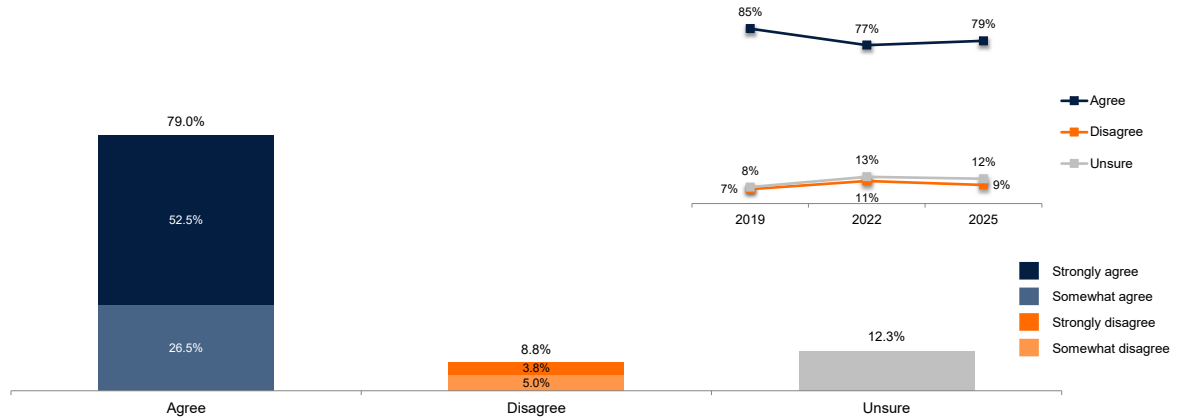


72

72

79% agree that BPRD provides inclusive services for all members of the community

Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**

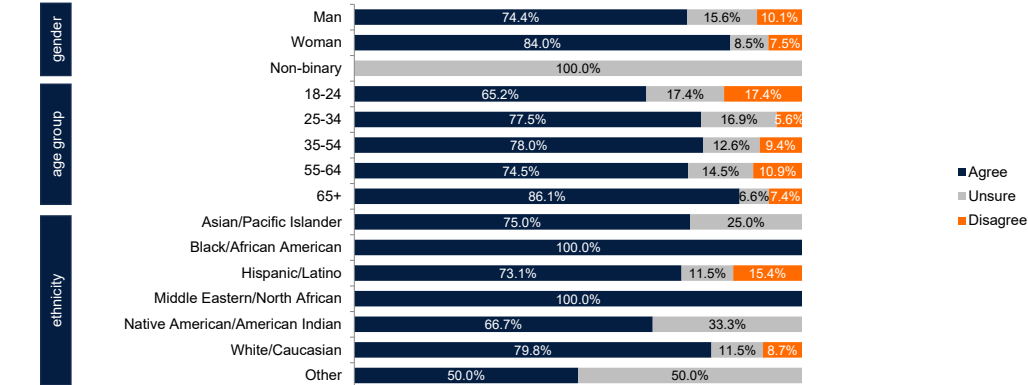


73

73

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**

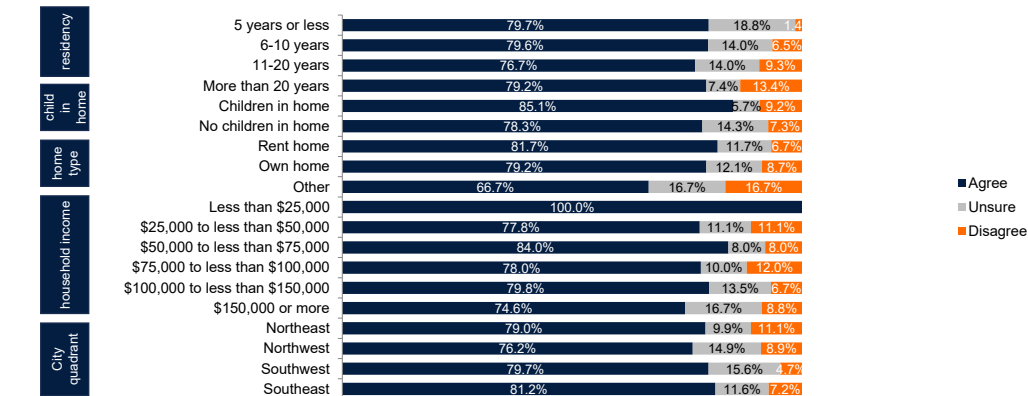


74

74

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**

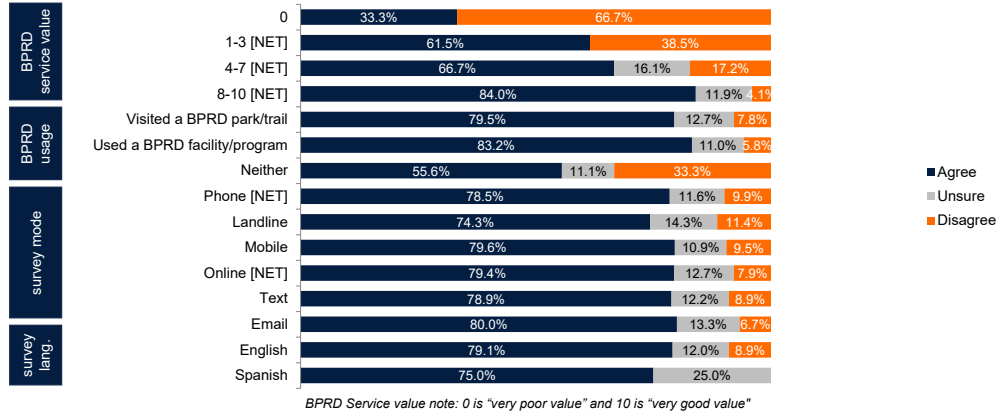


75

75

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**

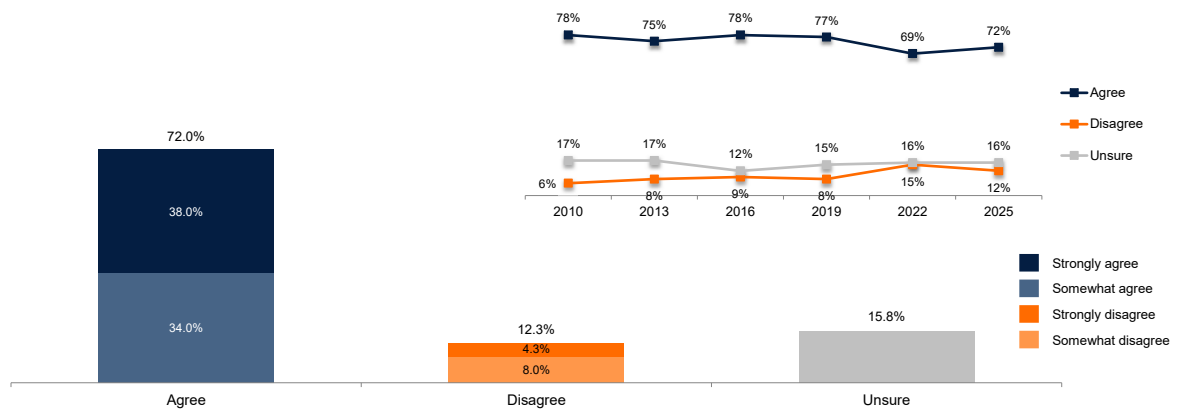


76

76

72% agree that BPRD is well managed

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

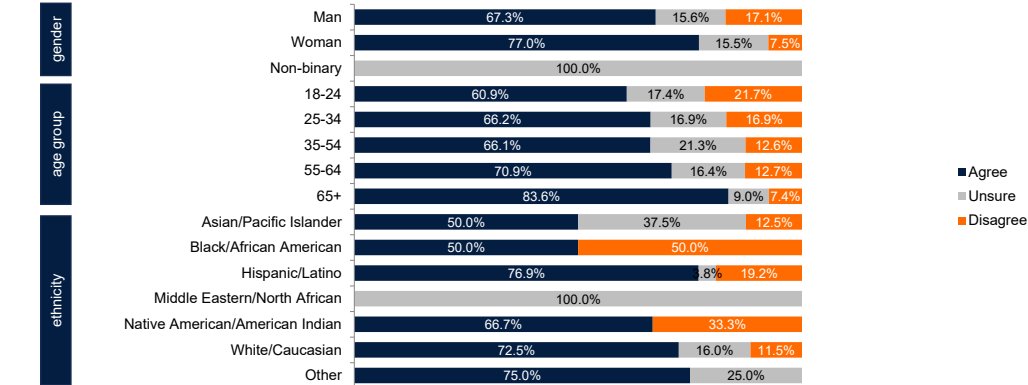


77

77

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

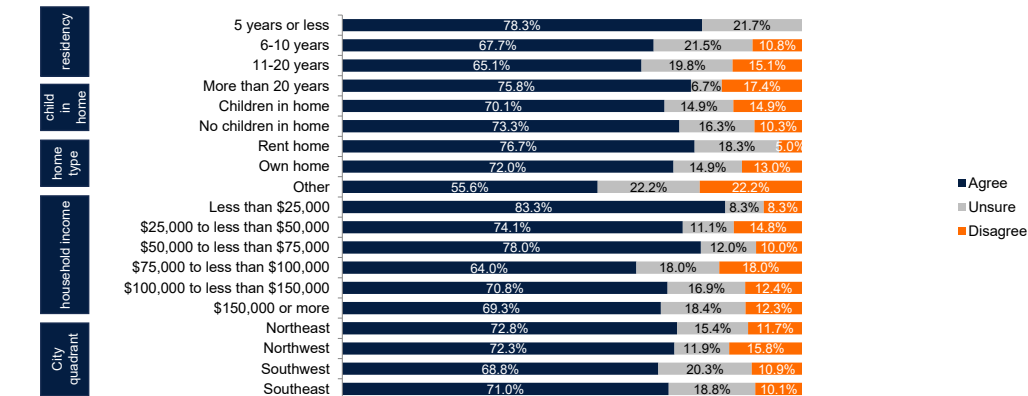


78

78

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

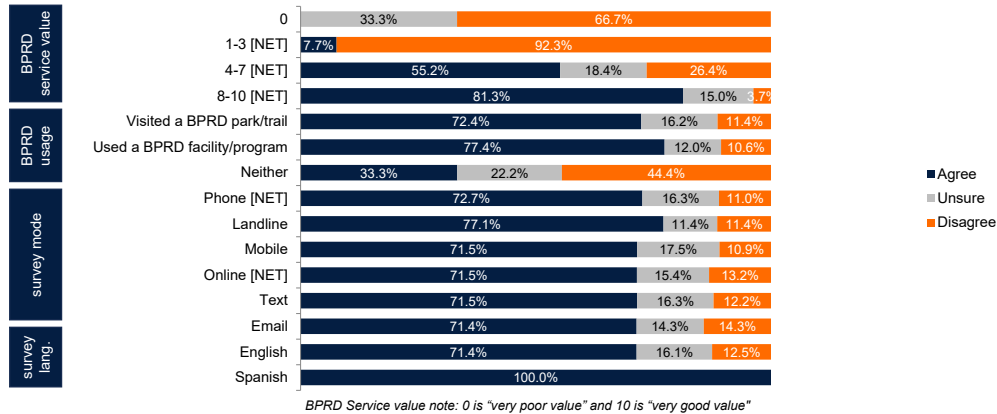


79

79

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

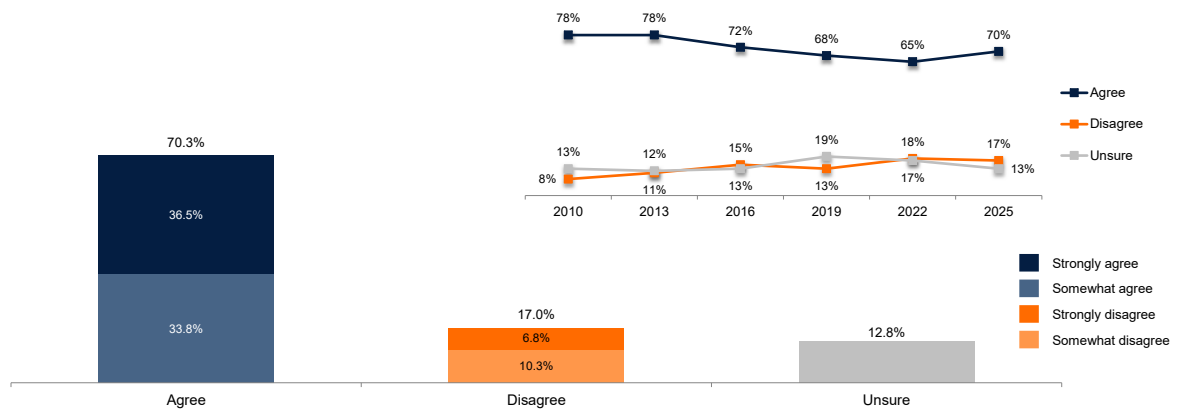


80

80

70% agree that fees for recreation programs and facility use are reasonable

Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**

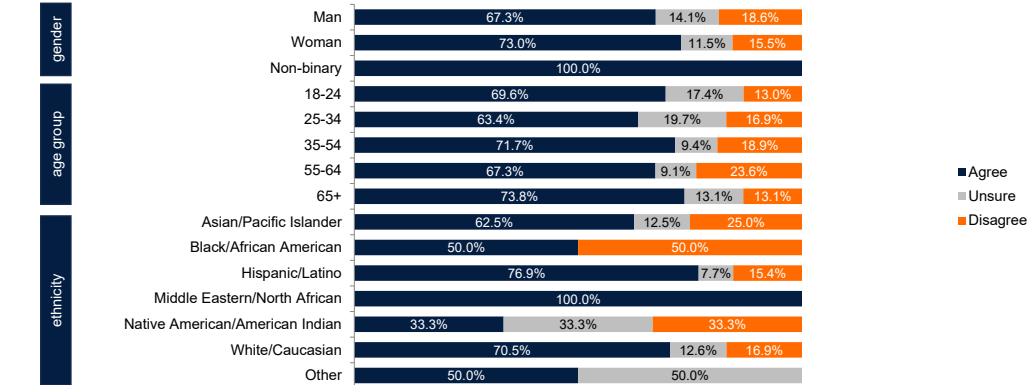


81

81

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**

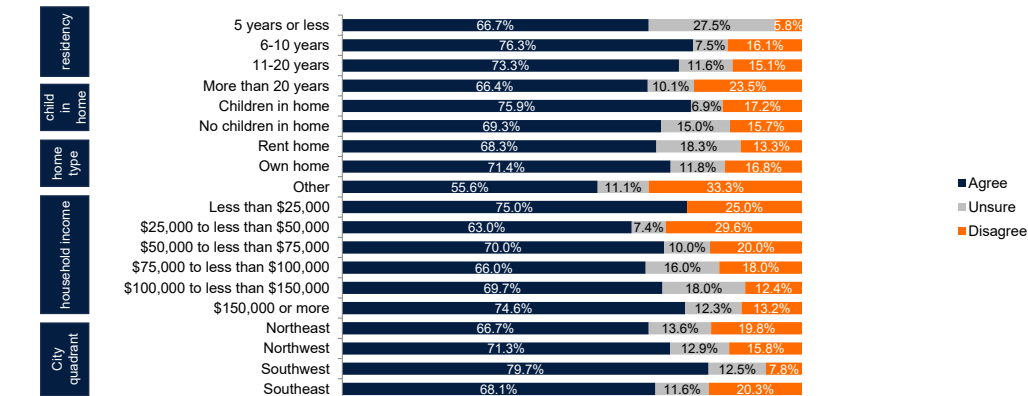


82

82

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**

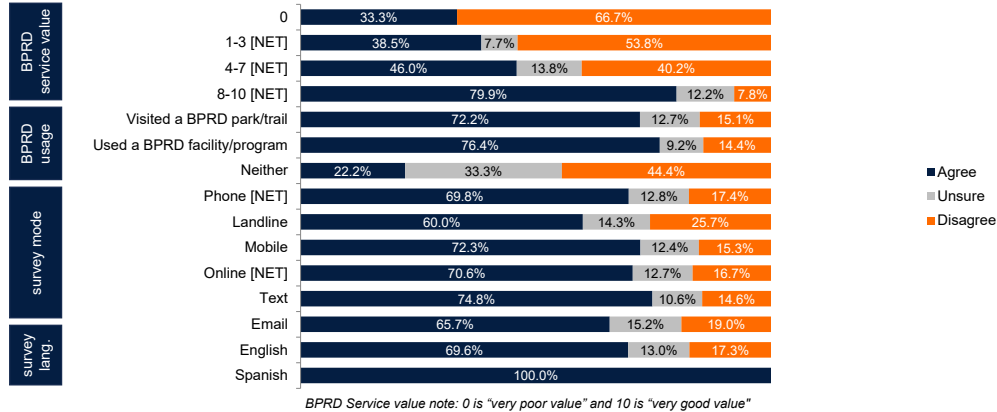


83

83

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**

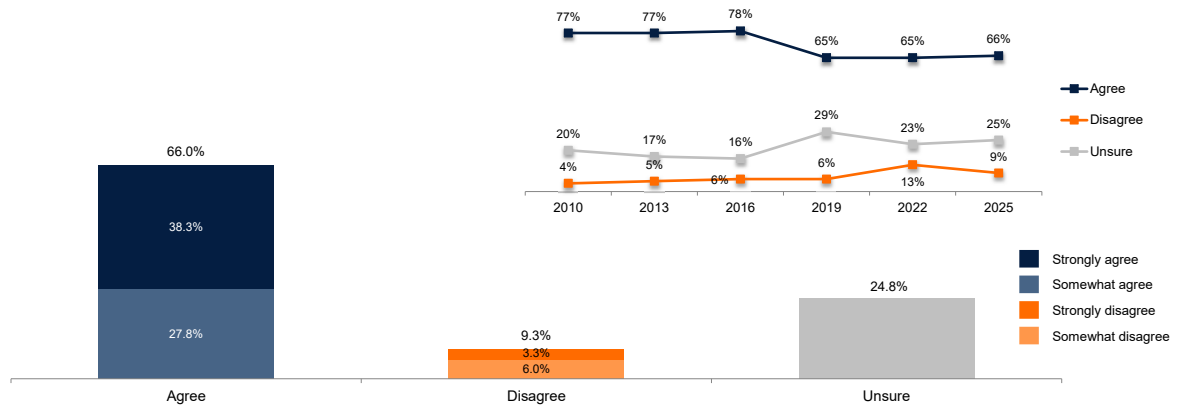


84

84

66% agree that BPRD provides good customer service

Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**

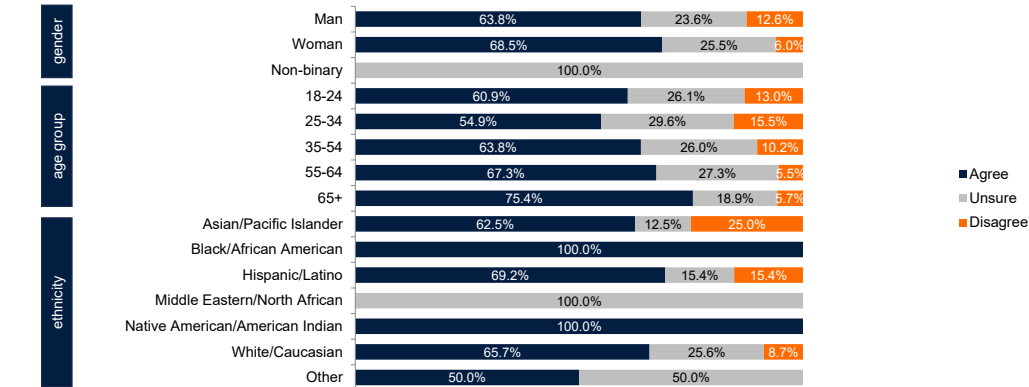


85

85

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**

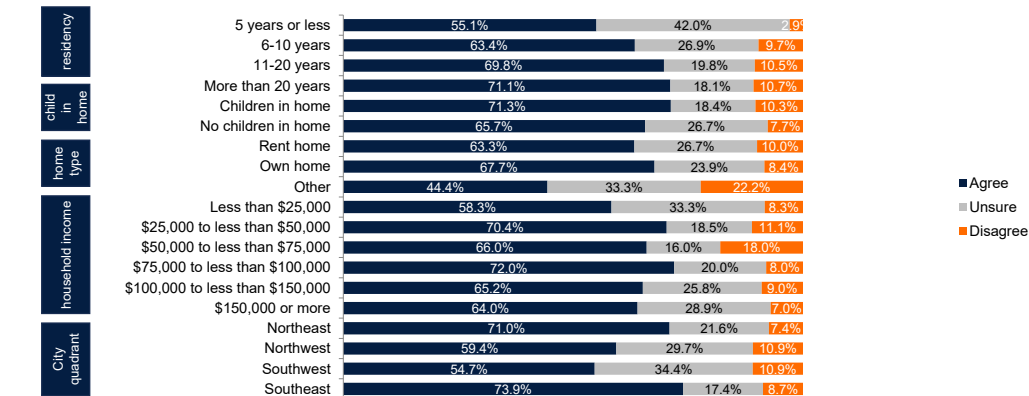


86

86

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**

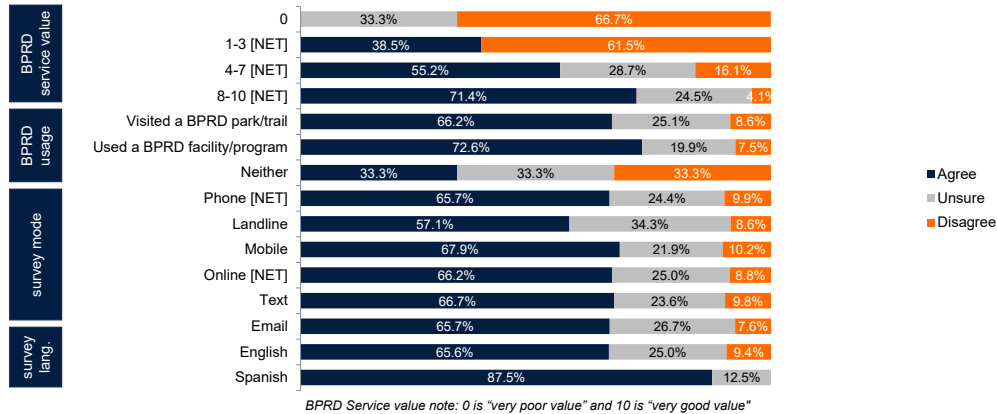


87

87

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**

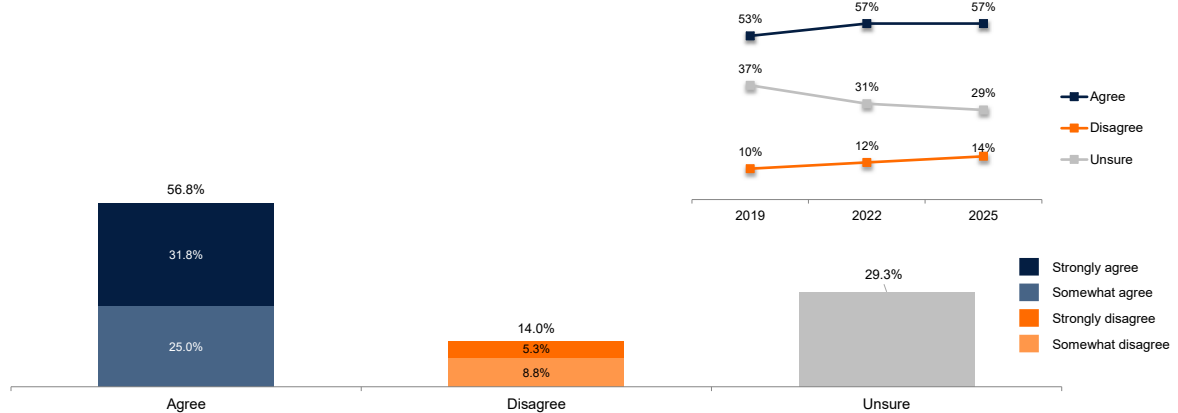


88

88

57% agree that BPRD partners effectively with others in the community

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**

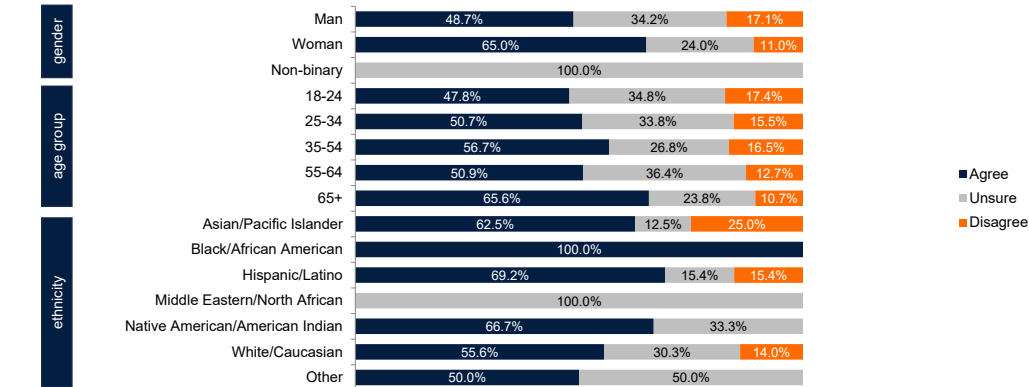


89

89

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**

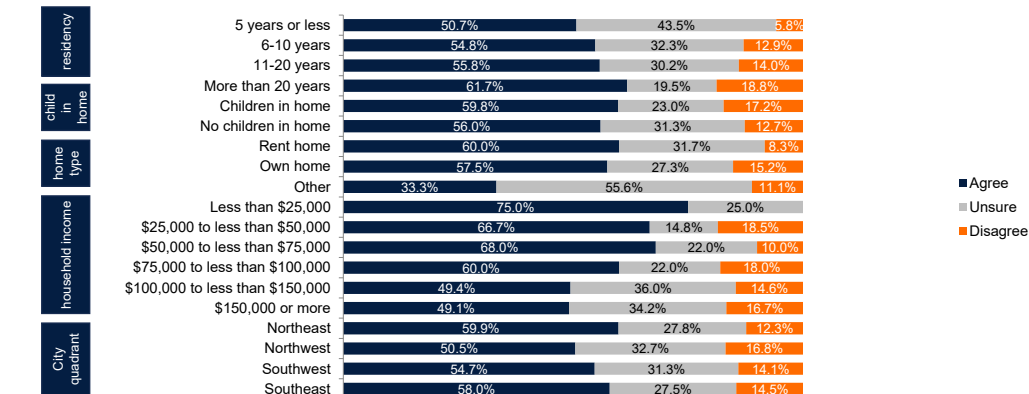


90

90

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**

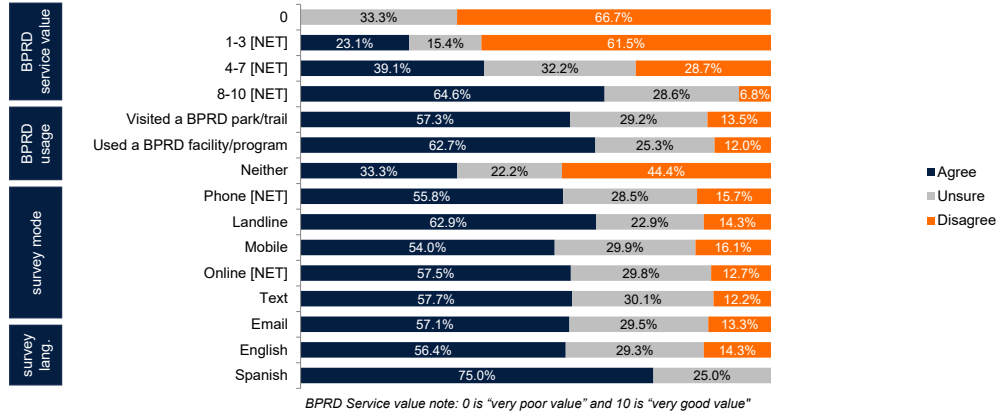


91

91

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**



92

92

Statements effectiveness

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Is a trustworthy organization	73.8%	13.3%	13.0%
Uses taxpayer money wisely	66.5%	21.5%	12.0%
Is transparent with the public	58.5%	21.5%	20.0%



93

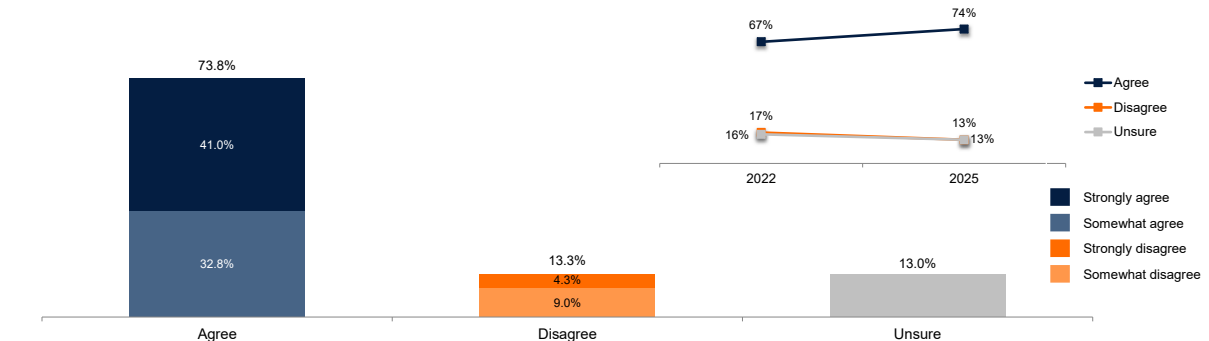
93

74% agree that BPRD is a trustworthy organization

The Bend Park and Recreation District is funded primarily from property taxes, user fees, and fees on new houses and hotels. Oregon law requires these funds to be used for operations, maintenance, and development of park and recreation services throughout the community.

The district's permanent property tax rate is \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value). For example, a home with a tax assessed value of \$300,000 pays \$438.30 annually to the district.

Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization.**



94

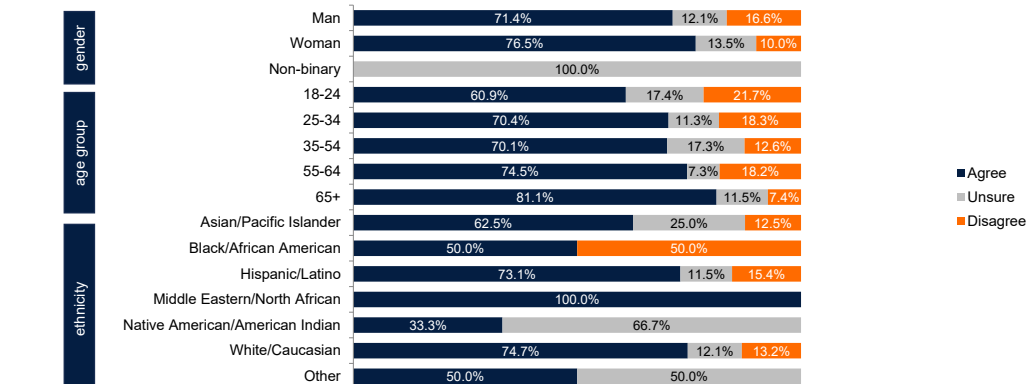
94

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization.**



95

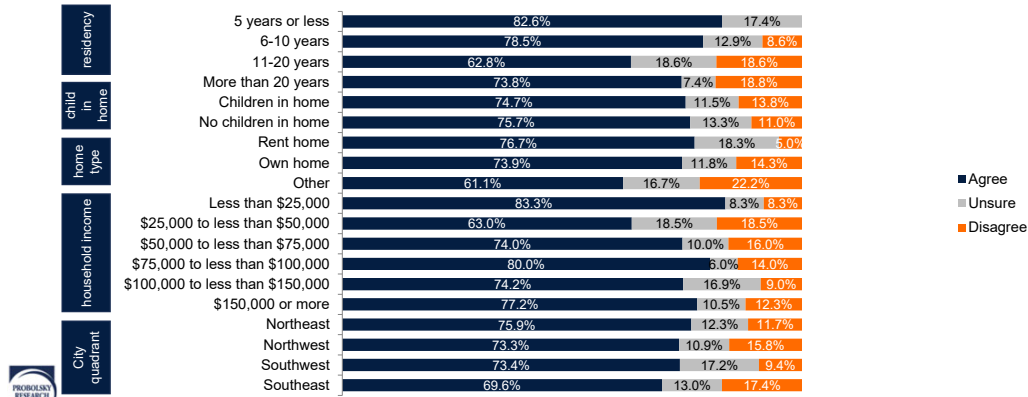
95

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization.**



96

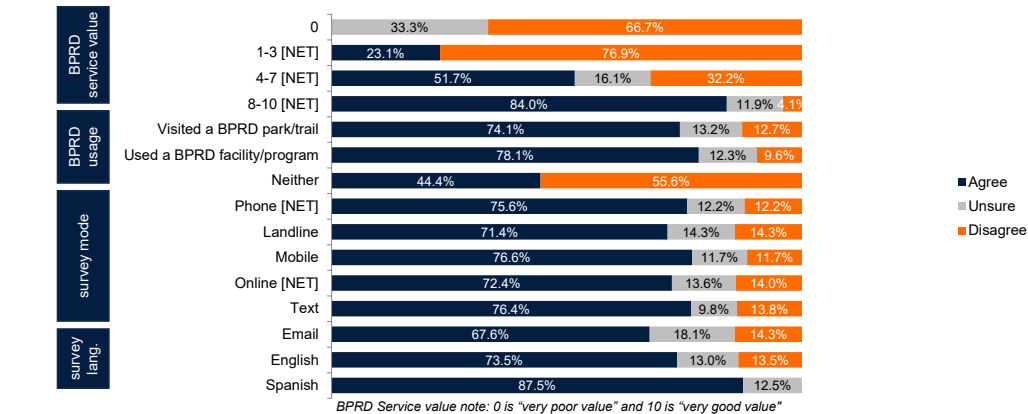
96

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

97

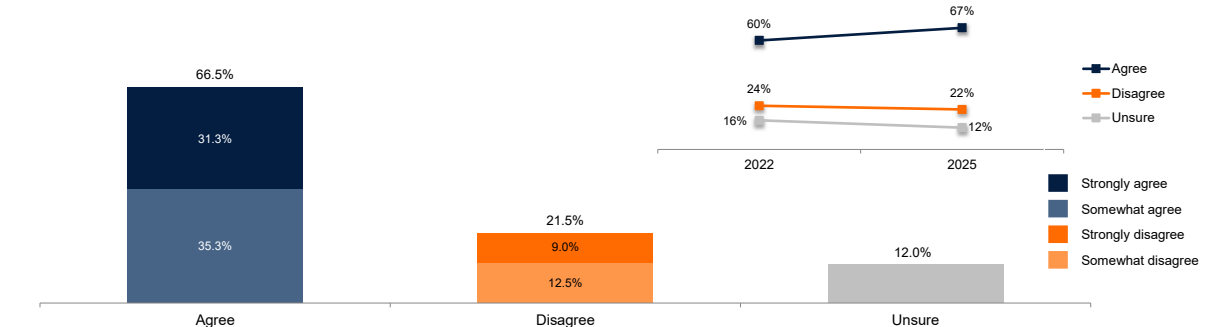
97

67% agree that BPRD uses taxpayer money wisely

The Bend Park and Recreation District is funded primarily from property taxes, user fees, and fees on new houses and hotels. Oregon law requires these funds to be used for operations, maintenance, and development of park and recreation services throughout the community.

The district's permanent property tax rate is \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value). For example, a home with a tax assessed value of \$300,000 pays \$438.30 annually to the district.

Question 29: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Uses taxpayer money wisely.**



98

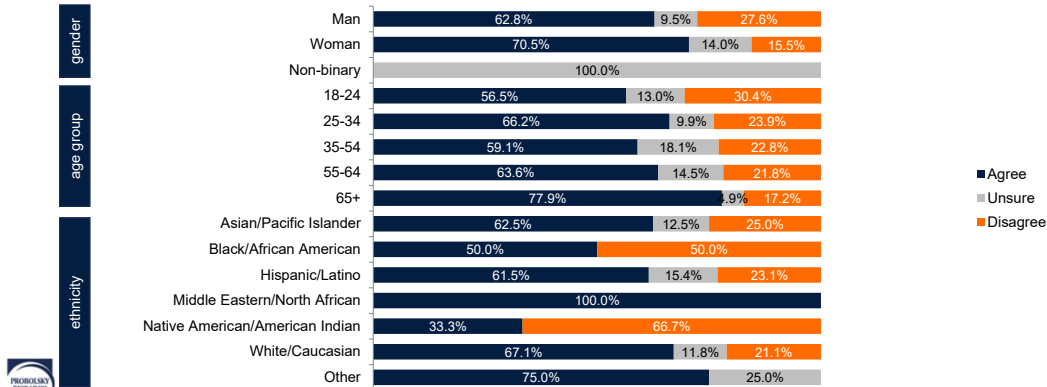
98

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

The Bend Park and Recreation District is funded primarily from property taxes, user fees, and fees on new houses and hotels. Oregon law requires these funds to be used for operations, maintenance, and development of park and recreation services throughout the community.

The district's permanent property tax rate is \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value). For example, a home with a tax assessed value of \$300,000 pays \$438.30 annually to the district.

Question 29: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Uses taxpayer money wisely.**



99

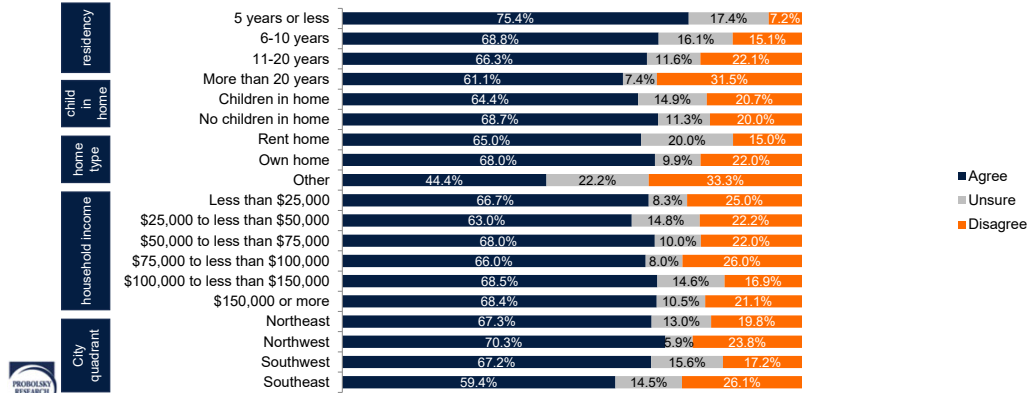
99

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

The Bend Park and Recreation District is funded primarily from property taxes, user fees, and fees on new houses and hotels. Oregon law requires these funds to be used for operations, maintenance, and development of park and recreation services throughout the community.

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Question 29: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Uses taxpayer money wisely.**



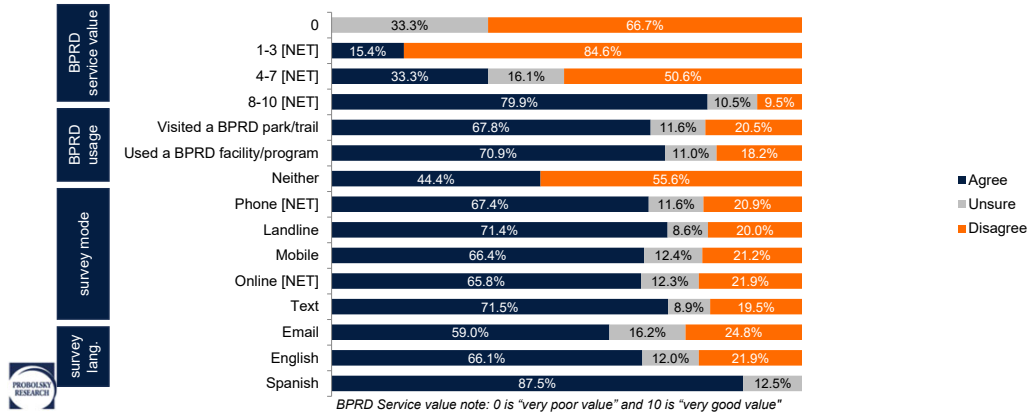
100

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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Question 29: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Uses taxpayer money wisely.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

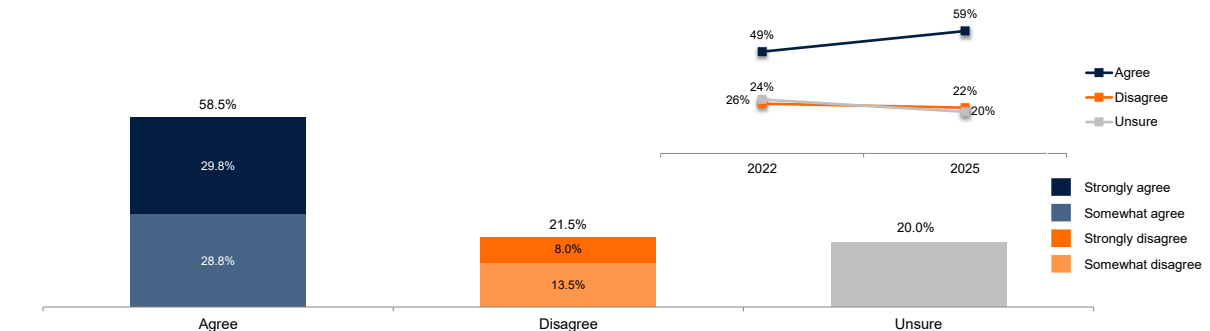
101

59% agree that BPRD is transparent with the public

The Bend Park and Recreation District is funded primarily from property taxes, user fees, and fees on new houses and hotels. Oregon law requires these funds to be used for operations, maintenance, and development of park and recreation services throughout the community.

The district's permanent property tax rate is \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value). For example, a home with a tax assessed value of \$300,000 pays \$438.30 annually to the district.

Question 30: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is transparent with the public.**



102

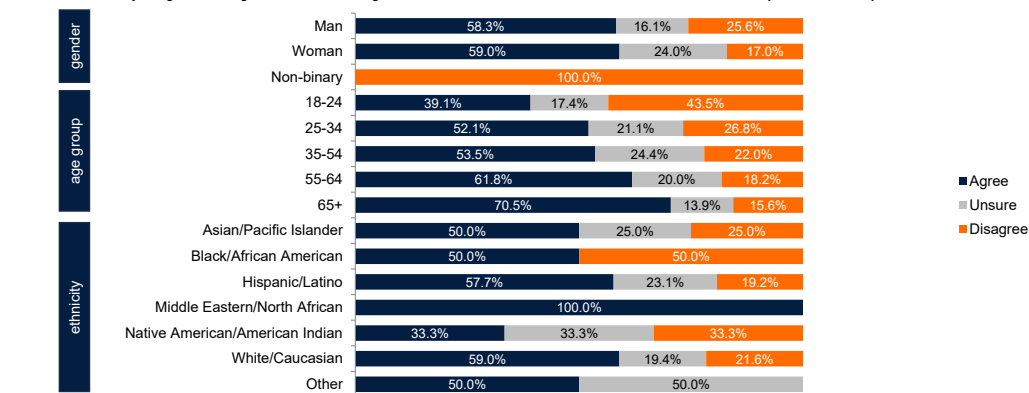
102

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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103

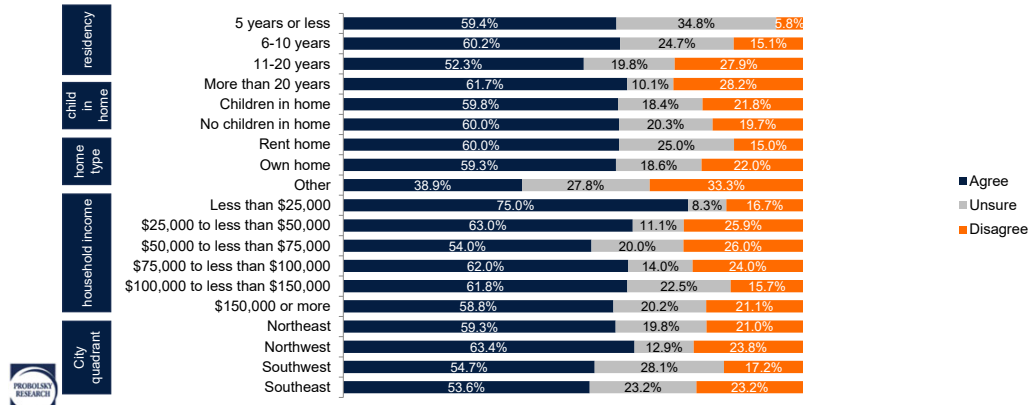
103

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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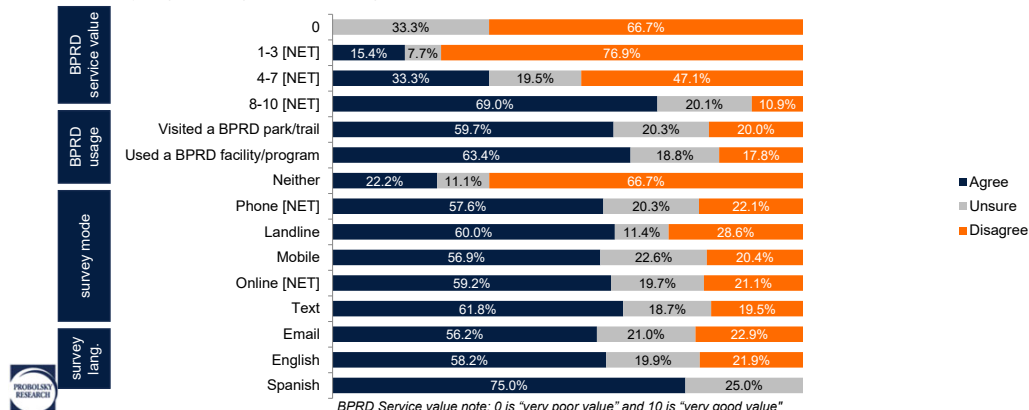
104

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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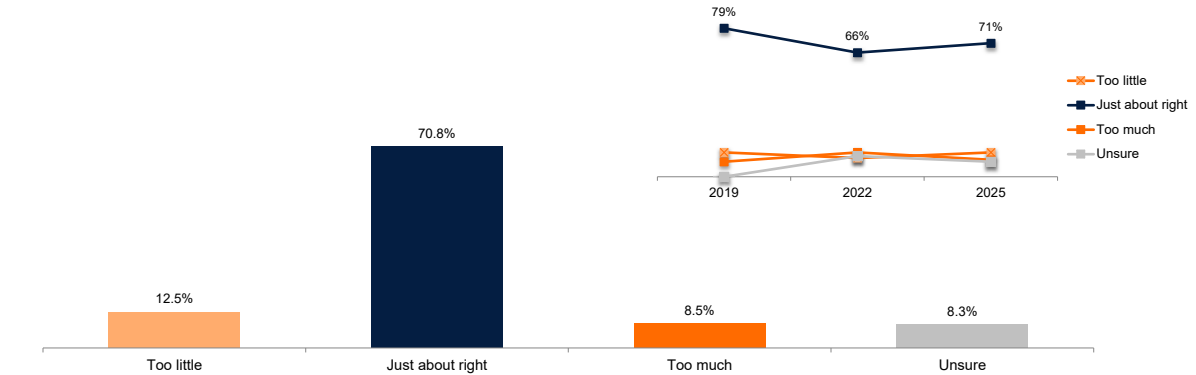


BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

105

71% think the level of services provided by BPRD is just about right

Question 32: Do you believe the level of parks, trails, and recreation services provided by the Bend Park and Recreation District is:

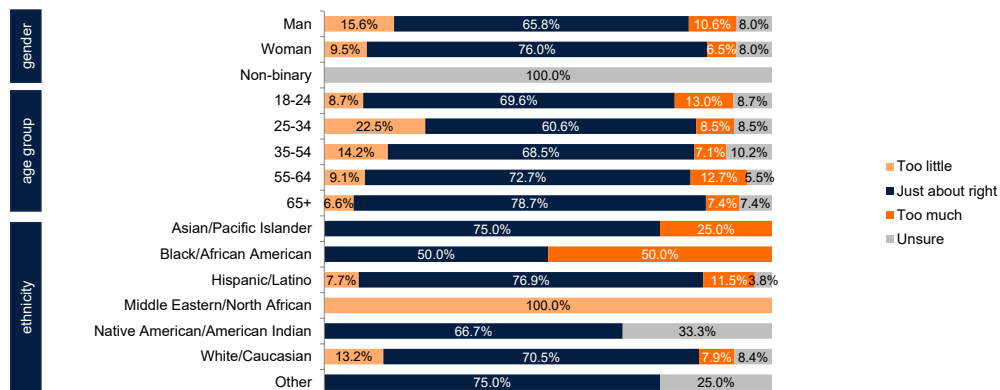


106

106

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 32: Do you believe the level of parks, trails, and recreation services provided by the Bend Park and Recreation District is:

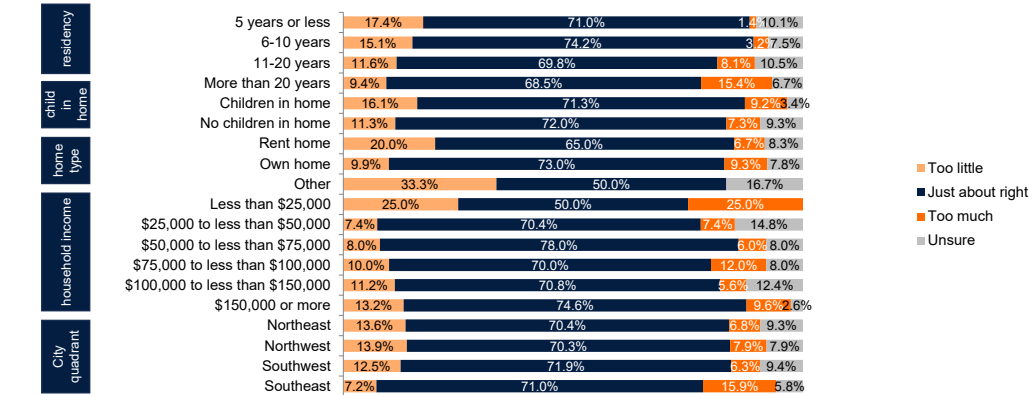


107

107

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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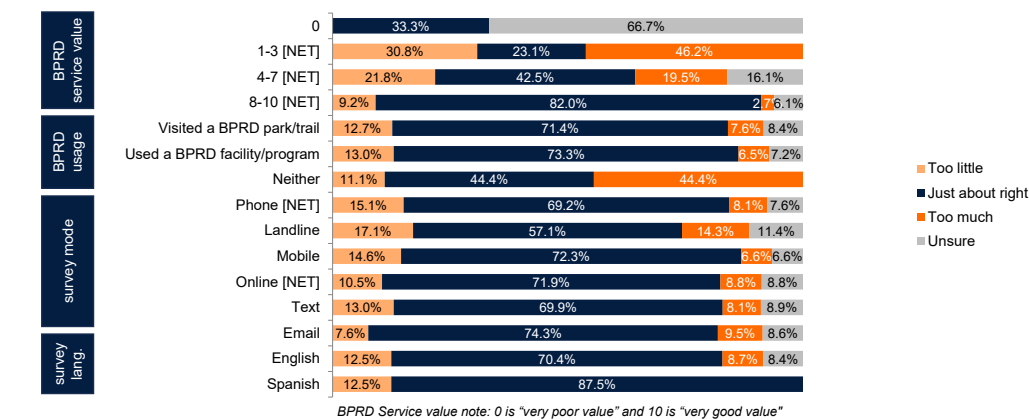


108

108

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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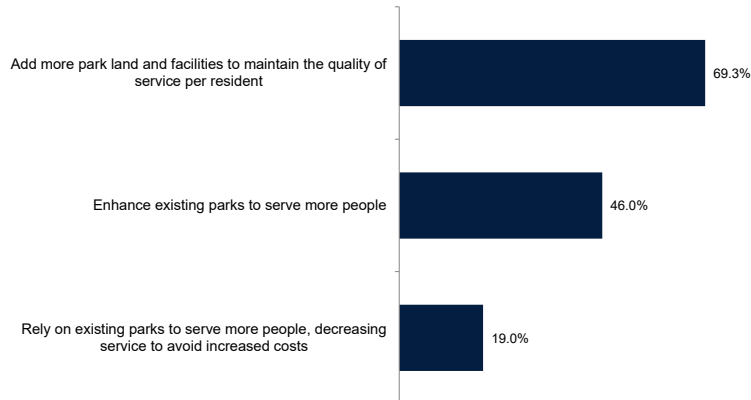


109

109

Residents prioritize adding park land as Bend grows

Question 33: Future growth in Bend will increase the density of housing in some neighborhoods. Which of the following approaches to serving more densely populated areas do you support? Select all that apply.

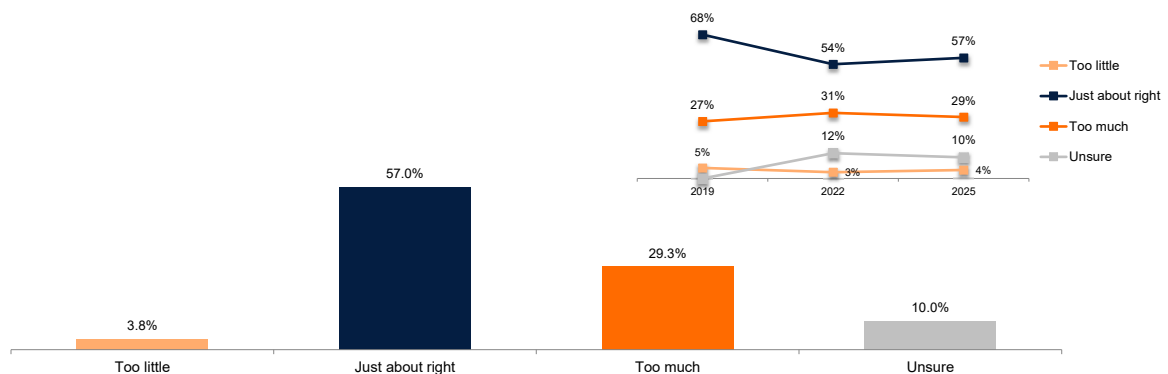


110

110

57% think the amount of taxes paid to fund BPRD is just about right

Question 34: Do you feel the amount of taxes you pay to fund Bend Park and Recreation District for services provided is?

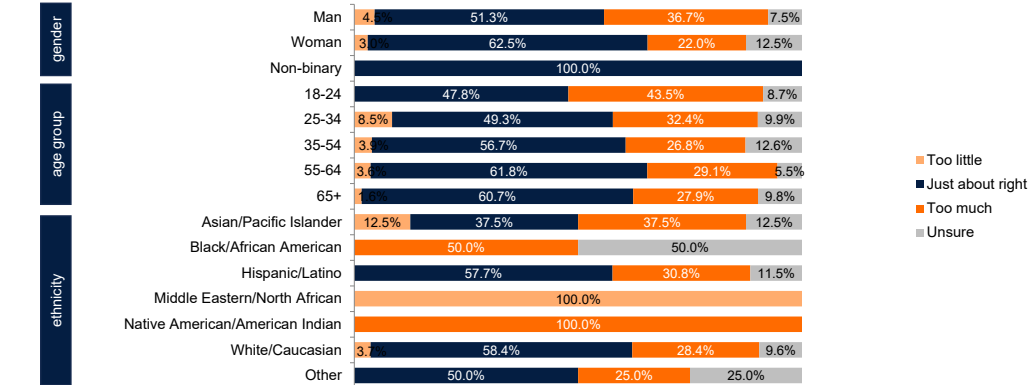


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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 34: Do you feel the amount of taxes you pay to fund Bend Park and Recreation District for services provided is?

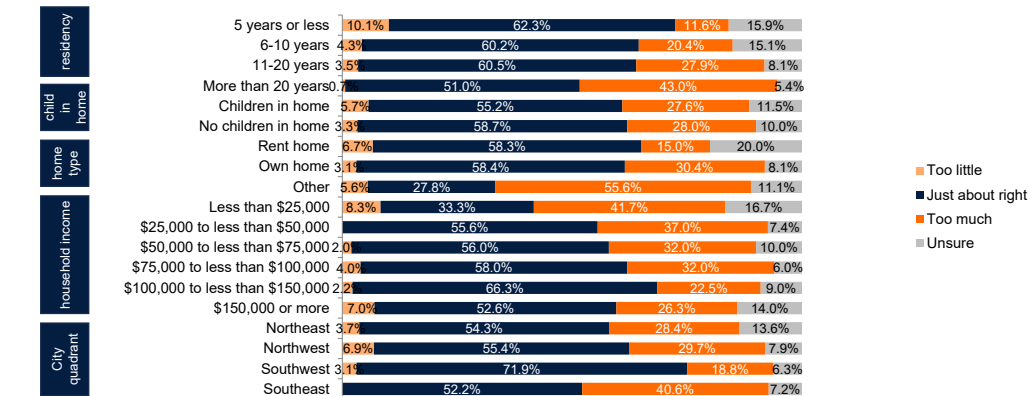


112

112

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

Question 34: Do you feel the amount of taxes you pay to fund Bend Park and Recreation District for services provided is?

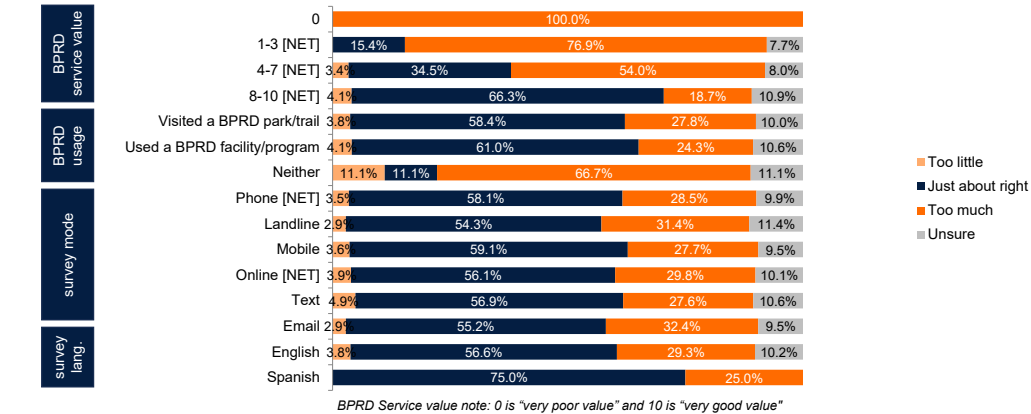


113

113

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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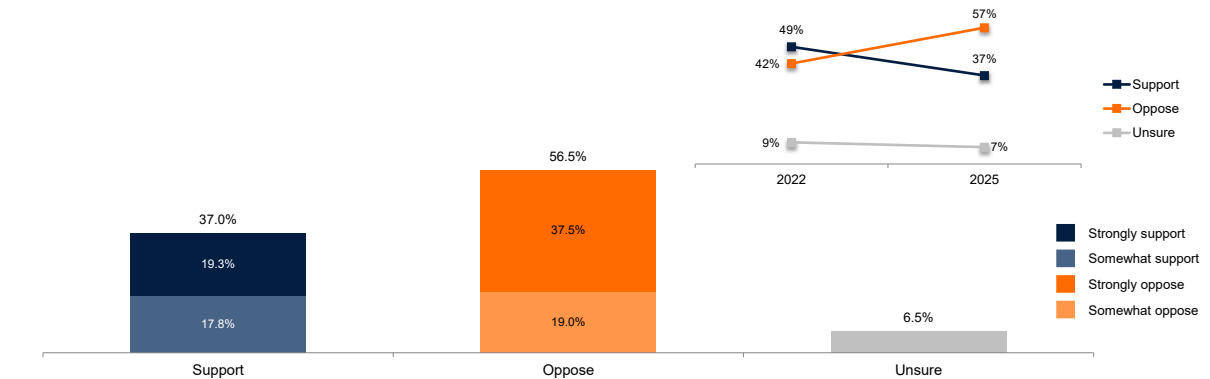


114

114

57% oppose waiving the fee on new affordable housing projects

Question 35: Currently, a fee is charged on the construction of new residences in Bend to pay for additional parks, roads, sewer, and water services to serve population growth. A portion of the fee goes to Park and Recreation District to help build parks and trails. Waiving this portion of the fee would help make affordable housing projects more affordable but would also mean reducing park and recreation services. Would you support or oppose waiving this portion of the fee on new affordable housing projects?

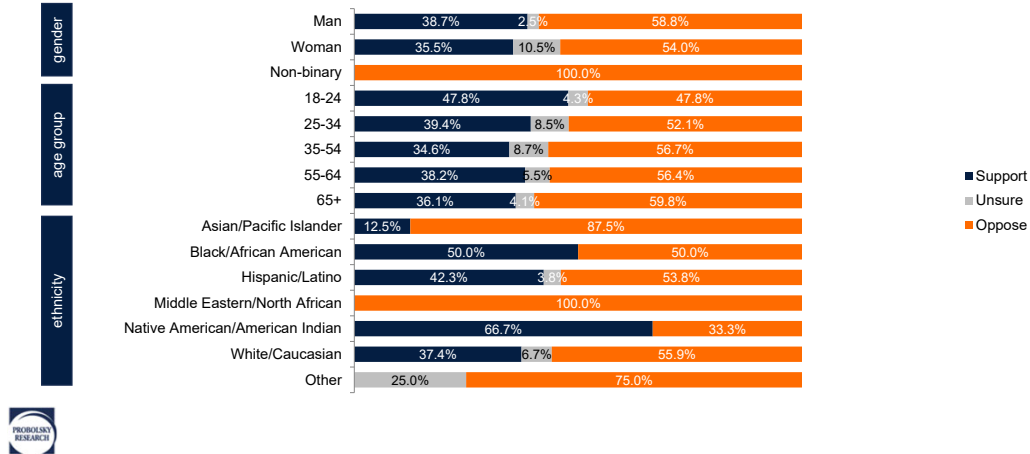


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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

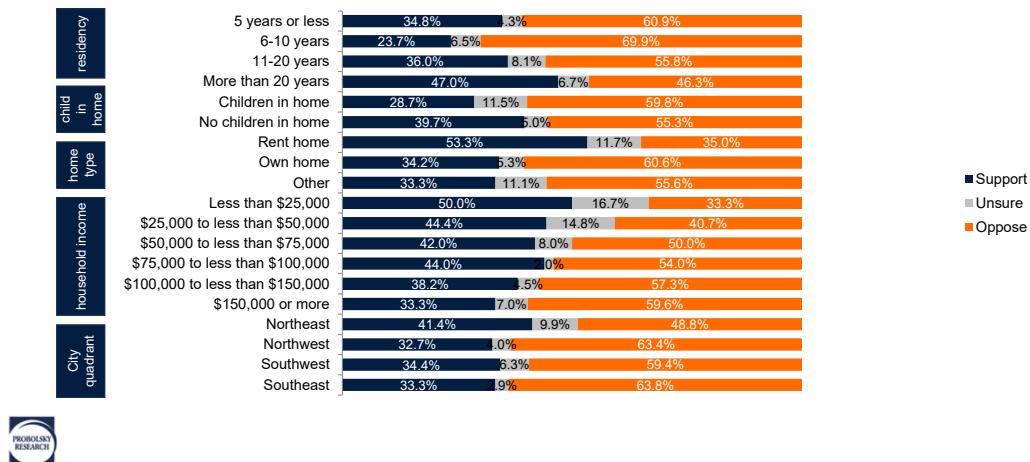
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116

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

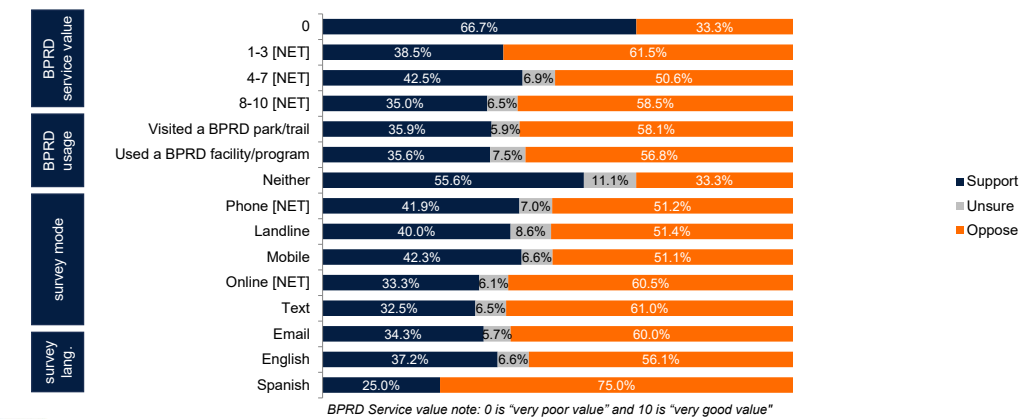
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117

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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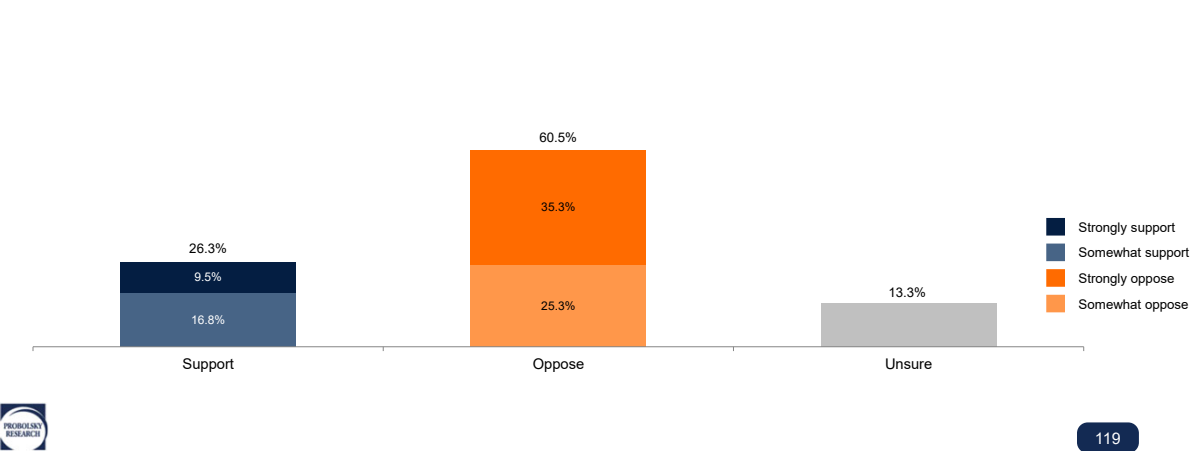


118

118

61% oppose property tax exemptions

Question 36: Currently, the City of Bend has a number of tax exemption programs where the property taxes received by the City and other taxing districts are waived to support the development of housing and economic development. Property tax exemptions support the development of housing and economic development, but also have impacts on the monies available for park and recreation operations and maintenance. Would you support or oppose property tax exemptions that would impact park and recreation operations and maintenance monies to support housing and economic development?

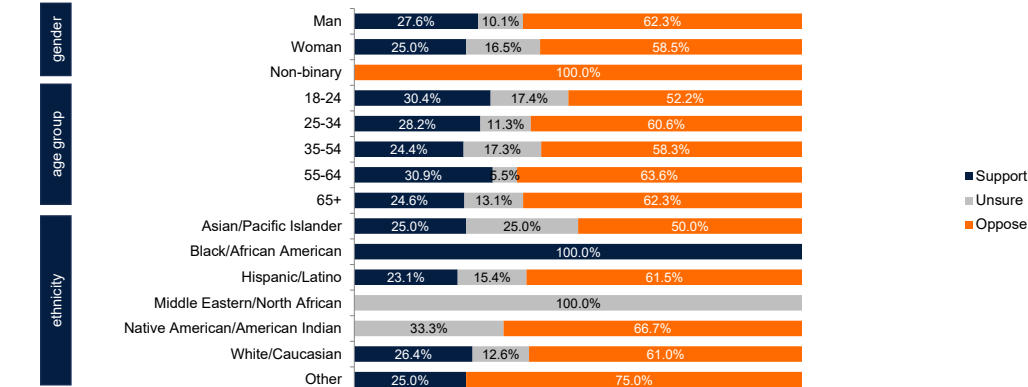


119

119

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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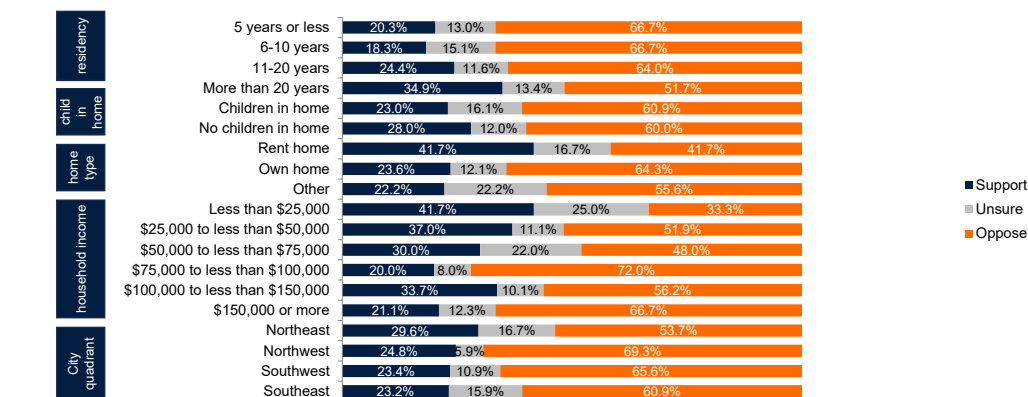


120

120

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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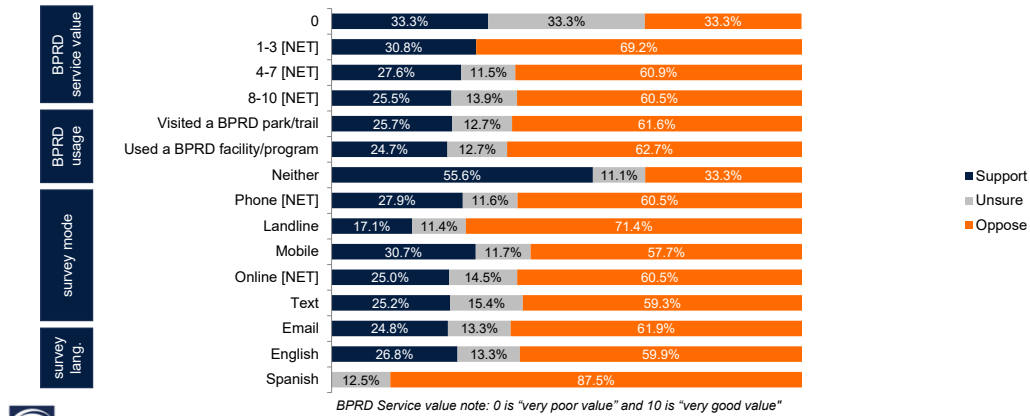


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121

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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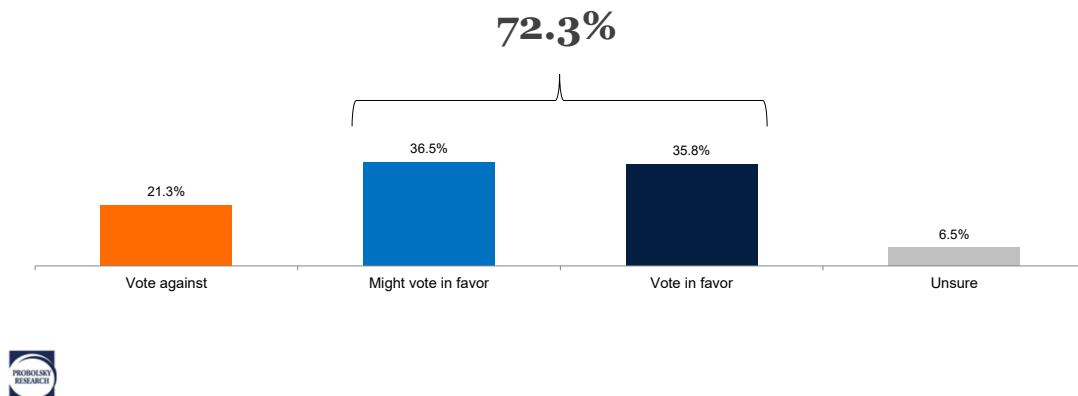
122

122

72% may be willing to vote for a BPRD bond measure

Bonds are used to fund construction and new development projects for the Bend Park and Recreation District. Bonds must be approved by voters, and funding is provided based on property values. There has been one voter approved bond, in 2012, since the formation of the district.

Question 37: How willing are you to vote for a bond measure to fund the acquisition, development and the renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and sports and recreation facility?

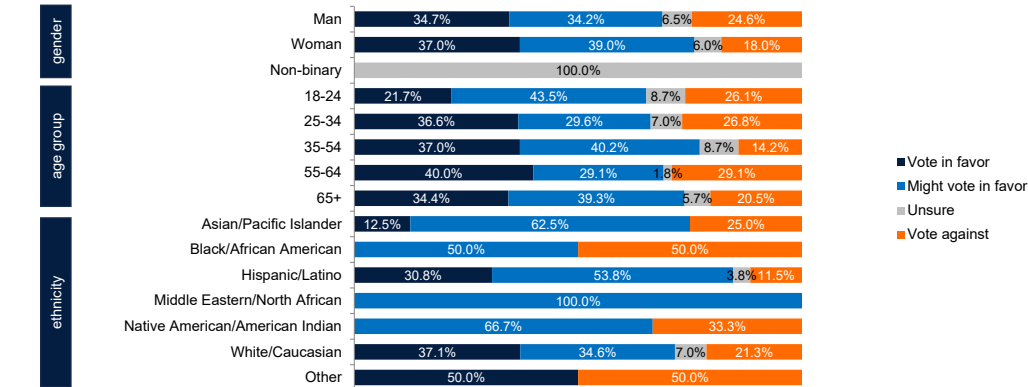


123

123

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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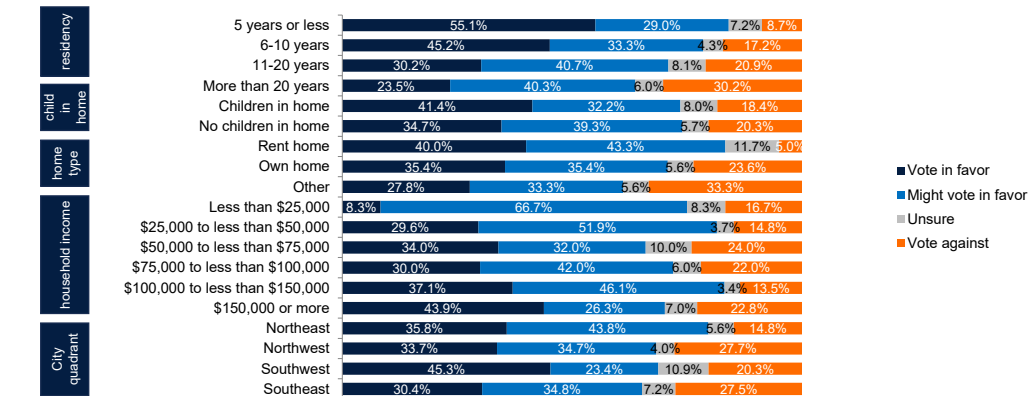


124

124

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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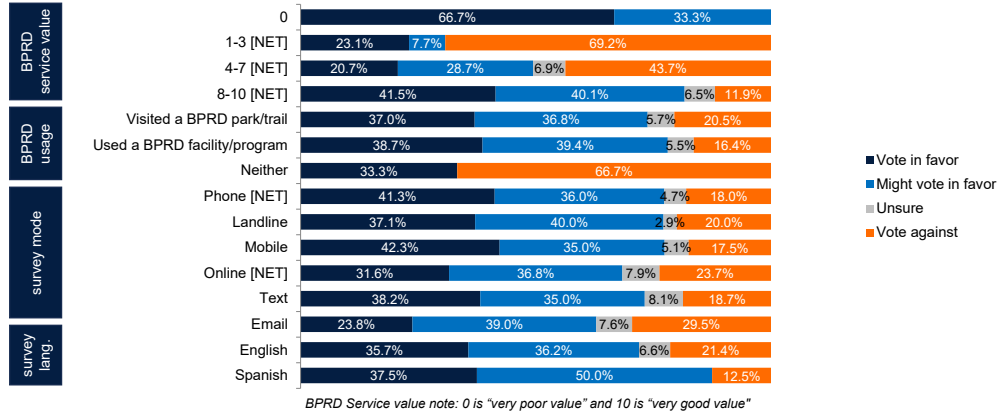


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125

Results by parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, survey mode, and survey language

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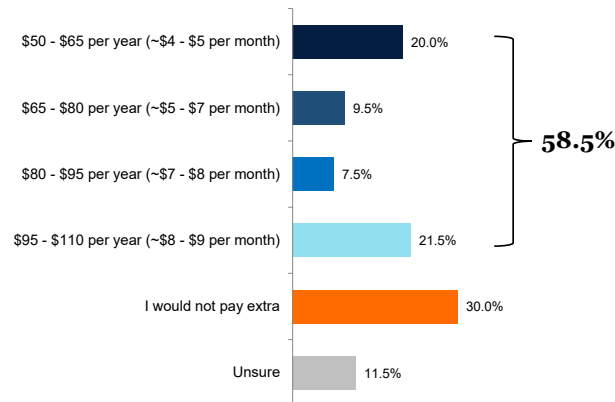


126

126

59% are willing to pay up to \$50 or more in property taxes; 30% would not pay any extra

Question 38: What is the maximum amount of additional annual property tax that you would be willing to pay to fund the acquisition, development and renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and recreation facilities?

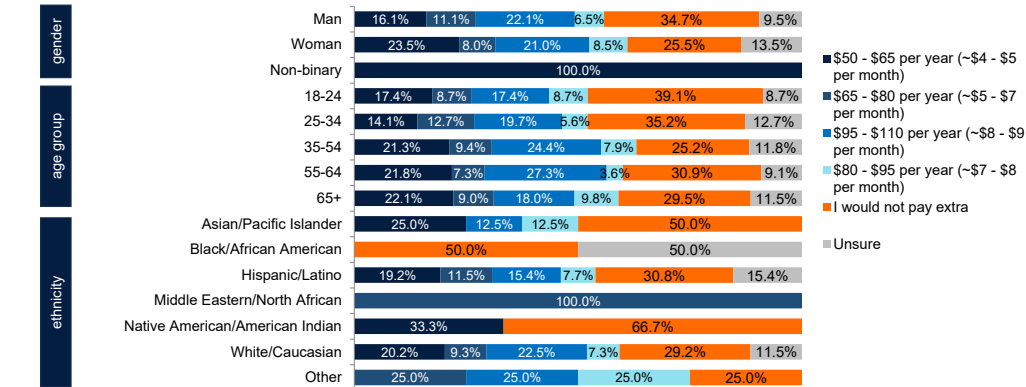


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Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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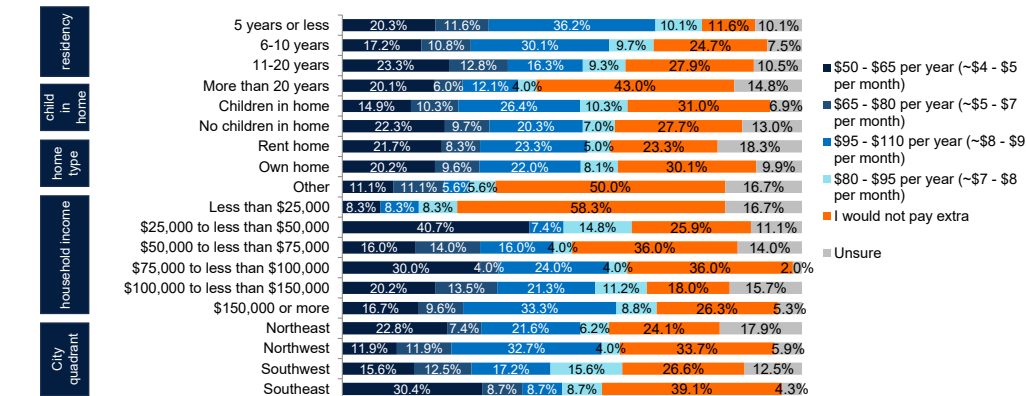


128

128

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, household income, and City quadrant

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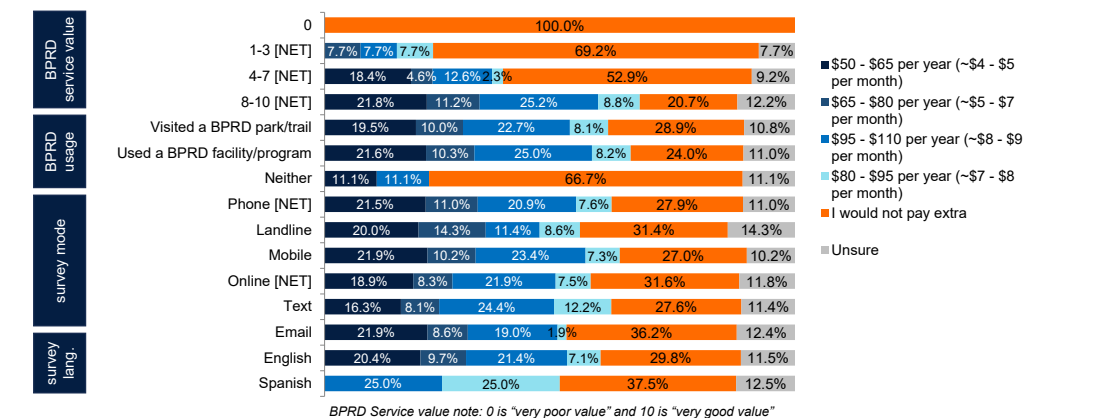


129

129

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Questions?

Adam Probolsky, President
O: 949-855-6400 | M: 949-697-6726
E: adam@probolskyresearch.com

Joshua Emeneger, Principal Researcher
E: josh@probolskyresearch.com



**Opinion Research on
Elections and Public Policy**



Bend Park and Recreation District Community Awareness and Perception Survey

Open Link Results Presentation

February 2026



Opinion Research on
Elections and Public Policy



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(202) 559-0270

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Bend Park and Recreation District – Community Awareness and Perception Survey

Survey Methodology*

	Survey Details
Mode	Online
Language	English and Spanish
Length	12 minutes
Target Respondents	BPRD residents
Survey Fielding	December 1 – 19, 2025
Margin of Error	+/-4.4%
Survey Participants	514

Sample

The sample was developed from an open link survey that was available through BPRD's website.

Data Collection Explained

Interviews were conducted via an online open link survey. Respondents chose their preferred language, English and Spanish (<1%).

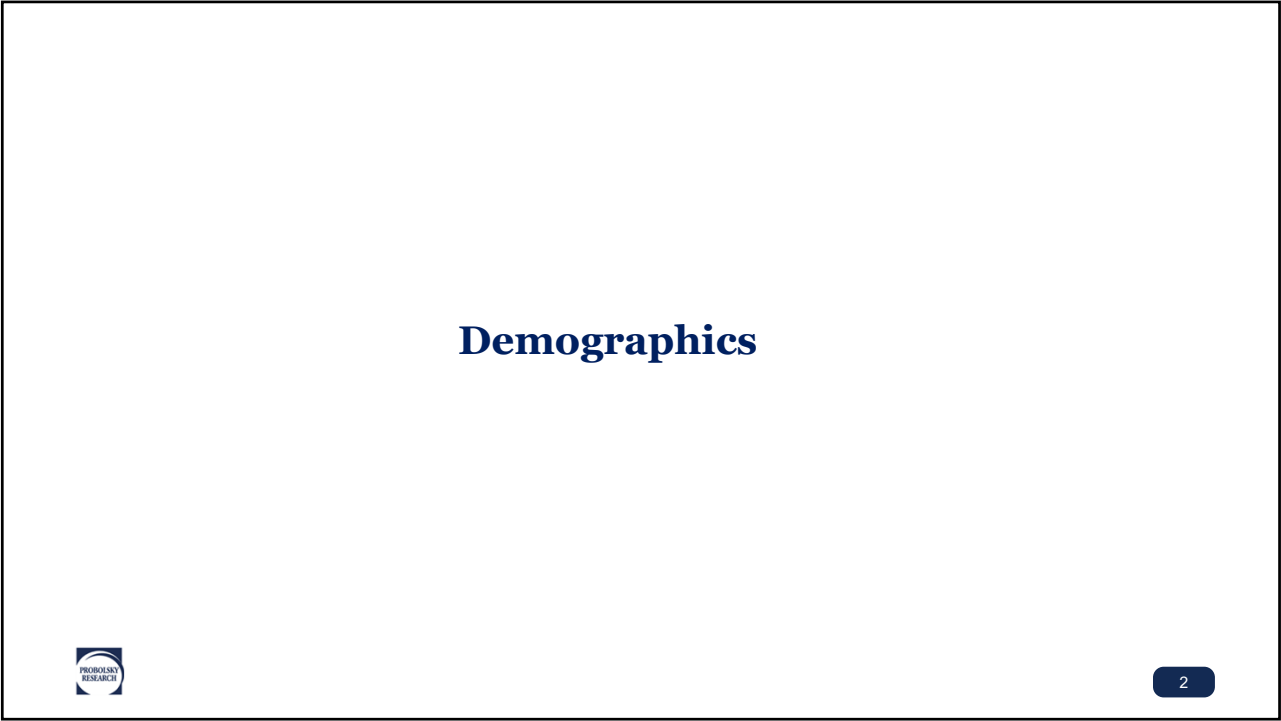


Probolsky Research is a Latina- and woman-owned market and opinion research firm with corporate, election, government, and non-profit clients.

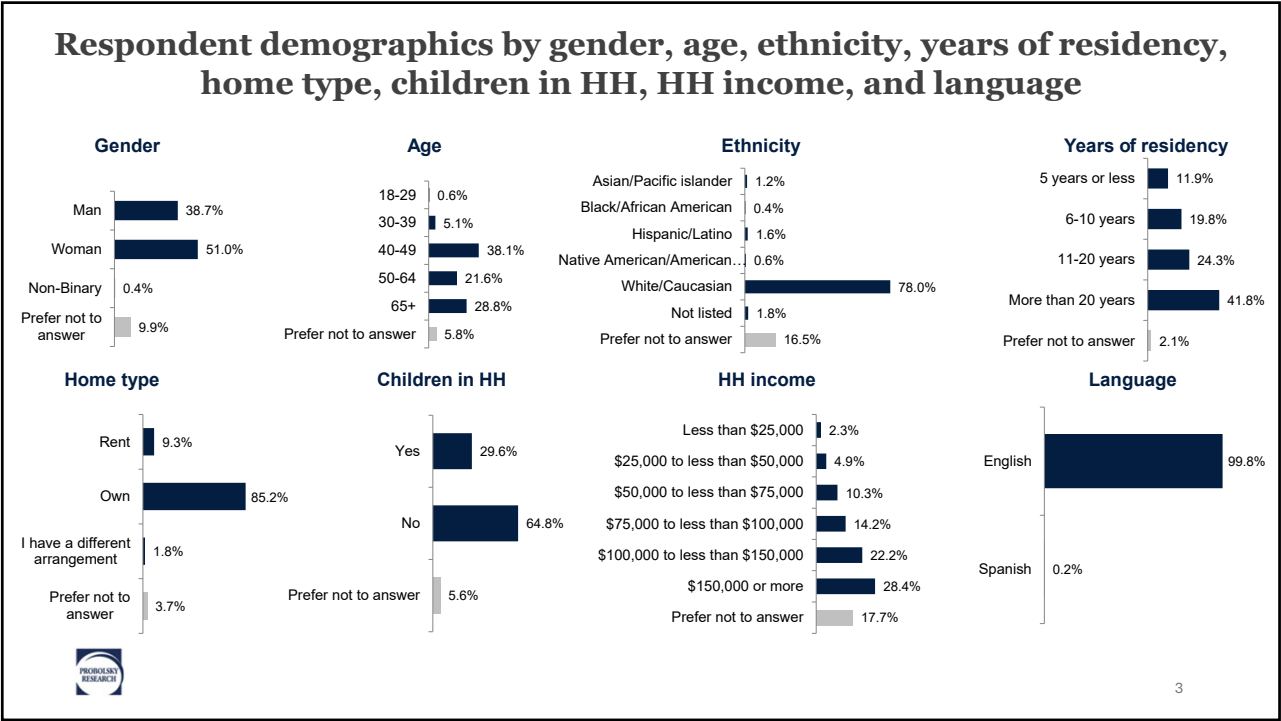
*Due to rounding, totals shown on charts may not add up to 100%

1

1



2



3

Executive Summary

Overall Satisfaction and Quality of Life

Residents express overwhelmingly positive views of Bend as a place to live, with a vast majority (93%) describing the quality of life as good. Local government performance is viewed moderately well (59%), though not as favorably as the services delivered by the District. BPRD stands out among public agencies, and when respondents rated the value of various local services, parks, trails, and recreation received the highest rating (mean: 7.9) alongside with library services. This indicates that outdoor recreation access is central to Bend's livability and identity.

Familiarity, Trust, and Direction of the District

Awareness of BPRD is exceptionally high, with nearly all residents (96%) reporting they are familiar with the District. Most also correctly identify BPRD as a separate agency. A strong majority believe the District is headed in the right direction (67%) and express trust (73%) in the organization. Most image ratings are positive, including maintenance quality, the overall caliber of programs and facilities, and environmental stewardship. The lowest—though still majority-positive—ratings relate to perceptions of community partnerships, transparency, and use to taxpayer money, suggesting areas where additional outreach and communication could further strengthen public confidence.



4

4

Executive Summary

Usage and Satisfaction with Services

Parks and recreation amenities are not just appreciated but are widely used. Nearly all residents report visiting a park or trail in the past year, and three-quarters have used facilities or participated in programs. Overall satisfaction is extremely high, with the vast majority satisfied with District services. Residents draw a direct connection between access to recreation and quality of life. Large majorities agree that parks and recreation enhance their personal well-being, contribute to the local economy (88%), and shape what makes Bend unique. Residents also report that they feel welcome (91%) and safe (90%) when using District spaces, reinforcing their role as accessible, inclusive community assets.

Perceptions of Fiscal Stewardship

Views about BPRD's financial management are largely positive. Most residents (62%) believe the District uses taxpayer funds responsibly and feel that the amount they pay toward recreation services is just about right. Fees for programs and facility use are generally seen as reasonable and aligned with the quality delivered. However, financial perceptions are more tempered than other performance measures and indicate room for improvement—particularly around transparency (62%). Strengthening communication about budgeting and long-term planning may be important, as trust in financial stewardship is closely connected to sustained community support.



5

5

Executive Summary

Funding Mechanisms and Policy Preferences

Support for bonding to fund parks and recreation infrastructure is strong (70%). Seven in ten residents express willingness to vote for a bond measure to fund acquisition, development, and renovation of facilities. Nearly six in ten (58%) say they would pay up to \$50 or more in additional annual property taxes to support such investments. These results indicate that residents understand the relationship between funding and maintaining the community quality they value. Residents also weigh tradeoffs thoughtfully. While recognizing the importance of housing affordability, most oppose reducing revenue for parks through fee waivers or property tax exemptions. This resistance reflects the high value residents place on maintaining existing parks and recreation services and ensuring new development contributes to continued access and quality.

Service Levels and Planning for Growth

Strong majority of residents (60%) believe the current level of services is “just about right.” Looking ahead to Bend’s growth and increasing density, residents prioritize strategies that preserve access to green spaces, with expanding park land emerging as a top preference. This reflects both appreciation for current offerings and a desire to proactively plan for population increases while maintaining the outdoor character that defines Bend.

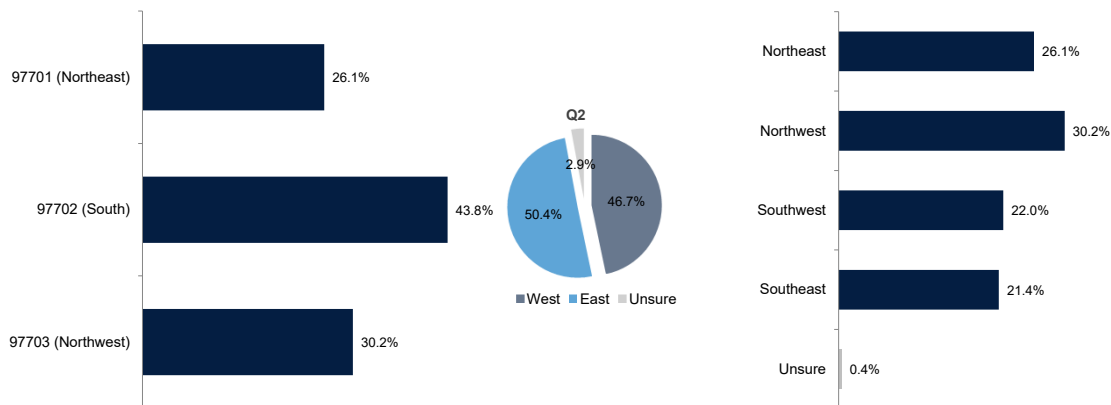


6

6

100% of respondents live in the designated zip codes

Question 1: What is your zip code?
Question 2: Do you live west or east of the Parkway (Highway 97)?
[IF ANSWERED '97702' TO Q1]

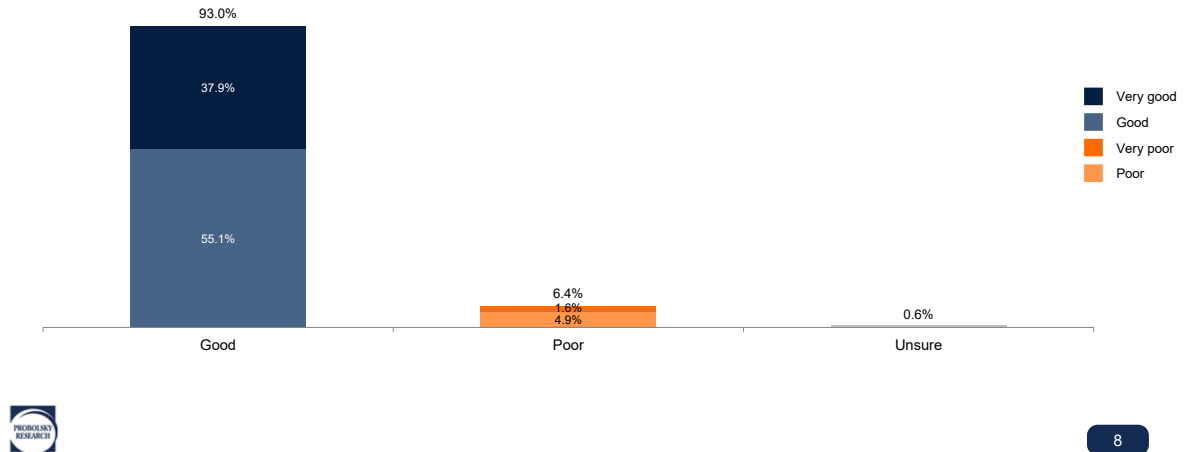


7

7

93% rate the overall quality of life in Bend as good

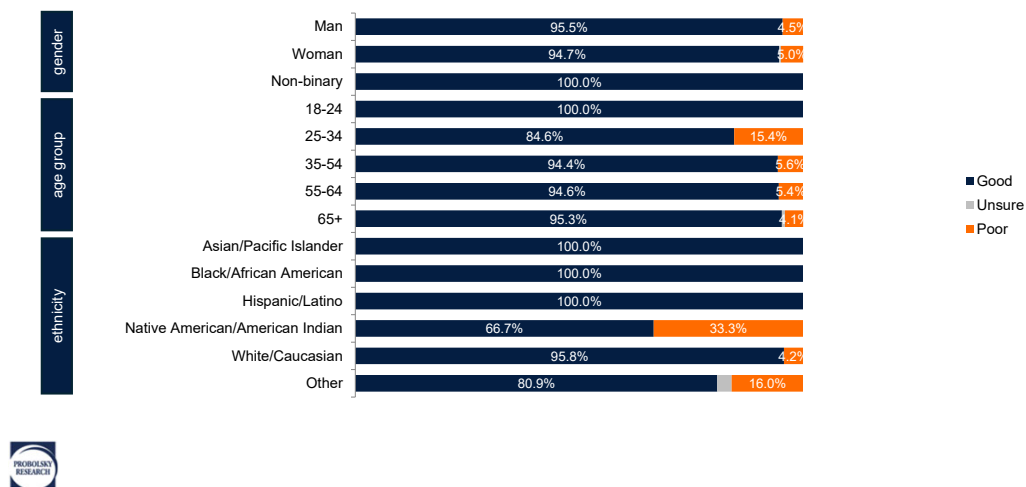
Question 3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:



8

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

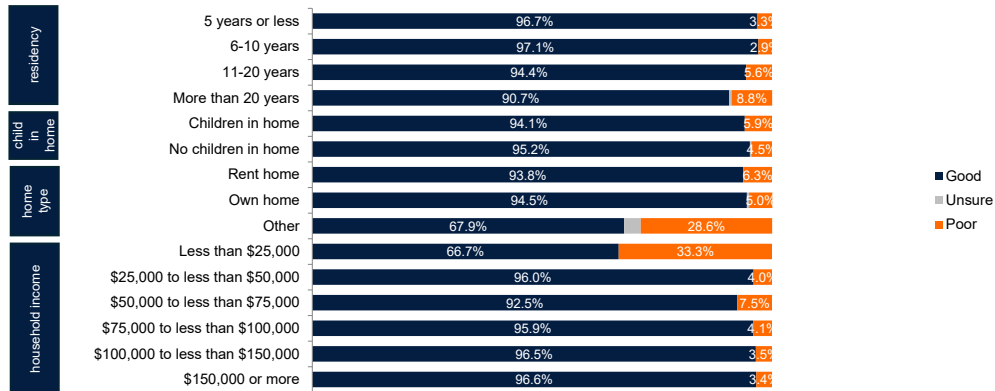
Question 3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:



9

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:

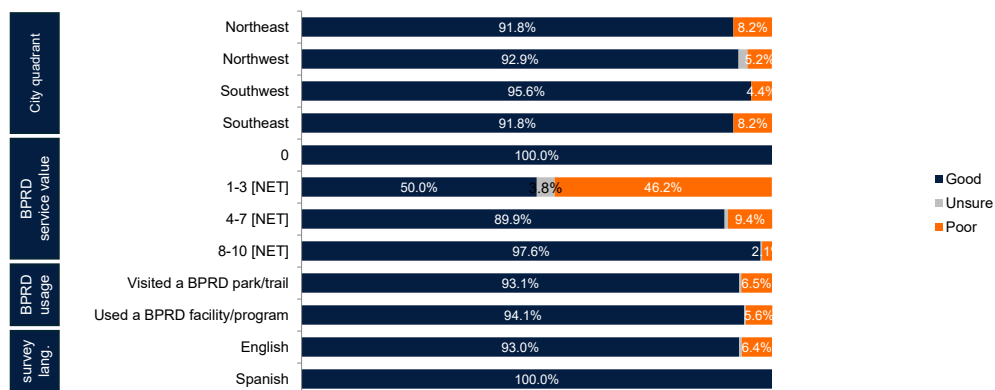


10

10

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

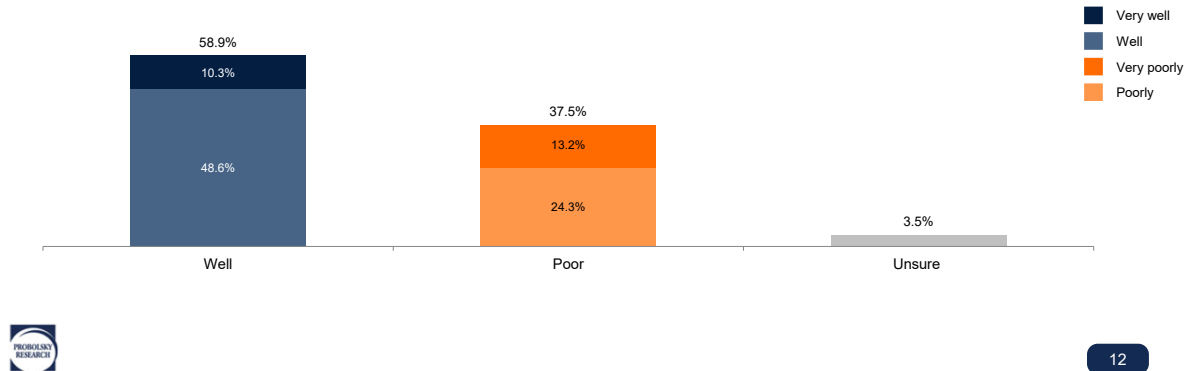


11

11

59% say local government is serving the community well

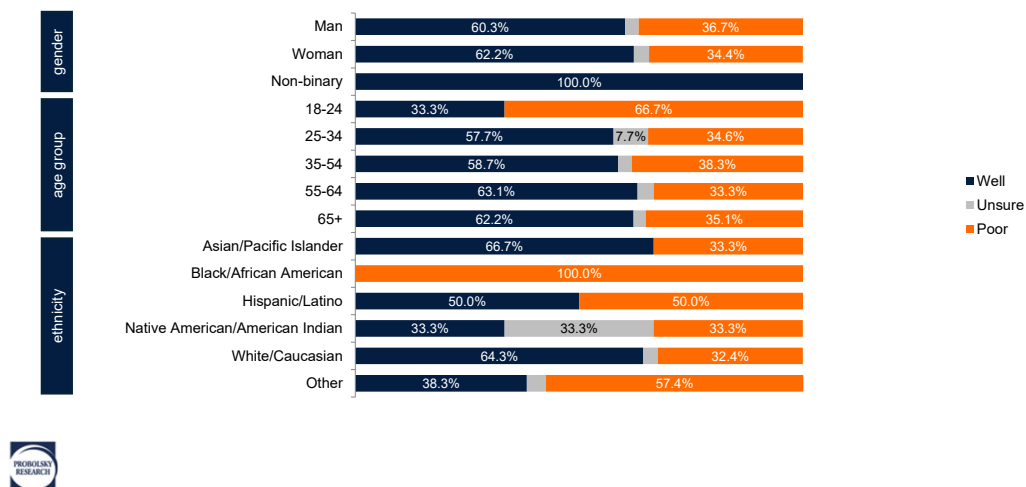
Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?



12

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

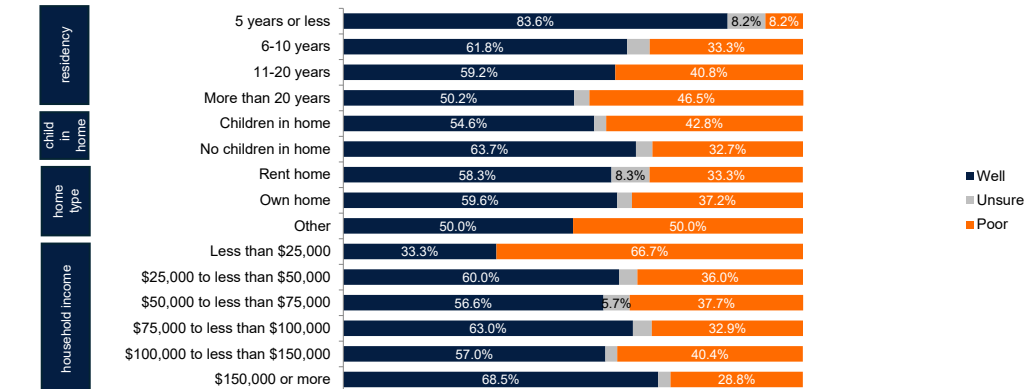
Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?



13

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?

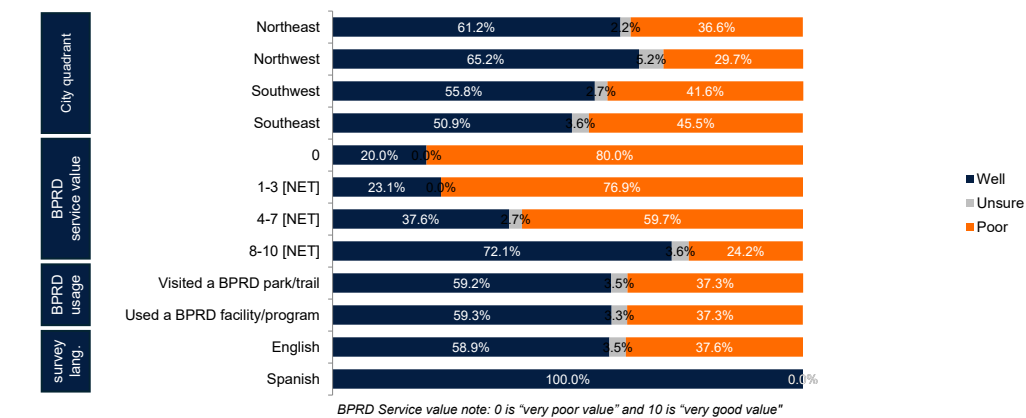


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Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

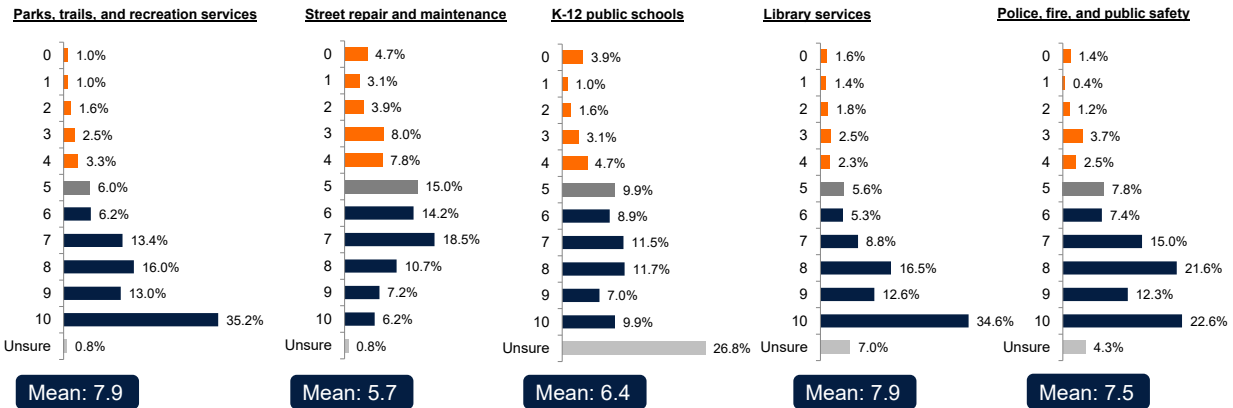


15

15

Parks, trails, and recreation services and library services are the top-rated government service

Questions 5-9: Now we have a list of services provided by different local government agencies in Bend. How would you rate each service based on the value received for the tax dollar being spent? Use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value".

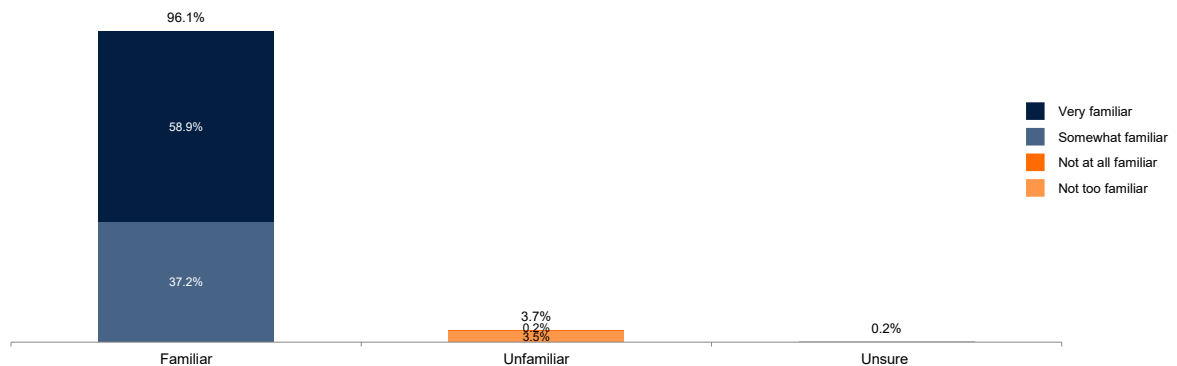


16

16

96% are familiar with the Bend Park and Recreation District

Question 10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?

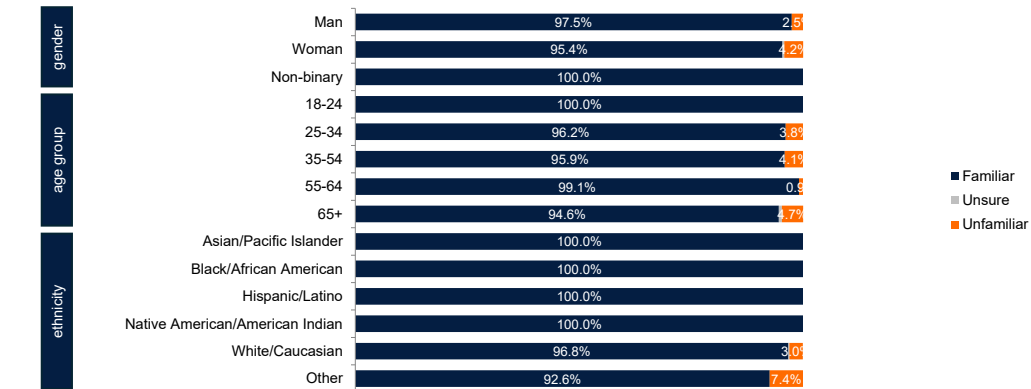


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17

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?

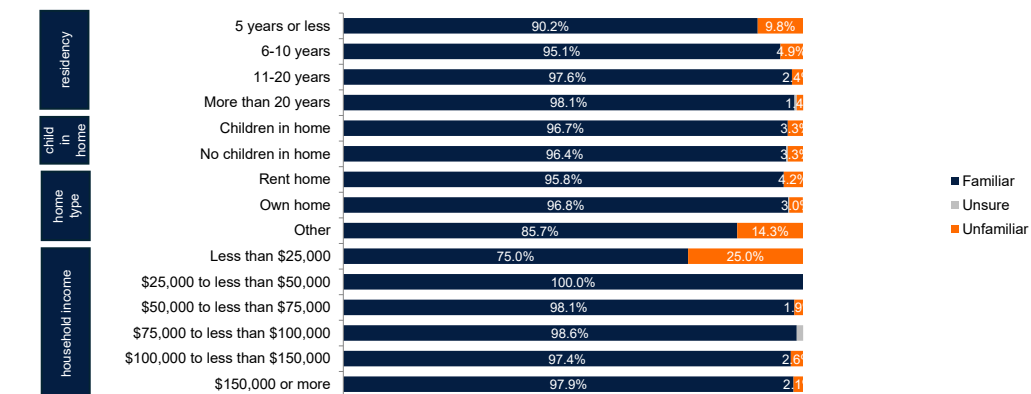


18

18

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?

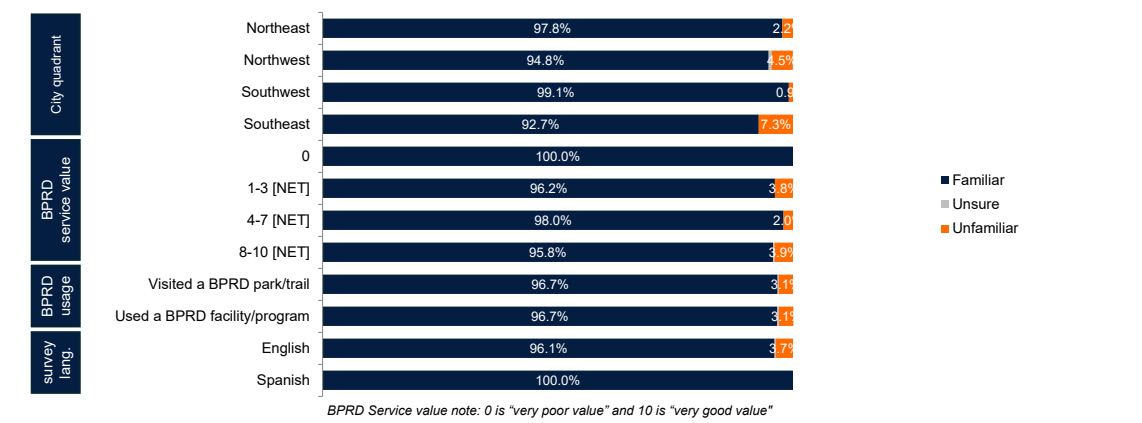


19

19

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

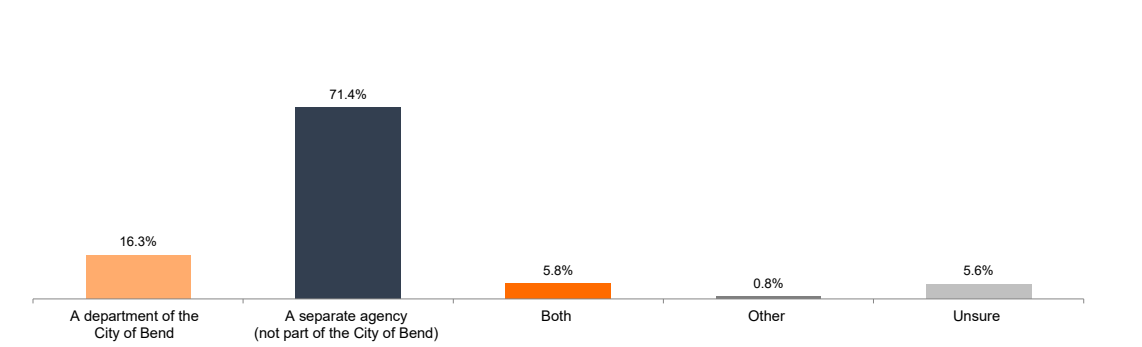
Question 10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?



20

71% correctly recognize BPRD as a separate agency

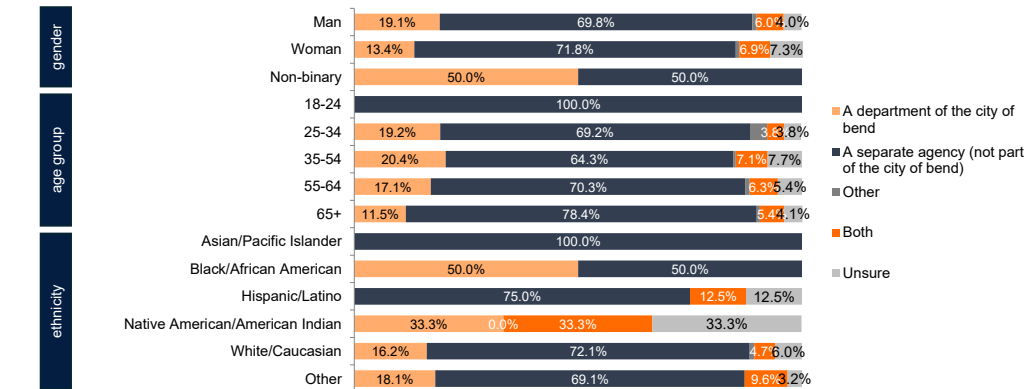
Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:



21

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:

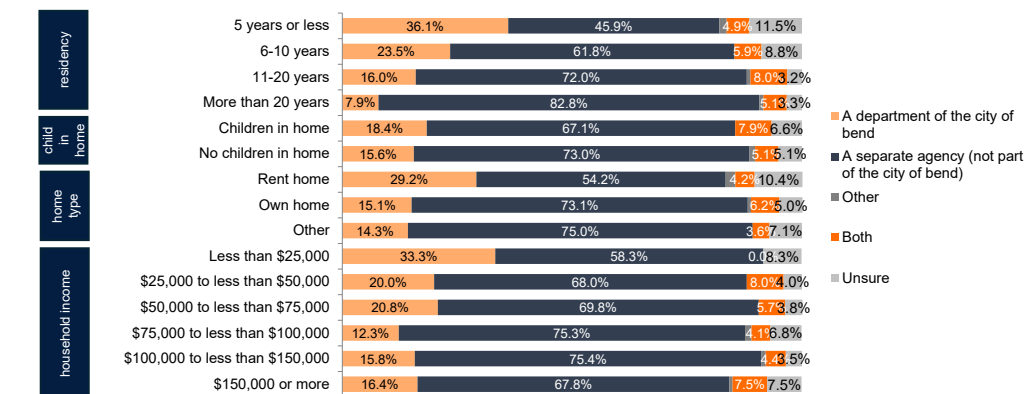


22

22

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:

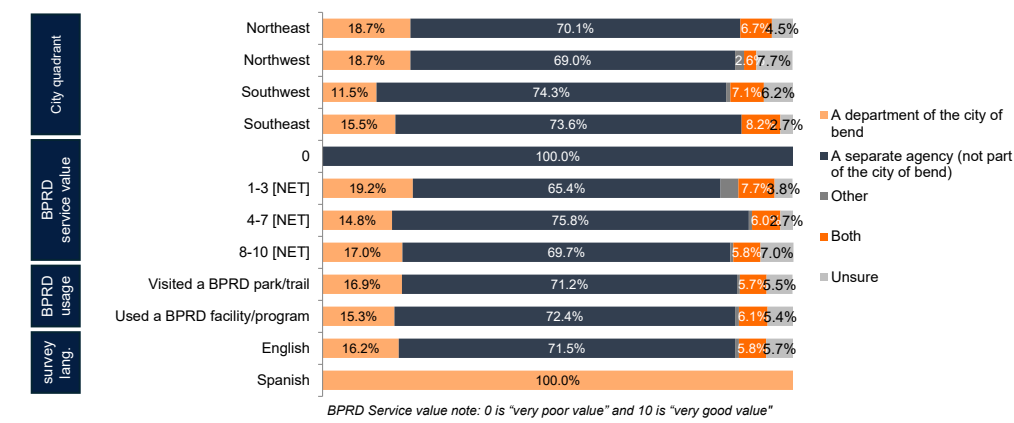


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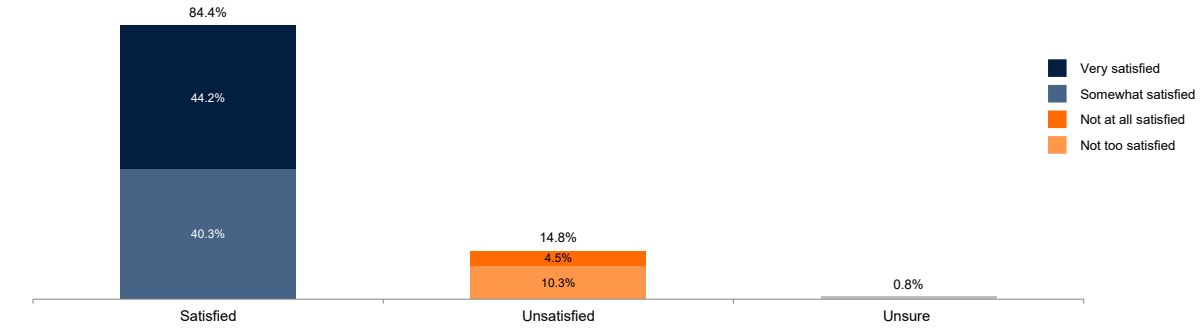
Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:



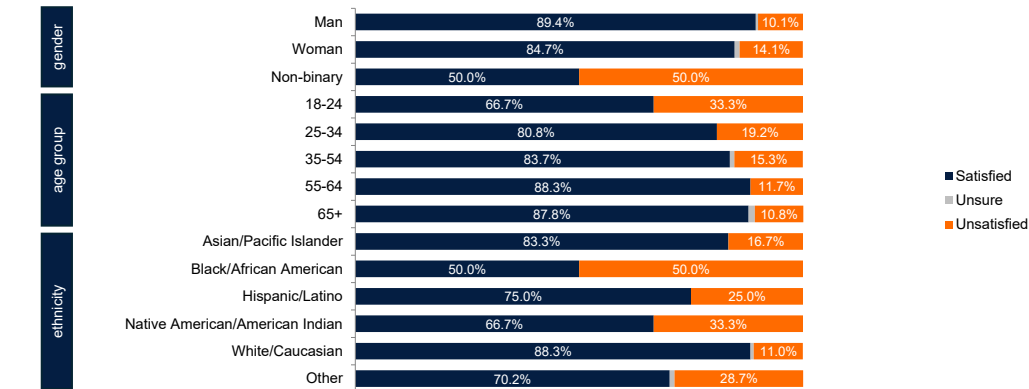
84% are satisfied with the parks and recreation services in Bend

Question 12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?



Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?

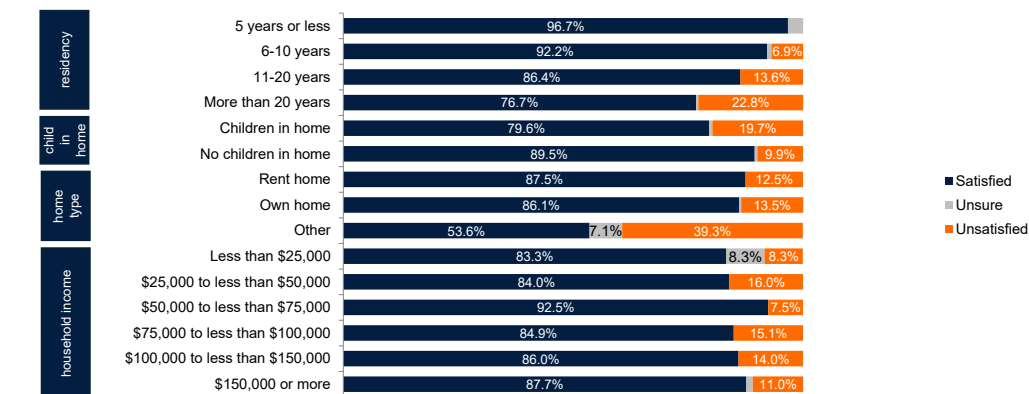


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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?

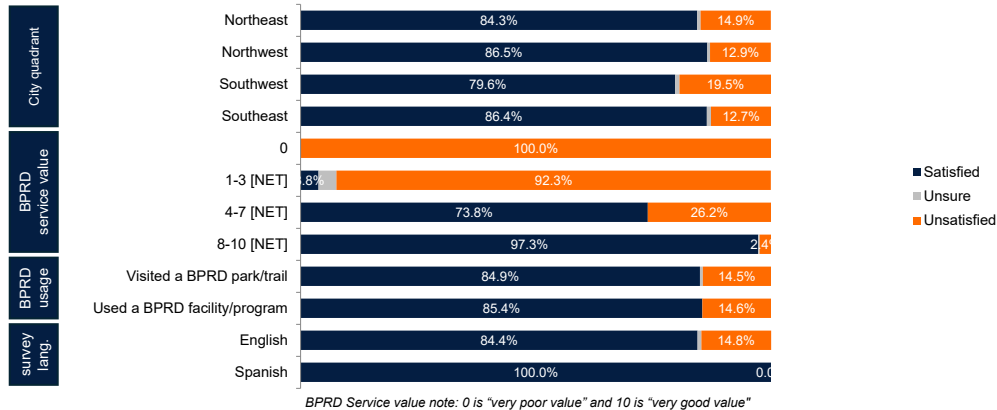


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27

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?

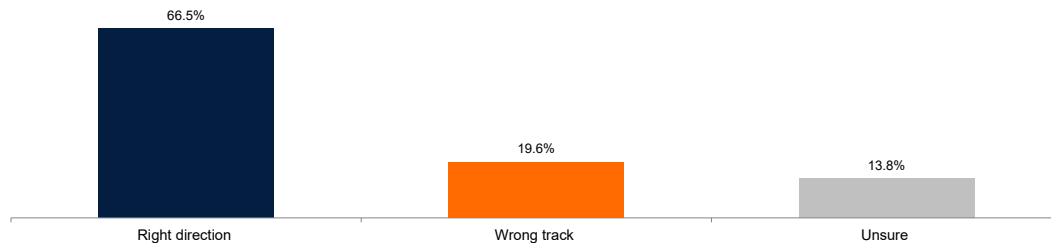


28

28

67% say BPRD is headed in the right direction

Question 13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?

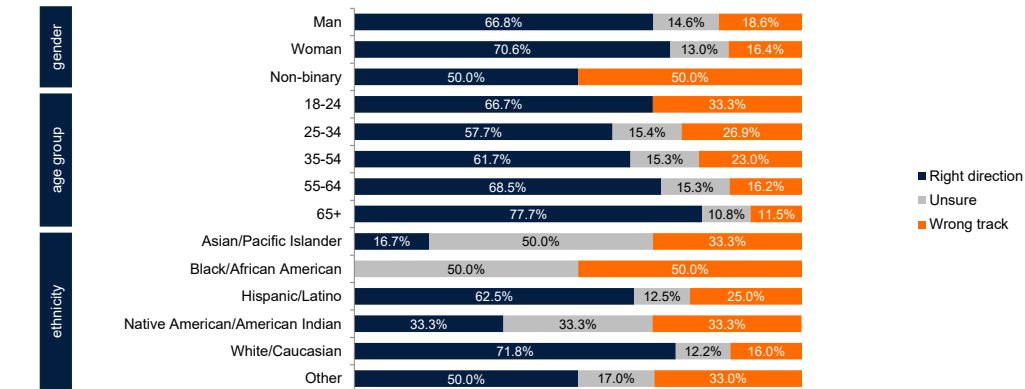


29

29

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?

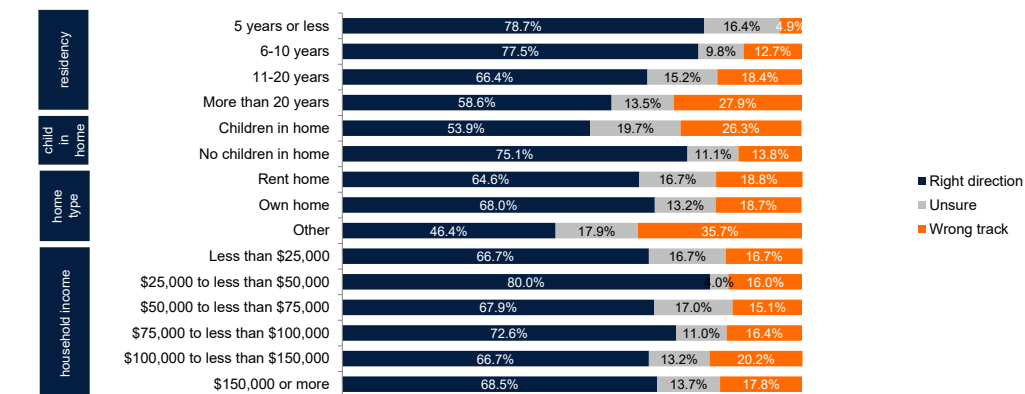


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30

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?

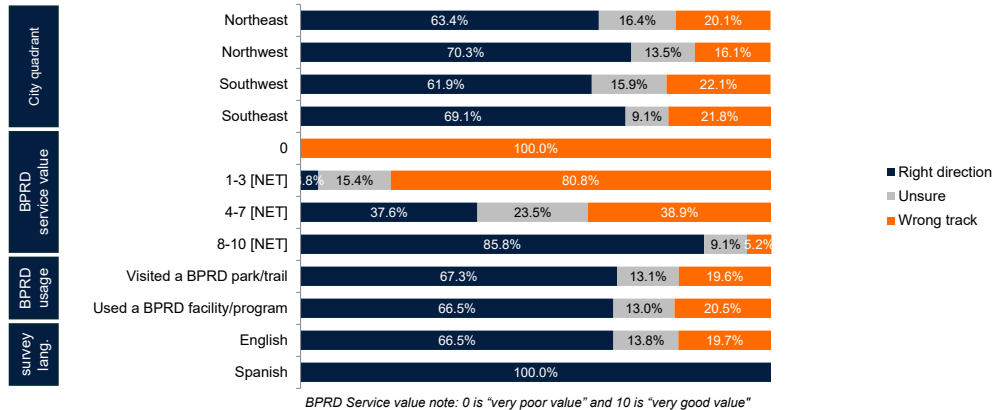


31

31

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?

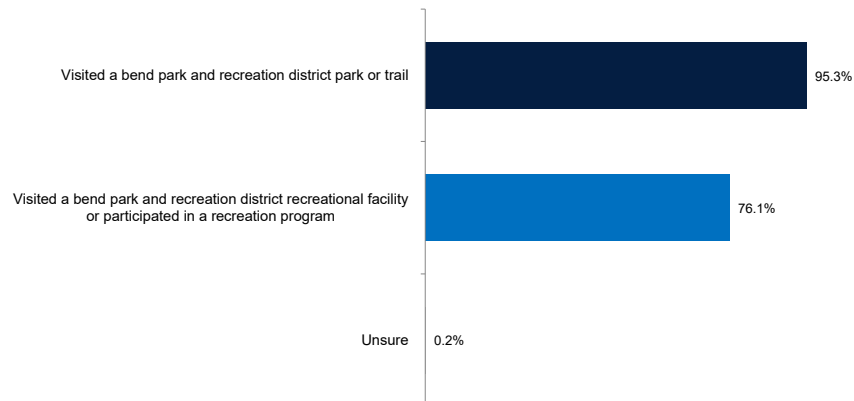


32

32

95% have visited a BPRD park or trail in the past year, 76% have visited recreational facilities or participated in recreational programs

Question 14: During the past year, have you or any member of your household done any of the following? Select all that apply.



33

33

Statements effectiveness

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life	95.5%	4.1%	0.4%
Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation	94.6%	5.4%	-
Having a park near my home is important to me	93.0%	6.2%	0.8%
I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities	91.4%	7.8%	0.8%
I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.	89.7%	9.5%	0.8%
Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy	87.9%	10.3%	1.8%

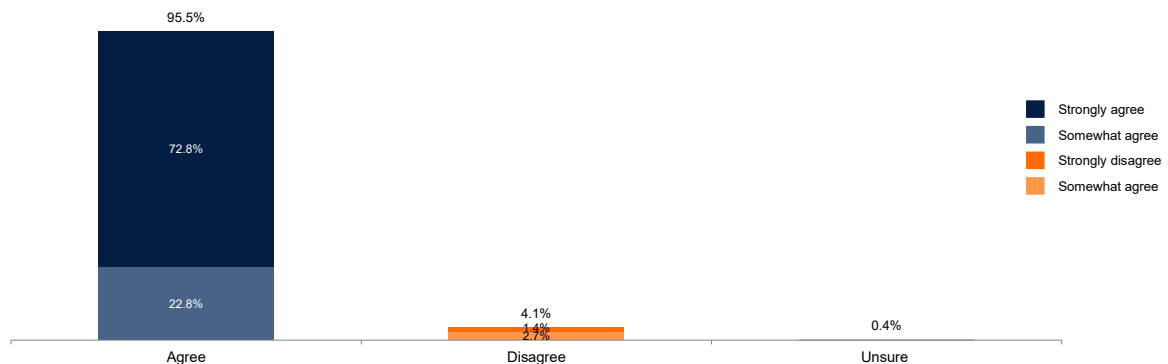


34

34

96% agree that parks, trails and recreation opportunities enhance their quality of life

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life**

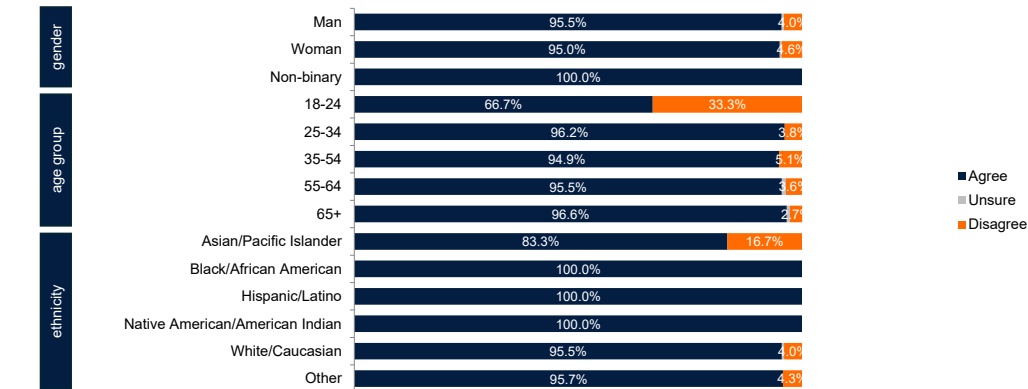


35

35

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life.**

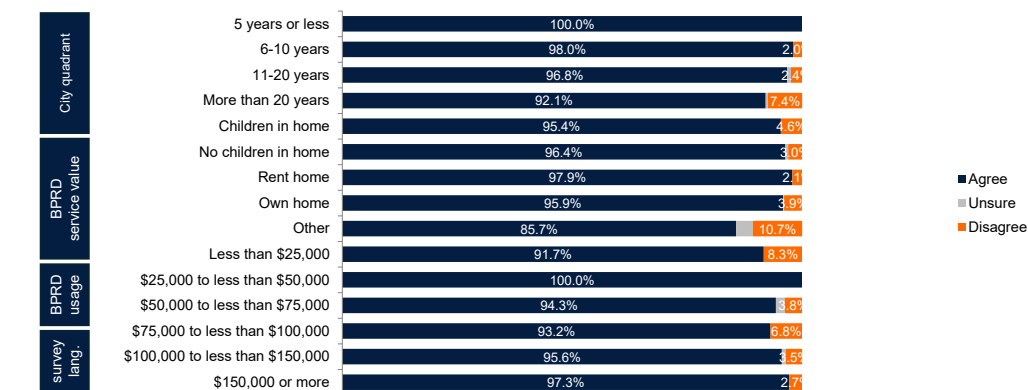


36

36

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life.**

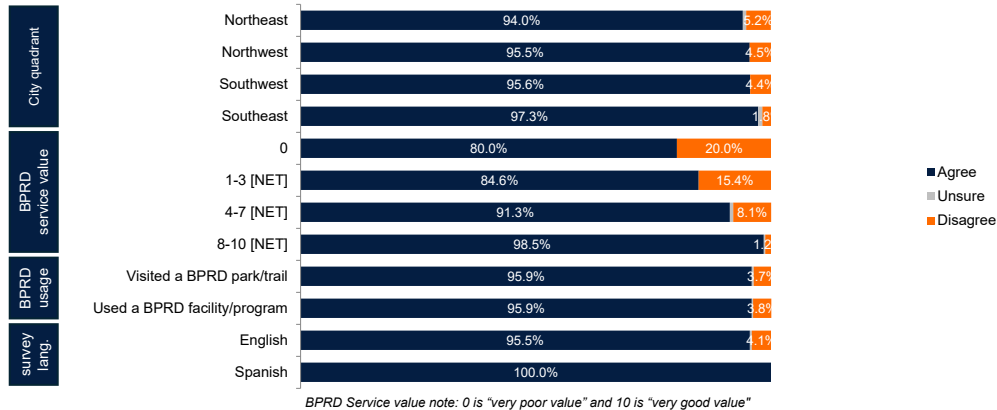


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37

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life**

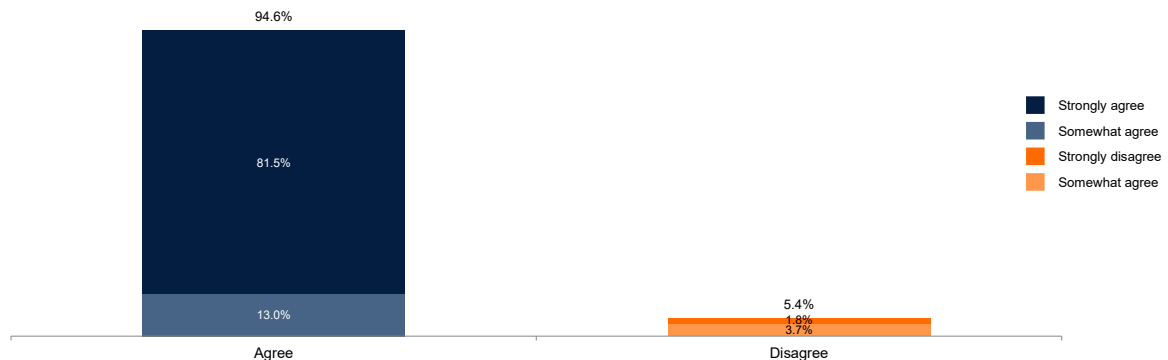


38

38

95% agree that living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation

Question 16: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation.**

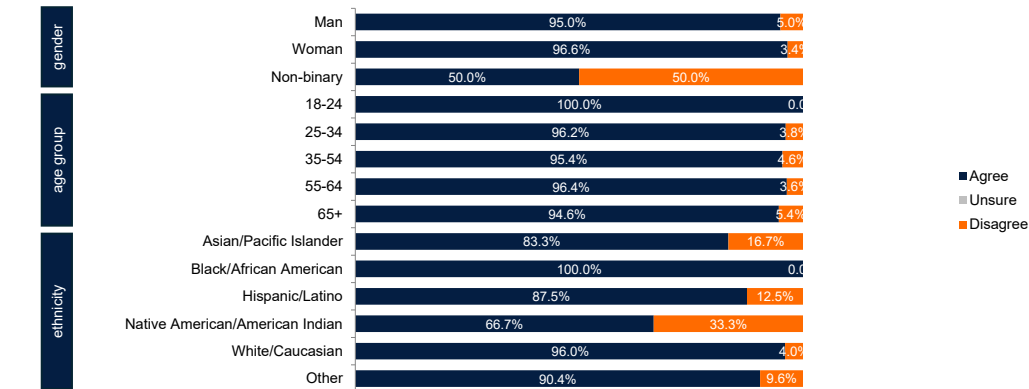


39

39

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 16: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation.**

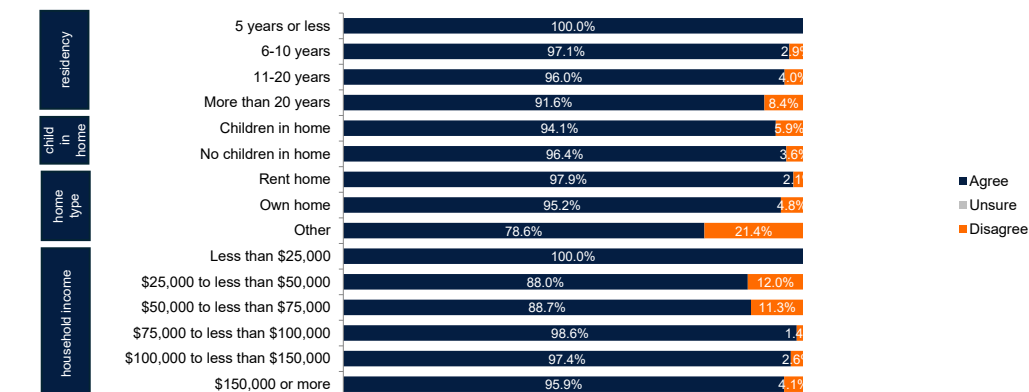


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Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 16: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation.**

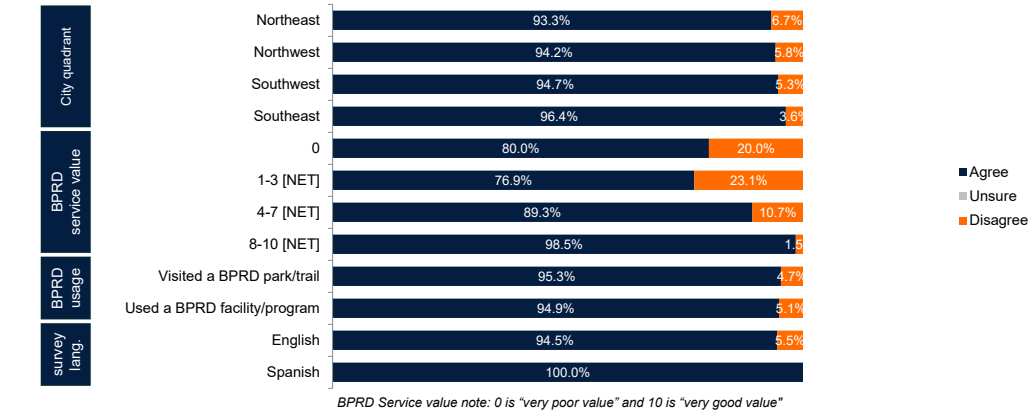


41

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Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 16: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation.**

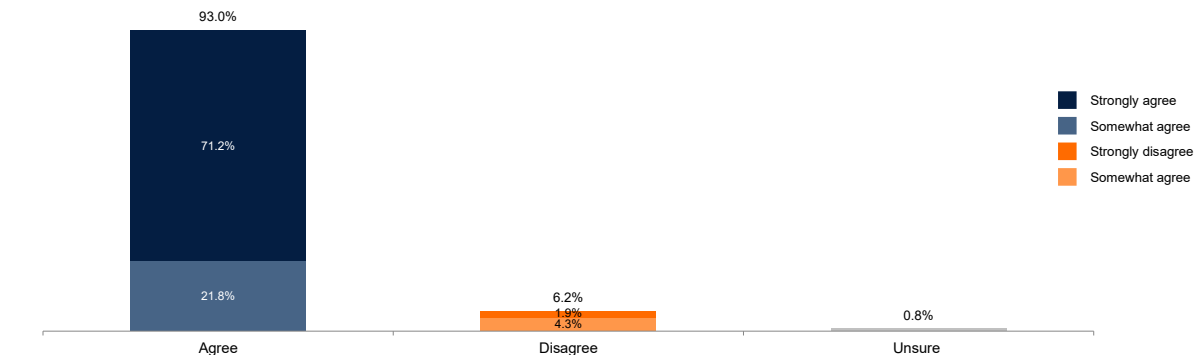


42

42

93% agree that having a park near their home is important

Question 18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Having a park near my home is important to me.**

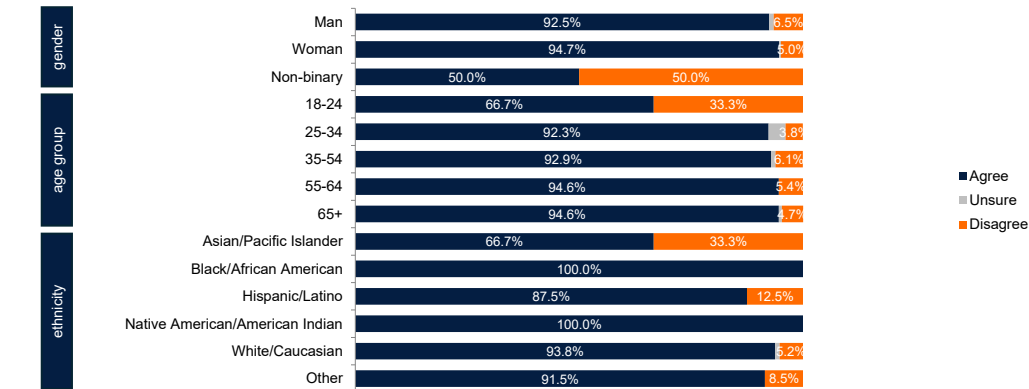


43

43

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Having a park near my home is important to me.**

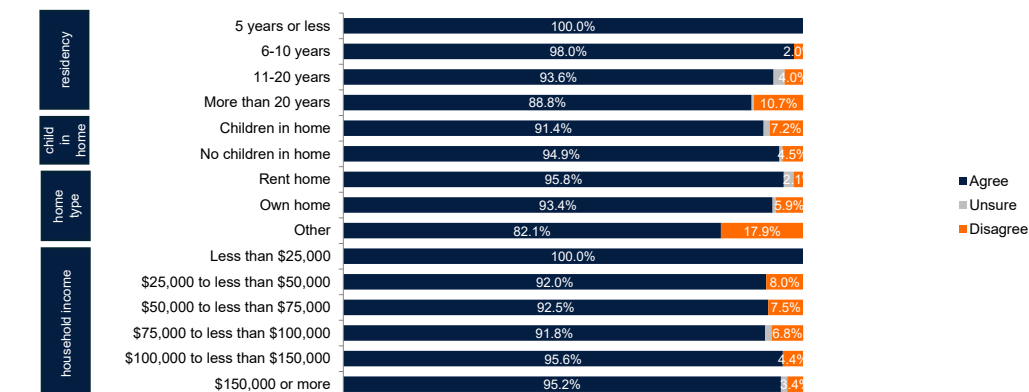


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44

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Having a park near my home is important to me.**

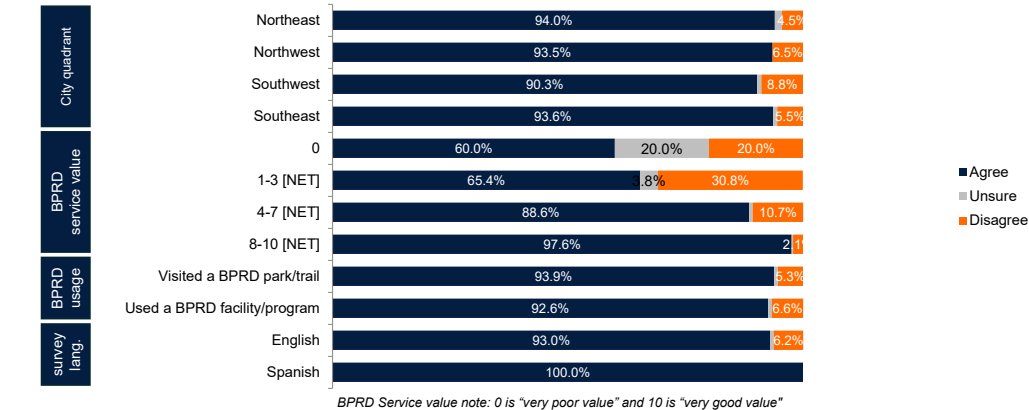


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45

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Having a park near my home is important to me.**

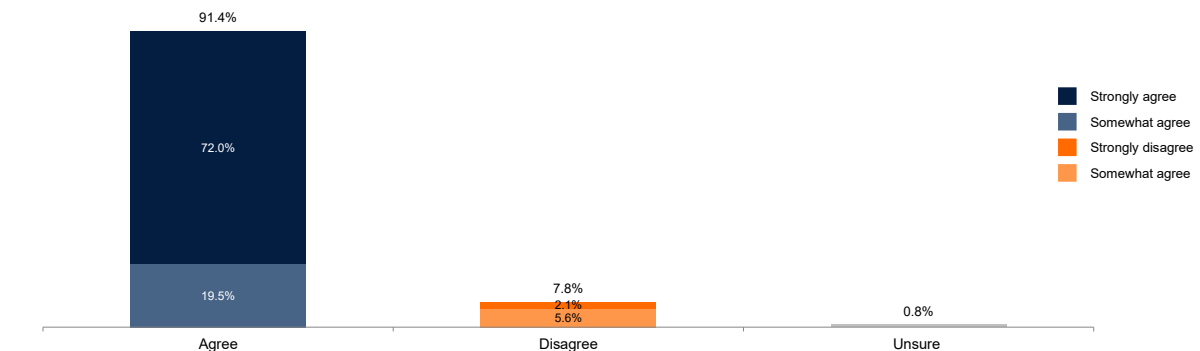


46

46

91% feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities

Question 19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.**

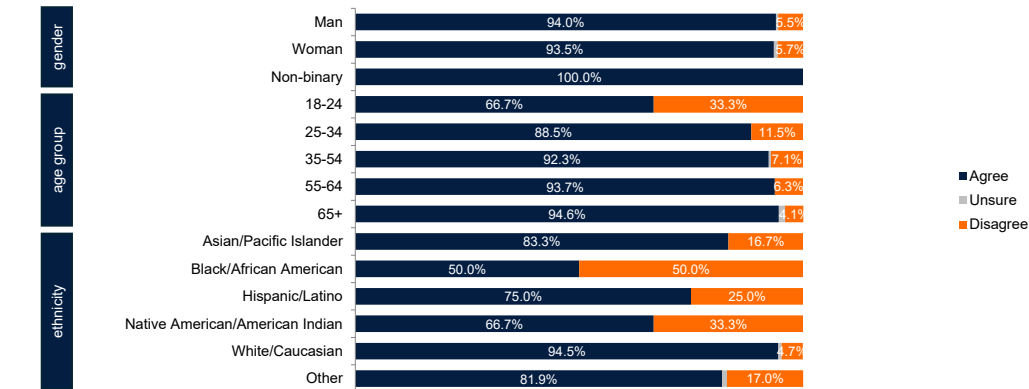


47

47

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.

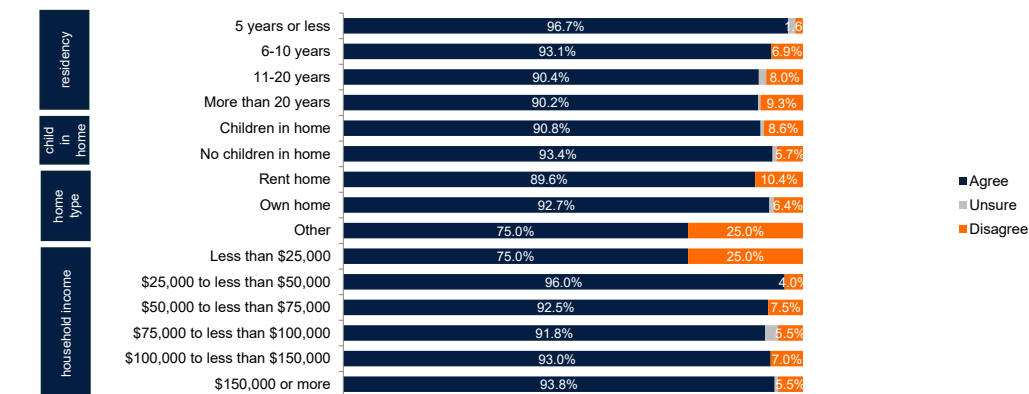


48

48

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.

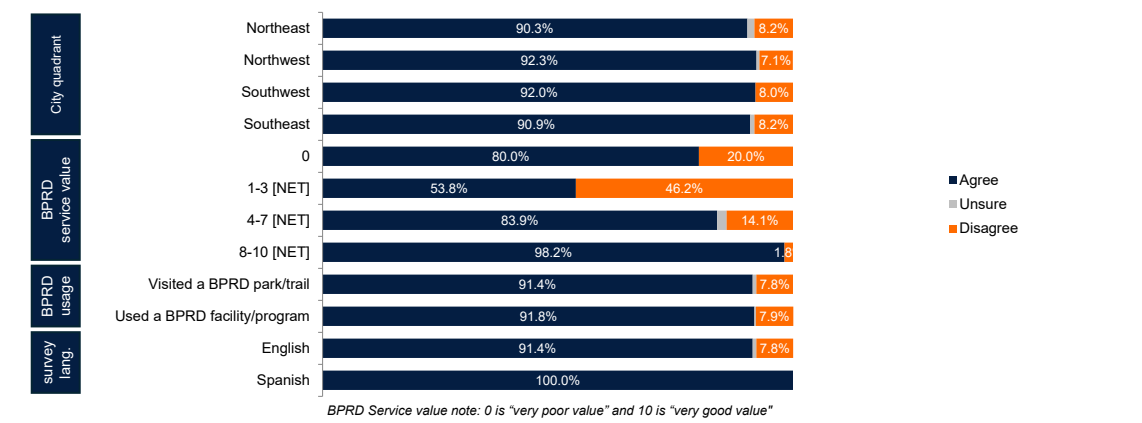


49

49

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

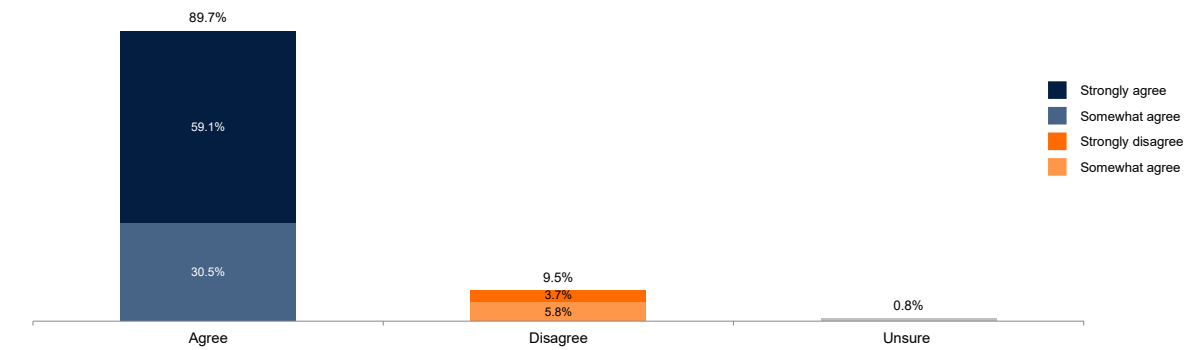
Question 19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.



50

90% feel safe when using district parks, trails, and facilities

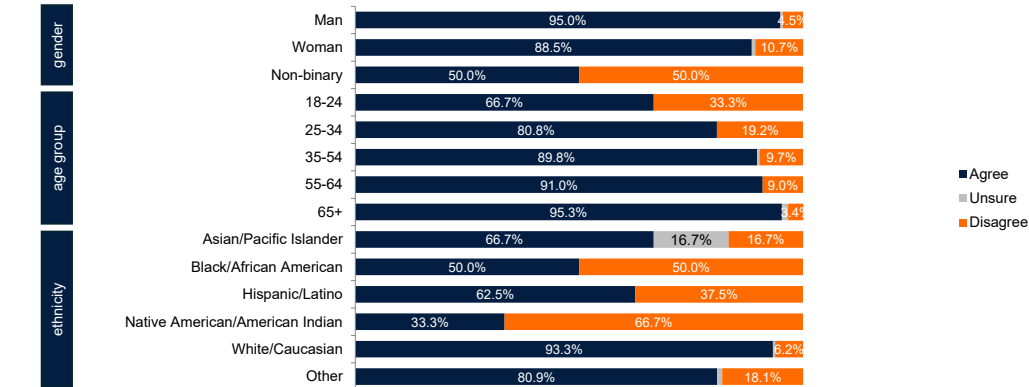
Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.



51

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.

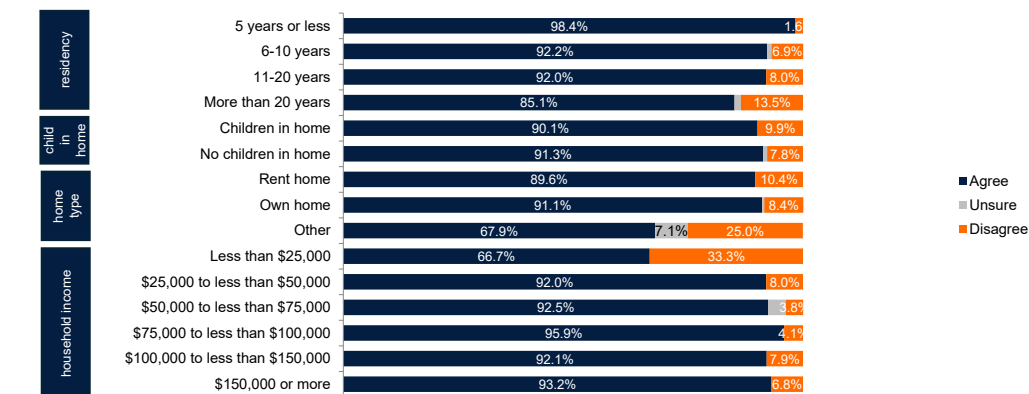


52

52

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.

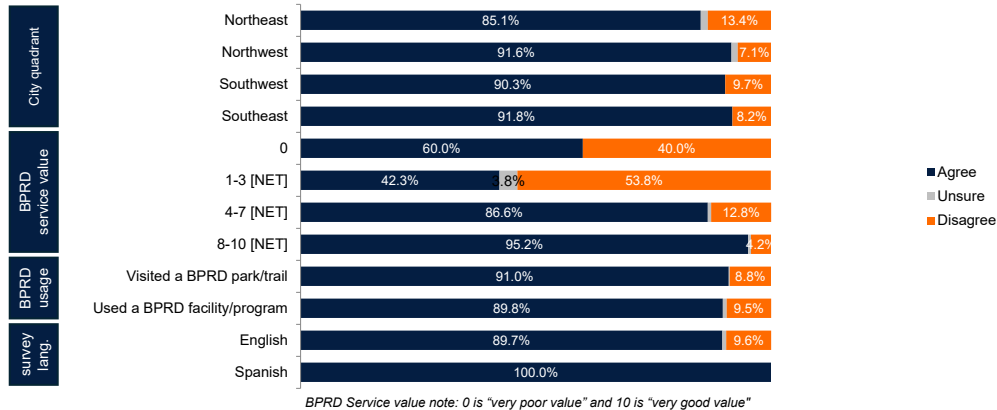


53

53

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.**

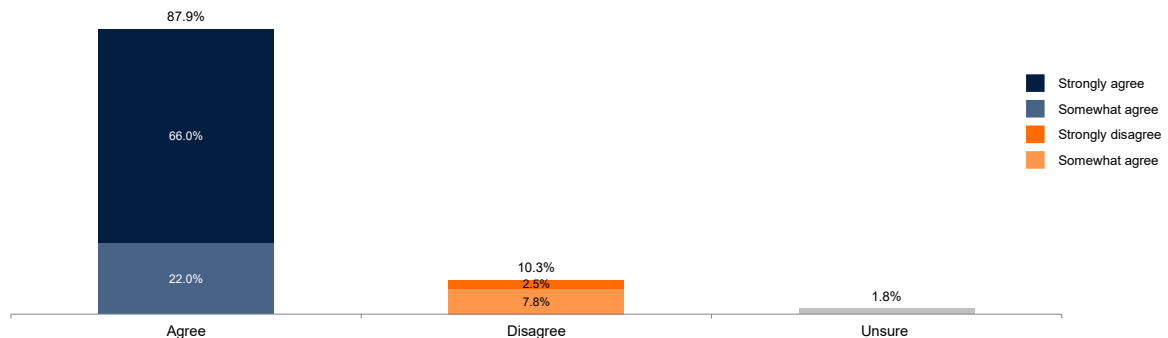


54

54

88% agree that parks and recreation opportunities support the local economy

Question 17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.**

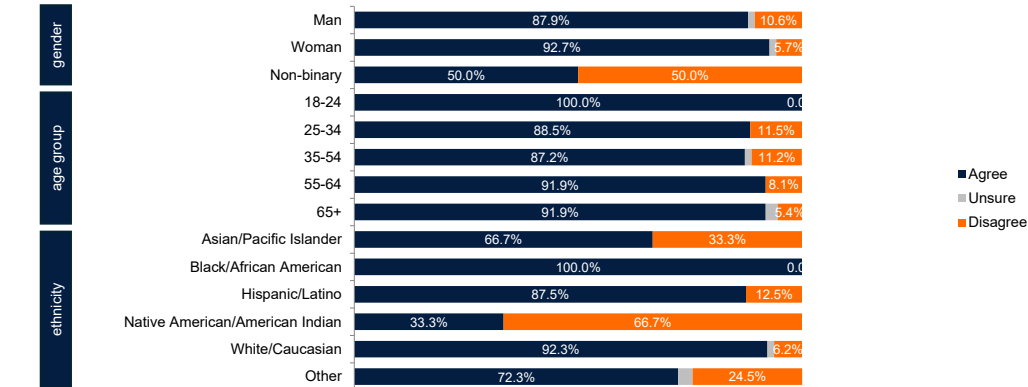


55

55

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.**

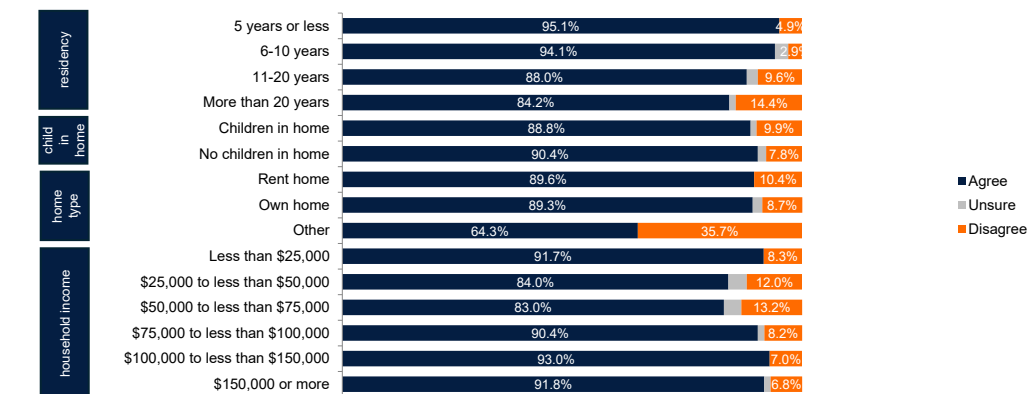


56

56

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.**

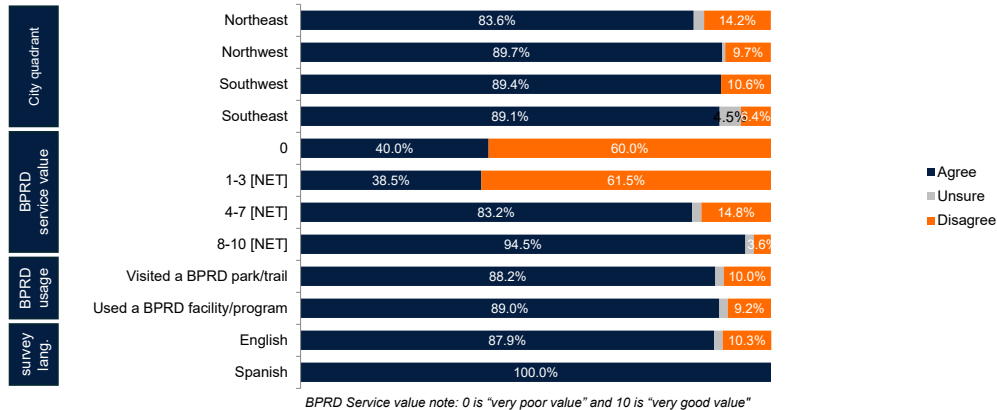


57

57

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.**



58

58

Statements effectiveness

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Maintains parks and trails very well	90.7%	7.6%	1.8%
Offers quality recreation programs and facilities	83.9%	10.3%	5.8%
Is a good steward of our environment	83.3%	11.5%	5.3%
Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community	78.0%	14.0%	8.0%
Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use	74.3%	16.3%	9.3%
Provides good customer service	73.9%	13.0%	13.0%
Is well managed	72.2%	18.3%	9.5%
Partners effectively with others in the community	56.2%	17.3%	26.5%

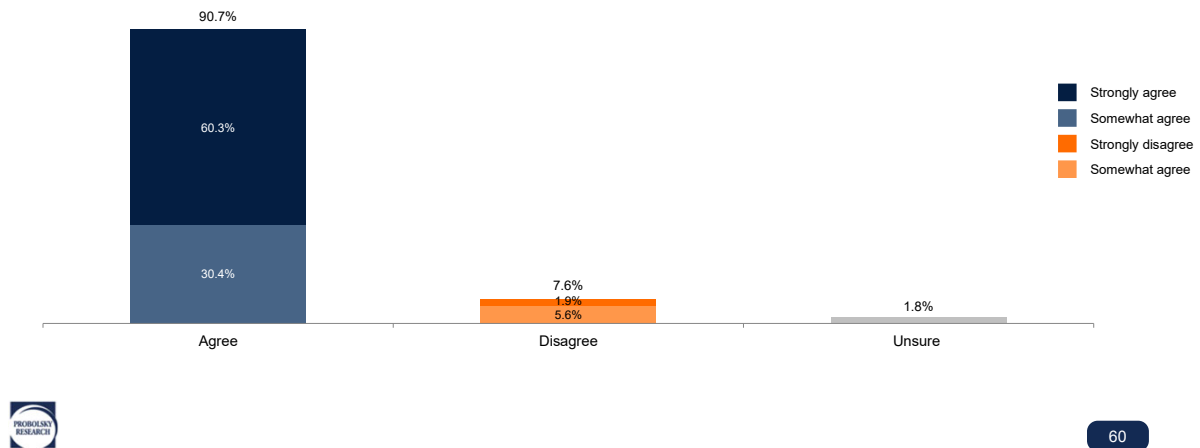


59

59

91% agree that BPRD maintains parks and trails very well

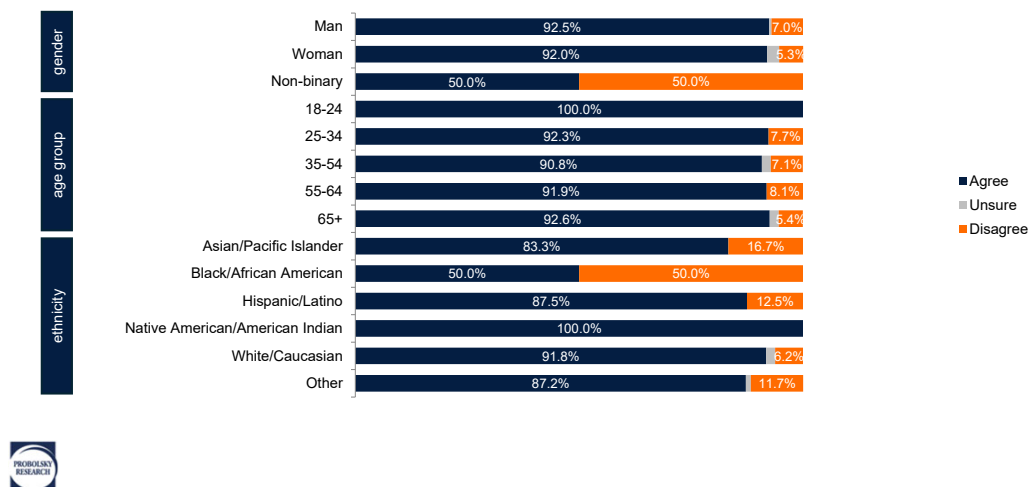
Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**



60

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

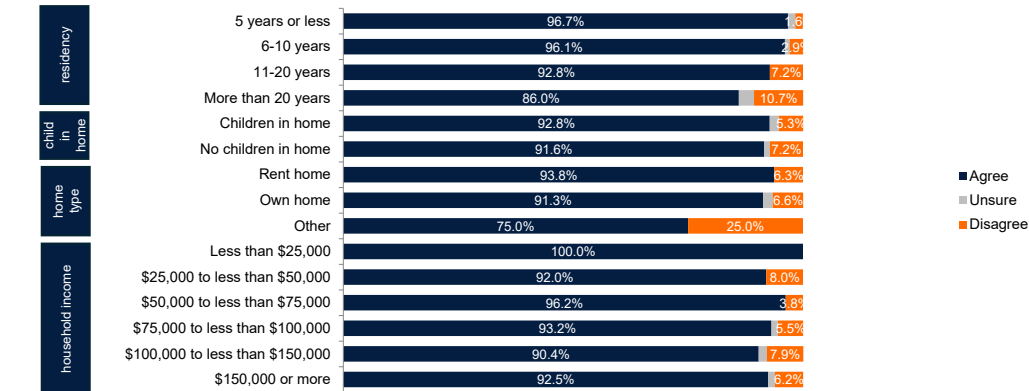
Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**



61

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**

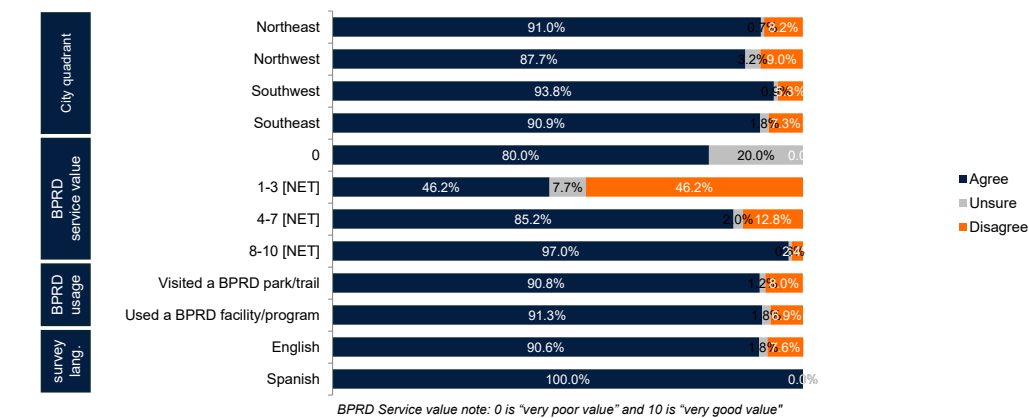


62

62

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Maintains parks and trails very well.**

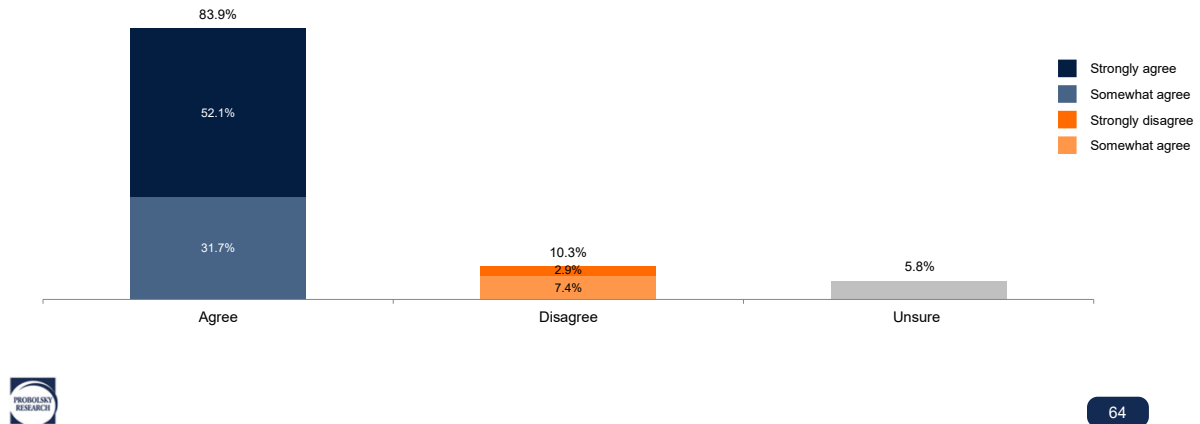


63

63

84% agree that BPRD offers quality recreation programs and facilities

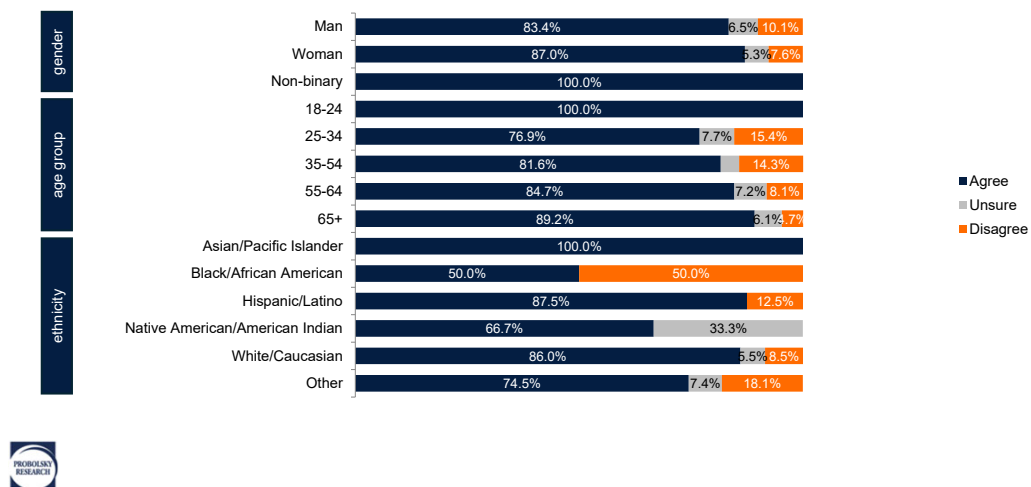
Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**



64

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

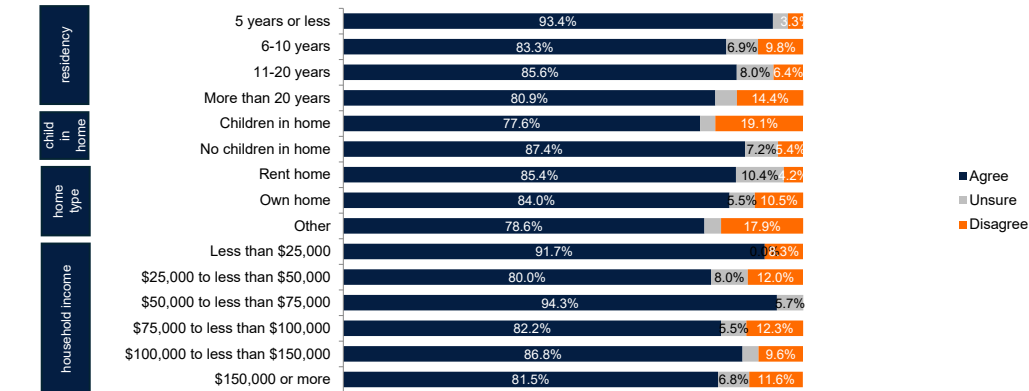
Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**



65

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**

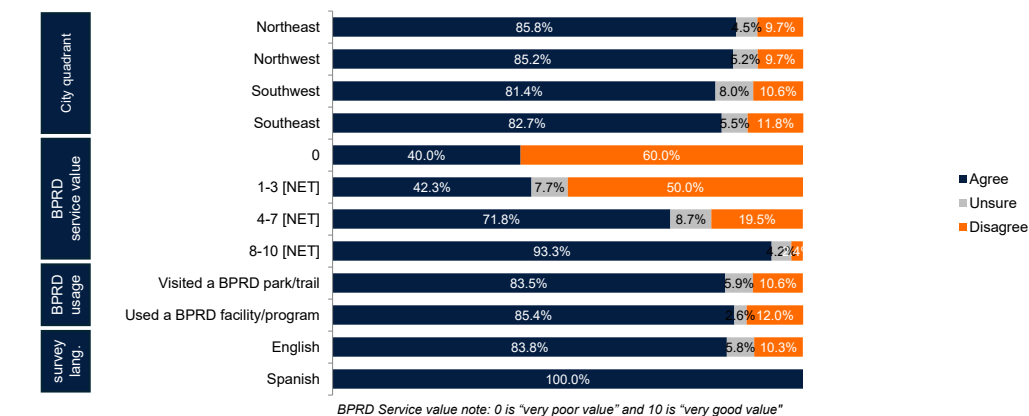


66

66

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.**

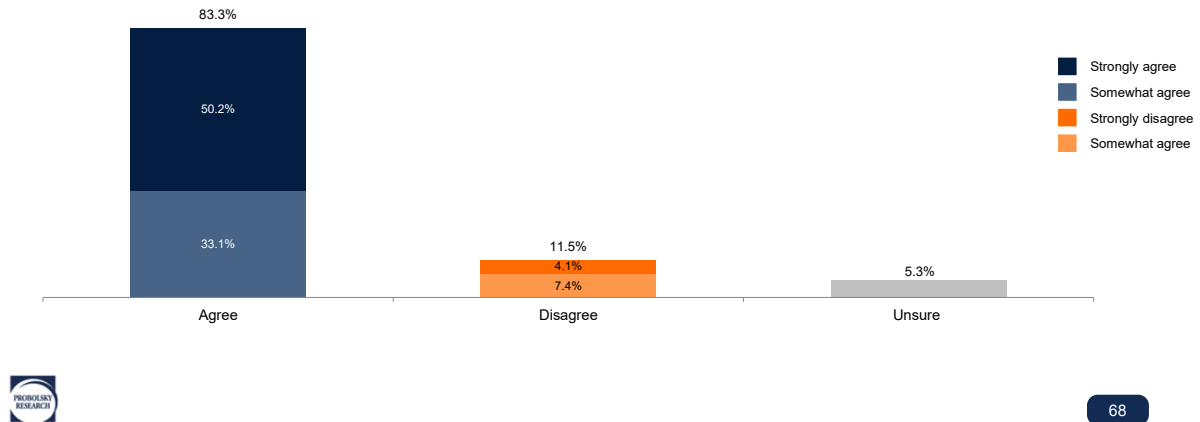


67

67

83% agree that BPRD is a good environmental steward

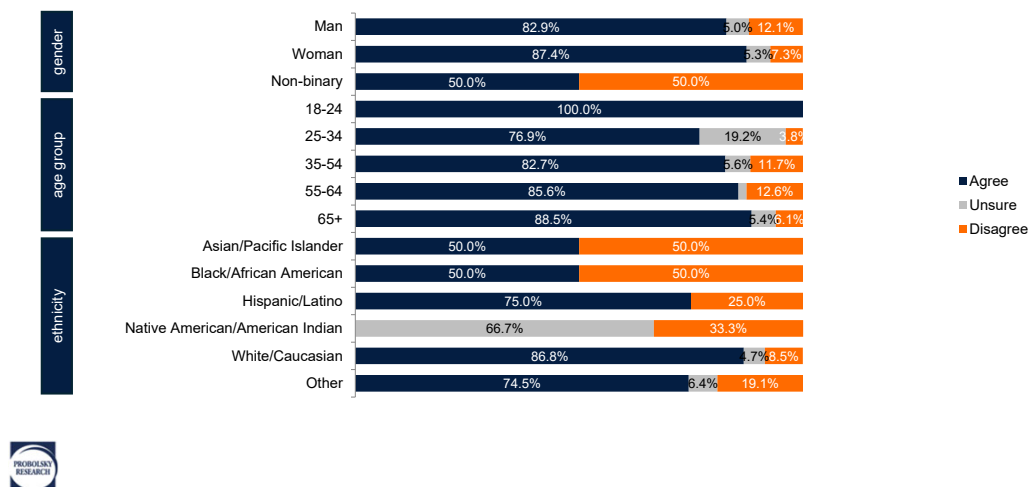
Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**



68

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

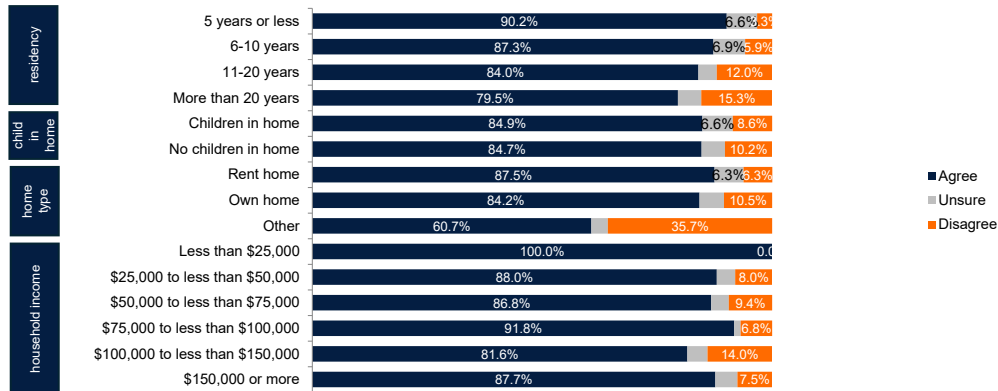
Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**



69

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**

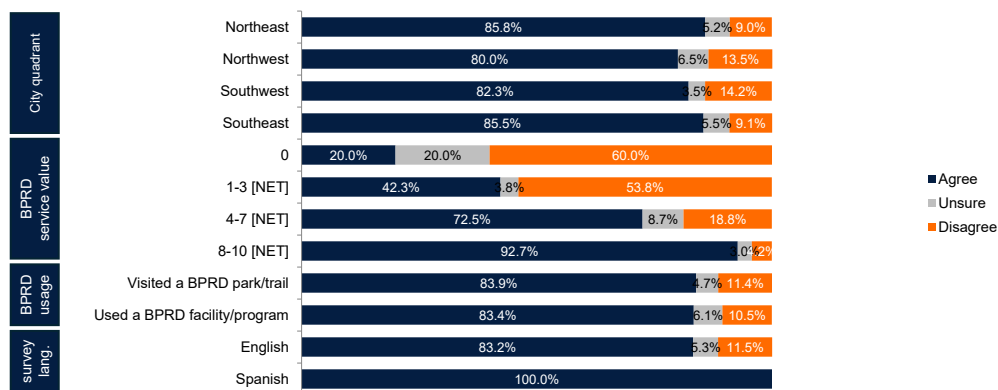


70

70

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a good steward of our environment.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

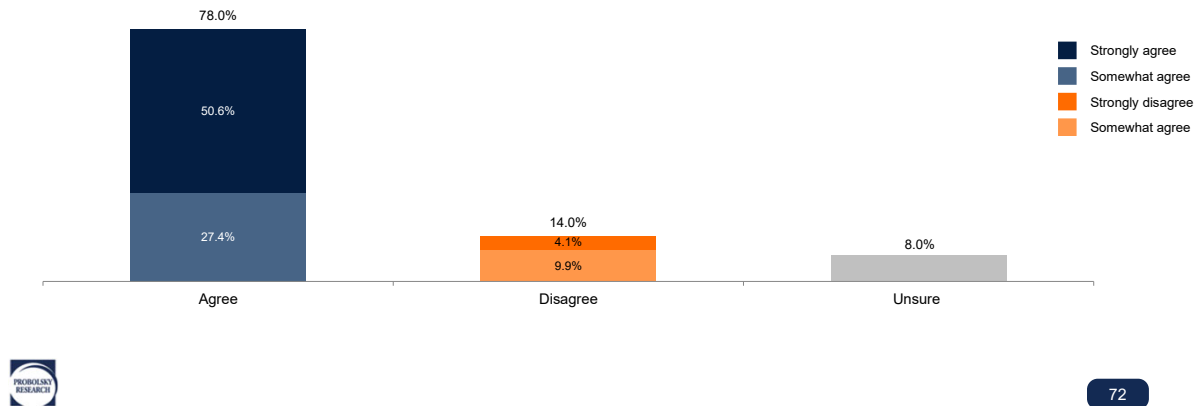


71

71

78% agree that BPRD provides inclusive services for all members of the community

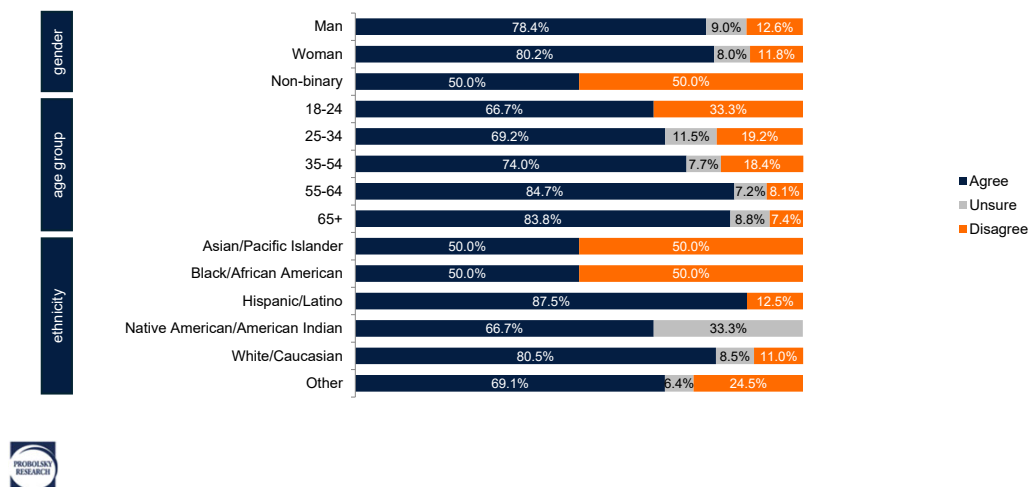
Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**



72

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

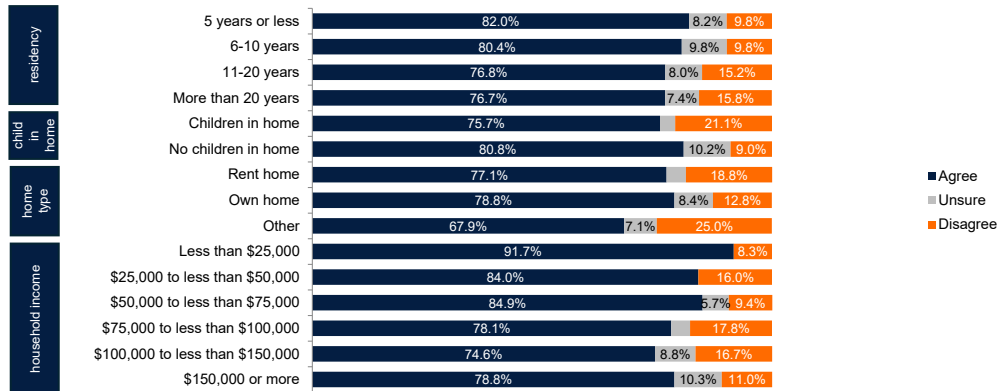
Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**



73

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**

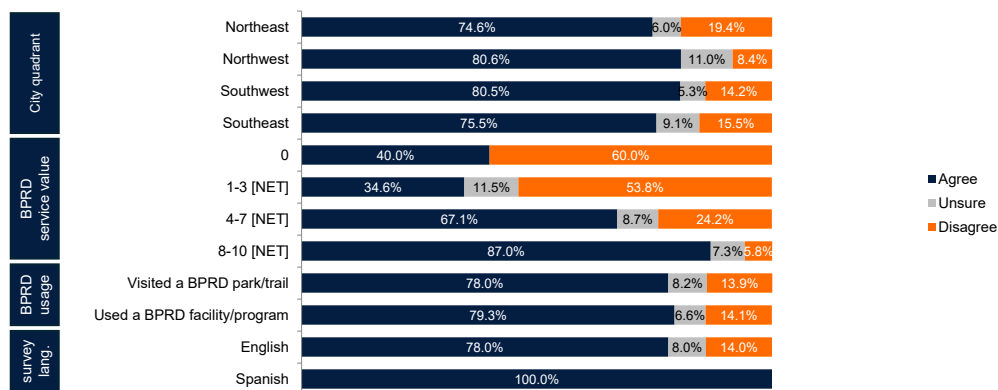


74

74

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

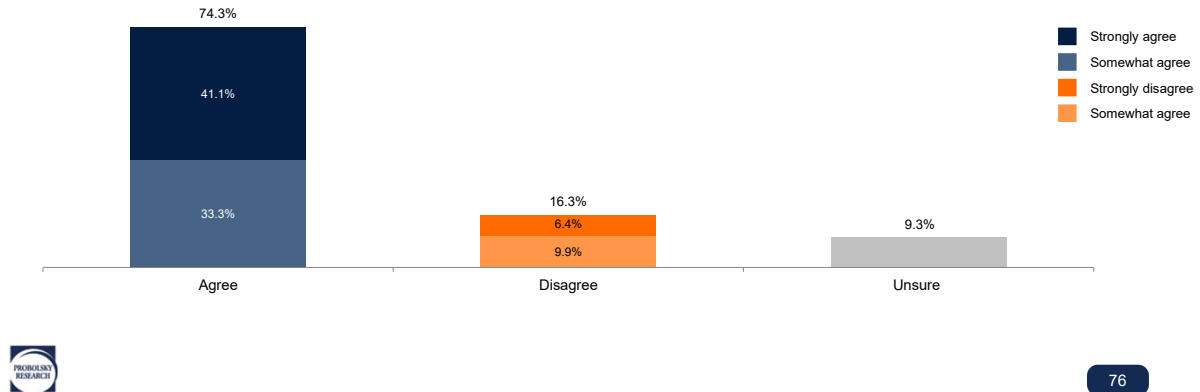


75

75

74% agree that fees for recreation programs and facility use are reasonable

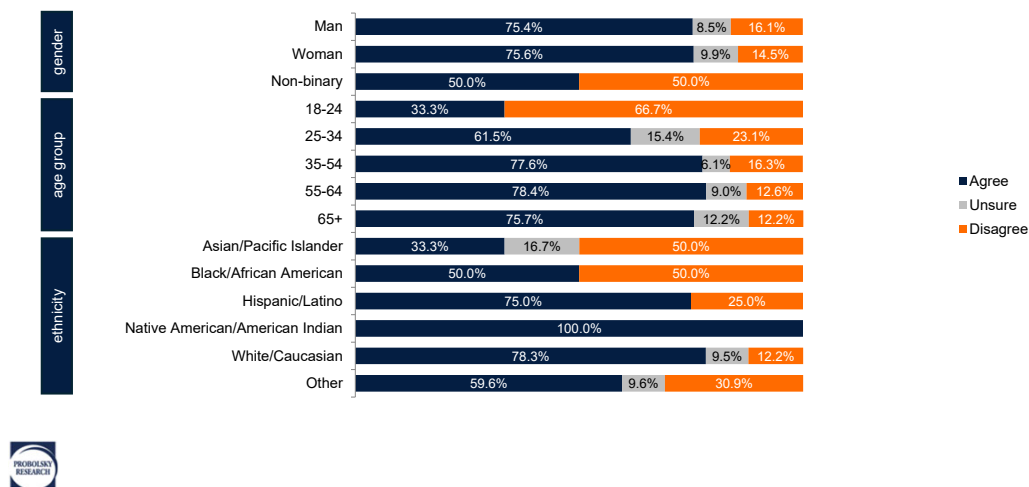
Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**



76

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

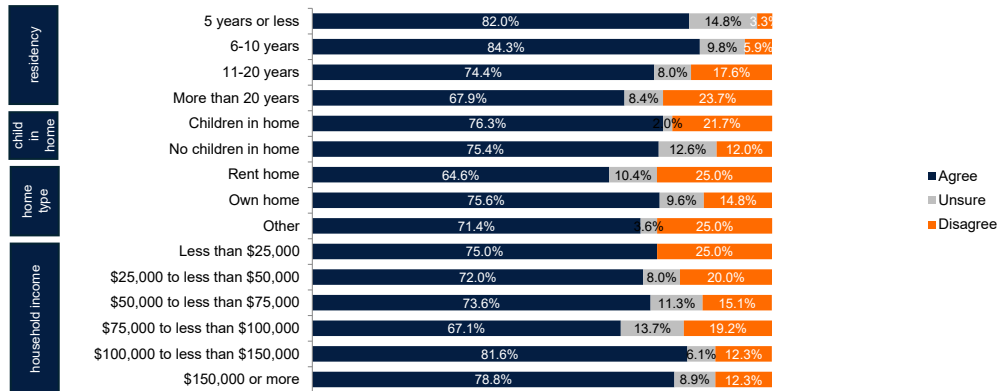
Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**



77

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**

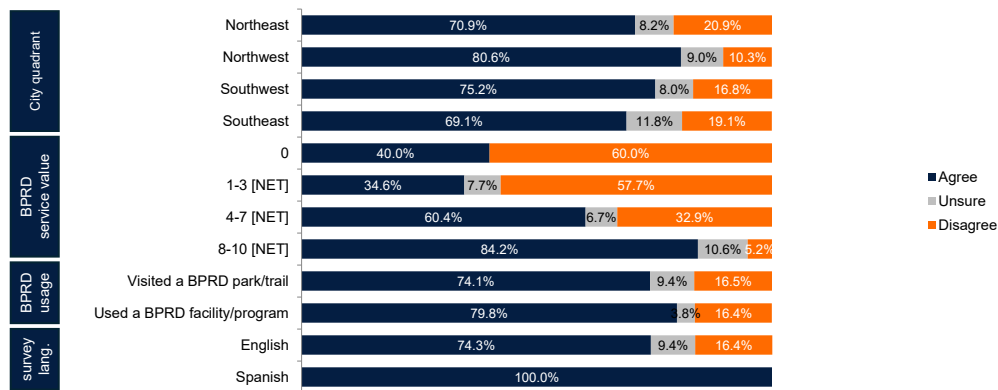


78

78

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

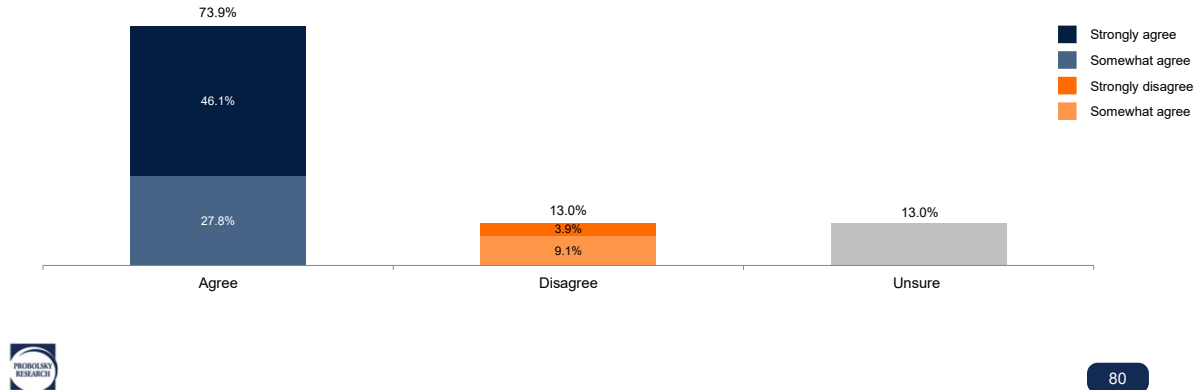


79

79

74% agree that BPRD provides good customer service

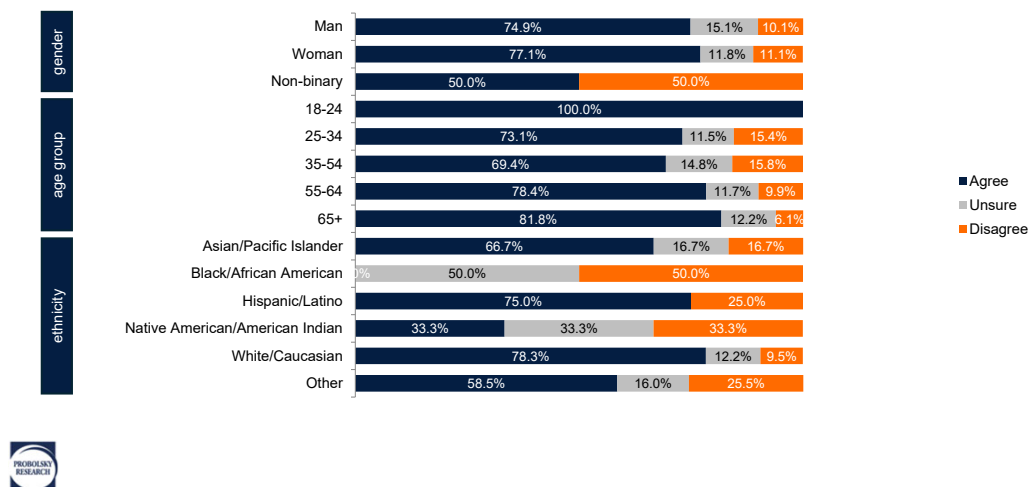
Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**



80

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

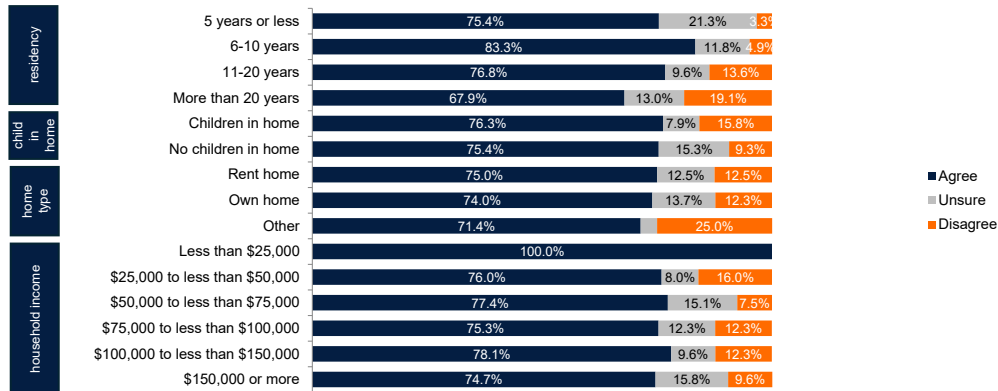
Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**



81

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**

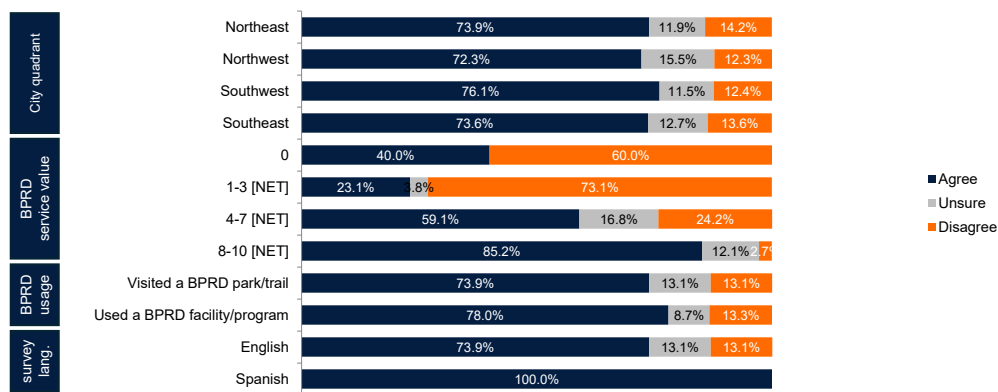


82

82

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Provides good customer service.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

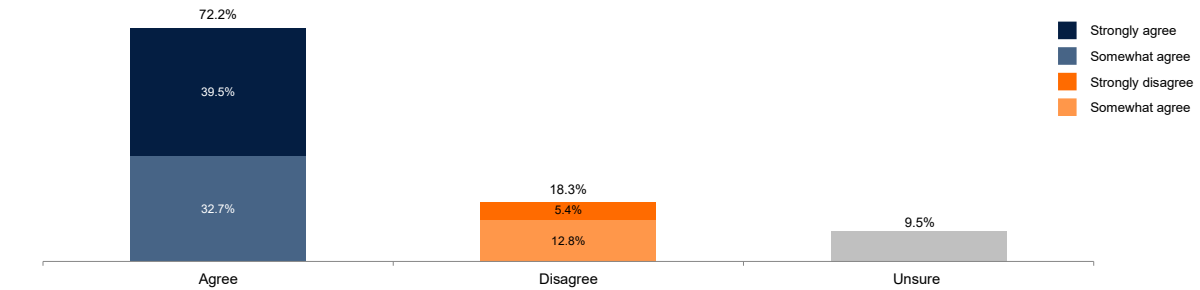


83

83

72% agree that BPRD is well managed

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

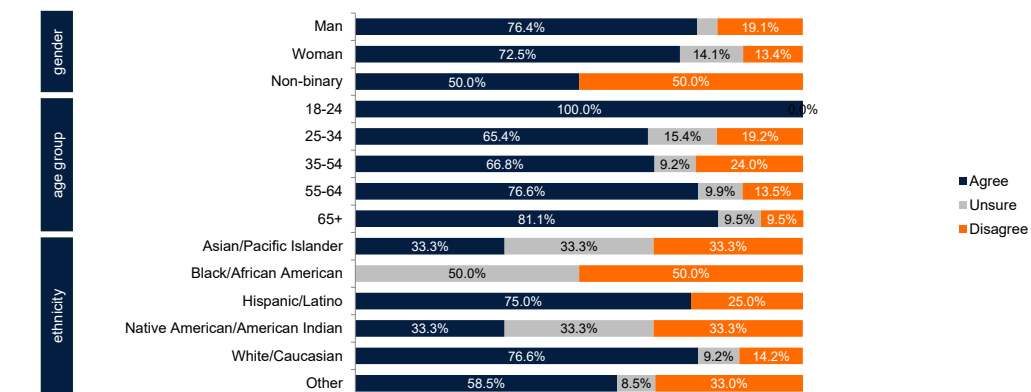


84

84

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

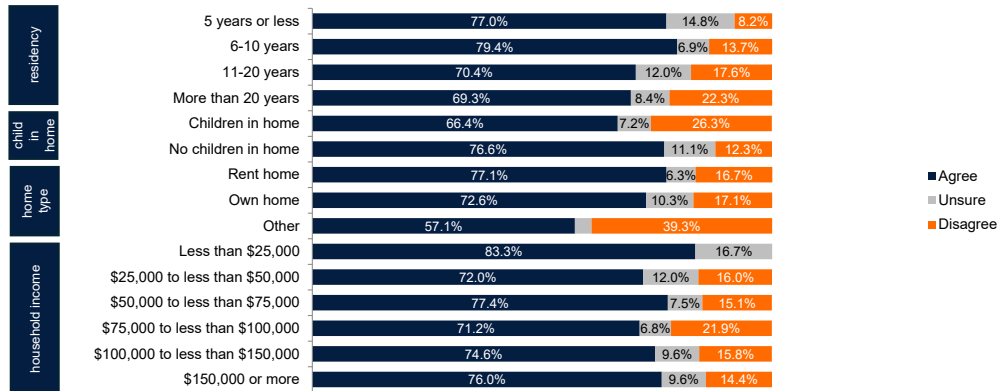


85

85

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is well managed.**

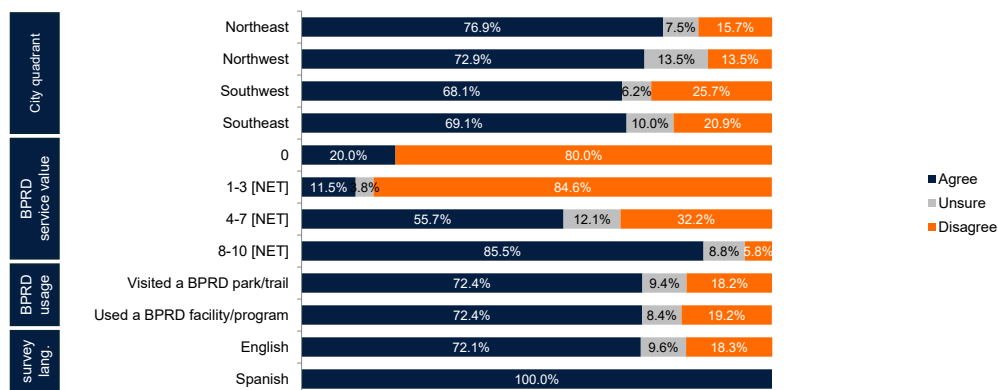


86

86

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

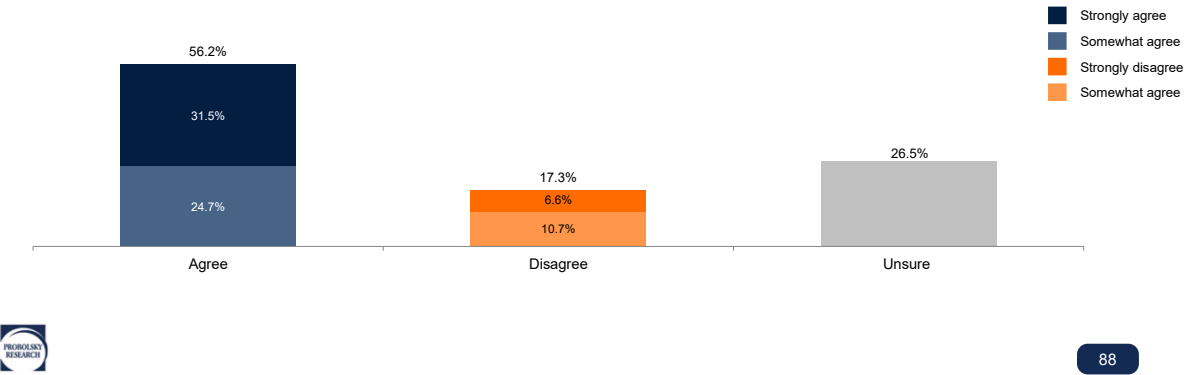


87

87

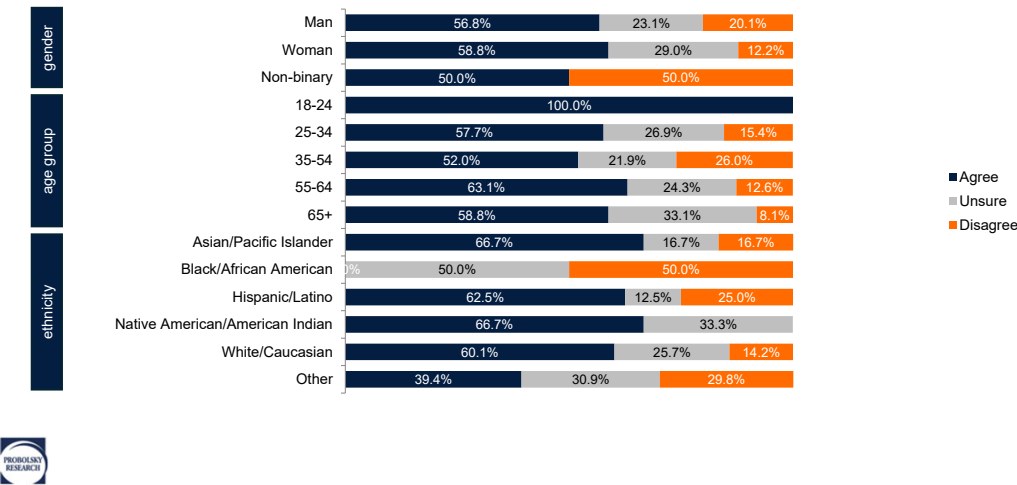
56% agree that BPRD partners effectively with others in the community

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**



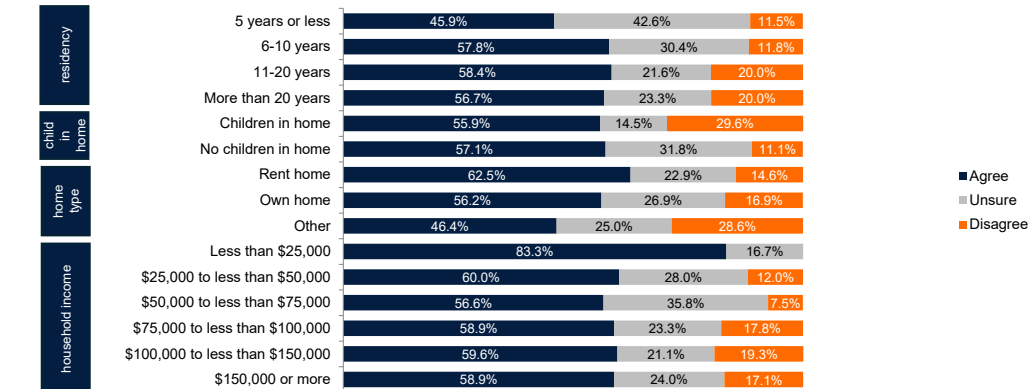
Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**



Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**

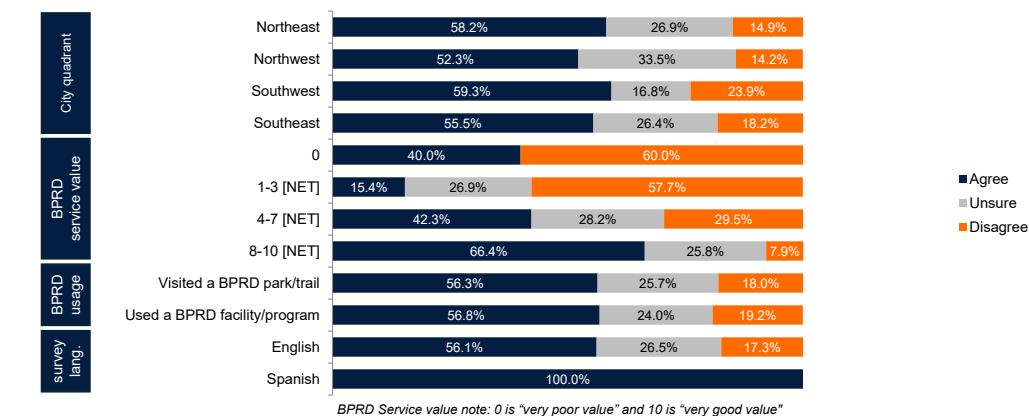


90

90

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Partners effectively with others in the community.**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"



91

91

Statements effectiveness

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Is a trustworthy organization	72.8%	17.3%	9.9%
Uses taxpayer money wisely	62.3%	28.4%	9.3%
Is transparent with the public	61.9%	25.1%	13.0%



92

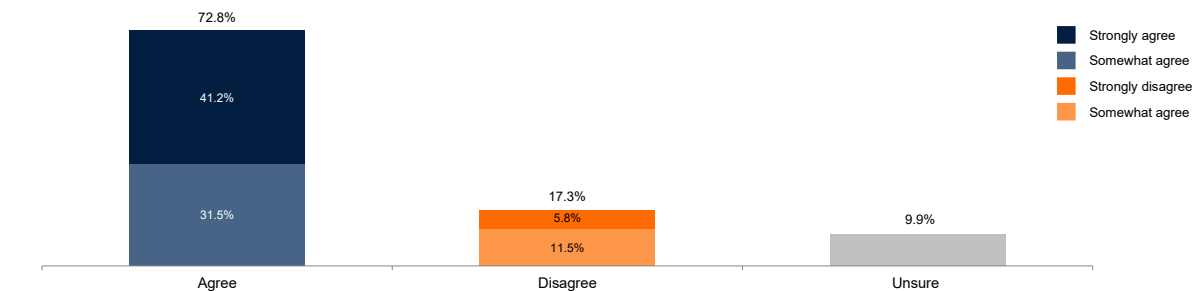
92

73% agree that BPRD is a trustworthy organization

The Bend Park and Recreation District is funded primarily from property taxes, user fees, and fees on new houses and hotels. Oregon law requires these funds to be used for operations, maintenance, and development of park and recreation services throughout the community.

The district's permanent property tax rate is \$1.461 per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value). For example, a home with a tax assessed value of \$300,000 pays \$438.30 annually to the district.

Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization**



93

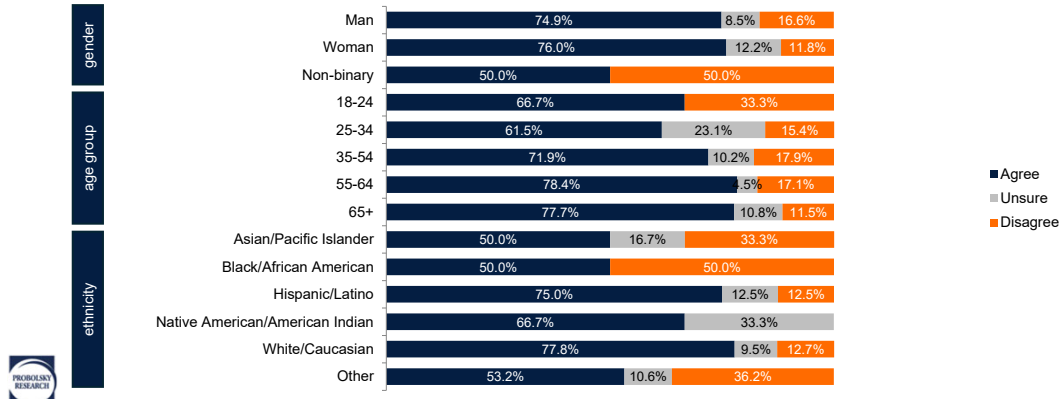
93

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization**



94

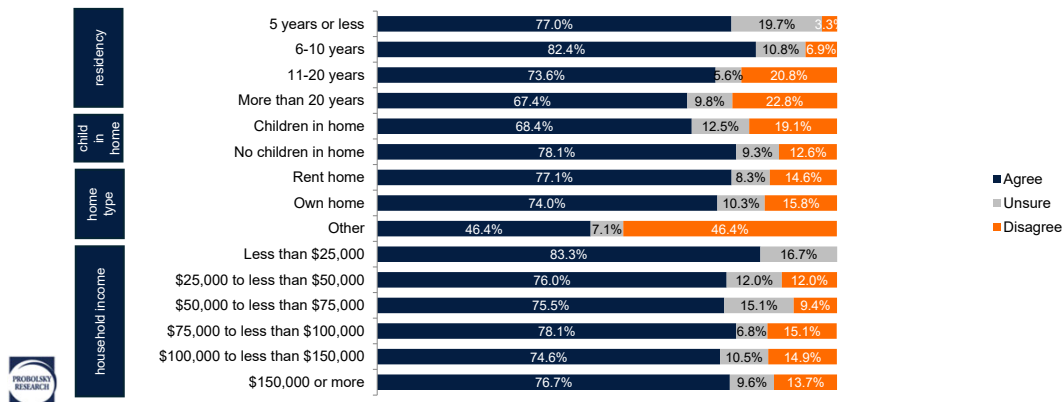
94

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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95

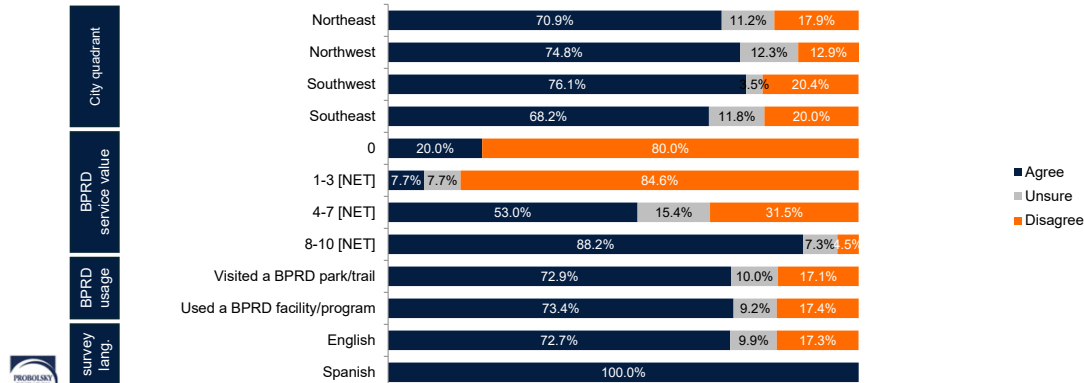
95

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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Question 31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is a trustworthy organization**



BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

96

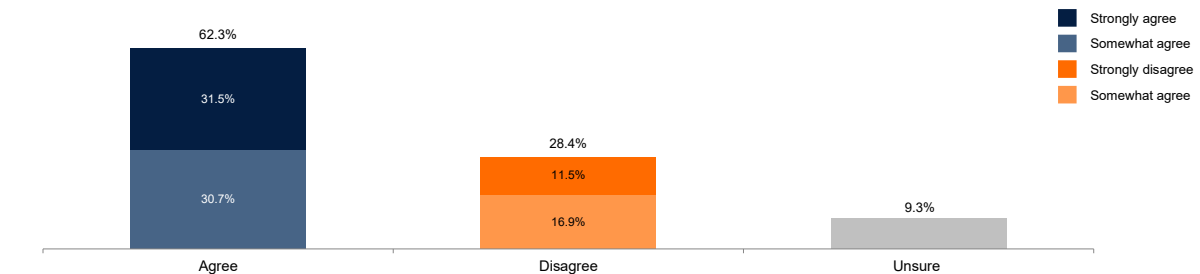
96

62% agree that BPRD uses taxpayer money wisely

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Question 29: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Uses taxpayer money wisely.**



97

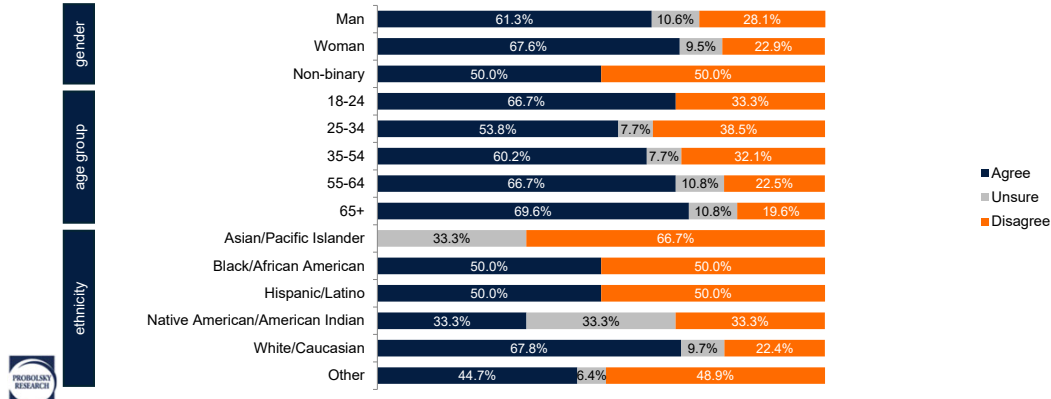
97

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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98

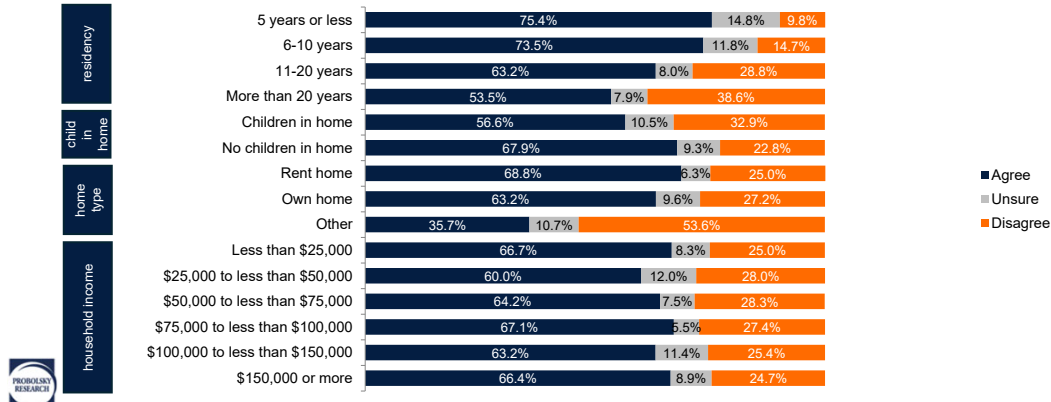
98

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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99

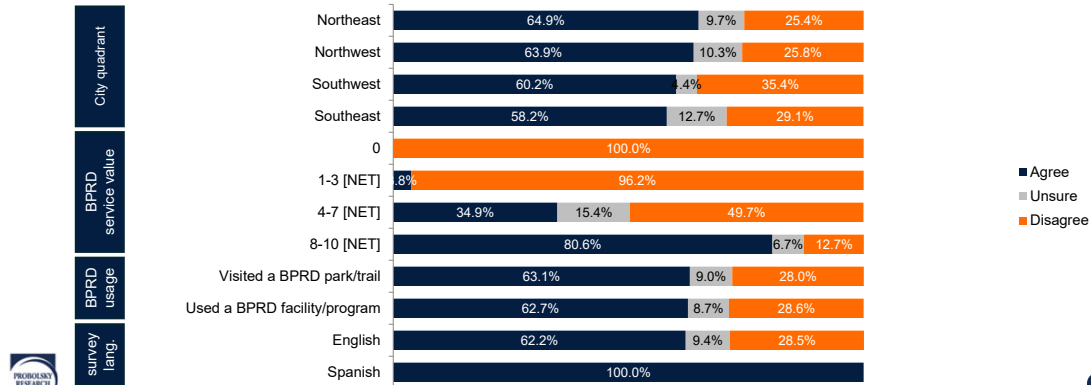
99

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

100

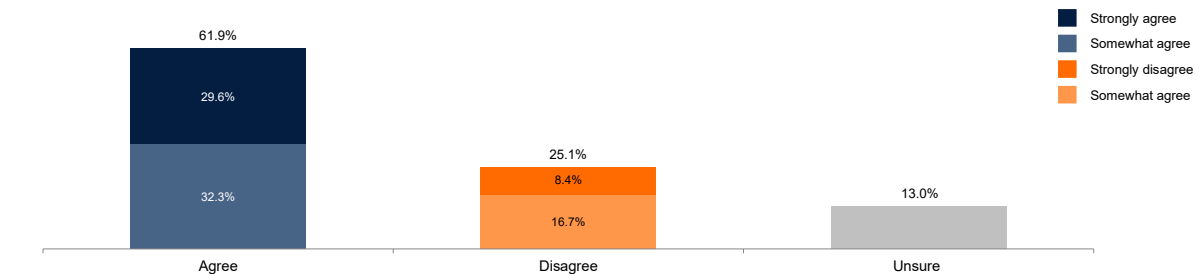
100

62% agree that BPRD is transparent with the public

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Question 30: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? **Is transparent with the public.**



101

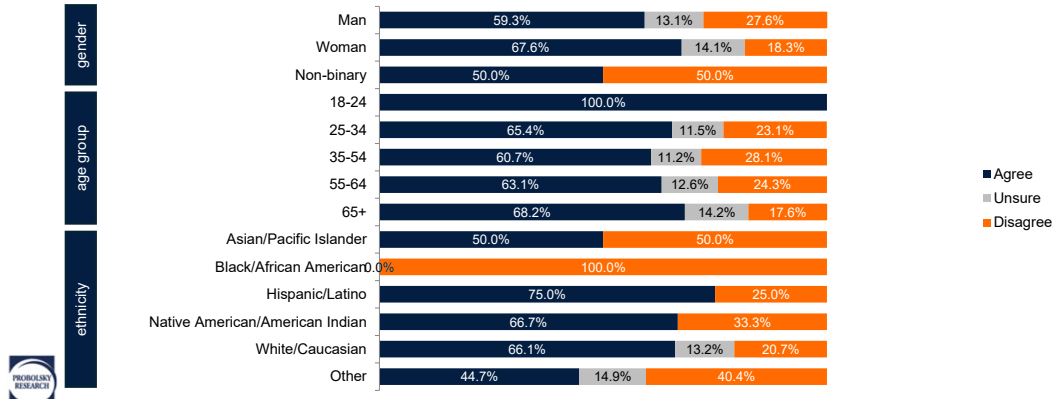
101

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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102

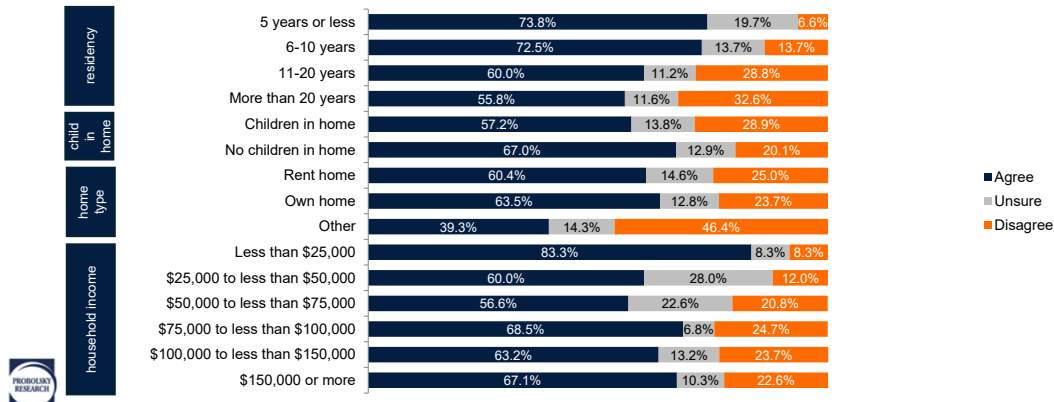
102

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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103

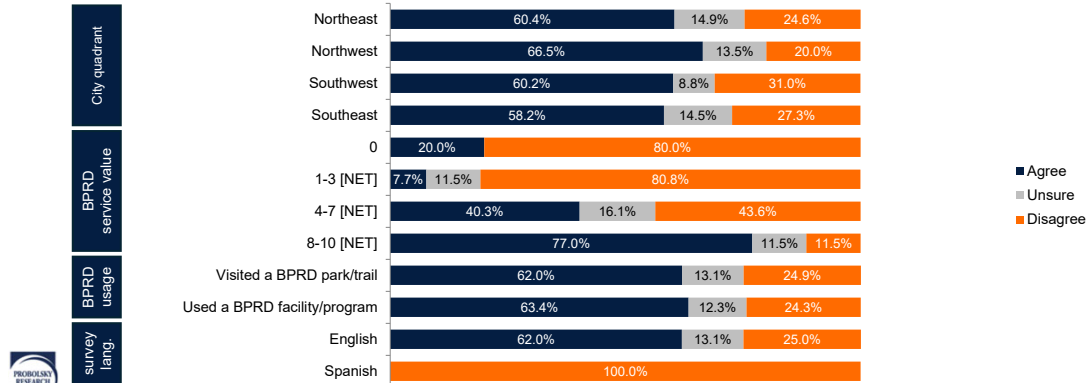
103

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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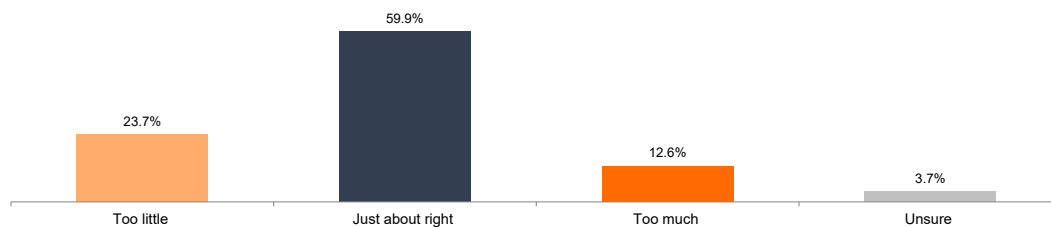
BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

104

104

60% think the level of services provided by BPRD is just about right

Question 32: Do you believe the level of parks, trails, and recreation services provided by the Bend Park and Recreation District is:

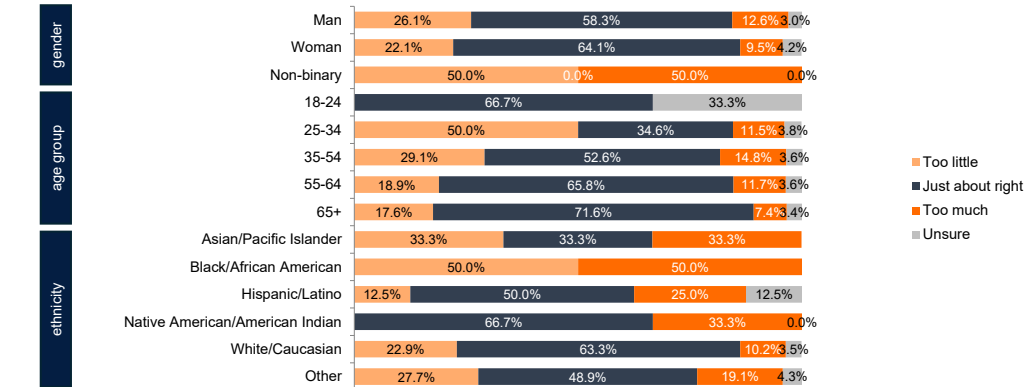


105

105

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 32: Do you believe the level of parks, trails, and recreation services provided by the Bend Park and Recreation District is:

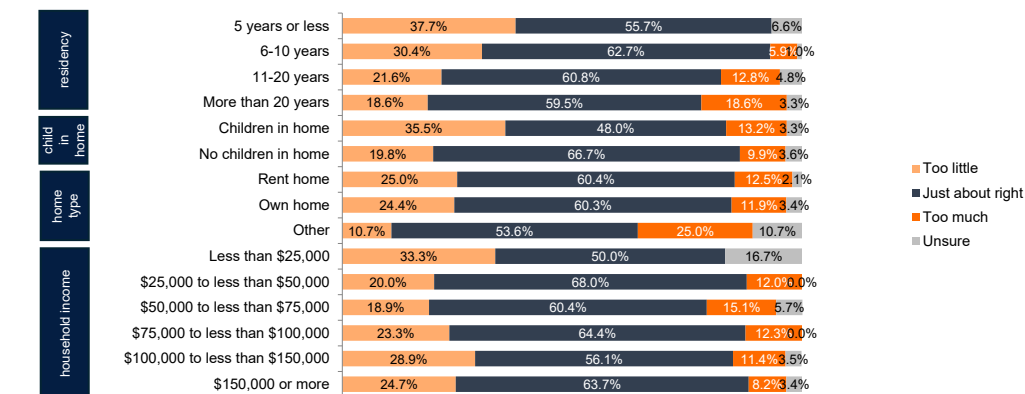


106

106

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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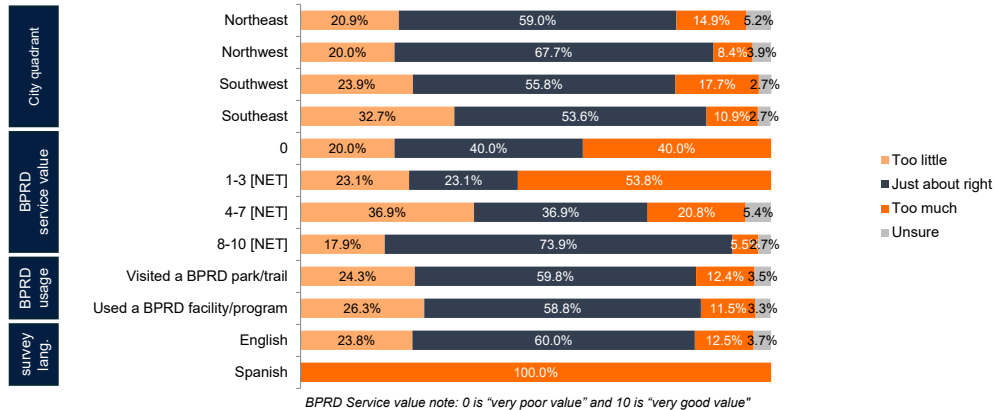


107

107

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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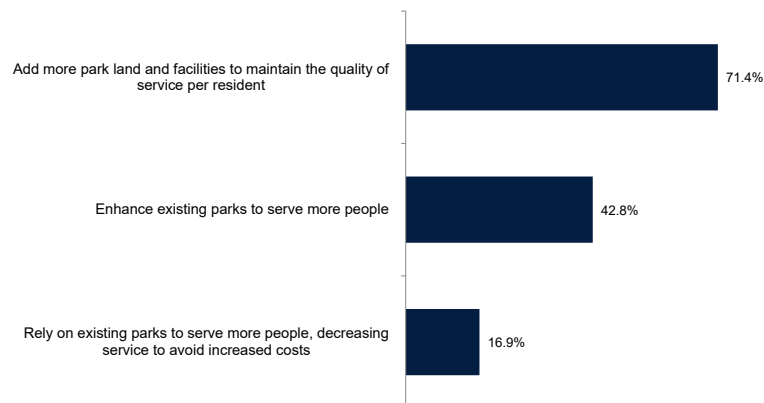


108

108

Residents prioritize adding park land as Bend grows

Question 33: Future growth in Bend will increase the density of housing in some neighborhoods. Which of the following approaches to serving more densely populated areas do you support? Select all that apply.

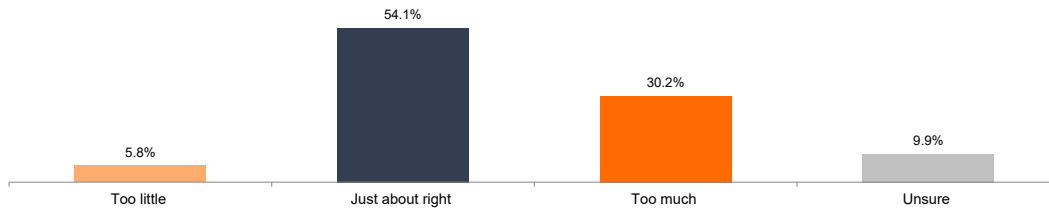


109

109

54% think the amount of taxes paid to fund BPRD is just about right

Question 34: Do you feel the amount of taxes you pay to fund Bend Park and Recreation District for services provided is?

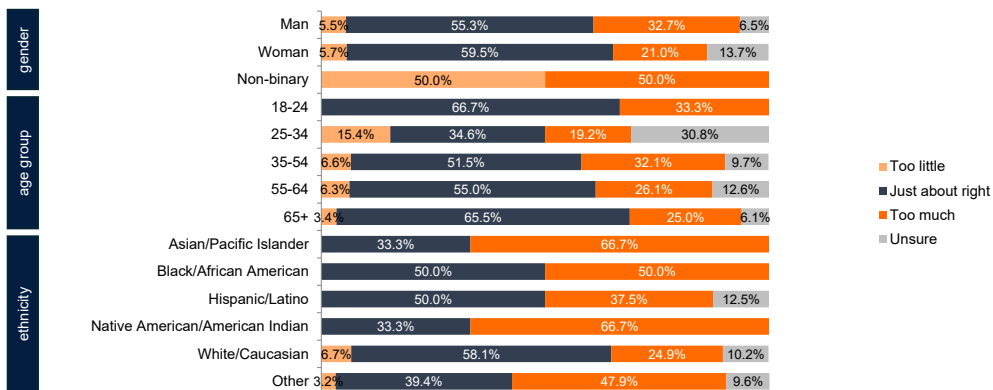


110

110

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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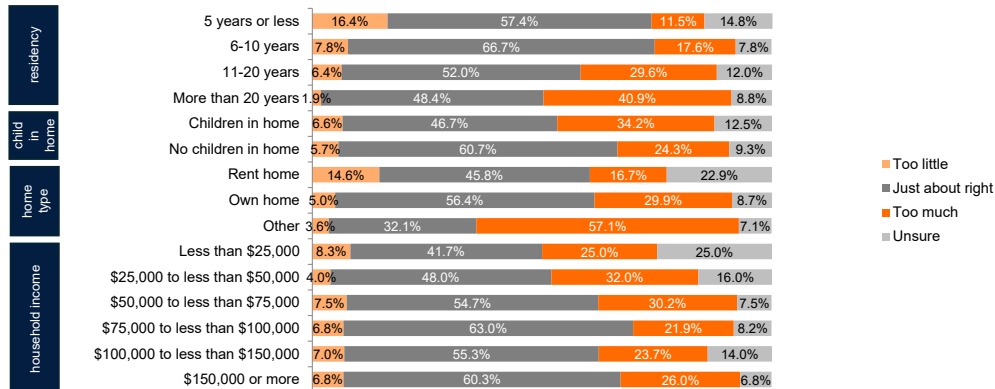


111

111

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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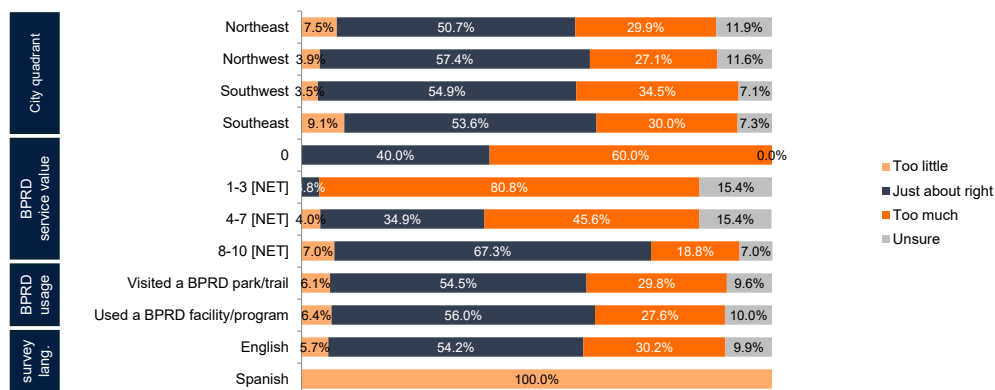


112

112

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

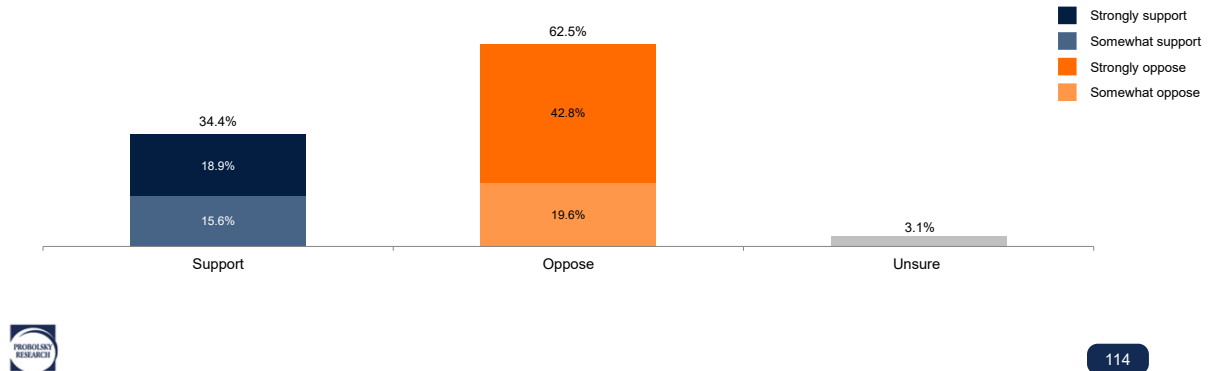


113

113

63% oppose waiving the fee on new affordable housing projects

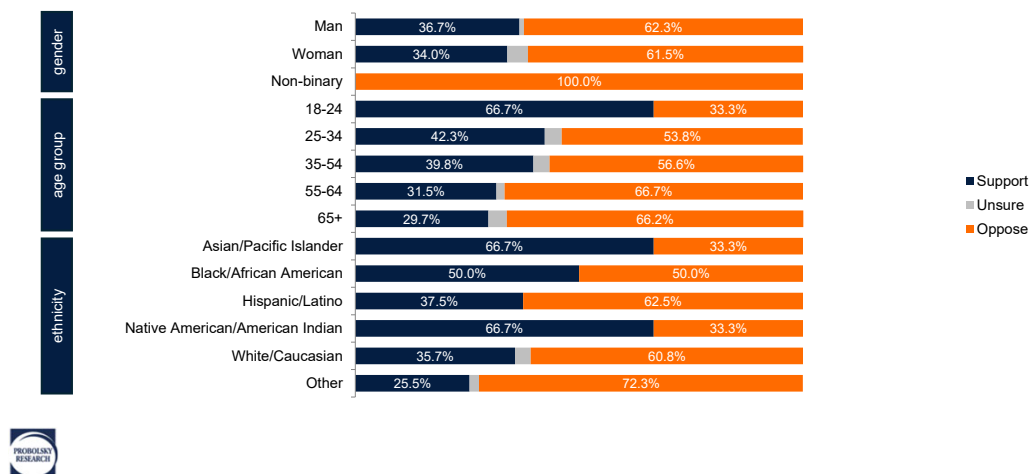
Question 35: Currently, a fee is charged on the construction of new residences in Bend to pay for additional parks, roads, sewer, and water services to serve population growth. A portion of the fee goes to Park and Recreation District to help build parks and trails. Waiving this portion of the fee would help make affordable housing projects more affordable but would also mean reducing park and recreation services. Would you support or oppose waiving this portion of the fee on new affordable housing projects?



114

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

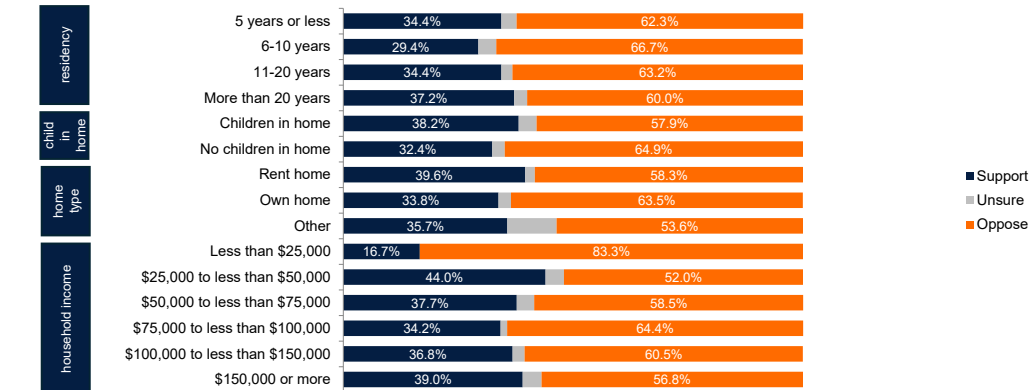
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115

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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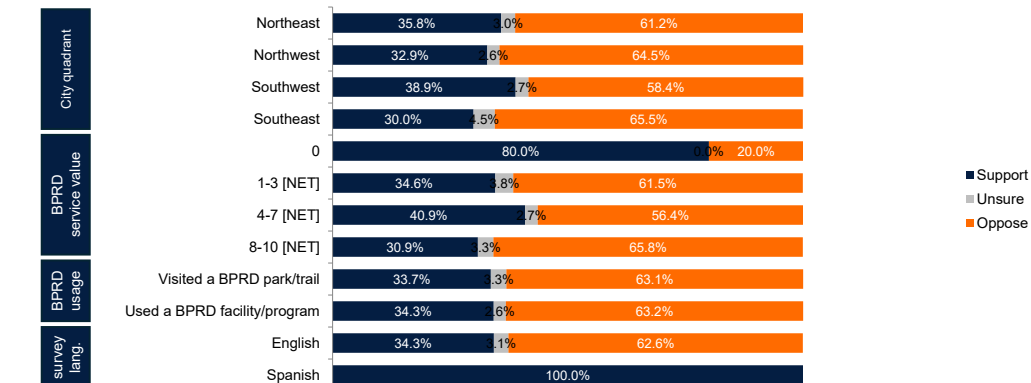


116

116

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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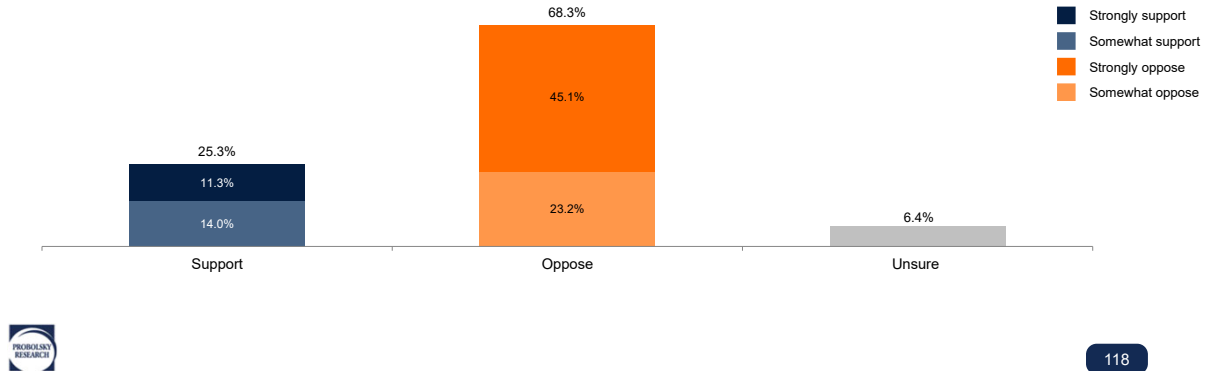


117

117

68% oppose property tax exemptions

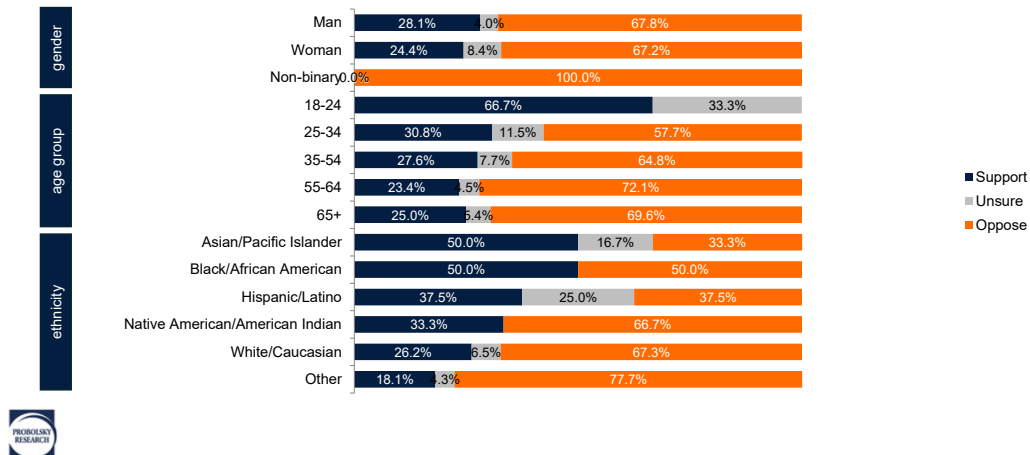
Question 36: Currently, the City of Bend has a number of tax exemption programs where the property taxes received by the City and other taxing districts are waived to support the development of housing and economic development. Property tax exemptions support the development of housing and economic development, but also have impacts on the monies available for park and recreation operations and maintenance. Would you support or oppose property tax exemptions that would impact park and recreation operations and maintenance monies to support housing and economic development?



118

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

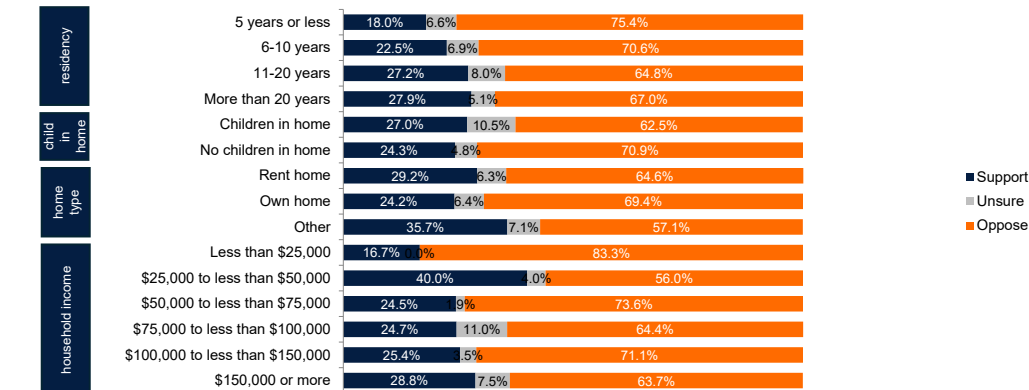
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119

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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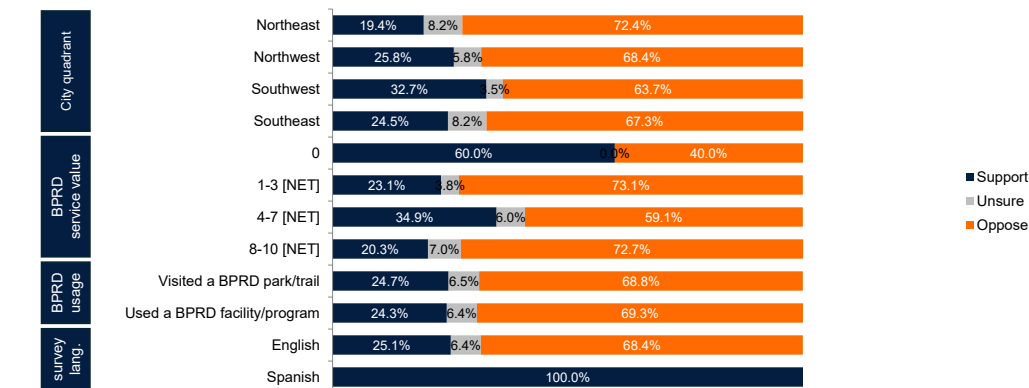


120

120

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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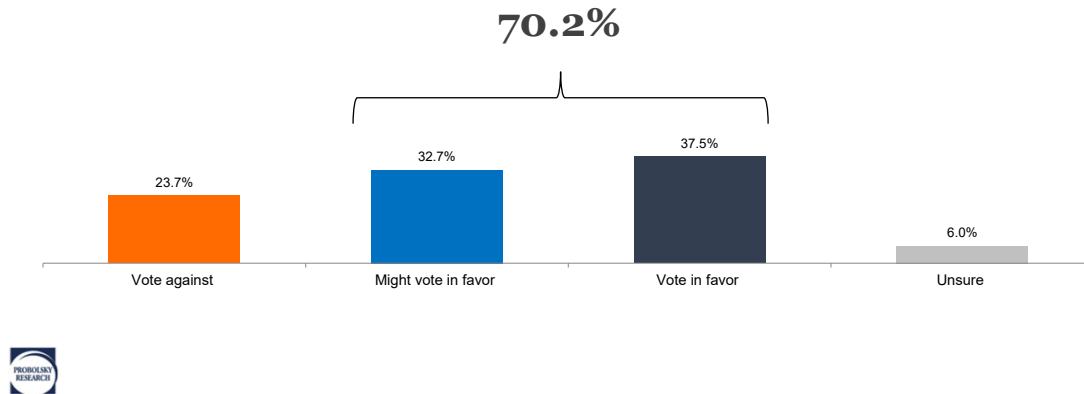
121

121

70% may be willing to vote for a BPRD bond measure

Bonds are used to fund construction and new development projects for the Bend Park and Recreation District. Bonds must be approved by voters, and funding is provided based on property values. There has been one voter approved bond, in 2012, since the formation of the district.

Question 37: How willing are you to vote for a bond measure to fund the acquisition, development and the renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and sports and recreation facility?

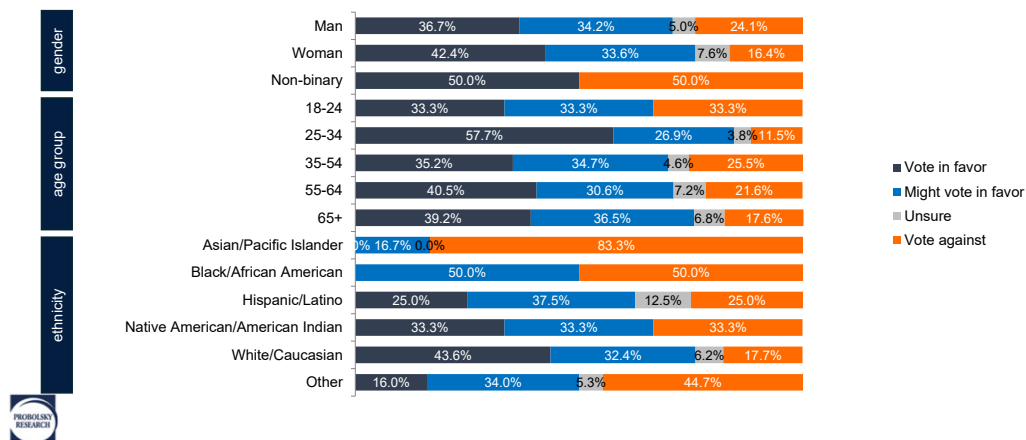


122

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

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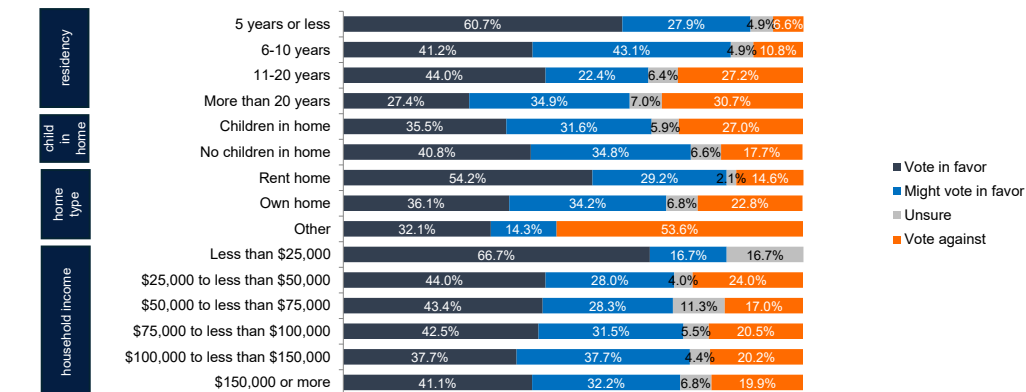


123

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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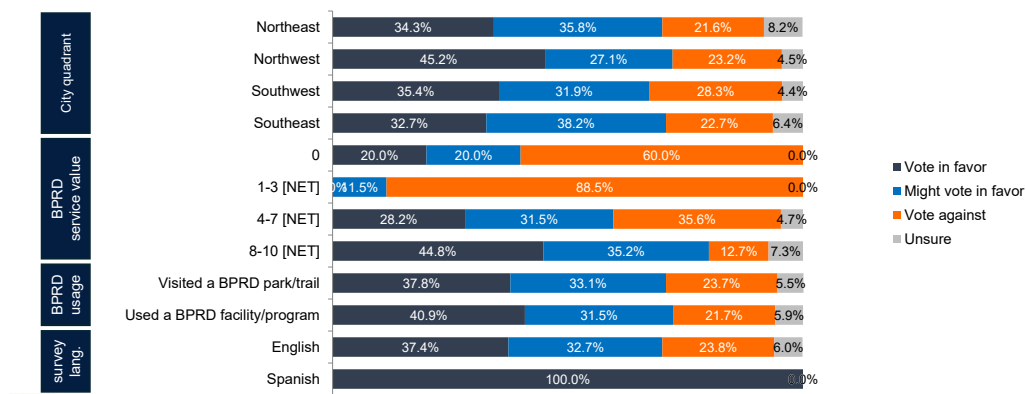
124

124

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

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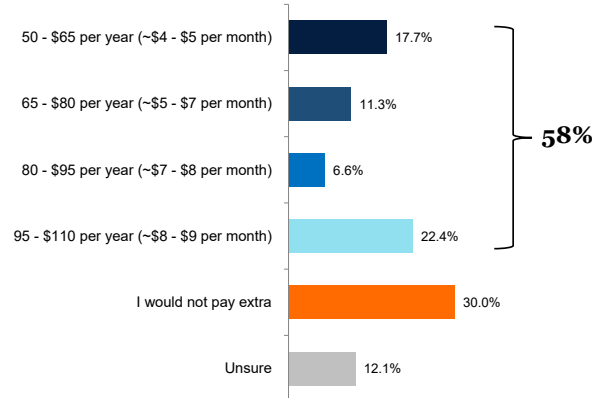
BPRD Service value note: 0 is "very poor value" and 10 is "very good value"

125

125

58% are willing to pay up to \$50 or more in property taxes; 30% would not pay any extra

Question 38: What is the maximum amount of additional annual property tax that you would be willing to pay to fund the acquisition, development and renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and recreation facilities?

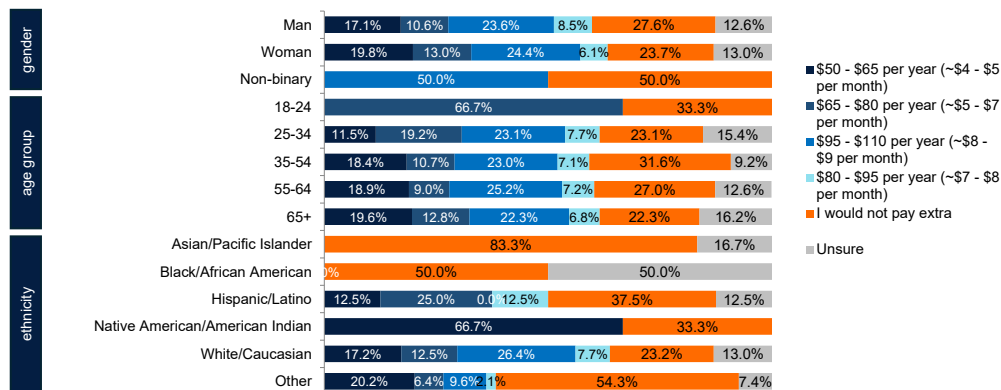


126

126

Results by gender, age group, and ethnicity

Question 38: What is the maximum amount of additional annual property tax that you would be willing to pay to fund the acquisition, development and renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and recreation facilities?

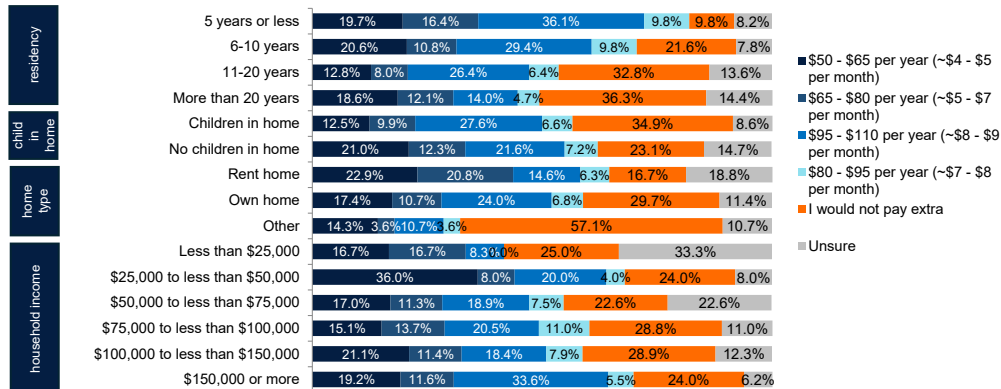


127

127

Results by years of residency, children in home, home type, and household income

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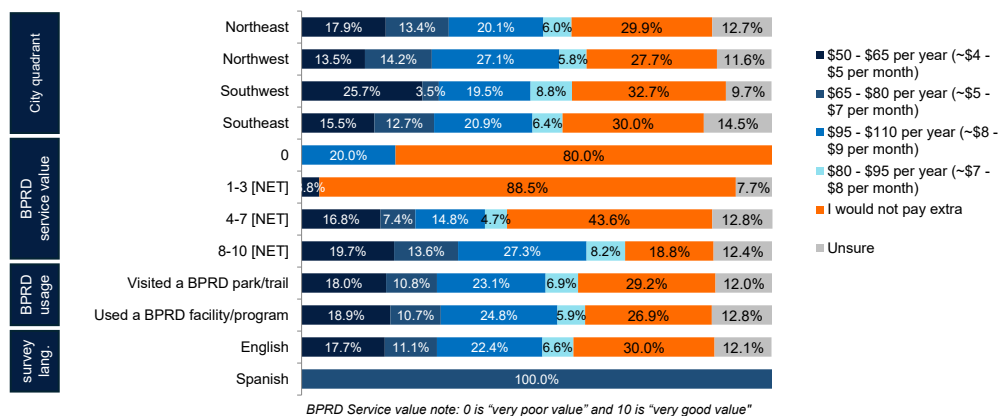


128

128

Results by City quadrant, parks, trails, and recreational services value, BPRD usage, and survey language

Question 38: What is the maximum amount of additional annual property tax that you would be willing to pay to fund the acquisition, development and renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and recreation facilities?



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Questions?

Adam Probolsky, President

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Opinion Research on
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Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q1 & Q2: What quadrant of Bend do you live in?	NE: 40.5% NW: 25.3% SW: 16% SE: 17.3% Unsure: 1%	NE: 26.1% NW: 30.2% SW: 22% SE: 21.4% Unsure: 0.4%	NE: 32% NW: 26% SW: 21% SE: 21% Unsure: 0%
Q3: Do you feel the overall quality of life in Bend is:	Good: 93% Poor: 6% Unsure: 1%	Good: 93% Poor: 6.4% Unsure: 0.6%	Good: 81% Poor: 16% Unsure: 3%
Q4: How well do you feel your local government is serving the community?	Well - 56.8% Poor: 36.5% Unsure: 6.8%	Well: 58.9% Poor: 37.5% Unsure: 3.5%	Well: 48% Poor: 46% Unsure: 6%
Q5 - Q9: Now we have a list of services provided by different local government agencies in Bend. How would you rate each service based on the value received for the tax dollar being spent? Use a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is “very poor value” and 10 is “very good value”.	Parks, Trails & Rec Services: 8.2 Street repair and Maintenance: 5.5 K-12 Public schools: 6.4 Library Services: 8.0 Police, Fire and public safety: 7.8	Parks, Trails & Rec Services: 7.9 Street repair and Maintenance: 5.7 K-12 Public schools: 6.4 Library Services: 7.9 Police, Fire and public safety: 7.5	Parks, Trails & Rec Services: 7.9 Street repair and Maintenance: 5.5 K-12 Public schools: 6.1 Library Services: 7.9 Police, Fire and public safety: 7.3
Q10: How familiar are you with the Bend Park and Recreation District?	Familiar: 92.8% Unfamiliar: 7.3% Unsure: 0%	Familiar: 96.1% Unfamiliar: 3.7% Unsure: 0.2%	Familiar: 88% Unfamiliar: 12%
Q11: Based on your familiarity with the Bend Park and Recreation District, do you believe the district is:	A dept. of the City of Bend: 33.5% A separate agency (not part of the City of Bend): 49.8% Both: 8% Other: 0% Unsure 8.8%	A dept. of the City of Bend: 16.3% A separate agency (not part of the City of Bend): 71.4% Both: 5.8% Other: 0.8% Unsure 5.6%	A dept. of the City of Bend: 34% A separate agency (not part of the City of Bend): 40% Both: 10% Unsure 15%
Q12: How satisfied are you with the parks and recreation services in Bend?	Satisfied: 88.5% Unsatisfied: 9.5% Unsure: 2.0%	Satisfied: 84.4% Unsatisfied: 14.8% Unsure: 0.8%	Satisfied: 84% Unsatisfied/Unsure: 16%

Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q13: In general, would you say that the Bend Park and Recreation District is generally going in the right direction or wrong direction in serving the community?	Right Direction: 71.3% Wrong Track: 13.3% Unsure: 15.5%	Right Direction: 66.5% Wrong Track: 19.6% Unsure: 13.8%	Right Direction: 70% Wrong Track: 15% Unsure: 15%
Q14: During the past year, have you or any member of your household done any of the following? Select all that apply.	Visited a BPRD park or trail: 92.5% Visited a BPRD rec. facility or participated in a rec. program: 73% Unsure: 0.3% Neither: 2.3%	Visited a BPRD park or trail: 95.3% Visited a BPRD rec. facility or participated in a rec. program: 76.1% Unsure: 0.2%	Visited a BPRD park or trail: 81% Visited a BPRD rec. facility or participated in a rec. program: 53% Neither/Unsure: 10%
Q15: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Bend contribute to my quality of life	Agree: 94% Disagree: 5% Unsure: 1%	Agree: 95.5% Disagree: 4.1% Unsure: 0.4%	Agree: 88% Disagree/Unsure: 12%
Q16: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Living in Bend would not be the same without easy access to outdoor recreation.	Agree: 95.5% Disagree: 4.5% Unsure: 0%	Agree: 94.6% Disagree: 5.4% Unsure: 0%	Agree: 93% Disagree/Unsure: 7%
Q17: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Parks and recreation opportunities are important to supporting the local economy.	Agree: 89.3% Disagree: 8% Unsure: 2.8%	Agree: 87.9% Disagree: 10.3% Unsure: 1.8%	Agree: 86% Disagree/Unsure: 14%
Q18: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Having a park near my home is important to me.	Agree: 91.8% Disagree: 7.8% Unsure: 0.5%	Agree: 93% Disagree: 6.2% Unsure: 0.8%	Agree: 87% Disagree/Unsure: 13%
Q19: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel welcome at district parks, trails, and facilities.	Agree: 92.3% Disagree: 5.5% Unsure: 2.3%	Agree: 91.4% Disagree: 7.8% Unsure: 0.8%	Agree: 89% Disagree/Unsure: 11%

Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q20: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel safe when I'm using district parks, trails, and facilities.	Agree: 92.8% Disagree: 5.8% Unsure: 1.5%	Agree: 89.7% Disagree: 9.5% Unsure: 0.8%	Agree: 86% Disagree/Unsure: 14%
Q21: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Maintains parks and trails very well.	Agree: 91.8% Disagree: 6% Unsure: 2.3%	Agree: 90.7% Disagree: 7.6% Unsure: 1.8%	Agree: 88% Disagree: 7% Unsure: 5%
Q22: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Provides services that are inclusive for all members of the community.	Agree: 79% Disagree: 8.8% Unsure: 12.3%	Agree: 78% Disagree: 14% Unsure: 8%	Agree: 77% Disagree: 10% Unsure: 13%
Q23: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Offers quality recreation programs and facilities.	Agree: 87.8% Disagree: 5.8% Unsure: 6.5%	Agree: 83.9% Disagree: 10.3% Unsure: 5.8%	Agree: 84% Disagree: 6% Unsure: 10%
Q24: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Is well managed.	Agree: 72% Disagree: 12.3% Unsure: 15.8%	Agree: 72.2% Disagree: 18.3% Unsure: 9.5%	Agree: 69% Disagree: 15% Unsure: 16%
Q25: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Provides good customer service.	Agree: 66% Disagree: 9.3% Unsure: 24.8%	Agree: 73.9% Disagree: 13% Unsure: 13%	Agree: 65% Disagree: 12% Unsure: 23%
Q26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Charges a reasonable fee for recreation programs and facility use.	Agree: 70.3% Disagree: 17% Unsure: 12.8%	Agree: 74.3% Disagree: 16.3% Unsure: 9.3%	Agree: 65% Disagree: 18% Unsure: 17%

Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q27: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Partners effectively with others in the community.	Agree: 56.8% Disagree: 14% Unsure: 29.3%	Agree: 56.2% Disagree: 17.3% Unsure: 26.5%	Agree: 57% Disagree: 12% Unsure: 31%
Q28: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Is a good steward of our environment.	Agree: 83.5% Disagree: 7.3% Unsure: 9.3%	Agree: 83.3% Disagree: 11.5% Unsure: 5.3%	Agree: 80% Disagree: 9% Unsure: 11%
Q29: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Uses taxpayer money wisely.	Agree: 66.5% Disagree: 21.5% Unsure: 12.0%	Agree: 62.3% Disagree: 28.4% Unsure: 9.3%	Agree: 60% Disagree: 24% Unsure: 16%
Q30: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Is transparent with the public.	Agree: 58.5% Disagree: 21.5% Unsure: 20%	Agree: 61.9% Disagree: 25.1% Unsure: 13%	Agree: 50% Disagree: 24% Unsure: 26%
Q31: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bend Park and Recreation District? Is a trustworthy organization	Agree: 73.8% Disagree: 13.3% Unsure: 13%	Agree: 72.8% Disagree: 17.3% Unsure: 9.9%	Agree: 67% Disagree: 17% Unsure: 16%
Q32: Do you believe the level of parks, trails, and recreation services provided by the Bend Park and Recreation District is:	Too little: 12.5% Just about right: 70.8% Too much: 8.5% Unsure: 8.3%	Too little: 23.7% Just about right: 59.9% Too much: 12.6% Unsure: 3.7%	Too little: 10% Just about right: 66% Too much: 13% Unsure: 11%

Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q33: Future growth in Bend will increase the density of housing in some neighborhoods. Which of the following approaches to serving more densely populated areas do you support? Select all that apply.	Add more park land and facilities to maintain the quality of service per resident: 69.3% Enhance existing parks to serve more people: 46% Rely on existing parks to serve more people, decreasing service to avoid increased costs: 19%	Add more park land and facilities to maintain the quality of service per resident: 71.4% Enhance existing parks to serve more people: 42.8% Rely on existing parks to serve more people, decreasing service to avoid increased costs: 16.9%	** This data is from the 2023 Community Needs Assessment Survey Add more park land and facilities to maintain the quality of service per resident: 69% Enhance existing parks to serve more people: 27% Rely on existing parks to serve more people, decreasing service to avoid increased costs: 9%
Q34: Do you feel the amount of taxes you pay to fund Bend Park and Recreation District for services provided is?	Too little: 3.8% Just about right: 57% Too much: 29.3% Unsure: 10%	Too little: 5.8% Just about right: 54.1% Too much: 30.2% Unsure: 9.9%	Too little: 3% Just about right: 54% Too much: 31% Unsure: 12%
Q35: Currently, a fee is charged on the construction of new residences in Bend to pay for additional parks, roads, sewer, and water services to serve population growth. A portion of the fee goes to Park and Recreation District to help build parks and trails. Waiving this portion of the fee would help make affordable housing projects more affordable but would also mean reducing park and recreation services. Would you support or oppose waiving this portion of the fee on new affordable housing projects?	Support: 37% Oppose: 56.5% Unsure: 6.5%	Support: 34.4% Oppose: 62.5% Unsure: 3.1%	Support: 53% Oppose: 41% Unsure: 6%

Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q36: Currently, the City of Bend has a number of tax exemption programs where the property taxes received by the City and other taxing districts are waived to support the development of housing and economic development. Property tax exemptions support the development of housing and economic development, but also have impacts on the monies available for park and recreation operations and maintenance. Would you support or oppose property tax exemptions that would impact park and recreation operations and maintenance monies to support housing and economic development?	Support: 26.3% Oppose: 60.5% Unsure: 13.3%	Support: 25.3% Oppose: 68.3% Unsure: 6.4%	N/A - new question not asked in 2022.
Q37: How willing are you to vote for a bond measure to fund the acquisition, development and the renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and sports and recreation facility?	Vote against: 21.3% Might vote in favor: 36.5% Vote in favor: 35.8% Unsure: 6.5%	Vote against: 23.7% Might vote in favor: 32.7% Vote in favor: 37.5% Unsure: 6%	** This data is from the 2023 Community Needs Assessment Survey where the question was framed in a manner where bond funding was tied to facilities important to their household. Vote against: 14% Might vote in favor: 26% Vote in favor: 52% Unsure: 8%

Awareness and Perception Survey Results Comparison
February 2026

Question	2025 Statistically valid response	2025 Open Link Response	2022 Statistically valid response
Q38: What is the maximum amount of additional annual property tax that you would be willing to pay to fund the acquisition, development and renovation of parks, trails, natural areas, fitness, and recreation facilities?	\$50-65/year (~\$4-5/month): 20% \$65-80/year (~\$5-7/month): 9.5% \$80-95/year (~\$7-8/month): 7.5% \$95-110/year (~\$8-9/month): 21.5% I would not pay extra: 30% Unsure: 11.5%	\$50-65/year (~\$4-5/month): 17.7% \$65-80/year (~\$5-7/month): 11.3% \$80-95/year (~\$7-8/month): 6.5% \$95-110/year (~\$8-9/month): 22.4% I would not pay extra: 30% Unsure: 12.1%	** This data is from the 2023 Community Needs Assessment Survey where the question was framed in a manner where bond funding was tied to facilities important to their household. \$50-65/year (~\$4-5/month): 29% \$65-80/year (~\$5-7/month): 14% \$80-95/year (~\$7-8/month): 5% \$95-110/year (~\$8-9/month): 27% I would not pay extra: 25%

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE: March 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Award Public Contract for Portable Restrooms Services

STAFF RESOURCE: JoAnna Edwards, Contracts&Procurement Coordinator
Kristin Toney, Administrative Services Director
Sasha Sulia, Park Services Director

ACTION PROPOSED: Award contract

STRATEGIC PLAN: N/A

BACKGROUND

Portable restrooms are used across the district to provide additional capacity and extend restroom availability on a seasonal basis. The previous contract with Little John’s Portable Toilets is expiring and needs to be replaced.

The district completed a competitive procurement process by publicly advertising a formal request for proposals (RFP) on January 12, 2026, for portable restroom services. The district received four proposals. An evaluation committee consisting of three district staff members reviewed the proposals. Advanced Systems Portable Restrooms, Inc., was selected by the evaluation committee.

The proposed one-year contract with Advanced Systems Portable Restrooms, Inc. is effective when signed by both parties and extends until March 31, 2027, with the option to renew the contract annually for four additional one-year terms.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

Portable restrooms are provided on an as-needed basis and costs fluctuate based on usage; therefore, total annual expenditures vary each year. Last fiscal year, the district expended a total of \$134,685 on portable restrooms. The proposed contract with Advanced Systems includes reduced unit pricing across most service categories compared to the current contract. Staff estimate the new rates would result in annual savings of 10-20%, depending on service demands.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the board award a contract to Advanced Systems Portable Restrooms, Inc.

MOTION

I make a motion to authorize the executive director to award a one-year contract, with the option of four one-year renewals, to Advanced Systems Portable Restrooms, Inc., for portable restrooms and services.

ATTACHMENT

None

BOARD AGENDA COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE:	March 3, 2026
SUBJECT:	Approve Memorandum of Understanding with High Desert Horticultural Center
STAFF RESOURCE:	Rachel Colton, Park Planner
PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:	None
ACTION PROPOSED:	Approve Memorandum of Understanding with High Desert Horticultural Center
STRATEGIC PLAN:	
Priority:	Community
Goal:	Expand and leverage collaborations to increase impact
Strategy:	Strategically align with partners that enhance the district's efforts

BACKGROUND

The SE Bend Regional Park Site was acquired by the district in 2023. When acquired, the site was zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) and Surface Mining (SM). Of the 453 acres, approximately 92 acres were previously mined for sand and gravel, though the mine operations ceased more than a decade ago. Surface Mining zoning only allows uses related to mining. The remaining portion of the property is zoned EFU, a portion of which was historically used for agriculture purposes. Exclusive Farm Use zoning allows for park and recreation uses with a conditional use permit and master plan. However, according to discussions with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), structures permitted as part of this permitting process are generally limited to outbuildings and support structures.

To allow for a more diverse set of park and recreation uses at the site, the district rezoned approximately 279 acres of the SE Bend Regional Park Site to Rural Residential (RR-10) in 2025. Though the district does not have plans or funding to develop the site in the near term, the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes funding in fiscal year 2026-2027 for conceptual site planning. This conceptual planning will be informed by public engagement and will specify the location of and types of uses that will be constructed at the site when it is developed. This planning strategy is consistent with other parks that have been master planned and built out over time (or at a later time), including Pine Nursery Park, where construction of Phase 5 of the approved master plan is currently in process.

On January 12, 2025, the High Desert Horticultural Center (HDHC) submitted a Community Sponsored Project (CSP) application seeking to partner with the district to construct a botanical garden at the SE Bend Regional Park Site (Attachment A). As discussed in the application, HDHC desires approximately 40 acres (with phase 1 anticipated to need a minimum of five acres), or

approximately nine percent of the site, to develop a botanical garden that would include an interpretive center comprised of approximately 2,000 square feet. The application includes details about where HDHC envisions the botanical garden on the site, but precise location would be evaluated as part of the conceptual planning process. Based upon aforementioned guidance from DLCD, the district understands that if included as part of the conceptual plan, the interpretive center would need to be developed on the RR-10 zoned property, whereas the remaining elements of the botanical garden could be developed anywhere on the site (subject to site constraints, alignment with other uses, etc.).

The CSP program has been in existence since 2015 and has helped support a large breadth of projects including a lending library at Alpenglow Park, a disc golf course at Skyline Park and kayak slalom operations at both Farewell Bend and First Street Rapids parks. The program is governed by Procedures (Attachment B) that both applicants and district staff abide by. Pursuant to these procedures, larger projects such as this botanical garden request must be reviewed by the board to confirm if staff can work with the applicants to further the project. In this case, district staff are seeking board support to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Attachment C) with HDHC to document the process for evaluating the inclusion of a botanical garden within the SE Bend Regional Park Site. In addition, the executed MOU would give HDHC the surety it needs to submit for grant requests to support the conceptual design of the botanical garden. This MOU is non-binding and represents both parties' intent to coordinate and for the district to consider in good faith the botanical garden as part of the future conceptual park planning process for the site.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The adopted fiscal year 2026-2031 capital improvement plan (CIP) includes \$400,000 in fiscal year 2026-2027 for the SE Bend Regional Park Site to support conceptual planning of the site. The conceptual planning process will help inform the viability of a botanical garden use at the site, and whether there is public support for such a use. The development timeline for the site exceeds the duration of the adopted CIP.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the board approve the executive director signing the Memorandum of Understanding with High Desert Horticultural Center to support consideration of a botanical garden use at the SE Bend Regional Park Site.

MOTION

I move to authorize the executive director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with High Desert Horticultural Center to support consideration of a botanical garden at the SE Bend Regional Park Site during the park planning process.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Botanical Garden Community Sponsored Project Application

Attachment B – Community Sponsored Project Procedures

Attachment B – District/High Desert Horticultural Center Memorandum of Understanding

Community Sponsored Projects *Application*

Applicant Information

Please identify one person to serve as the project coordinator through the life cycle of the project and list their contact information below.

Applicant Name: High Desert Horticultural Center (HDHC)
Richard Martinson

Mailing address: 63405 Deschutes Market Rd, Bend OR 97701

Email address: Rick@highdeserthort.org

Phone number: 541-948-0661

Date: January 12, 2025

Project Information

Please provide as much information as possible. The more details provided, the better the chance that the project will move forward. If you do not have enough information to answer a question at this time, you will be given an opportunity to add details if the project is selected to move forward.

If you are completing this document electronically, you may add lines between questions if you require more space. If you are completing this document in hard copy, you may attach additional pages if you require more space.

Please complete this application and email it as an attachment to: rachelc@bendparksandrec.org

Or send it to:

Bend Park and Recreation District
ATTN: Rachel Colton, Park Planner
799 SW Columbia Street
Bend, OR 97702

1. Project name:

The High Desert Botanical Garden

2. Please give an overview of your project, followed by a description of each project element.

The High Desert Botanical Garden was conceived as a regional resource providing opportunities for residents and visitors to increase their level of understanding and appreciation for the various ecosystems and plant associations that occur in the high desert ecological province, and to develop a deep sense of connection to the natural environments of central and eastern Oregon. A secondary objective is to provide created landscapes that serve as examples of how to utilize native and adapted plants in urban settings to reduce water use, minimize resource dependency, and preserve or restore biodiversity along with critical habitat for pollinators and other species.

Bend has experienced sustained rapid growth and was rated as the second fastest growing city in the nation in 2020¹. Two years later, Woods & Poole Economics projected an 83.6% growth rate for the Bend metro area for the period from 2022 to 2060²; the seventh highest of all 384 U.S. metro areas. The continued brisk growth of our region – most of which is expected to be from immigration – increases the need to provide options for residents to understand where they are and how to best care for and interact with the natural character of the region. Education is critical to increasing that understanding. The High Desert Botanical Garden fills an essential niche in the efforts of the BPRD to build “a community connected to nature”³ through direct interaction, educational programming, and praxis.



Native Roof Garden, Bend Oregon

¹ McCann, Adam. "Fastest-Growing Cities in America." WalletHub, October 12, 2020. <https://wallethub.com/edu/fastest-growing-cities/7010>

² Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Avenue NW Ste 208, Washington, DC 20016-4368

³ Bend Parks and Recreation District Strategic Plan: 2024 – 2029. <https://www.bendparksandrec.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BPRD-Strategic-Plan-2024-29-Final-Online-Version.pdf>

Project Elements

Botanical Garden: The primary feature of the project is a fully accessible botanical garden offering residents and visitors to central Oregon the opportunity to learn about native vegetation and major biomes characteristic of the High Desert geographic province. The spatial scope of the garden will center on central and eastern Oregon, but will include portions of adjacent states that share similar biomes and ecoregions. The temporal scale focuses on contemporary plant associations, but site interpretation will include some discussion of climate change and the potential or expected impacts to regional flora.

The botanical garden will showcase native and adapted plants in natural and created ecosystems, and include information on name (common and taxonomic), range, environmental requirements, and ethnobotany. Interpretation for each biome (steppe, forest, riparian, meadow, etc.) will include broad ecological descriptions and identification of each plant within that section of the garden. The scope of the botanical garden is expected to be limited in the early years and expand over time.

A key element of the garden are the transition areas or ecotones between each major plant association. For example, the proposed location for the garden is in the ponderosa-juniper transition zone and provides opportunities to fully develop examples of both primary plant associations. Most plants within each zone are unique to those communities, but the transition area (ecotone) between those sections of the garden will include some species that exist in both zones or biomes. The transition between major plant communities is often subtle, but having those areas included as part of the design of the garden offer opportunities for interpretation not generally available in central and eastern Oregon. No other public garden within the high desert ecological province is focused on the native flora of the region, making this garden unique within the western United States.



Sawtooth Botanical Garden, Ketchum Idaho

Demonstration Gardens: One objective is to provide created landscapes that serve as examples of how to utilize native and high desert adapted plants in urban settings to reduce water use, minimize resource dependency, and preserve or restore critical habitat in urban environments. This portion of the project

includes demonstrations of stormwater capture and reuse, the use of native and adapted plants in designed and managed landscapes, design elements, microclimates, water-saving irrigation, habitat quality, resource conservation, and the human element in urban landscapes. These gardens provide opportunities for education of the public, industry professionals, architects, ecologists, and aspiring restoration practitioners.



High Plains Environmental Center, Loveland Colorado

Interpretive Center: The addition of an approximately 2000 sq. ft. building to the gardens provides a center for interpretation of the gardens and surrounding landscape, as well as space for education programs related to the project. The facility itself will provide an exceptional example of sustainable building through design, rainwater capture and reuse, and sustainable and regenerative landscaping. This will be the only facility of its kind in the semi-arid environments of the Pacific Northwest and helps establish Bend as the regional leader in ecological sustainability and interpretation.



Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin Texas

3. Describe the project location in as much detail as possible.

We propose locating the project on approximately 40 acres of BPRD property at the intersection of Rickard Road and Arnold Market Rd immediately outside the SE Bend city boundary (see Exhibit A). The location is also outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

The location is the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 23, Township 18 South, Range 12 East, Willamette Meridian, Oregon.



Photos showing the proposed location

a. What type of site does your project require?

Undeveloped or open land, preferably with an intact and healthy plant association that is appropriate for the site and that offers opportunities to utilize existing on-site resources.

Additional requirements include public access, utilities (including water for irrigation), site access for construction and maintenance, and space for an interpretive center.

b. Why is the proposed site the best site for this project?

The 40 acre site at the intersection of Rickard Rd. and Arnold Market Rd. includes many areas that exhibit characteristics of a healthy ecosystem representative of the juniper-ponderosa ecotone in central Oregon. Site characteristics offer excellent interpretive opportunities as is, but also provide the basis on which to construct additional biomes and ecotones that characterize the greater High Desert bioregion. Noxious weeds are minimal on the site – reducing the need for extensive modification of existing conditions. Environmental conditions noted during a field visit in November 2024 suggest numerous opportunities to utilize on site resources and maintain or enhance existing microclimates.

The site also includes an approximately four acre site that appears to have been cleared and farmed in the past. This area, along Arnold Market Road, would be an ideal location for an interpretive center and would eliminate the need for disturbance outside areas that have already experienced extensive modification.

Additionally, BRPD has indicated the 452 acre parcel in southeast Bend purchased in 2023 may be the most suitable site on which to develop this project, and provides convenient access for the public, school groups and other research and educational facilities.

4. Please list the square footage or acreage requirements of the project area.

The first phase of this project would require a minimum of five acres, with room to expand over time up to 40 acres.

5. Please attach a site plan. (A site plan is a schematic drawing, as viewed from above, of the site and the location of key project elements).

Please see Appendix A.

6. What are the applicant's contributions to the project? (Describe the project applicant or project team's relevant skills and availability to contribute labor, materials, funding, or other resources to the project).

Skills: The High Desert Horticultural Center is currently a team of people passionate about native plants, sustainability, education, and research. The Center's founder, Rick Martinson, has nearly 50 years' experience in ecology, environmental analysis and management in numerous biogeographical regions of the country. His experience includes over 30 years as co-owner of WinterCreek Nursery, the largest native plant nursery in central and eastern Oregon, and over 20 years designing and constructing native plant landscapes in the high desert west. Rick also holds a Ph.D. in Horticulture, with an emphasis on the ecophysiology of xeric species in central and eastern Oregon.

The HDHC includes members of the development team and an active Board of Directors. Our business manager, Sophie Paez, has nearly 20 year's experience as Vice President of Retail Operations at Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity. Sophies' skills in operations and business management are critical to the successful development and management of the proposed Botanical Garden. Other members of the development team have over 40 years of experience in marketing, advertising, and business management, including developing marketing materials for the Denver Botanic Garden.

Our Board of Directors includes Landscape Architects, financial advisors, sustainability experts, and passionate members of the public. The diversity of experience and knowledge in fundraising and business management of our Directors adds strength and credibility to the HDHC, increasing our ability to raise funds and develop the High Desert Botanical Garden as a popular and important regional resource.

Our nursery staff and volunteers are well trained in the propagation and care of native plants, and possess an impressive range of professional experience and education that could contribute to the success of this project.

Availability: All members of the team from the Founder to members of the Board and nursery staff have relevant skills and availability to provide funding, secure grants, or contribute labor and other resources to the successful construction and operation of the Garden. Additionally, our relationships

with existing landscape construction professionals, the Bend Department of Public Works, and other organizations throughout the region will provide additional support and resources necessary to complete this project.

Materials: As stated earlier, many of the resources necessary for construction of different biomes within the Garden are available on site. Additional materials will be purchased or donated from local sources. Plant material for the project will be supplied primarily from WinterCreek Nursery, owned by the High Desert Horticultural Center. Plant material not available at our nursery will be purchased or donated from other wholesale nurseries or suppliers within the high desert region.

Funding: HDHC would rely on a capital campaign to fund this project according to a phased plan in coordination with BPRD.

7. Please attach a detailed budget. (List project components and what they will cost).

Please see Appendix B.

8. Please describe how the project will be funded and list the funding sources.

Based on the high end of total budget, rounded to the nearest \$1,000

<i>Grants and Financial Donations</i>	<i>\$2,900,000</i>
<i>- Environmental and conservation grants</i>	
<i>- Individual donors, sponsored gardens & features</i>	
<i>In-Kind donations of services and materials</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>
<i>Fundraising events (Plant sales, workshops, and community events</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
TOTAL	\$3,208,000

9. If your project is dependent on a fundraising effort, please address the following:

a. What percentage of the project will be funded as a result of fundraising?

Approximately 90-95% of the project is dependent on fundraising. Five to 10% of the project is expected to be completed through volunteer efforts, HDHC plant material, and in-kind contributions from landscape professionals or industry suppliers. These figures are preliminary and dependent on marketing to industry professionals throughout the region. Fundraising and support for this project is expected to be greatly enhanced by approval of this proposal.

b. How much of the funds do you currently have in cash dedicated to this project?

We are in the initial conceptual stages of this project and currently have no dedicated funds.

c. Describe your fundraising plan, including:

i. Financial goal(s) including estimated amount from in-kind and cash:

Ninety to 95% of the project is expected to be funded in cash, and five to 10% through in-kind contributions.

ii. Accounting mechanism. Is a 501-c-3 organization behind this effort?

Yes. The High Desert Horticultural Center is a registered 501(c)(3) organization; EIN 93-4334264.

iii. Fundraising timeline, including financial goal benchmarks:

Committed by December 2026 (20% of goal)
Committed by December 2027 (50% of goal)
Committed by December 2028 (100% of goal)

iv. Fundraising strategies:

Capital Campaign:

1. Refine conceptual plan to align with land partner parameters.
2. Determine a funding goal and timeline that is realistic and ambitious.
3. Conduct a feasibility study, based on interviews with current supporters and board members, stakeholders in local government, representatives of related organizations such as Bend Parks and Recreation District, the High Desert Museum, and Visit Bend, and the general public (through public forums and surveys). Gauge support and identify potential major donors.
4. Build the Case for Support. Develop compelling messaging that communicates the importance of the campaign and its impact.
5. Recruit a campaign committee of influential and well-connected individuals; include board members, community leaders, and donor relations experts. Task committee with donor cultivation, events, and marketing.
6. Determine donor relations strategy: Identify permanent or lasting recognition for lead donors, such as naming rights or plaques. Regularly update donors and stakeholders on campaign progress, recognizing their contributions in meaningful ways. Utilize Bloomerang CRM to track donations, follow up with donors, and send acknowledgments.
7. Silent phase (70% of goal): develop major gift prospects list, develop relationships, secure pledges (including multi-year installments).
8. Public phase (last 30% of goal): raise awareness through events, social media, email marketing, and PR. Mobilize community and existing supporters to contribute smaller donations.
9. Once the goal is reached, host a celebration event to recognize donors and highlight the campaign's success. Maintain good relations with all donors and keep them updated on the impact of their contributions. Report on the project's progress and the campaign's financial impact.

v. Describe your group's experience in fundraising leadership and/or contracted fundraising experience.

Our staff and members of our Board of Directors have extensive experience in fundraising leadership and contract administration, including creating and implementing multiple school and non-profit galas, soliciting donations, as well as hosting fundraising events at their private residences. For example, two of our staff members have nearly 20 years' experience fundraising and securing grants for Habitat for Humanity. That work effectively raised over 4 million dollars for the Redmond ReStore alone. Several Board members have successfully raised operating funds and managed green building non-profit organizations, participated in federal, state, and private foundation grant applications, and own and manage privately-owned companies. Additionally, our founder has received various federal grants for interpretive and educational programs, and is currently a co-PI (Principle Investigator) on state and federal grant applications through Oregon State University.

Staff:

Richard Martinson, Ph.D.
 Sophie Paez
 Joyce Cranston
 Benjamin Snyder, MA

Current Board of Directors

Carol Wallace, MD, Professor Emerita
 Mike Faha, PLA, FASLA, LEED AP
 Bruce Sullivan, MS
 Matt Johnson, MS

10. Please provide the project schedule. (List key milestones and the dates you plan to reach them).

1. Obtain BPRD Community Sponsored Projects application approval (March 1, 2025)
2. Obtain BPRD Memo of Understanding (June 1, 2025)
3. Complete Feasibility Study (June 2026): Conduct a feasibility study to assess the project's viability, financial needs, potential fundraising capacity, and community support. This includes evaluating the target amount for the capital campaign and determining if it aligns with community demand and available donor resources.
4. Complete preliminary design and cost estimation (March 1, 2027)
5. Complete silent phase of Capital Campaign (December 31, 2028)
6. Submit final construction plans (May 1, 2029)
7. Request bids (October 2029)
8. Construction begins March 1, 2030
9. Gardens open October 1, 2030

11. Please describe the community need for this project.

Deschutes County is the fastest growing county in the state, with the Bend metro-area projected to grow over 80% over the next 25 years⁴. The preservation of our area’s natural character – the very reason many people move to central Oregon – is recognized as a primary value shared by the majority of the local population. But preservation, or responsible conservation of our natural environment is highly dependent on an understanding and appreciation of that character. Additionally, Bend’s Community Climate Action Plan envisions “neighbors, businesses, and community leaders working together to preserve our natural environment while promoting economic opportunity and resilience for current and future generations.” The development of economic opportunities that consider the importance of our natural environment requires an increased availability of educational opportunities and facilities that advance that understanding, and can also serve as models for sustainable development. The High Desert Botanical Garden provides those opportunities and facilities.

Our community must adapt to a new era of climate change and the subsequent need for more resilient landscapes that are less dependent on dwindling resources. Water conservation, in particular, is a high priority for our region, and our cities. “Climate change is no longer a separate consideration for water management, but rather an integral part of planning, monitoring, and project implementation”⁵.

The High Desert Horticultural Center was established to provide guidance and resources needed by government entities, the landscaping industry, and the public to navigate fundamental change in climate, public perception, and conservation values. A public garden is a key component of our mission that brings this effort to the forefront and accelerates progress.

A botanical garden would provide an interactive space for local residents, school groups, and tourists to learn about the unique plant species that thrive in high desert ecosystems. Educational programs focused on water conservation, native plants, and the importance of sustainable landscaping would raise awareness and inspire responsible stewardship of the environment. People have to first understand how different ecosystems in our region function and support human populations and wildlife before they can implement changes in design and management practice. The Garden will play an extremely important role in facilitating those changes. In addition, the grounds of the botanical garden will showcase examples of stormwater collection and reuse, bioswales, green roofs, and other technologies that contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of our urban areas.

Research and Innovation

The High Desert Botanical Garden will serve as a living laboratory for researchers studying high desert ecosystems, plant resilience, restoration practices, and water-efficient horticulture. Collaboration with OSU and other educational institutions, environmental organizations, and governmental agencies will lead to innovative solutions for drought management, habitat restoration, and urban agriculture throughout the high desert. The garden will also provide an invaluable venue for expanding the scope and impact of current HDHC projects, including our ongoing investigation of high desert soil hydrology and our community science “Bioblitz” project documenting Bend's biodiversity.

⁴ Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Avenue NW Ste 208, Washington, DC 20016-4368

⁵ Oregon’s Integrated Water Resourced Strategy, 2024.

Positive Economic Impact

Bend attracts tourists year-round thanks to its outdoor culture and scenic landscapes, and the city's economic vibrancy is greatly dependent on these visitors. The proposed garden represents a unique attraction – a botanical garden purely representing and contextualizing the unique ecologies of the high desert simply doesn't exist anywhere else. Thus, it will provide potentially unique economic benefits, and also complement the area's hiking, snow sport, and craft beer scene, by drawing eco-conscious visitors interested in sustainable tourism and natural wonder. The garden will support local businesses by encouraging extended stays and providing a new destination for leisure and natural beauty that is accessible for families, and promoting educational tourism.

Enhance Community Well-being

Beautiful natural spaces like the High Desert Botanical Garden provide numerous mental and physical health benefits to the local community. The garden offers a peaceful, contemplative environment where residents and visitors can reconnect with nature. It also serves as a gathering space for community events, outdoor performances, and HDHC volunteer opportunities, fostering a sense of connection and pride among locals. The garden's showcase of Central Oregon ecologies will also promote a unique sense of place and cultural connection to the surrounding natural environment. In the words of Lady Bird Johnson, “Native plants give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours.”

Protect Biodiversity

By showcasing native and drought-tolerant plants, the garden also plays a key role in preserving the natural biodiversity that undergirds all of human civilization. As urbanization and climate change pose increasing threats to native ecosystems and their co-evolved animal and fungal communities, the garden acts as a sanctuary for plants that may be at risk, while fostering a deeper understanding of the role these species play in maintaining ecological balance. Additionally, the fundamental value of soil, microorganisms, and fungal communities are frequently overlooked and always invisible to the naked eye. The botanical garden will reveal these hidden elements and emphasize their importance. Visitors will have a unique opportunity to learn about the plants native to our region, the ecology they represent, and how they are well adapted to high desert urban landscapes to the benefit of people and the natural world.

These points are of particular importance because traditional landscaping, still widely employed in central Oregon, typically involves large amounts of water-intensive lawn, ornamental species that aren't suited to the desert in terms of resilience or drought tolerance, large inputs of chemicals and fuel-intensive maintenance. Man-made hardscaping significantly increases runoff and reduces permeability. The vast majority of Bend's water usage, which greatly increases during hotter summer months, currently goes toward propping up these ill-conceived practices.

Sustainable landscaping, on the other hand, offers a range of benefits for human health, drawing from ecological, physical, and psychological perspectives. Balanced ecosystems promote biodiversity and habitat for wildlife and pollinators - at a time when they are struggling to survive. Native plants thrive with minimal intervention, reducing the need for water, mowing, and chemicals. Designs that replace concrete with locally sourced natural materials reduce embodied carbon and reduce energy dependency.

While the above arguments for why sustainable landscaping is important makes logical sense, residents

and visitors will not readily shift their perspectives on what makes a landscape beautiful, important, and worthwhile unless they can experience the sights, sounds, smells, and feel of a well-designed example in person. The wonder of wandering through a garden alive with plants, insects, birds and other animals *connects us* to the natural environment that *supports us*.

12. Who will benefit from the project and how? (Provide as much detail as possible about who will use or enjoy, or benefit from this project once completed).

Residents: The city of Bend is a place deeply entwined with the natural world, and has been throughout its history. But most of our developed green spaces are created through conventional designs and practices, and do not provide a place that is dedicated to the harmony of the human psyche in natural areas with distinctly central Oregon natural elements. The Garden will provide a uniquely accessible and expansive experience.

Botanical gardens contribute significantly to the physical, mental, social, and economic health of a community, enhancing residents' overall quality of life. From a holistic perspective, the High Desert Botanical Garden will enhance our community's climate change resiliency. Directly, it will mitigate heat, help reduce pollution, and serve as habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife, enriching the local ecosystem. Indirectly, it will inspire and teach residents how to do the same at home. In addition, as an event space, a garden will support community connections. Additionally, neighborhoods adjacent to botanical gardens benefit from increased property values.

HDHC's vision for the garden includes accessibility, both from a physical and economic perspective. While an entry fee will likely be necessary to help with operating costs, it will be as low as possible to avoid financial barriers for visitors. Educational programs will be robust, and provide a free entry point for students and educators through internship opportunities or financial support for underserved communities.



Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix Arizona

Visitors: Tourism in Bend is already deeply connected with the natural world. Visitors come here in large part for outdoor experiences. Our community is recognizing that with growth and tourism comes a need to protect the beauty that draws people here. Visit Bend acknowledges that our community seeks

a “sustainable future”, and the organization's sustainability model seeks to find balance between the economy, people, and place. The High Desert Botanical Garden fills a gap in that balance through connecting people with place. With the High Desert Museum reporting annual visitation of over 180,000, it is clear that attractions similar to our proposal are popular with residents and visitors interested in connecting with central Oregon’s natural and cultural world in a deeper way.

Students & Researchers: From a broad perspective, “botanical gardens serve as a point of outreach and exchange with the public, providing opportunities for people to learn about the impacts of climate change on plants and to participate in real research through community and citizen science.”⁶ From a local ecology-meets-industry perspective, the High Desert Botanical Garden would provide a needed connection point. A number of academic institutions are completing scientific studies of high desert ecology, but few offer the opportunity to apply results in practical and meaningful ways. The application of ecological theory and method in developed and managed landscapes is an emerging field in which the High Desert Horticultural Center is positioned to become a leader. A botanical garden focused on native plants will provide an exceptional opportunity to study the effectiveness of techniques in the field of ecology-based landscaping, and to provide methods that guide municipalities in resource conservation and regeneration of biodiversity and ecosystem services within urban environments.

For young students, educational opportunities will abound in the garden. Anyone familiar with registering kids for BPRD programming knows it is in high demand! Experiential learning will engage and inspire our kids to learn more about the plants that define their surroundings, provide habitat for insects, birds, and other creatures, and offer hope for a healthier future.



Students of Vamanos Outside visit WinterCreek Nursery

Professional landscaping industry: The botanical garden will serve as an essential model for real estate developers as well as landscape architects, contractors, and maintenance workers. The lack of knowledge and experience among these groups is currently a significant barrier to the widespread adoption of native plant landscapes.

⁶ Primack, R.B., Ellwood, E.R., Gallinat, A.S. and Miller-Rushing, A.J. (2021), The growing and vital role of botanical gardens in climate change research. *New Phytol*, 231: 917-932. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.17410>

Marginalized Communities: The botanical garden will also be a welcoming space for marginalized communities in Bend, offering opportunities for cultural enrichment, outdoor recreation, and community building. It will host events and programs tailored to underrepresented groups, providing them with access to and education about natural spaces that may be limited in their neighborhoods. By offering discounted or free admission to individuals from lower-income households, the botanical garden can also ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to enjoy its benefits. Additionally, the garden's emphasis on diversity and inclusivity will encourage cross-cultural exchange and provide a platform for underrepresented voices to share their knowledge of local plants, traditions, and sustainable practices.

13. Please explain why BPRD should be involved in this project. (List in detail anything you are expecting or hoping BPRD will contribute to the project).

This project aligns perfectly with BPRD's vision to build a community "connected to nature, active lifestyles and one another". In addition, it will directly contribute to several BPRD goals as outlined in the 2024-29 draft strategic plan. These include:

- **Service Goal 3b:** Continue efforts to be responsible stewards of the natural environment and evaluate and identify opportunities to respond to changing environmental conditions.
- **Service Goal 3c:** Provide opportunities for building community connections and foster belonging.
- **Community Goal 1a:** Develop and redevelop parks, trails and facilities to ensure they are welcoming and inclusive.
- **Community Goal 2b:** Strategically align with partners that enhance the district's efforts.

The High Desert Horticultural Center has the expertise and experience to establish a beautiful and functional botanical garden that benefits the community economically, aligns with community sustainability goals, and provides a new point of connection as we grow together. We believe the funding is reachable to construct the garden and a small interpretive facility. What we do not have is land to realize this dream. By formally partnering with our parks district, we can fulfill both organizations' objectives.

BPRD Contributions Requested:

- Use of BPRD land (we're not requesting donation of the property)
- Reasonable access to services (irrigation water, facility water, and sewer)
- Coordination on zoning, development, and other planning issues.

14. Please demonstrate community support for the project. (Describe the public support you already have, and how will you continue to engage the public to show that there is community support. The bigger the project, the broader support you will need to demonstrate. Provide letters of support if available).

See Attached Letters of Support in Appendix C.

15. What is the applicant's long-term contribution to maintenance? (Please provide details about how the project will be maintained after completion).

HDHC plans to operate and maintain the botanical garden. Revenue from admissions, classes, lectures, event rentals, and the Center's thriving and long-established native plant nursery (WinterCreek Nursery) will support garden and other facility operations, repairs, and upgrades over time. HDHC also has a robust and growing volunteer program that activates members of the public toward the Center's projects – we expect that the development of the High Desert Botanical Garden will be an exciting opportunity for many in our community, and that our further enhanced network of volunteers will play a valuable supporting role in maintaining the gardens and attached spaces over time.

In addition, the facilities of WinterCreek Nursery and the expertise of its staff can also be brought to bear in producing plant material needed for maintaining and upgrading the Garden over time at little cost. HDHC organizational fundraising will also contribute to covering costs of maintaining the garden as they arise.

If "maintenance" includes major repairs or upgrades to water and waste systems that service land adjacent to but not occupied by HDHC, a discussion would be required to determine responsibilities that should remain with the landowner (BPRD).

Thank you for your interest in Community Sponsored Projects with the Bend Park and Recreation District!



Appendix A: High Desert Botanical Garden Site Plan



Figure 1: Project location map. The proposed project is located on a ~500 acre site purchased by the Bend Parks and Recreation District southeast of the city of Bend in Deschutes County, Oregon.



Figure 2: The specific proposed location is the northeast portion of the BPRD property. This map shows the approximate boundaries of the proposed area for the High Desert Botanical Garden.



Figure 3: A more detailed boundary and generalized area use plan for the proposed Botanical Garden. The main entry, parking, and structures (visitor/interpretive center, restrooms, offices, etc.) are located in a previously disturbed area along Arnold Market Road on the east side of the property. The remaining portions of the site would be established as the publicly accessible garden, demonstration areas, and other elements to be developed during the planning and design process.

Appendix B: Preliminary Budget

	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Infrastructure	\$22,500	\$45,000
Labor (garden construction)	\$319,200	\$478,800
Materials & Equipment (garden construction)	\$251,460	\$436,752
Visitor Center Facility (Appx. 2,000 sq ft)	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
Overhead	\$177,948	\$288,166
Contingencies	\$59,316	\$144,083
Fundraising	\$59,316	\$115,266
TOTAL*	\$1,889,740	\$3,508,067

** We recognize a potential of a five percent annual increase in construction costs due to inflation and market fluctuations*

Low and High figures are based on expected budget details for each line item. The low figure indicates the minimum amount expected to complete the project; the high figure indicates the maximum amount projected to be necessary for project completion.

Appendix C: Letters of Support



January 1st, 2025

To: Bend Parks and Recreation District Board
From: Visit Bend President & CEO, Jeff Knapp

Dear BPRD Directors,

On behalf of Visit Bend, I am pleased to express my full support of the development of the High Desert Botanical Garden.

A Botanical Garden highlighting native plants and habitats would not only serve our local community by educating the public on water conservation and beauty but also provide a much-needed diversification in year-round visitor attractions.

This is an ideal type of project that supports Visit Bend's priorities of People, Economy, and Place.

Sincerely,

Jeff Knapp
CEO/President
Visit Bend

[VISITBEND.COM | 750 NW LAVA RD., SUITE 160 | BEND, OR 97703]



Department of Horticulture
Oregon State University
4017 Agricultural and Life Sciences Building
Corvallis, Oregon 97331
P 541-737-3695
F 541-737-3479
gail.langelotto@oregonstate.edu

11/25/24

Dear Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the High Desert Horticultural Center, and their application for a community sponsored project with the Bend Park and Recreation District. I am a Professor of Horticulture at Oregon State University, where I also lead OSU's Garden Ecology Lab. I have deep collaborations with Master Gardener volunteers, native plant nurseries, gardeners, landscape architects, and designers across the United States, and was thus thrilled to see this proposal for a High Desert Botanic Garden, which will stand as a unique learning and demonstration opportunity related to the region's unique flora and associated fauna.

This proposed project has high potential to promote sustainable plant choices for high desert landscapes, and to serve as a tourist destination people interested in diverse topics, including local natural history, social sciences, and sustainability. This project will thus support the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental, and social. While visitors to the Botanical Garden will bring tourist dollars to the region, I believe that the benefits will be wide-ranging and longer-term, including reduced landscape water use and plant purchases from local vendors.

I also believe that this proposed project supports the mission, vision, and values of the Bend Park and Recreation District, including strengthening community vitality via natural areas, and reducing physical, social and financial barriers to local programs. I was happy to see that the proposed garden will be accessible and experiential, and believe it will be a notable community asset for the District, region, and beyond.

Sincerely,



Gail Langelotto
Professor of Horticulture
Oregon State University



COMMISSIONER PHIL CHANG

To: Bend Park and Recreation District Board
From: Commissioner Phil Chang

December 13, 2024

Dear BPRD Directors,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the development of the High Desert Botanical Garden.

Our community is currently on the brink of a groundwater crisis, with household use of groundwater being the biggest stressor on our local aquifers. We need to learn to use less water at our homes to help slow or reverse decades long declines in local groundwater levels. Landscape irrigation is the principal water use in our homes.

The High Desert Botanical Garden can provide a vital educational resource for our community as we work to learn to use less water for our home landscapes. The garden's focus on high desert native plant species and local biodiversity will promote the sustainable use of land and water resources while helping to preserve the unique ecological heritage of our region. I am hoping that the garden can help to demonstrate landscape design concepts that allow our county to update land use policies that promote a healthy, vibrant, sustainable future.

I am not fully aware of what other projects the High Desert Botanical Garden is competing against for a BPRD site and resources, but I can say that the garden proposal would be an extremely valuable asset in our community's efforts to avert the looming groundwater crisis ahead.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions about this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Phil Chang
Deschutes County Commissioner

1300 NW Wall Street Bend, Oregon 97703
(541) 388-6569 phil.chang@deschutes.org www.deschutes.org

Community Sponsored Projects

Procedures

Over the years, Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) has partnered with individuals and groups within our community to develop outstanding projects. Given that these projects are initiated by engaged citizens and local organizations, they are aptly named Community Sponsored Projects. Community members are critical to the success of our parks, trails and recreation programs, and the new ideas and innovations that citizens foster through Community Sponsored Projects helps BPRD address evolving community needs. Through the Community Sponsored Projects process, BPRD receives input on new project ideas, innovative ways to provide services, potential private-public partnerships, in-kind or other financial support, and education and outreach opportunities. These projects have and will continue to provide a great opportunity for BPRD to engage with our local community and improve our services.

Since this program was initiated in 2015, interest in Community Sponsored Projects has continued to grow. In response to this increased interest, BPRD has standardized the way it works with those requesting projects. Please note that the district's funding and staff availability vary from year to year, and will influence the district's ability to facilitate Community Sponsored Projects.

Please review the application and contact Rachel Colton at 541-706-6192 or via email at rachelc@bendparksandrec.org with any questions you may have.

Application Steps

Applications for Community Sponsored Projects (CSP) are accepted year-round. The CSP process can require some or more of the following steps, depending upon the scale, complexity and breadth of impact of the proposed project.

1. Applicant contacts staff to discuss project idea and receive application materials if project is generally consistent with project criteria.
 2. Applicant submits the CSP application to BPRD.
 3. A BPRD staff member follows-up with the applicant about any questions, if necessary.
 4. Staff screens submitted materials to determine initial feasibility of project, and whether the project is consistent with applicable criteria. If staff determines that the project is consistent with applicable criteria, then the project will advance to the next stage of evaluation to further evaluate project feasibility. Please note that not all projects will be able to proceed to the next step in the review process given constraints related to consistency with applicable criteria, project infeasibility, and staffing and budget constraints.
 5. A staff visit is conducted to better understand the proposed project scope and feasibility. If the site visit is positive, the applicant is invited to submit a final draft of the application with any missing information completed and/or clarified.
 6. Depending upon scale, staff recommends the project to the BPRD Board of Directors for a go/no-go decision. If the Board supports the project, staff issues a Notice of Intent to approve the project. Note that smaller projects may not require board approval.
 7. In partnership with the applicant, staff writes the Project Agreement to address funding, maintenance and other relevant topics. The Project Agreement must be executed prior to project commencement.
 8. The project commences! Upon project completion, the applicant and staff complete a lessons learned process to document project accomplishments and areas of improvement. This process allows staff to continually improve upon the CSP process.
-

Necessary Application Information

- Applicant name and contact information
- Project name
- Project description
- Project location
- Square footage/acreage of project area
- Site plan
- Applicant's contribution to project
- Project budget
- Project funds/in-kind services and their sources
- Schedule
- Need for the project
- Explanation of why BPRD should be involved
- Explanation of who will benefit and how
- Demonstrated community support
- Contribution to long-term maintenance

Project Criteria

- ☐ Is the project consistent with the BPRD Comprehensive Plan?
- ☐ Does the project serve or encourage park use/access by underrepresented populations?
- ☐ Would approval of this project contribute to a broad and equitable distribution of park and/or trail development projects?
- ☐ Does this project include an outreach and education component that would encourage use by a diversity of user groups?
- ☐ Is the project consistent with BPRD policies?
- ☐ Does the applicant have sufficient funding and/or in-kind services to support project development?

- ☐ Does applicant funding include funds with a limited window of availability?
 - ☐ Has the applicant demonstrated community support for the project?
 - ☐ Is the project timeline compatible with other BPRD projects?
 - ☐ Is the project location compatible with other BPRD projects?
 - ☐ Are the demands on BPRD staff within existing capacity?
 - ☐ Are land use approvals or building permits needed?
 - ☐ Will project development require additional funding from BPRD?
-

Maintenance Criteria

- ☐ Is the project compatible with existing uses and facilities?
- ☐ Does the proposed site have adequate capacity to accommodate the use without adverse effects to the environment, existing uses, facilities and adjacent properties?
- ☐ Are the project design and materials consistent with BPRD specs and standards?
- ☐ Do the design and materials meet BPRD maintenance standards?
- ☐ Will the project require additional on-going maintenance work or reduce on-going maintenance for BPRD after completion?
- ☐ Will the applicant provide long-term maintenance (e.g., park adoption, maintenance endowment)?
- ☐ Will the project require operational funds from BPRD?

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (“**MOU**”) is entered into and effective as of the ____ day of _____, 202__ (“**Effective Date**”) between Bend Park & Recreation District (“**BPRD**”), an Oregon special district, whose address is 799 SW Columbia Street, Bend, Oregon 97702 and High Desert Horticultural Center (“**HDHC**”), an Oregon nonprofit corporation with 501(c)(3) status, whose address is 63405 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, Oregon 97701.

RECITALS

- A. BPRD is the owner of certain real property addressed as 60725 Arnold Market Road, Bend, OR 97702 and 21455 Rickard Rd, Bend, OR 97702, which is commonly known as the “Southeast Area Regional Park Site” and referred to herein as the “**Park Site**”.
- B. HDHC desires to utilize approximately forty (40) acres of the Park Site to develop a botanical garden including an approximately two-thousand (2,000) square foot interpretive center and related facilities (collectively, the “**Garden**”).
- C. At present, the Park Site is not developed for public park use and does not have an approved conceptual plan for future park development.
- D. The parties enter into this MOU to outline certain understandings with respect to consideration of the Garden in any future conceptual park planning process.

TERMS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

- 1. **Purpose.** This MOU contains the parties’ non-binding expression of an intent to coordinate, and for BPRD to consider in good faith, the Garden as part of any future conceptual park planning process for the Park Site.
- 2. **BPRD Understandings and Responsibilities.**
 - 2.1 BPRD believes the Garden is generally consistent with the mission, vision and values of BPRD.
 - 2.2 BPRD, at BPRD’s expense, will conduct conceptual park planning for the Park Site including, (i) retaining a consultant to develop alternative conceptual plans for the Park Site. These plans will be informed by BPRD staff, community feedback (including feedback from HDHC), site opportunities and constraints, relevant land use requirements, and consultant expertise, (ii) considering in good faith any materials related to the Garden submitted by HDHC, and (iii) performing community outreach to help inform the conceptual design of the Park Site. BPRD will provide HDHC with reasonable notice and opportunity to participate in community outreach sessions related to the conceptual planning process. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, BPRD will retain final decision-making authority over all aspects of the conceptual plan for the Park Site.

- 2.3 Conceptual park planning is anticipated, but not guaranteed, to occur in BPRD fiscal year 26/27 and is subject to available funding and staff availability. BPRD will notify HDHC in writing within thirty (30) days if BPRD determines that conceptual park planning will not proceed as anticipated or will be materially delayed.
- 2.4 BPRD anticipates updating its Comprehensive Plan in 2029, which may include anticipated timing for physical development of the Park Site.

3. HDHC Understanding and Responsibilities.

- 3.1 HDHC, at HDHC's expense, will develop conceptual plans for the Garden for consideration by BPRD, BPRD's consultant, and the community as part of any conceptual planning process undertaken by BPRD. HDHC will submit such conceptual plans to BPRD at least thirty (30) days prior to any anticipated community outreach sessions to allow for adequate review and consideration. Plans shall be sent in PDF and CAD formats.
- 3.2 HDHC understands that BPRD is not obligated to include the Garden, or any particular element thereof, in any adopted conceptual plan for the Park Site (or at any other BPRD property) or any final plans for the Park Site.
- 3.3 HDHC understands that inclusion of the Garden in adopted conceptual plans for the Park Site does not require that the Garden be included in final approved plans for the Park Site.
- 3.4 HDHC understands and agrees that if the Garden is included in the adopted conceptual plan and/or adopted final plans for the Park Site, the design, amenities, and location of the Garden may differ from that contemplated by HDHC. BPRD will retain final decision-making authority over all aspects of the final plans for the Park Site, but will solicit and reasonably consider any input from HDHC on any final plans for the Park Site that include the Garden.
- 3.5 HDHC understands and agrees that any plans, designs, or materials related to the Garden that are transmitted to BPRD by HDHC may be freely used by BPRD for the purposes of planning and site design. However, if BPRD abandons plans for the Garden, BPRD will cease to use such plans, designs, and materials (but need not delete or otherwise unwind any usage prior to abandonment) and HDHC may use such plans, designs, and materials for any other purpose.
- 3.6 HDHC understands that there is no identified or secured source of funding for physical development of the Park Site.
- 3.7 If the Garden is included in adopted final plans for the Park Site, no physical development of the Garden would occur unless and until HDHC enters into a

ground lease or similar arrangement acceptable to both parties, acting reasonably. BPRD usually negotiates ground leases as part of construction planning for a park site, which construction planning may be several years following adoption of final plans for the Park Site. At a minimum, such ground lease would specify that (i) HDHC would be responsible for funding any physical development of the Garden and (ii) all future maintenance of the Garden and related facilities will be the responsibility of HDHC. The parties agree to negotiate any such ground lease in good faith, and BPRD will provide HDHC with at least ninety (90) days' advance written notice before commencing ground lease negotiations to allow HDHC adequate time to prepare.

- 4. Non-Binding Understanding.** Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this MOU does not create any contract between the parties or impose any legally enforceable obligations on the parties. This MOU is only an expression of intent and is non-binding for all purposes.

- 5. Miscellaneous Provisions.**

- 5.1 Notice.** All notices or other communications required or permitted by this MOU: (i) must be in writing; (ii) must be delivered to the parties at the addresses set forth above, or any other address that a party may designate by notice to the other party; and (iii) are considered delivered: (A) upon actual receipt if delivered personally, by fax or by a nationally recognized overnight delivery service; or (B) at the end of the third business day after the date of deposit in the United States mail, postage pre-paid, certified, return receipt requested.
- 5.2 Assignment.** This MOU may not be assigned by any party without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 5.3 No Third-Party Beneficiaries.** Nothing in this MOU, express or implied, is intended or will be construed to confer on any person any right, remedy, or claim under or with respect to this MOU.
- 5.4 Amendments.** This MOU may be amended only by an instrument in writing executed by all the parties, which writing must refer to this MOU.
- 5.5 Entire Agreement.** This MOU (including the documents and instruments referred to in this MOU) constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter of this MOU and supersedes all prior understandings and agreements, whether written or oral, among the parties with respect to such subject matter.
- 5.6 Interpretation.** Each party acknowledges that they have consulted with their own legal counsel concerning this MOU or have knowingly waived the right to do so. The rule of construction that a written instrument is construed against the party preparing or drafting such written instrument shall specifically not be applicable to

the interpretation of this MOU, and any documents executed and delivered pursuant to, or in connection with, this MOU.

5.7 Effective Date. This MOU is effective when signed by all named parties.

[Signatures on following page.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this MOU effective as of the date first set forth above.

BEND PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT, an Oregon Special District

By: _____
Michelle Healy, Executive Director

Date: _____

HIGH DESERT HORTICULTURAL CENTER, an Oregon public benefit nonprofit corporation

By: _____
Richard Martinson, President

Date: _____

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

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Nathan Hovekamp

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Business Session – Hollinshead Park Improvement Project Contract Amendment

The board reviewed and approved Amendment No. 4 to the professional services contract with Keller Associates for the Hollinshead Park Improvement Project. Following approval of a new preferred conceptual design in 2024, additional project scope was identified, including expanded infrastructure replacement and design work associated with required city street improvements. The amendment adds \$104,445 in professional services, along with a 10 percent contingency, increasing the total design contract amount while remaining within the project’s overall Capital Improvement Plan allocation. This action allows the project to move forward through final design, permitting, and preparation for construction, with future construction funding anticipated for consideration in a subsequent capital improvement plan.

Director Schiffman made a motion to authorize the executive director to execute Amendment No. 4 to the professional services contract with Keller Associates with a cost not to exceed \$104,445, and to approve an additional 10% contingency of \$10,444, for a revised total project budget not to exceed \$353,771. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

Consent Agenda – Budget Appropriation Transfer (Resolution No. 2026-01)

The board considered approval of Resolution No. 2026-01 authorizing an appropriation transfer within the Facility Reserve Fund for the 2025–26 fiscal year. The transfer reallocates \$196,700 from contingency to address unanticipated maintenance and repair needs across administration, park services, and recreation services. The largest expenditure supports replacement of two failed boilers at the District Office, with additional funds directed toward minor facility repairs at recreation sites and infrastructure repairs at district parks. The proposed transfer does not change the district’s overall adopted budget and allows staff to address critical operational needs within existing financial resources.

Director Schneider made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 approving the appropriation transfer for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Director Hovekamp seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

The next board meeting will be March 3, 2026, at 5:30pm.

Board of Directors

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500 NW Wall Street
 Bend, Oregon 97703
 541.617.2877
 bgcbend.org



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
 OF BEND**

To: Bend Parks & Recreation District Board of Directors

From: Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend Board of Directors and CEO, Michael Baker

Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: Background and Request for Board Engagement in Conversations with Boys & Girls Club Bend Regarding Building, Lease and Long-Term Future.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend (BGCB) submits this memo to provide background on the following:

- The historic building at 500 NW Wall Street,
- BGCBs 30-year tenancy and stewardship and 50-year lease agreement,
- Current building conditions -structural, maintenance and ownership realities, and
- BGCB Organizational Strength and Vision for Serving Our Community

Background of the Building

The Old Bend Gym, also known as the Bend Amateur Athletic Club Gymnasium, is a 1918 brick structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As noted in district records, the land is owned by Bend-LaPine Schools, while the building has been owned, at least in part, by BPRD or its foundation since the late 1990s. The building was saved from dereliction in 1995-1998 through a community-led renovation effort explicitly so it could reopen as the home of the newly formed Boys & Girls Club of Bend.

Current Ownership and Legal Structure

Land Ownership: Bend-LaPine School District

Building Ownership: BPRD and/or the BPRD Foundation

Use Restrictions: The existing lease requires the building to be used by the Boys & Girls Club.

Historic Protections: As a National Historic Site, exterior changes require approval from the City of Bend's Historic Landmarks Commission.

This ownership and operation structure has served the community for decades but now limits the ability of any party to address the building's significant capital needs. Public



owners lack the mandate and budget to invest millions into a single facility, while BGCB cannot effectively raise capital for a building it does not own.

BGCB's Tenancy and Use of the Building (1999-Present)

For more than 30 years, BGCB has operated continuously from this site, providing after-school care, mentoring, enrichment, and summer programming for hundreds of youth every year. The building's gym and large community rooms are uniquely suited to single-user youth programming.

Original Community Intent and Stewardship

When the building was saved and renovated in the late 1990s, the explicit community intent was for it to serve as the home of the Boys & Girls Club. Because BGCB was a new nonprofit at that time, the building was placed under the stewardship of BPRD to ensure stability and continuity.

For more than 30 years, the BGCB has successfully operated programs out of the building, serving thousands of youth in our community. During this time, we have also grown as an organization, strengthened our governance, and attained financial stability.

Current Building Conditions - Structural, Maintenance and Ownership Realities

The building's historic designation and age create unique constraints. Renovations require specialized materials and methods.

A structural assessment completed in 2024 found significant deterioration, including a failing masonry wall under the exterior stair due to water damage. The engineering assessment identified significant deterioration in the exterior stair walls, including bulging brick, mortar loss, and separation from the concrete stairs. The assessment notes that the wall "has reached the end of its structural life and must be rebuilt," and that the building faces millions of dollars in deferred repairs. The report concludes that the wall must be rebuilt using modern construction methods.

Building wide deferred maintenance is estimated to \$2.5M, with long-term capital needs likely to continue to grow.

The building's layout, large gym, community rooms, and historic features, limits alternative uses and revenue potential. Its historic status further restricts redevelopment or expansion.

Lease Negotiation Timeline and Challenges

Discussions about the long-term future of the building began in mid-2024, when a scupper detached from the building and BGCB requested BPRD's assistance with emergency repairs. Formal lease negotiations have been under way for approximately a year.

Unfortunately, the parties have not yet been able to align upon key terms required for a non-profit to continue to operate with certainty around its long-term home. Throughout this period, BGCB has negotiated in good faith toward a long-term lease that would allow continued safe operation and responsible planning – both requirements for our organization to continue to fulfill its mission and serve families and youth in Bend/Central Oregon.

Sticking Points in Current Lease Conversations

- **\$25,000 Cap on BPRD Repair Obligations**

BGCB entered the lease amendment process because the building's capital needs exceeded what the Club could responsibly manage under the existing lease and ownership structure. BPRD's initial written proposal on June 16, 2025, stated that BPRD would "take on facility repairs and maintenance of the building (excluding custodial, utilities, landscaping, snow removal and tenant-specific improvements)." The first appearance of a \$25,000 cap on BPRD's repair responsibility occurred in the draft lease itself more than 6 months later. Such a cap would shift all material capital expenditures back to BGCB, undermining the purpose of the amendment process.

- **A Provision Allowing Unilateral 180 Day Termination Without Cause**

BGCB has communicated repeatedly that it cannot responsibly operate under a short-term or easily terminable lease due to the inability to relocate, fundraise or plan on short timelines. This concern was the explicit reason the parties moved from a 3-year term to a 5-year term during negotiations. The reintroduction of a no-cause 180-day termination clause in the draft lease creates significant uncertainty and undermines the stability BGCB requires to serve youth and maintain the building.

- **Additional Provisions That Jeopardize the Historic Relationship and Mission of Serving the Community**

Subsequent drafts have included unilateral insurance requirements, indemnification terms, and default provisions on immaterial failures like providing BPRD with paperwork that were materially significantly more stringent than those discussed in negotiation. Several of these terms would expose BGCB to disproportionate operational and financial risk relative to the Club's role as a nonprofit tenant in a historic, single-use facility.

These challenges make clear that a traditional lease cannot meet the operational, financial, or capital needs of the building. As a result, BGCB would like to evaluate a long-term ownership model that would allow us to preserve the building, safeguard youth services, and plan responsibly for the future.

Clarification regarding Building Acquisition Discussions

We would also like to clarify the record regarding BGCB's offer to acquire the building. In January, BGCB communicated that a traditional lease structure no longer appeared workable and expressed openness to exploring an ownership model. In a subsequent conversation between our Board Chair and BPRD's Executive Director, BGCB indicated that our Board would likely be receptive to discussing an ownership path in which BGCB



would assume responsibility for the wall repair after acquiring the building. This was an informal, exploratory conversation intended to keep options open and to invite further discussion among all parties; it was not a formal amended proposal. Our expectation was that this conversation would lead to continued dialogue to determine whether mutually agreeable terms could be developed.

BGCB's Future Vision

Under new leadership, BGCB is pursuing a hub-and-spoke model that leverages the downtown Club as a central anchor while expanding into neighborhood-based "spokes" closer to where youth live and attend school.

BGCB currently serves more than 400 youth annually, including a significant proportion from low-income households, single-parent families, and communities facing barriers to academic success. Many of the young people we serve rely on the Club for consistent safety, stability, and enrichment outside of school hours. The downtown Club is the only youth-dedicated facility in the city center and plays a critical role in ensuring equitable access to services for families who live, work, or attend school in the area.

Educational Partnerships - BGCB partners closely with Bend-LaPine Schools to support academic success, including literacy development. Our literacy programming provides daily reading support, homework help, and targeted interventions for youth who are below grade level. These efforts align with district goals and help ensure that students who need additional support receive it in a consistent, structured environment. The downtown Club's proximity to multiple schools makes it an ideal hub for these partnerships.

Expanded Hours - BGCB has expanded operating hours to better serve teens, including dedicated evening programming that provides mentorship, leadership development, and safe social spaces. These expanded hours respond to a growing community need for structured, supervised environments for teens during out-of-school time. The downtown building's gym and large program rooms are uniquely suited to these activities.

Summer Programs - BGCB has significantly increased summer program capacity to serve more children during the months when families need support the most. Summer programs include academic enrichment, recreation, STEM activities, and field trips that keep youth engaged and learning. The downtown Club is a central gathering point for these programs and provides the indoor space necessary for high-quality summer operations.

Food Insecurity - BGCB plays a vital role in addressing food insecurity among local youth. The Club provides daily snacks and meals, ensuring that children have access to nutritious food during out-of-school hours. For many families, this support is essential. Ownership of the building would allow BGCB to modernize and expand the kitchen and dining spaces to meet growing demand.



Weekend Programming- Recognizing that many families need support beyond the traditional school week, BGCB has expanded Saturday programming to provide safe, structured activities on weekends. This programming helps fill a gap in community services and ensures that youth have consistent access to positive environments and nutrition all week long.

Continued use and potential ownership of the historic building is essential to allowing BGCB to continue and expand the services we provide to Bend's / Central Oregon's youth and families. BGCB is prepared to assume responsibility for the building's long-term maintenance, historic preservation obligations, and capital needs with ownership.

Board of Directors

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500 NW Wall Street
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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
 OF BEND**

Chair Owens, Vice Chair Schneider, and Members of the Board,

Thank you for your service to our community and for the time and care you dedicate as members of the Bend Park & Recreation District Board. We are writing to you not only as the Board Chair and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend, but also as constituents who deeply value the role the district plays in shaping the quality of life for families across Bend.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend serves hundreds of families who rely on us for after-school care, summer programs, meal assistance, and literacy support. Many of these same families are frequent users of the parks, facilities, and recreation opportunities the district stewards. It is with these families in mind that we are requesting a reset in the ongoing conversations regarding the Old Bend gym building, long-term ownership, and the current lease agreement.

For nearly two years, representatives from our organizations have worked in good faith to navigate these issues. However, recent draft lease terms introduced significant new financial and operational risks for BGCB, and that materially depart from what the parties agreed to during letter of intent discussions. We have offered reasonable alternatives and provided clear rationale for each, yet the current structure makes it untenable for us to move forward under a traditional lease. Without a reset, the dialogue is at risk of breaking down in ways that could compromise both organizations' ability to fulfill our missions to the people of Bend and Central Oregon.

To reestablish a productive path forward, we respectfully request that the District Board authorize the formation of a technical work group composed of Board and staff representatives from both organizations. This group would be charged with promptly returning to the Board with a clear recommendation regarding the lease, long-term building ownership, and operational responsibilities.

We want to emphasize that we are not asking the district to bypass or abbreviate any public processes, legal requirements, or fiduciary obligations associated with the stewardship of



public property. Rather, we are seeking a structured, collaborative process that allows both organizations to fully explore solutions that protect the public interest and serve the families who depend on us.

Across Oregon and Central Oregon, public entities routinely partner with nonprofit organizations as preferred service providers, often entrusting them with the long-term care, operation, or even ownership of public assets when doing so best serves the community. As the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend continues to grow and mature, our hope is to explore a similar path: one in which we assume responsibility for the building's long-term maintenance, historic preservation obligations, and capital needs, ensuring its continued service to the public for generations to come.

For nearly 30 years, the building's ownership and use have been shaped by a well-intended but complex history. The community, led by Rotary members including Jim Crowell and Steve Scott, raised the funds that made the building's renovation possible, with the express purpose of creating a home for the newly formed Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend. As stewards of that legacy, we believe this is the right moment for all three stakeholders to come together to bring clarity and alignment to the building's future and establish a stable, transparent path forward for the kids and families that we all serve.

If our organizations are unable to navigate the current challenges, we risk failing not only the community and the historic asset we collectively care for, but also the families who rely on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend every day.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your ongoing commitment to the community. We look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the district to honor the history of the Bend gym building, uphold the district's public responsibilities, and serve Central Oregon together.

Sincerely,

Danielle Rosenfield, Board Chair

Michael Baker, CEO

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bend



**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT UPDATES
March 2026**

COMMUNITY PARK PROJECTS



Pine Nursery Park Phase 5: Construction is moving along on this project. Infields, as well as pickleball and basketball areas, have base rock now installed. Light pole foundations are being drilled and poured, the pickleball fencing work has begun, the maintenance building has the roofing installed with siding underway, and the maintenance area is fully fenced. Construction is anticipated to be complete by fall of 2026.

This project will construct the final features identified in the approved development plan for this highly used community park. Project work includes athletic field lighting, artificial turf infields, pickleball courts, new trail connectivity, ADA access improvements, off-leash dog area improvements, maintenance area improvements, landscaping, and irrigation. Budget permitting, the project may also include full-court basketball, pickleball court lighting, and pedestrian trail lighting.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/pine-nursery-park-phase-5/>



Sawyer Park Upgrades: The draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) is complete and is being circulated for signature. Once the MOA is signed by all parties, the agreement for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant can be completed and the project advertised for bid.

Decades of use and increased visitors to the park created the need for an improved entrance and parking lot. The plans include relocating the parking area closer to O.B. Riley Road, adding accessible parking, habitat restoration, improving trail accessibility, and the addition of a permanent restroom, picnic shelter, and river overlook. This project is funded in part by grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Local Government Grant Program.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/sawverparkupgrades/>

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROJECTS



Coulter Grove Park: The second round of public outreach that was completed in January has been summarized. The online survey was open from January 16-30, 2026, and received 62 responses. It was emailed directly to HOA and apartment complex managers, the Southern Crossing and Southwest Neighborhood Associations, and to individuals on the project information list. It was also available on the project website. An onsite open house was scheduled for January 18 but changed to a virtual platform due to freezing fog and low temperatures. There were five attendees who participated in that virtual open house. A second open house was held at the BPRD district office on January 21, and there were five attendees. The visit to Pine Ridge Kids Inc engaged approximately 75 students in brainstorming ideas for the new park. All the feedback from this round of outreach will inform the preliminary conceptual designs which are in development.

The district has been actively pursuing neighborhood park properties in underserved areas to meet the 2018 Park and Recreation District Comprehensive Plan goal of providing a park within one-half mile of every resident. The district purchased this property in 2023 to fulfill Search Area 18. <https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/reed-lane-neighborhood-park-site/>

TRAIL PROJECTS



Deschutes River Trail South – Refinement Study: On October 21, 2025, the board of directors approved a contract with Kittelson & Associates Inc. to complete a project refinement study which will develop and analyze new trail alignment alternatives. Information resulting from this work will be used to inform future community conversations and decision-making processes. Throughout the study there will be four stakeholder meetings, two public open houses, and three board updates/presentations. A project website has been published, containing information about the project, including a FAQ document. Staff are currently reviewing the draft Existing Conditions Memorandum submitted by the consultant and are preparing for the first stakeholder meeting that will be held on March 18th at the District Office.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/deschutes-river-trail-south-study/>

This project will investigate and refine alternatives for completing the Deschutes River Trail South project. It does not include scope for final design or construction at this time.



North Unit Canal Trail – Phase 1: The district has completed property acquisition and has submitted a permit application to the Bureau of Reclamation. Currently, staff does not have a set timeline for the permit review and approval process.

This trail in northeast Bend is planned to be a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail with a primarily compacted gravel surface, similar to other canal trails in Bend, while some portions will have asphalt surface. Phase 1 includes the development of the trail between Canal Row Park and the future extension of Yeoman Road, which will also provide access to Pine Nursery Park. The segment of the trail that passes through the new Pahlisch Homes Petrosa subdivision will be transferred to BPRD for management upon completion and will offer connections to interior trails for Fieldstone Park.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/northunitcanaltrail/>



Riverfront Street Deschutes River Trail Improvements: The City of Bend has provided the district with 30% design documents and cost estimates for the “one-way street” design approach and include a 10-foot-wide concrete trail in lieu of sidewalk throughout the entire street corridor. Design work is expected to be completed mid-2026, however, funding for construction has still not been identified, so a timeline for construction cannot be provided at this time.

Riverfront Street, between Galveston Avenue at Drake Park, to Miller’s Landing Park, is a local street with a sidewalk that has functioned as the DRT for many years. It is one of the last remaining “gaps” along the trail through downtown Bend. In 2023, BPRD and the city signed an intergovernmental agreement as a joint effort led by the City of Bend and supported by BPRD. The renewed project will seek to improve conditions for trail users as well as replace the street and other public infrastructure as needed. <https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/deschutes-river-trail-riverfront/>

REGIONAL/ COMMUNITY WIDE PROJECTS



Art Station: Progress is starting to show on the construction of the Art Station with walls up and trusses installed. Work will begin soon on the interior. The Art Station is expected to be under construction through the summer of 2026.

This new facility will be built adjacent to the basketball court at Larkspur Park. It will have an entry space, three classrooms, office space, and restrooms. The surrounding natural space and trails will be a beneficial asset to the Art Station for inspiration

and space to create, while preserving the landscape and trail experience to the fullest extent possible.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/art-station/>



Bend White Water Park Maintenance and McKay Park River Access Project: Conceptual design development began in late summer 2025 and will continue through the winter. These concepts, which will be presented to the public in summer 2026, will allow the project team to analyze varying levels of options to address priorities.

Completed in 2016, the Whitewater Park is due for review and maintenance. The first phase of this project will use survey and engineering analysis to compare the current functions of the park with the original design intent. Once the reports are complete, the district will determine a scope of work for a project to update and improve the whitewater park features. The project also includes improving river access for all users at McKay Park. The preferred concept design was completed and approved in 2023 under the McKay, Miller's, and Columbia Park River Access and Restoration project.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/bend-whitewater-park-maintenance-and-mckay-park-access/>



Columbia Park River Access Project: Land use permitting at the local level is complete and construction permits at the state and federal levels have been secured, but construction permitting at the local level continues. It is anticipated that this project will go out to bid in summer 2026 with construction beginning in early fall 2026.

The preferred concept design includes bank improvements to enhance the natural area within this reach of river frontage. Also included is a small, hardened access point for river users to enter and exit the river, or to sit and relax by the water. This project was prioritized from the 2018 Deschutes River Access and Habitat Restoration Plan, and the preferred concept design was completed under the 2023 McKay, Miller's, and Columbia Park River Access project.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/columbia-park-river-access-project/>

ASSET MANAGEMENT PROJECTS



JSFC Outdoor Pool Roof Cover Replacement and Renovation Project: In June of 2025, the district hired Pence Construction as a Design Build contractor to complete both design and construction of the project. Pence has been working on preliminary design and bringing on additional design build contractors to move the project forward for better cost estimating. Design and permitting will continue through 2026. Staff are now evaluating costs and project scope with the contractor. Changes to each will be included in the draft CIP for fiscal year 2027. Work is scheduled to begin in September of 2027.

This design build contract project combines five projects needed for the facility which are replacement of the existing 50-meter pool cover, replacement of the main chiller unit, replacement of the roofing material covering the south wing, re-lining of the Myrtha walls in the 50-meter pool and remodeling the original locker rooms on the northwest side of the building.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/juniper-renovations/>



Boyd Acres Park Services Complex: Construction is in progress and required demolition is complete. The primary focus is the office renovations in Buildings B and C.

The district has executed a purchase and sale agreement (PSA) with the City of Bend for the purchase of their existing utility shop on Boyd Acres Road to become the new Park Services site. This PSA allows the city to occupy the facility until their new

facility is complete, which is anticipated at the end of 2026. The district is developing a design for tenant improvements to be constructed once the district takes ownership of the property.



Hollinshead Park ADA and Preferred Concept Design: With additional design work required by the City of Bend for right-of-way improvements, the team will soon complete additional site survey so the design work can be completed. Once finished, staff will focus efforts towards securing alternative funding opportunities via an LGGP grant for installation of the upgrades. Construction is slated to begin mid-2027.

Knowing the importance of this historic property, community members and BPRD staff worked together in 2010 to develop a preferred concept plan for the future of the property. Improvements for the park include a new permanent restroom, ADA-compliant pathways, renovation of the parking area, enclosing the off-leash area, a “history walk” with interpretive signs in collaboration with the Deschutes Historical Society, and a maintenance report to preserve the park’s structures.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/hollinshead-park/>



Sylvan Park Playground Renovation: Contract documents are in process with estimated groundbreaking this spring 2026.

The small wood-based playground was built in 1993, no longer serving the needs of the neighborhood. The district will replace the playground and surfacing and create an accessible route to the playground from the parking area.

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/project/sylvan-park-playground-renovation/>



Old Bend Gym Wall Renovation: A contractor has been selected, and the award of the construction contract is ready to go to board for approval. Currently this project is on hold pending lease negotiations with the Boys and Girls Club.

The Old Bend Gym is a historic building on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is owned by BPRD, operated by the Boys & Girls Club on property owned by the Bend-La Pine School District. The entry to the building from NW Wall Street utilizes an exterior staircase for access to the second floor. The structural wall supporting the staircase is failing and needs to be replaced.



Larkspur Park Playground Renovation: After years of use at this highly popular playground, renovations and replacements of the existing playground surfacing is needed. The major priority for this replacement is to ensure property ADA access is maintained throughout the playground area, including proper grade transitions from hardscape to playground surfacing. A site survey has been completed, and staff have begun to analyze the data.

OTHER PROJECTS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Park Search Area Planning: District planners regularly work with local developers or private property owners to acquire property for new parks and trails in district Park Search Areas as defined by the Comprehensive Plan: 2024 Midterm Update.

- The district recently entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the purchase of a new 2-acre neighborhood park site in southeast Bend within the Pahlisch Easton neighborhood development. Staff are currently performing due diligence and title review, and the sale is expected to be completed prior to July 1, 2026.

SDC Waivers for Affordable Housing: Park SDC waivers for 787 single- and multi-family units have been approved through coordination with the City of Bend at a cost to the district of about \$5.5 million in waived SDC fees. BPRD has also approved SDC waivers for three temporary shelter projects, totaling 32 units, and at a cost of \$200,737 to the district. The board approved an additional 150 waivers for 2025 and 2026, all 150 of which have been used. Staff and legal counsel have completed the necessary deed restriction documents for 614 units since May 2020.

Deschutes River Access and Habitat Restoration Plan (River Plan) Update: Staff provided the board with an update on plan implementation and the scope of the update and are currently working on background data collection and review, including a review of the habitat inventory work completed by BPRD's 2025 summer intern.

Bend Park and Recreation District

Quarterly Financial Report – Q2

7/1/25 – 12/31/25



Kristin Toney
Administrative Services Director

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Executive Summary

The Bend Park and Recreation District (district) continues to build on a strong fiscal foundation guided by the Strategic Plan and priorities established in the FY 2025–26 Budget. During the second quarter, the district focused on maintaining high-quality, clean, and safe parks, trails, and facilities, while preparing for winter programming and managing seasonal shifts in operations. We remain committed to taking care of existing assets, supporting more than 700 employees, and upholding long-term fiscal sustainability.

Overall, the district’s financial health remains sound. All major funds are operating within budget, and year-to-date expenditures reflect both the seasonal nature of summer activity and the transition into fall and winter operations. The district is well-positioned to continue delivering high-quality services and programs as we move into the winter and spring quarters.

Quarter 2 Summary

The second quarter spans late summer through fall and the beginning of winter programming, covering the period from July 1 through December 31. At this point in the fiscal year, expenditures totaling 37.9% of the annual budget remain well within expected parameters.

Revenue Highlights:

- Property tax collections are at 95% of budget, consistent with the timing of receipts being November and December.
- Charges for services reached 50.1% of budget, reflecting strong participation in summer and fall recreation programs.
- System development fees are at 109.5% of budget, indicating stronger-than-expected development activity.
- Intergovernmental revenues exceed estimates due to the timing of grant receipts.

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE TO BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$ 26,530,620	\$ 25,192,044	\$ (1,338,576)	95.0%
Charges for services	14,820,900	7,430,123	(7,390,777)	50.1%
System development fees	6,500,000	7,115,660	615,660	109.5%
Grants, contributions, and sponsorships	138,000	59,144	(78,856)	42.9%
Intergovernmental	115,000	355,528	240,528	309.2%
Investment earnings	1,983,460	1,531,395	(452,065)	77.2%
Reimbursement for interfund services	170,000	-	(170,000)	0.0%
Miscellaneous	118,000	83,380	(34,620)	70.7%
Total revenues	50,375,980	41,767,274	(8,608,706)	82.9%

Expenditure Highlights:

- Personnel services account for 48.2% of the annual budget, aligning with this point of time of the year.
- Materials and services are at 44.0%, reflecting higher costs during summer operations and a natural slowdown during cooler months.
- Capital outlay is at 30.1%, we purchased the Boyd Acres site from the city and the major projects are scheduled for later in the fiscal year and

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE TO BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Expenditures				
Personnel services	27,270,360	13,144,773	14,125,587	48.2%
Materials & services	9,865,340	4,336,809	5,528,531	44.0%
Special payments	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	36,167,230	10,869,893	25,297,337	30.1%
Debt service	2,175,340	282,666	1,892,674	13.0%
Total expenditures	75,478,270	28,634,141	46,844,129	37.9%

General Fund

The General Fund is operating within expected parameters for the second quarter. Revenues from charges for services remain strong, and property tax collections are projected to exceed initial estimates. Spending across all departments remains within budget at this mid-year point, and the fund continues to maintain a healthy balance that supports ongoing operations and future needs.

Appropriation by Function/Program	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE TO BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Administration	\$ 4,750,900	\$ 2,018,473	\$ 2,732,427	42.5%
Community engagement	2,175,650	1,041,179	1,134,471	47.9%
Planning and design	1,705,000	837,016	867,984	49.1%
Park services	9,417,850	4,421,478	4,996,372	46.9%
Recreation services	18,231,880	8,888,492	9,343,388	48.8%
Rental program	-	-	-	-
Debt service	-	-	-	-
Appropriation Total	\$ 36,281,280	\$ 17,206,638	\$ 19,074,642	47.4%

GENERAL FUND

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual through Period 06 ended December 31, 2025

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE TO BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$ 24,414,540	\$ 23,251,759	\$ (1,162,781)	95.2%
Charges for services	14,164,500	7,034,113	(7,130,387)	49.7%
System development fees	-	-	-	-
Grants, contributions, and sponsorships	138,000	59,144	(78,856)	42.9%
Intergovernmental	115,000	105,331	(9,669)	91.6%
Investment earnings	543,000	270,656	(272,344)	49.8%
Reimbursement for interfund services	170,000	-	(170,000)	0.0%
Miscellaneous	108,000	77,274	(30,726)	71.5%
Total revenues	39,653,040	30,798,277	(8,854,763)	77.7%
Expenditures				
Personnel services	26,902,330	12,969,525	13,932,805	48.2%
Materials & services	9,378,950	4,237,113	5,141,837	45.2%
Special payments	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-
Debt service	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	36,281,280	17,206,638	19,074,642	47.4%
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	3,371,760	13,591,639	10,219,879	403.1%
Other Financing Sources and uses				
Transfers in	615,000	-	(615,000)	0.0%
Transfers out	(6,000,000)	-	6,000,000	0.0%
Contingency	-	-	-	-
Reserves	(6,062,080)	-	6,062,080	0.0%
Total other financing sources and uses	(11,447,080)	-	11,447,080	0.0%
Net change in fund balance	(8,075,320)	13,591,639	21,666,959	
Beginning Fund Balance	9,691,810	9,796,806	104,996	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 1,616,490	\$ 23,388,445	\$ 21,771,955	

% of Budget 47.4%

The fund maintains a healthy balance, supporting ongoing operations and future needs.

Capital Funds

All capital funds are maintaining strong balances and are well-positioned to support planned capital improvements and equipment purchases throughout the year. Most capital expenditures are expected to ramp up in subsequent quarters as projects move from planning to construction.

System Development Charges (SDC) Fund- SDC revenues are well ahead of pace, while capital expenditures are expected to accelerate later in the year as projects progress.

- Revenues: \$7.1 million (109.5% of annual budget), reflecting strong development activity.
- Expenditures: \$3.4 million (20.3% of budget), primarily with the start of the Pine Nursery phase 5 and the Art Station.

Facility Reserve Fund- The majority of the capital projects scheduled for future quarters. This fund is mainly funded through transfer from the General fund.

- Expenditures: \$7,150,237 (38.7% of budget), largely driven by the Boyd Acres site purchase. Most additional capital projects are scheduled for later in the fiscal year.

Equipment Reserve Fund- Equipment Reserve expenditures are on track, with additional equipment purchases anticipated later in the fiscal year. This fund is mainly funded through transfer from the General fund.

- Expenditures: \$282,087 (43.2% of budget), primarily vehicle purchases. Additional equipment replacements are anticipated later in the fiscal year.

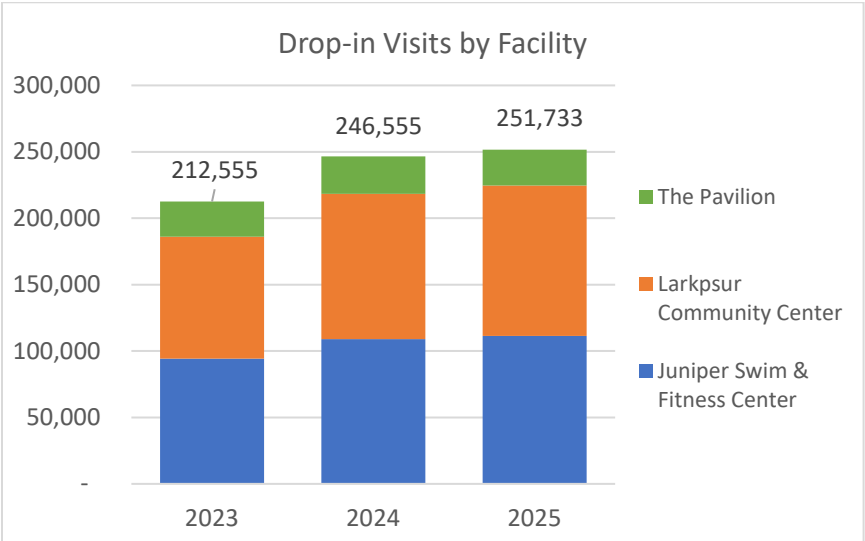
Conclusion

In summary, the district remains financially stable and operationally resilient as we close the second quarter of FY 2026. All major funds are performing within budget expectations, with expenditures reflecting the seasonal demands of summer activity and the transition into winter operations. Strong fund balances continue to support ongoing services, planned capital improvements, and upcoming equipment needs. As we move into the winter and spring quarters, the district will continue to prioritize responsible stewardship of public resources and maintain its focus on long-term sustainability.

Recreation Seasonal Report – Fall/Early Winter 2025

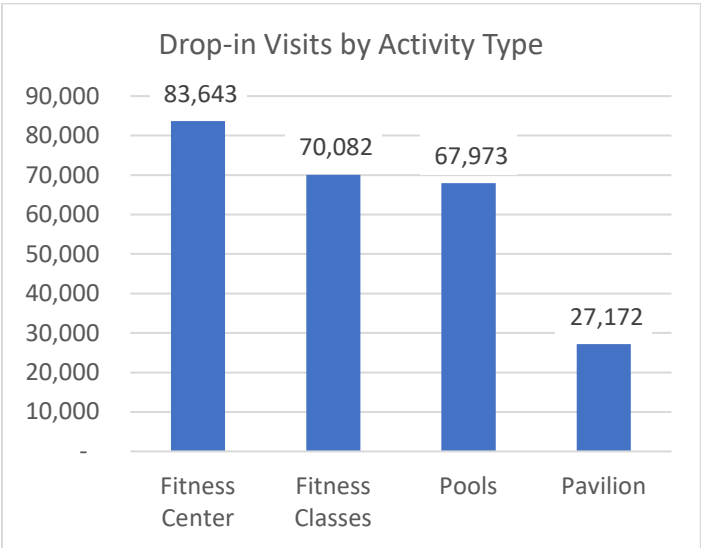
The Recreation Seasonal Reports are intended to provide a high-level summary of recreation services offerings and performance. The Fall/Early Winter Season report covers programs and services offered from September 2nd through December 31st, 2025, and in most cases, includes data for prior years for comparison purposes and to identify trends. Each graph includes a brief interpretation of the data followed by an explanation of the metric used (*in italics*).

Recreation performance in Fall/Early Winter 2025 was strong overall, with facility visits growing 2%, a slowdown from the prior year's 16% growth, reflecting capacity constraints at peak times. Registration program visits declined slightly (3%), consistent with the trend of leveling off as programs near capacity, and program capacity utilization remains very high by industry standards. Group fitness classes were a standout, growing 9%. Scholarship use decreased 16% below budget for FY26 following eligibility refinements made in spring. Financially, revenue, expenses, and total subsidy are tracking nearly identical to last year, with the subsidy running 1% under budget through six months of the fiscal year.



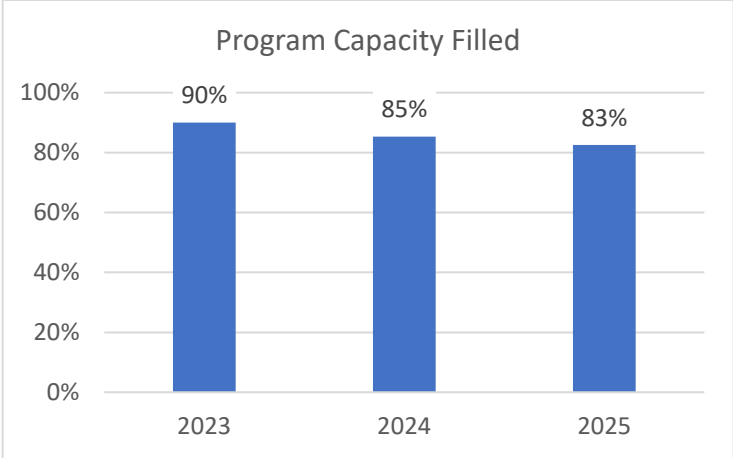
Total drop-in visits remain high, but growth is slowing with total visits increasing only 2% over last year, compared to the 16% growth we saw last year.

Drop-in visits include passholder and single-visit users at recreation facilities. This does not include visits for registered programs (such as swim lessons), facility rentals and competitive user groups.



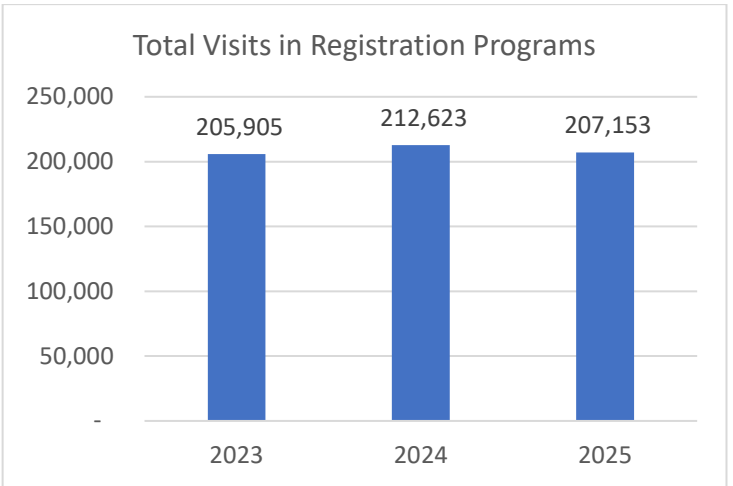
Group fitness classes saw 9% growth over last year, while all the other drop-in types remained neutral. This likely shows recreation centers are nearing capacity for activities that have static schedules, whereas staff have more flexibility with scheduling more fitness classes at different times to attract more patrons.

A single primary purpose for a visit is selected by the patron at time of entry. Water exercise classes are shown under Fitness Classes and not Pools. The Pool visits also do not include swim lessons and competitive team use.



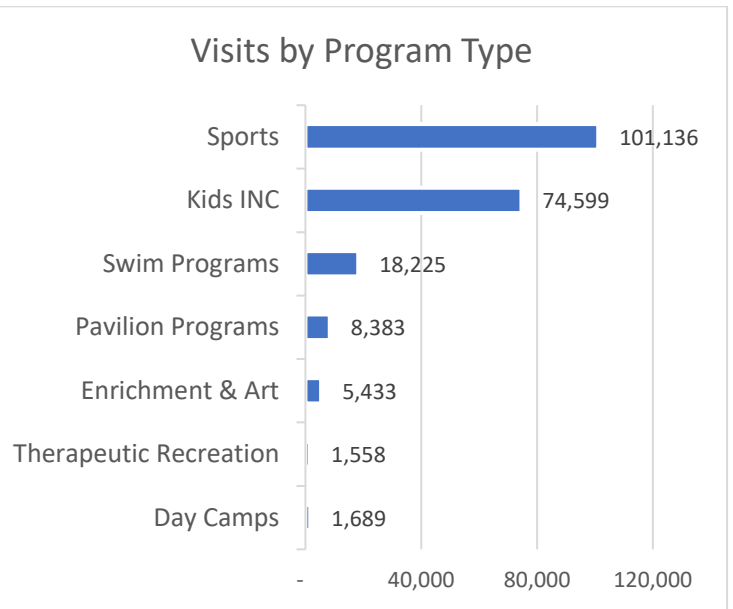
Overall program capacity dipped slightly lower again this year; however, utilization remains very high by industry standards. There continues to be waitlists for many of the more popular programs, although waitlist numbers are staying steady, rather than growing.

Program capacity is the percent of all available spots filled in registered recreation programs except Kids INC.



Program visits for all registered recreation programs decreased 3% compared to last year. This continues the trend of program visits starting to level off without the addition of new programs, and we are at or near capacity in many areas.

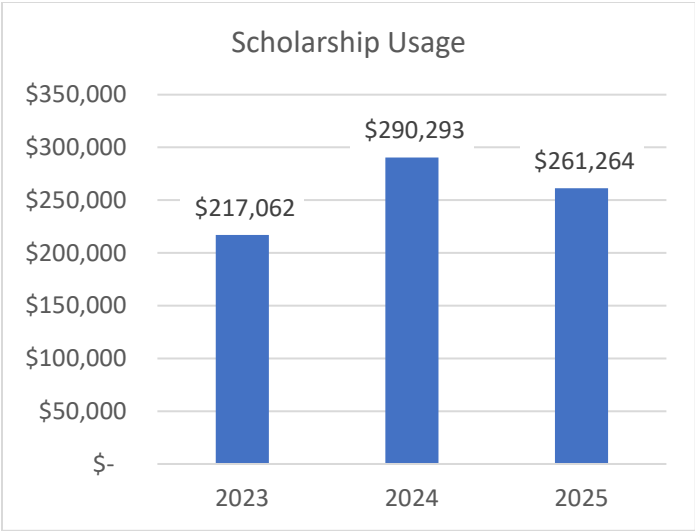
Program visits are calculated by multiplying the number of people enrolled in a program by the number of times the program meets.



Most registered program areas slightly increased visitation, except for Kids Inc., which we started off not being able to fully staff for the total demand. As the school year has progressed, we are returning to similar staff and student levels as last year. As of December, Kids INC is serving 1,100 students.

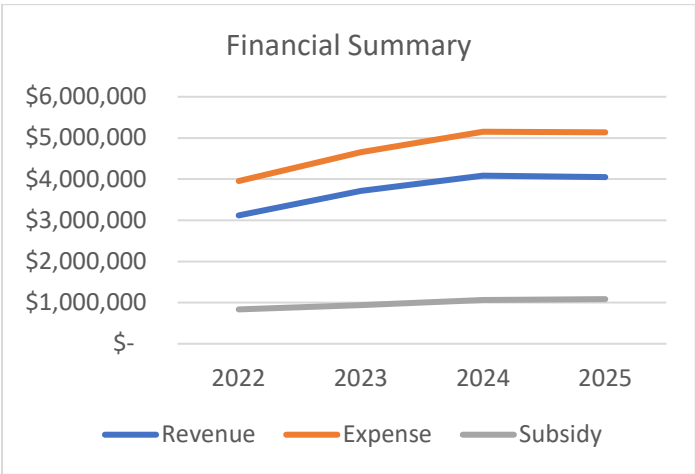
Sports programs typically generate the most visits in the Fall due to our popular outdoor sports leagues.

Program visits are calculated by multiplying the number of people enrolled by the number of times the program meets.



Scholarship use has decreased this fall, largely due to the changes the district made in late spring, including limiting out-of-district use and refining the eligibility standards between our high and moderate scholarship tiers. Through December, the district is 16% under budget for FY26 and 11% lower than last year.

Scholarship discounts are provided for individuals and households demonstrating financial need and are eligible to be used for the district’s Core and Complementary programs, including facility passes.



Actual revenue, expenses and total subsidy for the fall are nearly identical to last year. Through six months of the fiscal year, our subsidy is trending 1% lower than budgeted.

Total revenue and expenses for the recreation department for the period with the subsidy being the difference.



2025 Volunteer Engagement Summary

Bend Park & Recreation District welcomes, values and honors volunteers as essential partners in providing recreation services for our community. We strive to engage volunteers with opportunities that have purpose, match their interests, serve the needs of the district as well as those of our patrons and the community, promote stewardship and enhance experiences for everyone.

The annual volunteer engagement summary provides a picture of the important support that volunteers provide to park district programs, activities and facilities. The number of volunteers and hours served varies each year based on the needs of the district, opportunities offered, the district's capacity to engage volunteers and the consistency of reporting volunteer service time. The district is known as a great place to volunteer and is successful in recruiting enough qualified volunteers to fill essential positions and engage sufficient support for most opportunities offered.

In 2025, more than **1,313 volunteers** contributed their time and efforts, providing over **45,630 hours** of valuable support to the district and our community. The total service hours contributed by volunteers are the equivalent of the time worked by **21.9 full-time employees (FTE)**.

Volunteer service is assigned an hourly value each year by The Independent Sector, a national non-profit organization that provides statistics on volunteerism. The values reflect the average wage plus benefits for non-management, non-agricultural workers. The value of volunteer time increased 3.9% in 2025, reflecting a smaller increase in inflation and labor costs over prior years.

- National Value of Volunteer Time - \$34.79 per hour
- Oregon Value of Volunteer Time - \$36.44 per hour

Support to Recreation Programs & Facilities

The largest group of volunteers involved with BPRD are the hundreds of great people that coach youth sport teams. These volunteer coaches provide essential support that makes the youth sport programs possible and helps keep program fees low. In 2025, **778** parents, family members, friends and people from the community served as volunteer coaches. Their involvement supported the opportunity for **4,766 children** to participate as part of a team. **98** of these volunteers coached more than one team and/or more than one sport.

Several adults volunteer regularly at a few of the Kids Inc. after school program sites. Many of the volunteers are staff from the local NIKE store and participate with BPRD during their workday though a company-wide initiative to support children with being active.

In response to political concerns and safety for patrons and participants, the community outreach team modified engagement opportunities and events that were offered and did not involve volunteers.

Fitness classes and activities at Larkspur Community Center and Juniper Swim & Fitness Center continue to have strong support from dedicated volunteers. Fitness volunteers assist participants

and provide support to the instructor to help classes flow smoothly. Some may assist with leading classes and volunteers are frequently hired as instructors when a position becomes available.

You can often find a friendly volunteer at the customer service desk at the east entrance of Larkspur or helping with a variety of social activities and events at that facility. More than **30 volunteers** contributed **1,406 hours** by offering tours, answering questions, serving brunch, setting up events, hosting learn-to-play and social activities and assisting staff with projects. These volunteers share that they enjoy the connection with staff and patrons and they value their volunteer time as an important part of their week.

Teen volunteers are a big part of summer youth programs and recreation activities. Volunteering gives teens an opportunity to gain experience and try out new responsibilities as leaders. Teens are role models and buddies for the younger program participants and their involvement provides valuable support to staff and program activities.

- **50** teens participated in the junior lifeguard and swim instructor aide volunteer/training programs. The programs provide teens with the opportunity to learn job skills and many of the volunteers are hired as lifeguards and swim instructors when they are old enough to apply for those jobs.
- Art camps, Cougar Camp and the Summer Buddies preschool programs benefitted from the energy and support of **25** fantastic teen helpers. Several of the volunteers with these programs have become paid youth recreation leaders with the district.

Support to Parks and Trails

Our community has a special connection to the parks and trails and many people offer to help with taking care of those places. Volunteers help with litter pick up, weed pulling, planting and other projects and serve as extra “eyes and ears” to watch for and report vandalism and potential concerns. Volunteers also play an important role with the district’s goose management efforts.

- **37 parks**, including three off-leash areas, and **17 trail sections** or natural areas, are “adopted” as part of the district’s adopt-a park or trail program. The adopting volunteers share reports about their activity and often include photos and comments about things they see that might need attention.
- Volunteer hosts at Riley Ranch, Shevlin and Alpenglw parks provide a positive presence, offer friendly reminders and pick up trash. These weekly volunteers contributed over **756 hours** to enhance visitor experience and encourage responsible use of the parks.
- **Seven local business and community groups** took on projects with the park maintenance team and helped rake landscape beds, pull weeds, spread bark mulch and pick up litter.
- **18 volunteers** and their well-trained dogs that are approved after an evaluation session with BPRD visit the parks regularly to encourage the birds to move on. Several of the volunteers reported seeing less geese in the parks in 2025, resulting in fewer volunteer hours contributed over prior years.
- The BPRD natural resources & trails team invited community members to join in with **five volunteer project days** held over the summer. About **80 volunteers**, including adults and families with children, helped with trail improvement, weed pulling and planting efforts. Natural resources staff offer safety reminders and share information about the district’s natural resources and trails efforts at these events.

2026 Volunteer Engagement Initiatives

- Develop online resources for volunteer coaches in collaboration with youth sport staff.
- Partner with Deschutes County Historical Society to implement a volunteer host program that supports additional open house opportunities at the Hollinshead-Matson Homestead House museum located at Hollinshead Park.

2025 BPRD Volunteer Service Summary

		2025		2024		2023	
		Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours
Recreation							
Fitness & Swim - JSFC & LCC							
	Fitness center & class support	19	1,648	22	1,843	23	735
	Junior Lifeguard/Swim Instructor Aide	50	1,185	46	1,194	34	846
	Swim Lesson & Aquatics program support	2	8	0	0	0	0
	Childcare & preschool programs	15	275	14	254	15	283
Larkspur Community Center/Bend Senior Center							
	Facility and adult activity support (not fitness & swim)	30	1,406	37	1,362	23	1,235
The Pavilion							
	Youth ice & roller sport coaches	20	384	14	290	22	431
Youth Sports							
	Team coaches	778	34,931	734	30,827	716	34,888
Recreation, Enrichment, Childcare							
	Therapeutic Recreation	13	307	13	431	12	438
	After school & summer childcare - Kids Inc, Op Rec, PAC	5	220	1	280	11	1,314
	Youth art, cougar camp & enrichment programs	24	752	23	875	14	470
BPRD Hosted Events							
	July 4th Pet Parade	37	111	45	111	43	106
	Hollinshead Museum, Winter Solstice, other	6	48	25	60	10	30
	Community Outreach events & activities	0	0	8	21	14	105
Parks & Trails							
Goose Management		18	164	12	360	10	405
Park Hosts - Riley Ranch, Shevlin, Alpenglowl, Big Sky		14	756	14	577	13	687
Park & Trail Projects							
	Individuals & groups	145	303	134	302	98	332
Adopt-a-Park, Trail, Off Leash Area							
	Individuals & groups	105	1,764	120	1,367	169	1,646
Administration							
BPRD Board of Directors		5	1,161	5	1,141	5	876
BPRD Budget Committee		5	60	5	60	5	55
BPR Foundation Board of Directors		8	105	6	70	6	60
BPRD Naming committee		8	26				
	Foundation event support	6	16	0	0	4	7
Volunteer Service Total		1,313	45,630	1,278	41,425	1,247	44,949

Board Calendar 2026

**This working calendar of goals/projects is intended as a guide for the board and subject to change.*

MARCH 17

Joint Meeting 4 pm – 5:30 pm

APRIL 7

WORK SESSION

- Trust for Public Land – Technical Assistance Services – *Michelle Healy, and Nathan Henry and Kristin Kovalik, TPL (30 min)*
- Larkspur parking expansion update – *Bronwen Mastro (15 min)*
- Executive Director evaluation process review – *Kathleen Hinman (15 min)*

CONSENT

- Approve Health Insurance Contract (*tentative*)
- Adopt Resolution No. 2026-XX of support for LGGP grant application for Hollinshead Park Improvement Project

BUSINESS SESSION

- Needs Based Assistance Report for FY 25-26 and Approve Plan for FY 26-27 – *Jase Newton (30 min)*

APRIL 17

PROJECT TOUR

Future Topics

IGA with NUID for canal trail – *Henry Stroud*

DEI Update – *Bronwen Mastro*

South UGB Updates – *Henry Stroud*

Bend Whitewater Park – *Ian Isaacson*

Coulter Grove Park Concept Plan– *Bronwen Mastro 7-21-26*

Park Search Area 5 (Talline) PSA – *Quinn Keever*

Therapeutic Recreation Update

B&G Club Lease – *Kristin Toney*

MOU with Historical Society for Hollinshead Museum – *Julie Brown (20 min)*

Preconstruction Contract Amendment for JSFC – *Brian Hudspeth (15 min)*

Approve Old Bend Gym Wall Repair construction contract – *Bronwen Mastro (10 min)*

Girls in sports