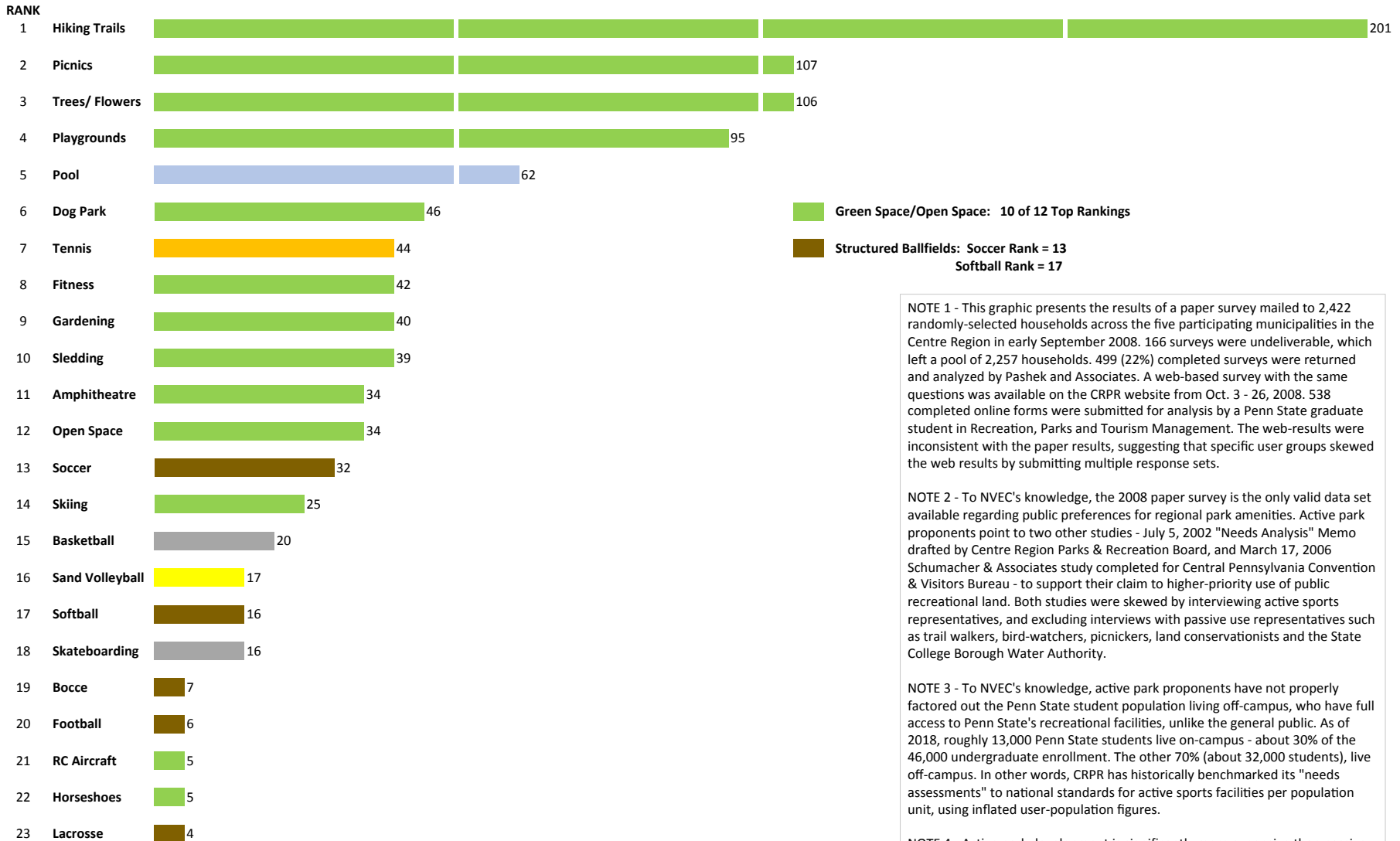


What Our Community Is Asking For

Results of Centre Region Parks and Recreation Survey on "Top 3" desired facilities for two new regional parks, published November 7, 2008

Question 3, Part 2: "We are planning park facilities for two new regional parks in the area. What facilities do you think we should include in those parks? (Please select up to ten (10) facilities, then list the top three (3) facilities below.)"



NOTE 1 - This graphic presents the results of a paper survey mailed to 2,422 randomly-selected households across the five participating municipalities in the Centre Region in early September 2008. 166 surveys were undeliverable, which left a pool of 2,257 households. 499 (22%) completed surveys were returned and analyzed by Pashek and Associates. A web-based survey with the same questions was available on the CRPR website from Oct. 3 - 26, 2008. 538 completed online forms were submitted for analysis by a Penn State graduate student in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Management. The web-results were inconsistent with the paper results, suggesting that specific user groups skewed the web results by submitting multiple response sets.

NOTE 2 - To NVEC's knowledge, the 2008 paper survey is the only valid data set available regarding public preferences for regional park amenities. Active park proponents point to two other studies - July 5, 2002 "Needs Analysis" Memo drafted by Centre Region Parks & Recreation Board, and March 17, 2006 Schumacher & Associates study completed for Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau - to support their claim to higher-priority use of public recreational land. Both studies were skewed by interviewing active sports representatives, and excluding interviews with passive use representatives such as trail walkers, bird-watchers, picnickers, land conservationists and the State College Borough Water Authority.

NOTE 3 - To NVEC's knowledge, active park proponents have not properly factored out the Penn State student population living off-campus, who have full access to Penn State's recreational facilities, unlike the general public. As of 2018, roughly 13,000 Penn State students live on-campus - about 30% of the 46,000 undergraduate enrollment. The other 70% (about 32,000 students), live off-campus. In other words, CRPR has historically benchmarked its "needs assessments" to national standards for active sports facilities per population unit, using inflated user-population figures.

NOTE 4 - Active park development is significantly more expensive than passive park development; the regional parks are being paid for by Centre Region taxpayers in the five participating municipalities.

Information Graphic: Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition, July 2018