



SANTA ROSA
COUNTY, FL

Local Park Assessment

2024



Bagdad Mill Site Park



Navarre Park



Chumuckla Community Park



Swenson Park



Benny Russell Park

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Background

Health is influenced by conditions in the physical environment, social and economic factors, individual health behaviors, and health care. Though Americans are living longer, individuals are still suffering from preventable health conditions, particularly as they get older. Older adults (65+) are the fastest growing population group in the United States and are expected to outnumber children by 2034. In 2022, 16.4% of the total population were older adults while 21.9% were children (aged 0-17) in Santa Rosa County. Challenges relating to an aging population such as shifting disease burdens and increased health care costs signify the importance for continued engagement and support across multiple sectors to improve our community's health.

The Age-Friendly initiative, contributing to Trust for America's Health (TFAH) Age-Friendly Public Health System, seeks to promote healthy aging across the lifespan. Public parks are a key setting to promote physical activity, facilitate social interactions, and improve mental health. The neighborhood and recreational characteristics such as walkability, bike lanes, public transit, open access, the types of activity areas provided, amenities, safety, and aesthetics help reinforce health promoting behaviors by encouraging park visitation and increased frequency of use.

Walking, biking, playgrounds, and individual or group activities in open, green spaces within parks provide the necessary opportunities of physical fitness to residents at no cost. Studies indicate that parks offering a variety of activities allow whole families to spend their time outdoors moving around. Investment in equipment geared towards everyone of all ages and abilities creates an accessible, inclusive, and safe environment to benefit the entire community. Providing benches, bicycle racks, callisthenic stations, inclusion swings, paths, functioning water fountains, restrooms, signage, shade or landscaping can have a positive impact.

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Methods

The local park assessments were conducted by the Florida Department of Health in Santa Rosa County as part of the Age-Friendly Initiative-Trust for America's Health. The assessment was conducted by Catherine Marlow, a Health Educator at the Florida Department of Health, and Laura Iannopollo, a Master of Public Health candidate at the University of West Florida.

Twenty-six parks were assessed along with the surrounding neighborhood bordering the park and various components within the park to determine if they met the criteria as a healthy park. Parks were visited September 19 to October 16, 2024 to conduct the park assessments using the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT). The CPAT was developed in 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri by Andrew Kacynski (Kansas State University) and Sonja Wilhelm (University of Missouri) with support from Active Living Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Pictures of the parks were taken to display quality features and highlight areas for improvement. The data collected from the CPAT were compiled in an Excel sheet to assess the following criteria components:

- Shade
- Signage
- Relaxation Stations
- Hydration Stations
- Physical Fitness
- Green Space, Community Gardens, Fruit Trees
- Cleanliness and Safety
- Accessibility
- Path to Park
- Age-Friendly

The components were marked as “yes”, “no”, or “somewhat” to indicate how well the criteria were met. Visual representation of the data was generated with pie charts and bar chart to demonstrate the overall results of each component.

Parks Assessed

Benny Russell Park
Bagdad Mill Site Park
Bagdad Recreational Park
Chumuckla Community Park
Cypress Tree Park
East Milton Park
Fidelis Park
Floridatown Park
La Leyenda Neighborhood Park
Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park
Locklin Park
Mayo Park
McCallister Park
Navarre Soccer Complex
Navarre Sports Complex
Navarre Park
Optimist Park
Pace Area Recreation Park
Sandpiper Village Park
Santa Rosa Soccer/Horse Complex
Santa Rosa Sports Plex
Santa Villa Park
Swenson Park
Tiger Point Park
T. Roland Brown Memorial Park
Villa Venyce Park

Components

01

Shade

Sufficient shade over seating areas, playground equipment, etc. May include natural shade such as trees or structures such as pavilions or playground canopy.

02

Signage

Information posted showing descriptions of equipment use or activity, health information, like heart rate zones, safety information, distance markers on trails, or tobacco-free environment signage is posted at the park.

03

Relaxation Stations

Seating, such as benches, picnic tables, or bleachers, and bathroom facilities.

04

Hydration Stations

Water fountains available for use by individuals using the park through out the day

05

Physical Fitness

Opportunities for individuals or groups to complete aerobic activities (walking, jogging, biking, swimming), strength training (pull-up bars, push up bars, dip station), flexibility (equipment stretching exercises), stability and balance (equipment to perform balancing on various surfaces)

06

Green Spaces, Community Garden, Fruit Tree

Designated locations in park for open, green spaces, a community garden, or maintained fruit trees.

07

Cleanliness and Safety

Free of litter, signage to promote clean air/tobacco-free environment, sidewalks and pathways free of safety hazards, plenty of lighting

08

Accessibility

All facilities should follow ADA standards. Activity areas in the park are accessible for everyone of all ages and abilities.

09

Path to Park

Park is within walking distance. Walking paths are present with provisions for sidewalks, crosswalks, crossing signs to include safe access for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.

10

Age-Friendly

Activity areas are accessible for everyone of all ages and abilities, and path-to-park includes safe access for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS



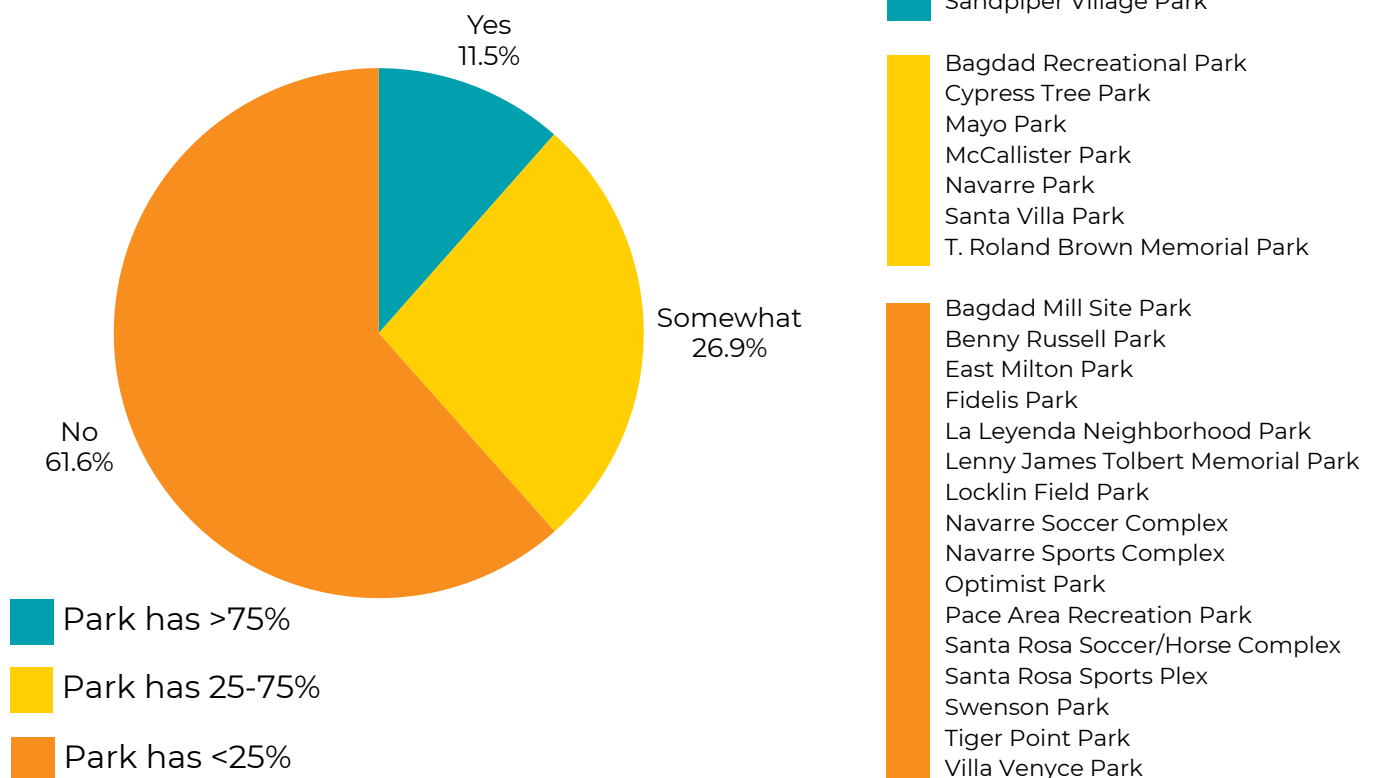
Navarre Park

Shade

Outdoor activities are important to the community. Designing public parks includes selecting the appropriate types of shade for the outdoor activities provided. Providing natural shade from trees, picnic shelters, and canopies over playgrounds are important features. Protection against UV radiation and Florida's heat to prevent sunburn and heat strokes are the primary health benefits. The sun is recognized as one of the major causes of skin cancer. Children and older adults are particularly vulnerable to sunburn. The comfort of shade allows individuals and families to enjoy their time outside without getting overheated or burned from the equipment. While natural shade can be more aesthetically pleasing, shaded structures may be needed for the park's activity areas to provide relief during exercise, to allow adults to find a place of comfort, to interact with friends, to shelter from unexpected weather, for the longevity of playground equipment, and the added value to the community using the park. It's important to note that adequate shade coverage should be provided throughout the day as visitation often occurs at various hours.

Parks were assessed on the amount of shade provided throughout the park, either natural shade from trees or built structures such as pavilions, and canopies over playgrounds or seating.

Is There Sufficient Shade in the Park?





Navarre Park



T. Roland Brown Memorial Park



Tiger Point Park



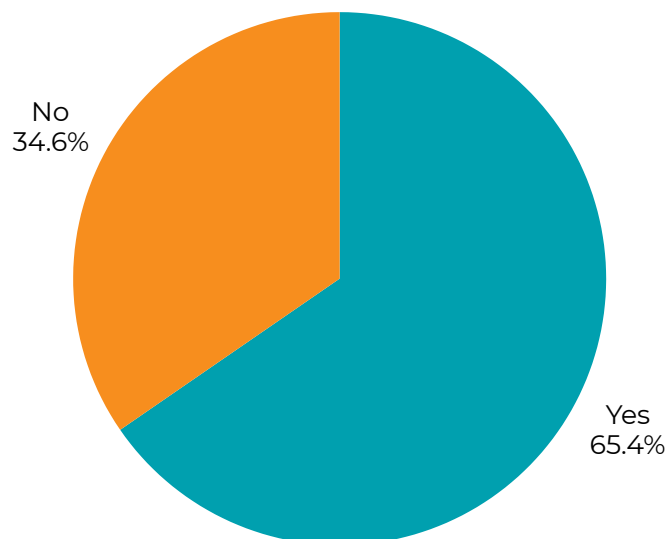
McCallister Park

Signage

Informational signs in parks have various uses. It encourages physical activity, communicates safety messages, identifies expectations on park regulations, provides educational panels about the history, culture, or environment of that location, or provides a map of the park's layout. Improving physical activity within the park, but also to and from one's home includes ensuring pedestrians and bicyclists have safe passage. Allocating appropriate crosswalks, crossing signs, and stop signs for safe passage. Wayfinding signs and mile markers provide useful information for those with physical limitations, giving them the necessary information to participate safely. Mile markers help encourage people to reach the recommended amount of physical activity. While no-smoking signs discourage unhealthy behaviors and limit secondhand smoking exposure. These various signs combined promote the community's health and safety. Santa Rosa County is diverse, further offering informational signs in multiple languages creates an inclusive environment and improves health equity within the community.

All parks had the standard county signs with the park's name, rules, hours, and contact information. Therefore, parks were assessed based on whether they provided any information on safety, health, or education.

Is There Signage for Safety, Health, or Education in the Park?



Bagdad Mill Site Park
Bagdad Recreational Park
Benny Russell Park
Floridatown Park
La Leyenda Neighborhood Park
Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park
McCallister Park
Navarre Park
Navarre Sports Complex
Optimist Park
Sandpiper Village Park
Santa Rosa Sports Plex
Swenson Park
Santa Villa Park
Tiger Point Park
T. Roland Brown Memorial Park
Villa Venyce Park

Chumuckla Community Park
Cypress Tree Park
East Milton Park
Fidelis Park
Locklin Field Park
Mayo Park
Navarre Soccer Complex
Pace Area Recreation Park
Santa Rosa Soccer/Horse Complex



Navarre Park



Santa Rosa Sports Complex



Bagdad Mill Site Park



Floridatown Park



McCallister Park



Bagdad Mill Site Park



Santa Villa Park



Swenson Park

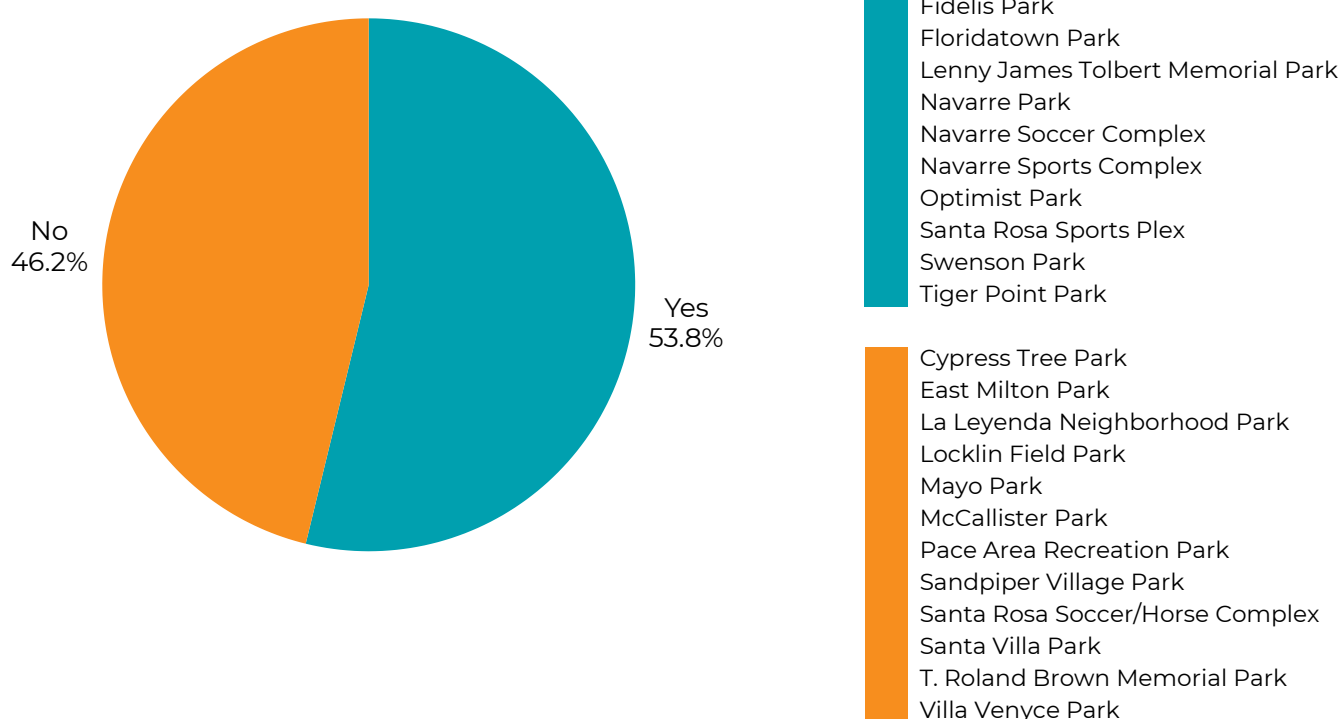
Relaxation Stations

Appropriately designed parks should offer areas for seating and restrooms. Parks lacking these provisions are obstacles for those seeking out outdoor fitness activities. This leaves the underserved and vulnerable populations, often characterized by low-income households, minority populations, older adults (65+), or individuals with existing health conditions with a higher prevalence of physical inactivity. For a variety of reasons, individuals may hesitate to go anywhere that does not have restrooms. Those who utilize the park for fitness activities, their physical abilities may require a location of rest to prevent injury. Factors such as age, culture, or socioeconomic status of the population often set the standards for commodities and should be considered to determine the appropriate seating and placement are appropriate.

Families with infants and young children are often in need of changing stations. For the health and safety of everyone, these stations should be placed within all bathrooms. Single parents are often left without appropriate provisions to properly care for their children while seeking opportunities to enjoy the park.

Parks were assessed on whether they had seating and restrooms. Portable toilets were included.

Is There Sufficient Relaxation Stations in the Park?

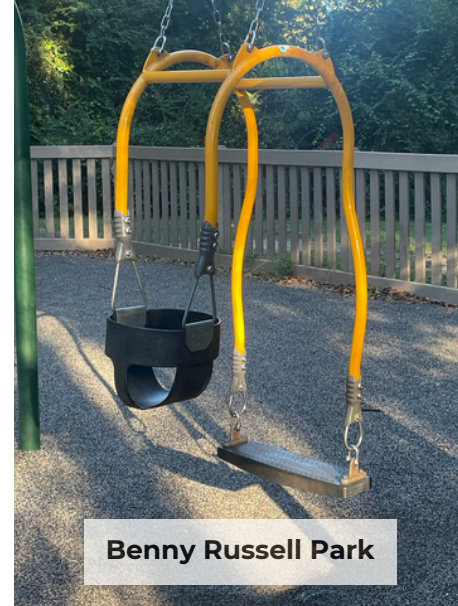




Chumuckla Community Park



Santa Villa Park



Benny Russell Park



Bagdad Mill Site Park



La Leyenda Neighborhood Park



Santa Rosa Sports Plex



Benny Russell Park



Bagdad Recreation Park



Mayo Park

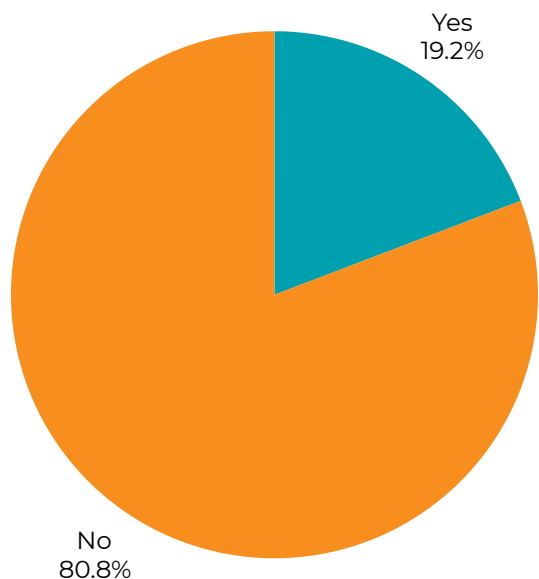
Hydration Stations

Staying hydrated is a necessary component of being physically active. Water fountains should be located strategically throughout the park and be accessible for everyone. During the hot, humid summer months of Florida free and accessible water can prolong outdoor fitness, social interactions, help individuals avoid sugary drinks, and prevent dehydration. Drinking water before, during, and after exercise is necessary while engaging in various activities. Those who bring water bottles may need to refill their containers. Those with medical conditions, taking prescription medicines, and/or pregnant women may be hindered from visiting parks that have insufficient or lack of available water.

While some parks may provide vending machines or concession stands for nearby sports fields, these are not always optional. Children, teens, and young adults may not have cash, be able to afford a drink, or be old enough for a credit card. Concession stands are only open during certain hours and days during game season. Water fountains in parks help reduce plastic waste from single-use plastic bottles that end up in landfills and help reduce CO2 emissions from decreased production and transportation of bottles beverages.

Parks were assessed on whether they had operational water fountains in the park.

Does the Park have Hydration Stations?



Benny Russell Park
Navarre Park
Navarre Sports Complex
Pace Area Recreation Park
Swenson Park

Bagdad Mill Site Park
Bagdad Recreational Park
Chumuckla Community Park
Cypress Tree Park
East Milton Park
Fidelis Park
Floridatown Park
La Leyenda Neighborhood Park
Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park
Locklin Field Park
Mayo Park
McCallister Park
Navarre Soccer Complex
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Santa Rosa Soccer/Horse Complex
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Santa Villa Park
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Villa Venyce Park



Physical Fitness

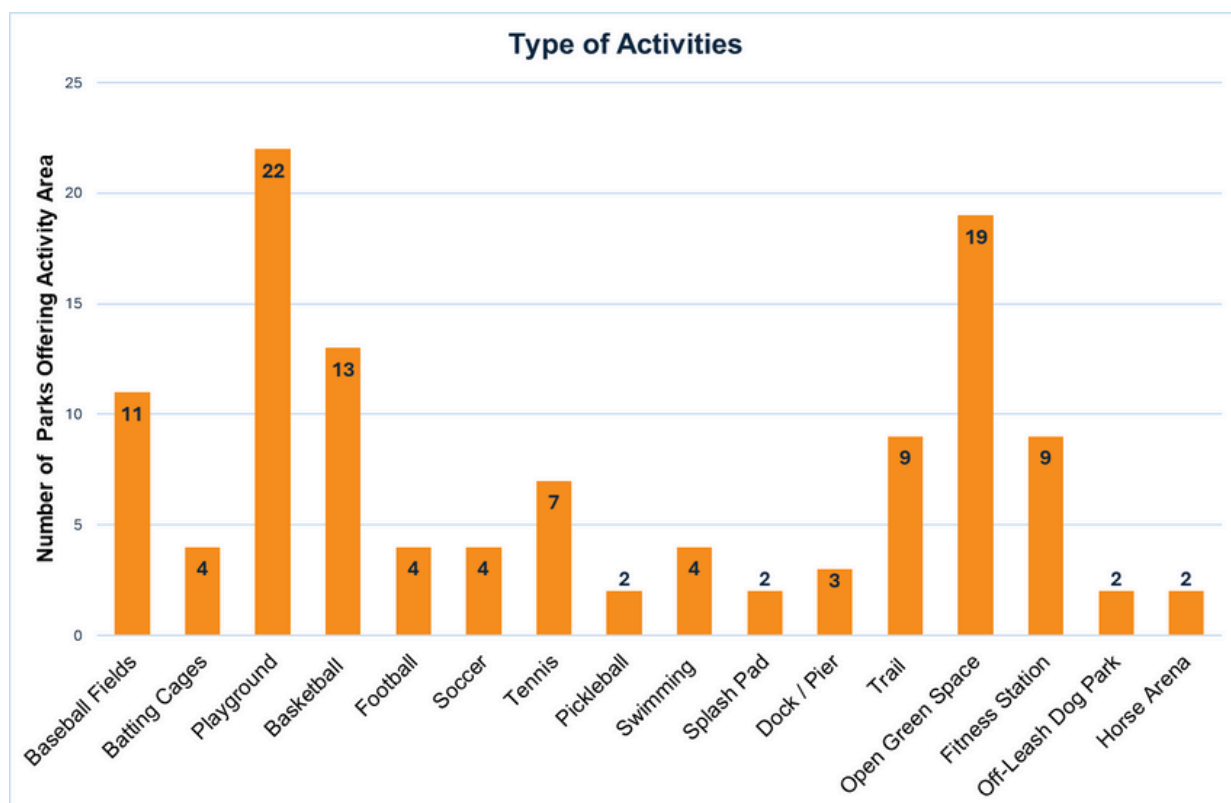
The increasing prevalence of physical inactivity is a public health priority. In Santa Rosa County approximately 68.4% of adults aged 18 years and older were overweight or obese in 2019. Factors associated with influencing one's Body Mass Index (BMI) include individual, family, cultural, racial, socioeconomic disparities that include neighborhood characteristics along with food and recreational environments. Sedentary jobs and reliance on motorized transportation influences people's ability to fulfill the recommended physical activity levels of 150 minutes per week.

Quality parks centered near residential communities hold the potential of providing many benefits to individuals and communities alike. Physical activities occur in many ways and at various intensity levels from low to high. Offering a variety of fitness opportunities at each park ensures there is something available for every age group and increases health equity within the community.

Many parks are geared towards children, which may deter adults and older adults (aged 65+) from taking full advantage of free access to their local park for exercise. Walking is commonly reported as the preferred exercise among older adults in which parks can provide safe and accessible pathways. Walking helps strengthen muscles, improve balance, and reduce the risk of falling.

Parks were assessed based on the types of physical fitness activities provided. The chart below demonstrates the type of activities offered and the number of parks providing each type of activity.

Activity Areas that Provide Fitness





Pace Area Recreation Park



Sandpiper Park



Fidelis Park



Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park



Santa Rosa Soccer/Horse Complex



Tiger Point Park

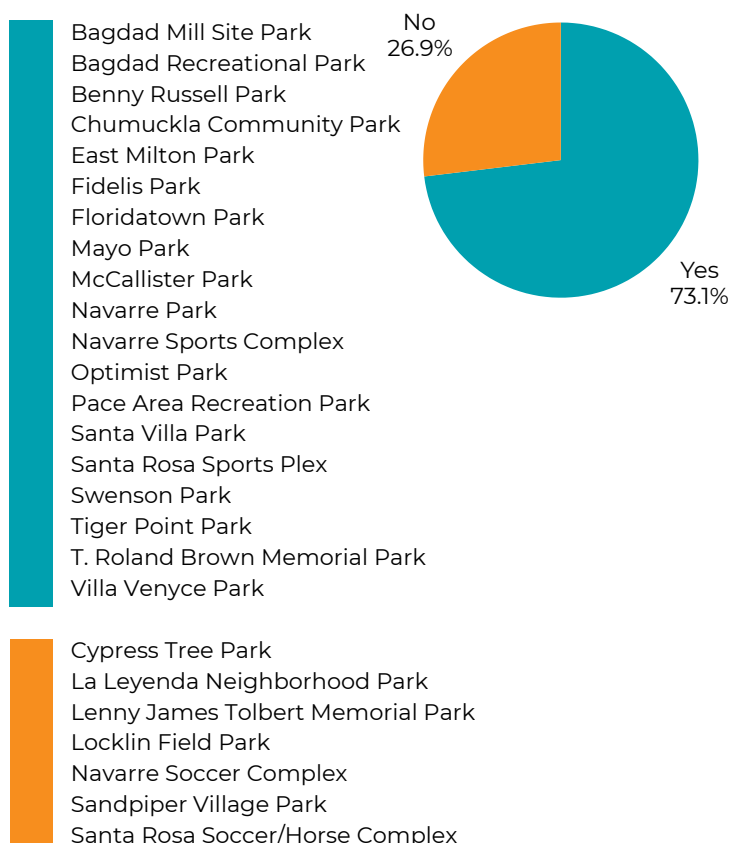
Green Spaces, Community Gardens, or Fruit Trees

Green spaces situated within public parks can provide residents with access to affordable, healthy foods. Food Insecurity, defined as the lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle, is considered a public health issue. Unemployment, poverty, and income shocks as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic can stem from policies and systems creating racial and gender inequalities in earnings and wealth. In 2019, 10% of county residents were living in poverty. Poverty and food insecurity, however, do not always go hand-in-hand. People facing hunger can live above the federal poverty line. Food deserts, an area where it is difficult to attain affordable, nutritious foods, exists in some areas within the county. Those lacking adequate transportation may have to walk to the nearest convenient store without a variety of healthy, affordable choices.

Apart from providing nutritious foods, designated community gardens and fruit trees offered in green spaces can boost physical activity levels, social interaction, community building and engagement; strengthen family connections; improve mental health; and enhance under-utilized space within the park.

Parks were assessed on whether they had designated open green space, community gardens, or fruit trees.

Is There a Designated Green Space?



Is There a Designated Community Garden or Fruit Trees?





Bagdad Mill Site Park

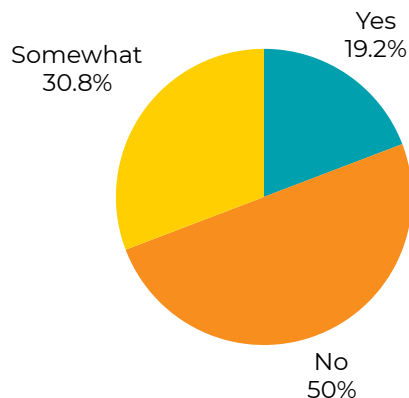
Cleanliness and Safety

These two factors combined have a significant impact on park visitation and the amount of physical exercise people get. Walking behaviors are influenced by one's perception of the park such as the availability and quality of pathways; maintenance of landscaping, seating and equipment; natural surveillance or investment in surveillance cameras for crime prevention; the type of landscape and diversity in vegetation and hardscape; and if there is sufficient lighting throughout the area to safely stroll through the park.

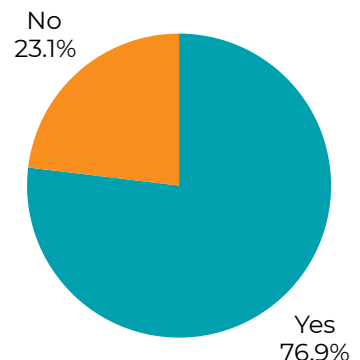
The features offered at parks influence our attitude towards using the park for outdoor enjoyment, social gatherings, and individual or group activities. If seating provided is built of wood but severely weathered, individuals or families cannot intermittently rest. Toilets that are clogged or broken poses a health or safety risk. Ensuring that the park is clean and safe for everyone's ability to use is necessary to help our community get outdoors and be physically active.

The parks were assessed on whether it provided sufficient lighting, whether the activity areas were in good condition, if there were any safety concerns or quality/appearance concerns that may deter park visitation. Lighting was assessed based on how much of the whole park could be lit (<25% = no, 25-75% = somewhat, and >75% = yes). Safety concerns may include any of the following: poor lighting, heavy traffic surrounding the park or roads through the park with insufficient crosswalks/signs, lack of eyes on the street, evidence of threatening persons or behaviors, fence not surrounding playground or a lack of separation from the road, lack of distance markers or benches along pathways, limited visibility of surrounding neighborhood from the park's center, or the presence of any hazards within the park.

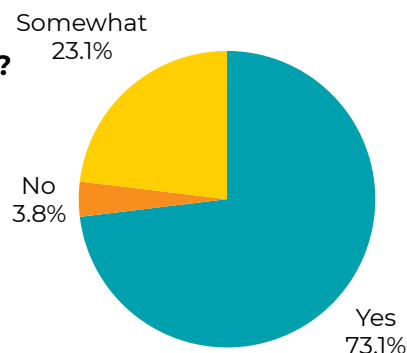
Is There Sufficient Lighting?



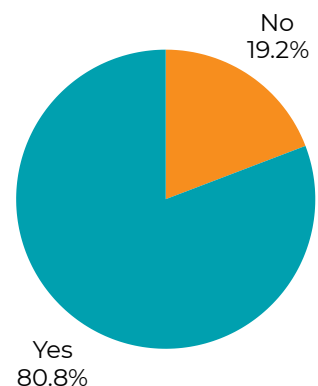
Are There Any Safety Concerns?

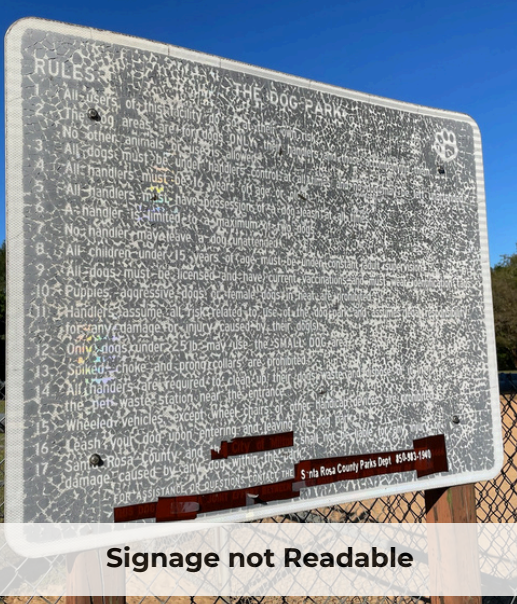


Is the Park in Good Condition?



Are There any Quality or Appearance Concerns?

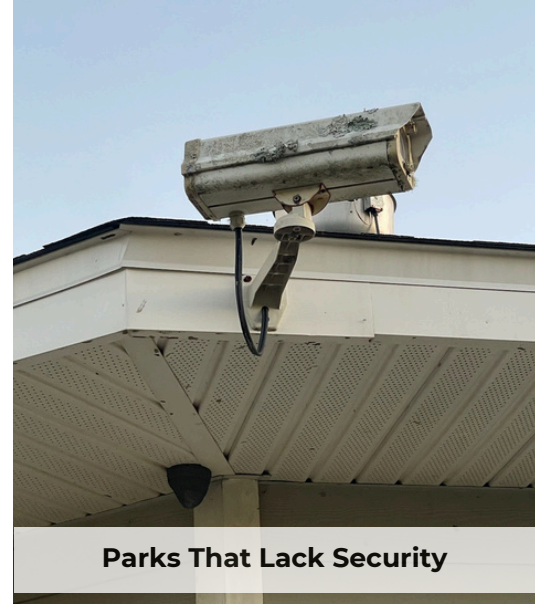




Signage not Readable



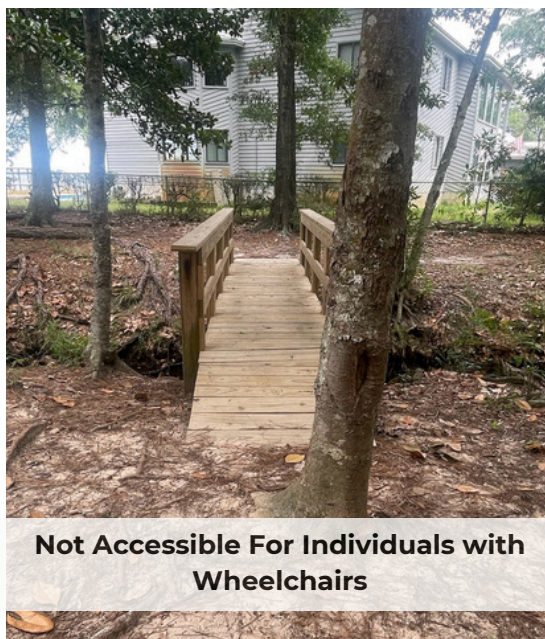
Uneven Pathways



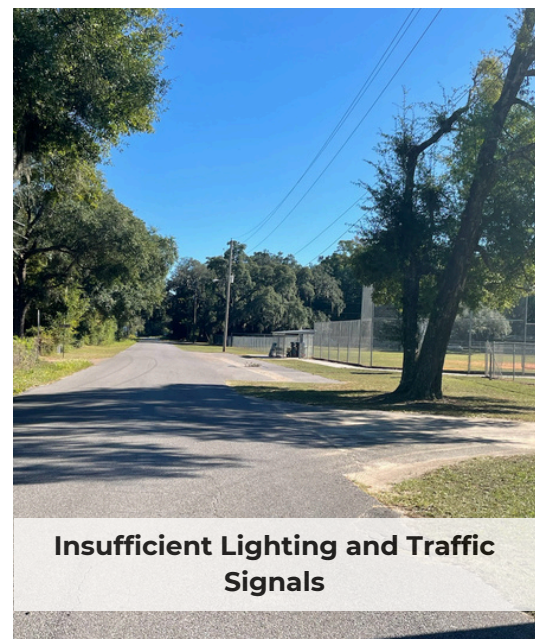
Parks That Lack Security



Outlets Missing Weather Protection



Not Accessible For Individuals with Wheelchairs



Insufficient Lighting and Traffic Signals



Maintenance Needed for Weathered Wood



Vandalism and Poorly Maintained Properties



Litter due to Insufficient Trash Containers

Accessibility

Parks need to be accessible and usable for people of all ages and disability types. Those with disabilities constantly face challenges when accessing public spaces due to structural, social, or economic barriers. Parks located close to home may be accessible, but often lack activities or features suitable for individuals with limitations.

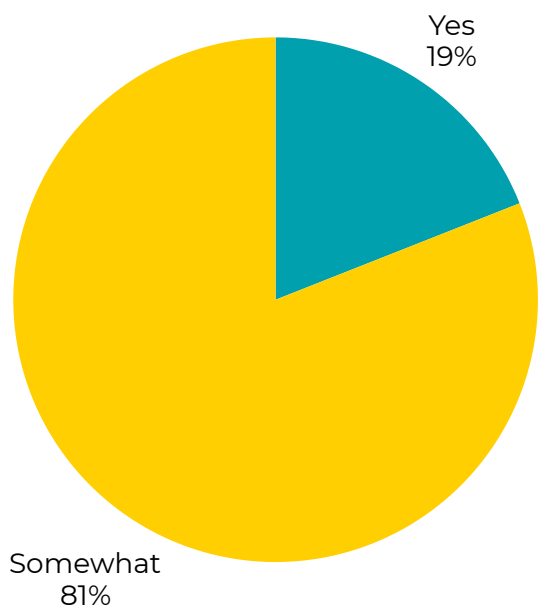
By law, parks should comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). When designing or enhancing a park, planners need to take into consideration the demographic profile of the community they are serving to ensure park equity. Inequities can exist in access, availability, quality of facilities, and programming. Older adults, those with disabilities, low-income communities or communities of color are often impacted by unfair distribution of parks and green spaces. This can lead to isolation, loneliness, and declined mental and physical health.

Health literacy and behaviors among minority groups, which include immigrants or foreign born citizens, are also disadvantaged in overcoming barriers to staying active and healthy. Some barriers may include language, cultural, social, or work differences between country of origin and the U.S. Signage offered in more than one language helps ensure this underserved population group receives information related to parks, health benefits of outdoor activities, and safety.

Older adults are also vulnerable and have a higher risk of falls or injury. Ways to improve park accessibility for them include large, visible fonts on signage; seating with arm rests and backs to assist with movements, mobility aids and ramps with handrails, or proper maintenance of landscaping features to prevent risk of falls and injury.

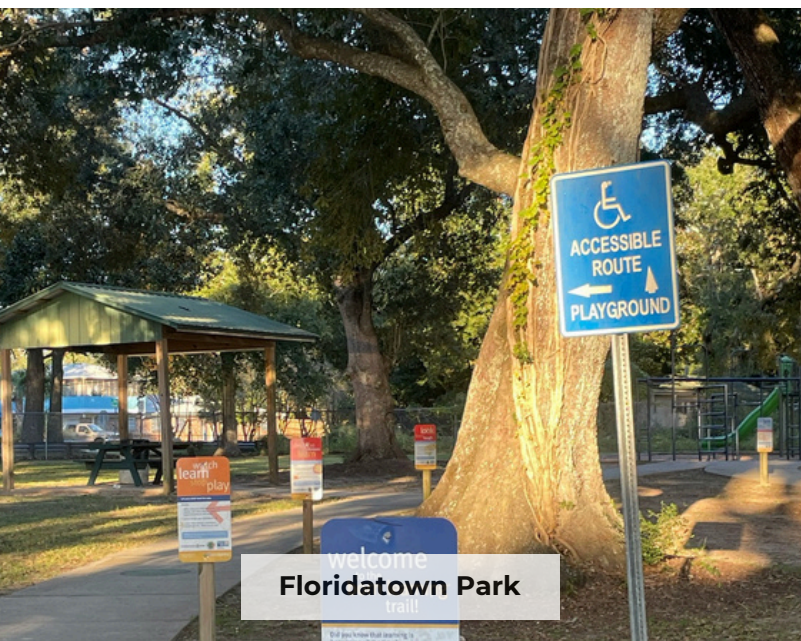
Parks were assessed on how accessible they were for everyone of all ages and abilities.

Is the Park Accessible for Everyone of all Ages and Abilities?



Bagdad Mill Site Park
Benny Russell Park
Navarre Park
Swenson Park
Tiger Point Park

Bagdad Recreational Park
Chumuckla Community Park
Cypress Tree Park
East Milton Park
Fidelis Park
Floridatown Park
La Leyenda Neighborhood Park
Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park
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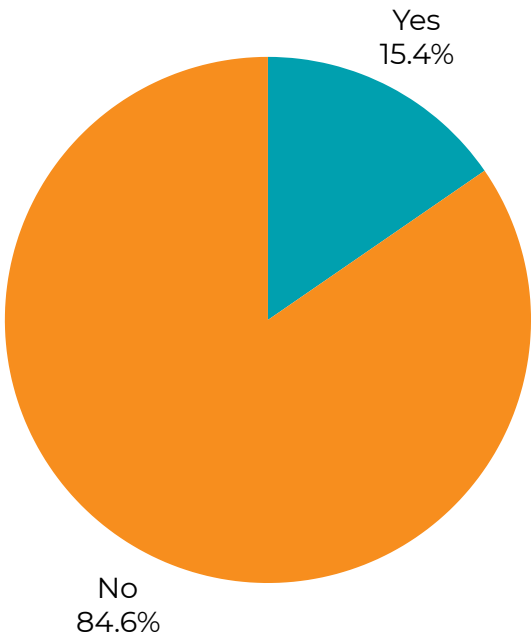
Path to Park

The primary focus in assessing path-to-park is to showcase that a major component in this assessment is the walkability and safety of streets leading to parks. It is critical for the various routes to parks become more pedestrian-friendly for those who choose alternative modes of transportation other than driving. Pedestrian access to local parks, whether by walking or riding a bicycle, depend on having access to safe and comfortable pathways. Park location in neighborhoods also showcase a major factor in determining if pedestrians will walk, ride a bicycle, or drive to parks. For example, poor lighting in the park’s neighborhood can reduce the likelihood of people seeking physical activity at their local park. Neighborhood crime rates, sidewalks, marked bike lanes, bike lane access, crosswalks and crossing signs, and traffic signals all play a critical role in improving the pathways to parks.

Everyone deserves a safe and accessible space. Public parks are uniquely positioned to improve quality of life and enable everyone in the community to put down their electronic devices, get off the couch, and get active. AARP (formerly known as American Association of Retired Persons), in collaboration with 8 80 Cities and Trust for Public Land, recommends placing community parks within walking distance of neighborhoods. Increased urbanization and longer commutes to work impacts road designs to prioritize driver safety, often with little consideration for pedestrian safety. Older adults and residents of low-income communities are more likely to be disproportionately affected by car crashes involving pedestrians.

Parks were assessed based on the walkability and safety of the park- whether walking paths or marked bike lanes are present and appropriate safety measures are present.

Is there walkability and safety of streets leading to the park?



- Benny Russell Park
- Bagdad Mill Site Park
- Sandpiper Village Park
- Tiger Point Park
- Bagdad Recreational Park
- Chumuckla Community Park
- Cypress Tree Park
- East Milton Park
- Fidelis Park
- Floridatown Park
- La Leyenda Neighborhood Park
- Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park
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- Villa Venyce Park



Floridatown Park



Santa Villa Park

Age-Friendly

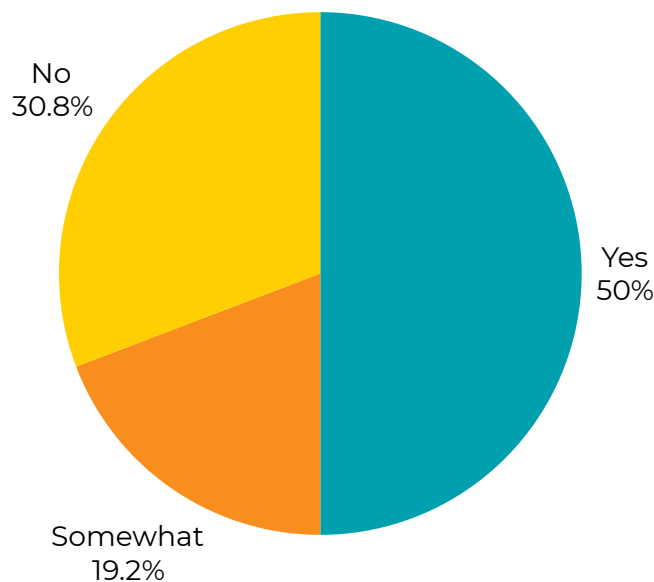
According to Healthy People 2030, approximately 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. meet the physical activity guidelines. One particular challenge for reducing sedentary behaviors among adults is that many parks are designed primarily for children. This reduces the likelihood that adults and older adults will visit their community park. Those with health conditions or disabilities may experience additional barriers to accessing or using the park to meet their needs. Well designed parks should provide features that are inclusive and welcoming for all ages and abilities.

Features making parks more age-friendly may include:

- Accessibility: ramps, sensory elements, seating with different heights to help individuals with disabilities and older adults
- Orientation: such as a map, to give a sense of the layout and give those with cognitive issues or mobility limitations a sense of control in navigating around the park.
- Social support: bulletin boards, outdoor reading areas, or other feature to provide opportunities for social interaction
- Fitness equipment: callisthenic stations (pull-up bars, push-up bars, dip stations), plyometric stations (box jumps, etc.) to help adults and older adults maintain the strength, balance, and coordination.
- Seating: seats with arm rests and back rests can help older adults and those with limitations to sit and stand safely.

Parks were assessed on how well they provided residents with park accessibility and activities suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

Does the park provide activities for all ages?



Bagdad Mill Site Park
Bagdad Recreational Park
Benny Russell Park
Floridatown Park
McCallister Park
Navarre Park
Navarre Sports Complex
Optimist Park
Santa Rosa Soccer/Horse Complex
Santa Villa Park
Santa Rosa Sports Plex
Swenson Park
Tiger Point Park

Chumuckla Community Park
Fidelis Park
Mayo Park
Sandpiper Village Park-s
T. Roland Brown Memorial Park
Villa Venyce Park

Cypress Tree Park
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Fidelis Park
La Leyenda Neighborhood Park
Lenny James Tolbert Memorial Park
Locklin Field Park
Navarre Soccer Complex
Pace Area Recreation Park



Accessible Bathrooms
Even Pathway
Baseball Field for Various Ages
Seating
Shade

Optimist Park



Playground and Accessories for Multiple Ages for Children and Families to Interact Together



Looped walking path and open green space for all ages to be physically active together.

Recommendations to Local Government

Shade

Add more shade to parks.

- Many parks lacked adequate amounts of shade- natural or built.
- Trees provide an environmentally friendly and sustainable option for providing relief from the sun, improves aesthetics, adds value to the park, increases outdoor time, and mental health benefits.

Signage

Incorporate more informational, multilingual signage for everyone's health and safety.

- Mile markers or distance signs to help individuals safely identify how far they can go. It also helps with improving endurance.
- Maps, both online and at the park for individuals to plan their activities, coordinate with friends and family, and for older adults to take a direct route as needed.

Relaxation Stations

Provide appropriate bathroom facilities and seating.

- Many parks did not have a restrooms or a portable toilet, a needed resource for prolonged activities. Ensure they are cleaned and maintained is a health necessity.
- Some parks had weathered/poor seating needing maintenance.
- Ensuring benches are provided along trails or walking loop for intermittent periods of rest, particularly for older adults and those with disabilities.

Hydration Stations

Provide at least one water fountain at parks.

- Park use occurs throughout the day. Eighty-one percent of parks did not have a water fountain. Two locations had at least one water fountain that was not operating.
- Provide an appropriate water fountain that individuals can refill their canteen to reduce the risk of dehydration and heat-related injuries.

Physical Fitness

Create more opportunities for everyone, particularly older adults, to engage in physical activities.

- Many parks had available space for fitness stations and trails/walking paths.
- Many parks were geared towards children, without available fitness activities for older adults and those with disabilities. Inclusion swings can be a great asset for creating mixed opportunities for children and adults, with or without limitations to enjoy their time together.

Green Space, Community Gardens & Fruit Trees

Consider allocating resources and space for community gardens and fruit trees.

- Local government, non-profits, or faith-based community partners could collectively manage operations to help address the food insecurity within the county.

Cleanliness & Safety

Ensure all parks have appropriate lighting and equipment is in good condition for use.

- Increased lighting at dawn and dusk improves crime prevention, allowing individuals to feel safe when they are outdoors.
- Inability to use equipment reduces one's desire to visit the park to get active.
- Insufficient traffic signage and poor lighting are unsafe, posing a higher risk of injury.

Accessibility

Increase accessibility of parks for quality improvement and ADA compliance.

- Several park were filled with sand or loose dirt and had blocks of lumber surrounding the playground.
- Some had unmaintained sidewalks and paths that pose a risk for tripping or had no path in the park.
- Many of the parks had no restrooms or water fountains easily accessible by wheelchairs.

Path to Parks

Adopt standards for improved walkability to parks.

- Provide appropriate sidewalks, crosswalks, signs, marked bicycle lanes, and traffic signals to allow pedestrians and cyclists to safely travel to parks.

Age-Friendly

Consider the characteristics of the community, their preferences, and needs.

- People of all ages and limitations can visit the park, but available activities may not align with their ability to participate.
- A park geared towards children that lacks walking trails, fitness stations, or accessibility reduces the potential for improving community health outcomes and health equity.

NEXT STEPS

It's not just about looking back, but also looking forward.

01

Improve existing park features

Collaborate with Parks and Recreations Department, Santa Rosa County Commissioners, and other community leaders to renovate existing parks

02

Enable people of all ages and abilities to participate

Provide appropriate equipment for activities in all parks to improve health equity for everyone, particularly for older adults (65+) and those with disabilities.

03

Recognize age-friendly parks

Reassess Santa Rosa County parks annually and recognize parks that have made significant improvements, becoming an Age-Friendly Park.

Vision Statement:

Serving our community - committed to excellence

Santa Rosa County

To be the healthiest state in the nation

Florida Department of Health, Santa Rosa County

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APPENDIX A

PARK CHARACTERISTICS

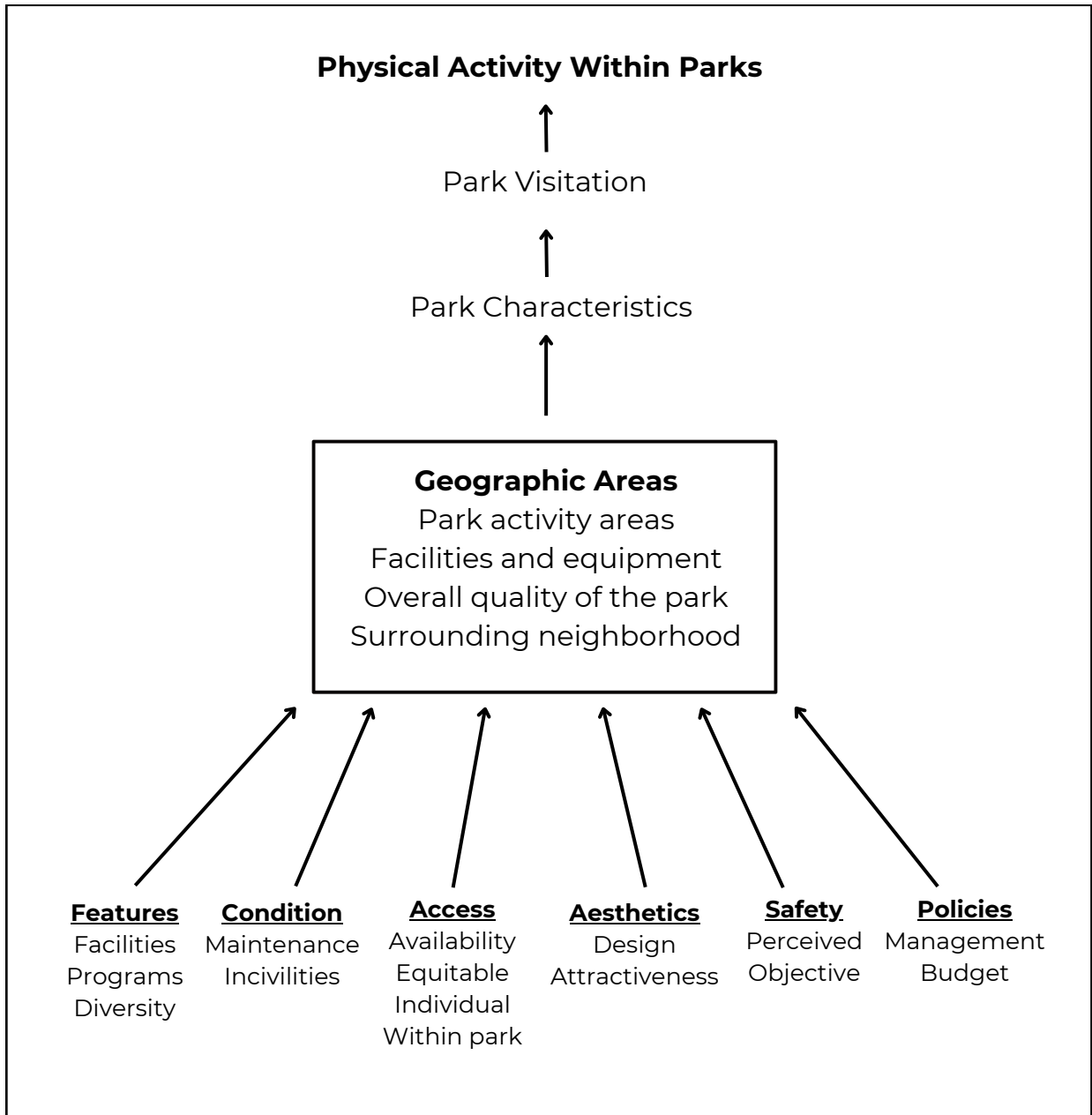


Figure A1. Conceptual Model: The relationship between parks and physical activities. *Data Source:* Bedimo-Rung, A., Mowen, A. J., & Cohen, D. A. (2005)

APPENDIX B

HEALTH BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

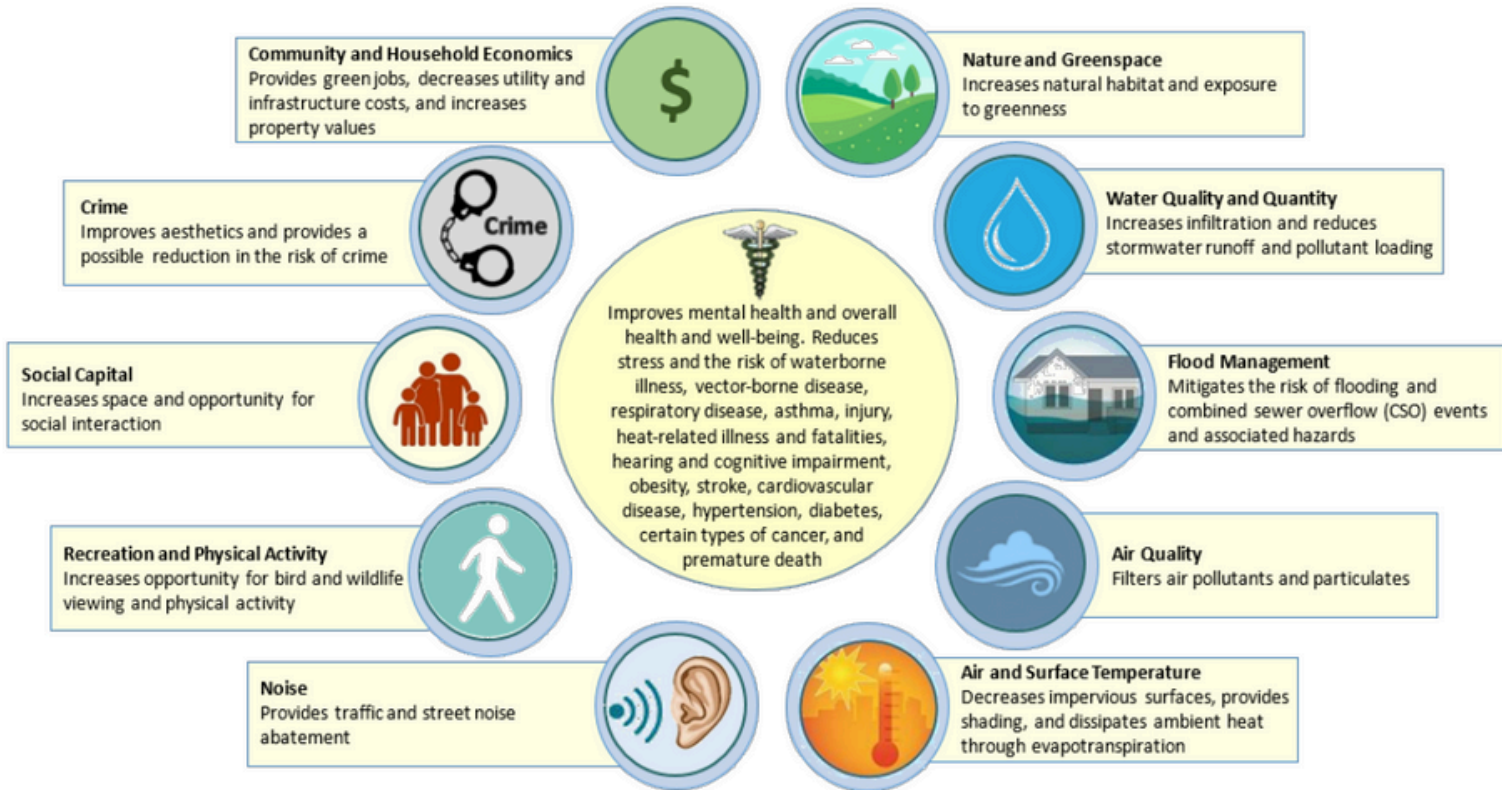


Figure B1. Environmental, social, economic, and public health benefits of green infrastructure. *Image Source:* U.S. EPA (2017).

APPENDIX C

SANTA ROSA COUNTY POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The population growth among older adults (65+) is steadily increasing and currently projected to out number children by 2050 worldwide. The financial burden of health care increases with age due to increased health problems, physical impairments, and mental health problems such as dementia or Alzheimer's. Regular physical activity has many health benefits. Making public parks age-friendly may help to decrease sedentary time and improve physical and mental health. Despite the increasing percentage of older adults, their use of public parks is low.

Total Population: 196,814

32,288 people aged 65+

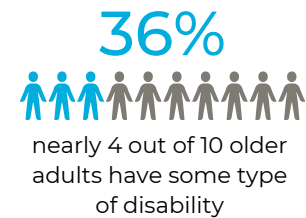
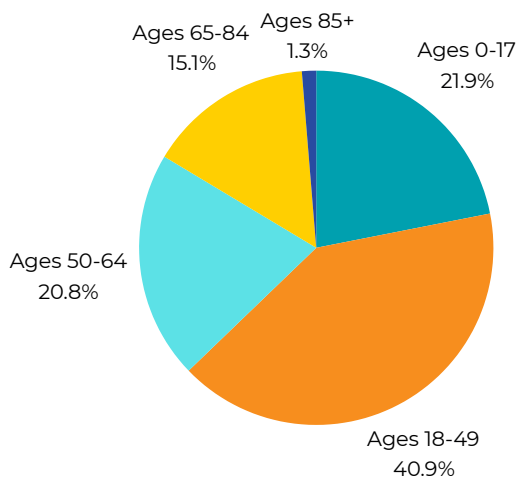


Figure C1. Population By Age Groups, 2022. *Data Source:* FLHealthCHARTS (2023)

How has the distribution of ages in Santa Rosa County changed?

The share of the population that is 0 to 4 years old decreased from 6% in 2010 to 5.2% in 2022. The share of the population that is 65 and older increased from 12.8% in 2010 to 16.8% in 2022.

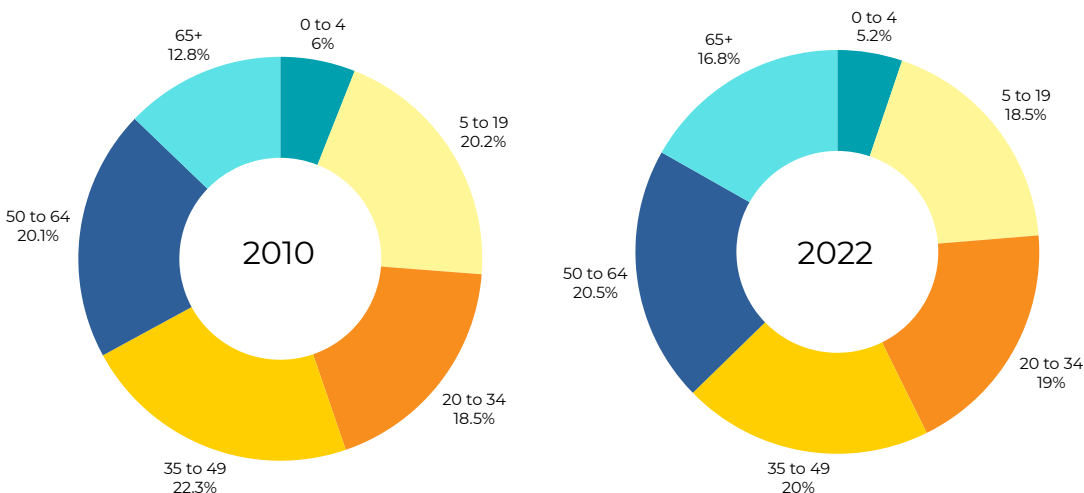


Figure C2. Population By Age Groups, 2022. *Data Source:* USAFACTS (2024)

How has the racial and ethnic makeup of Santa Rosa County changed?

Between 2010 and 2022, the share of the population that is Hispanic/Latino grew the most, increasing 2.2 percentage points to 6.6%. The white (non-Hispanic) population had the largest decrease dropping 4 percentage points to 80.8%.

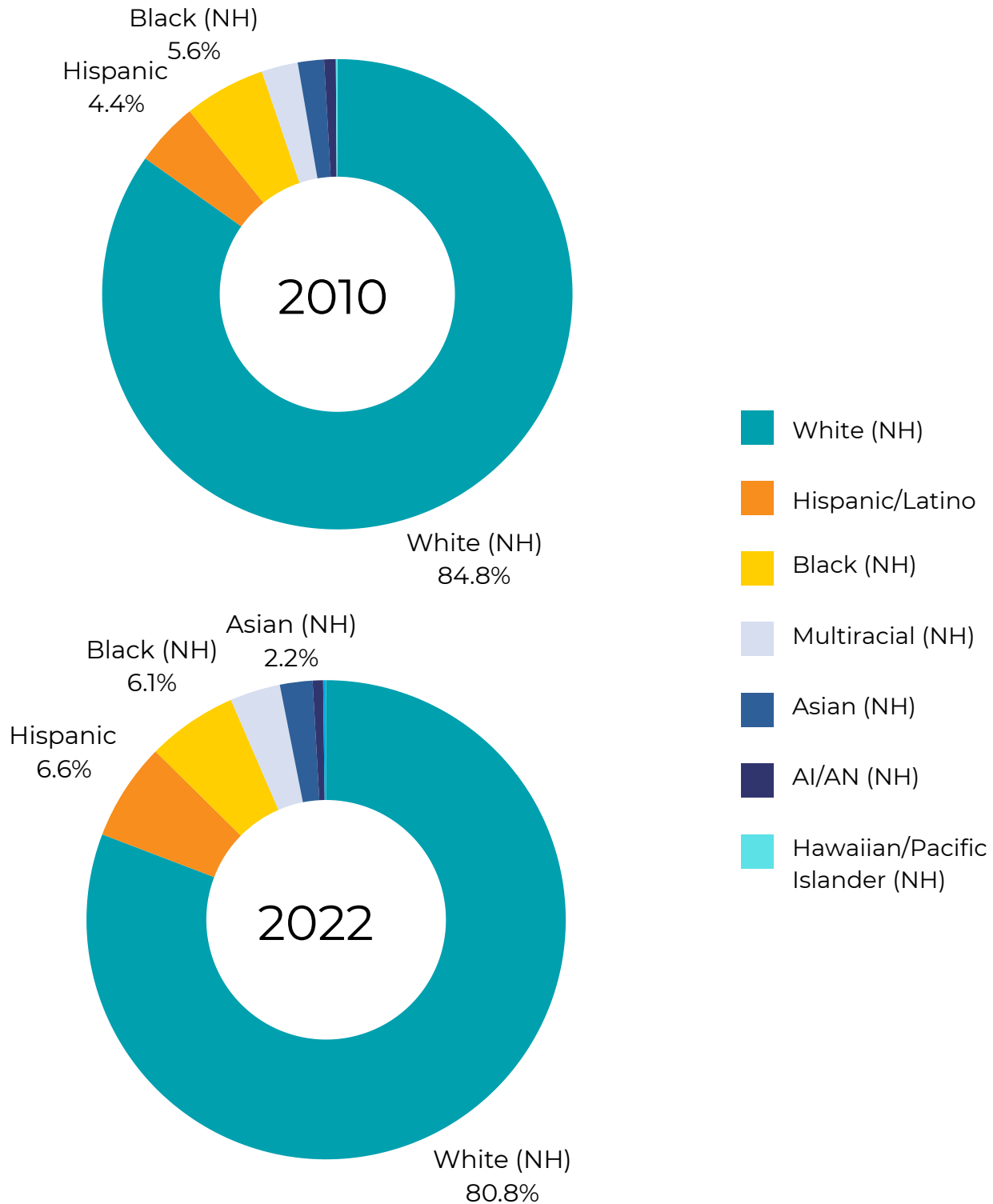


Figure C3. Population By Race and Ethnicity, 2022. *Data Source:* USAFACTS (2024)

Population Characteristics (% of total persons aged 5 and over)	Santa Rosa County	Florida
Speak only English	93.7%	70.1%
Speak a language other than English	6.3%	29.9%
Speak English “very well”	4.5%	18.1%
Place of Birth Foreign Born	5.0%	21.1%

Table C1. Santa Rosa County, Florida Population Characteristics, 2022. *Data Source:* Florida Legislatures, Office of Economic and Demographic Research

APPENDIX D

SANTA ROSA COUNTY OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY CHARACTERISTICS

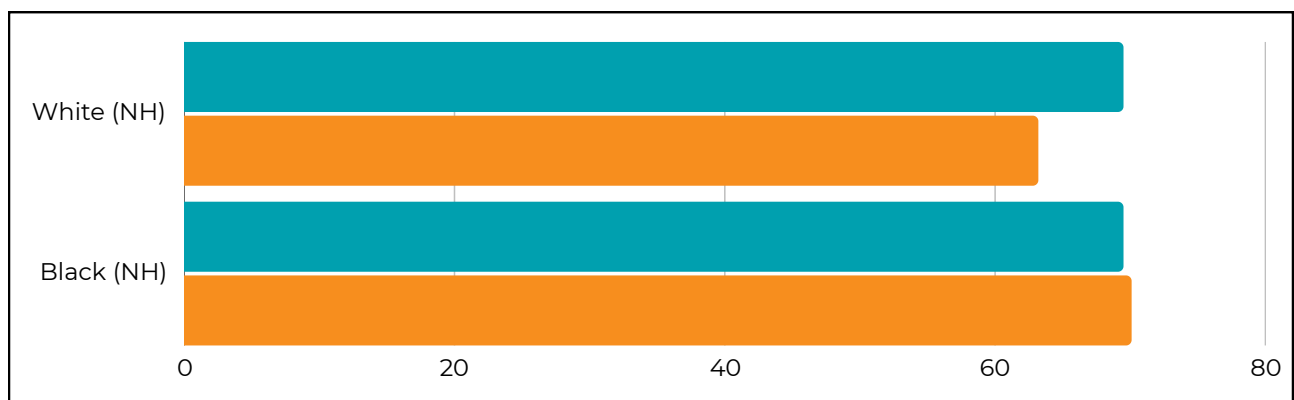
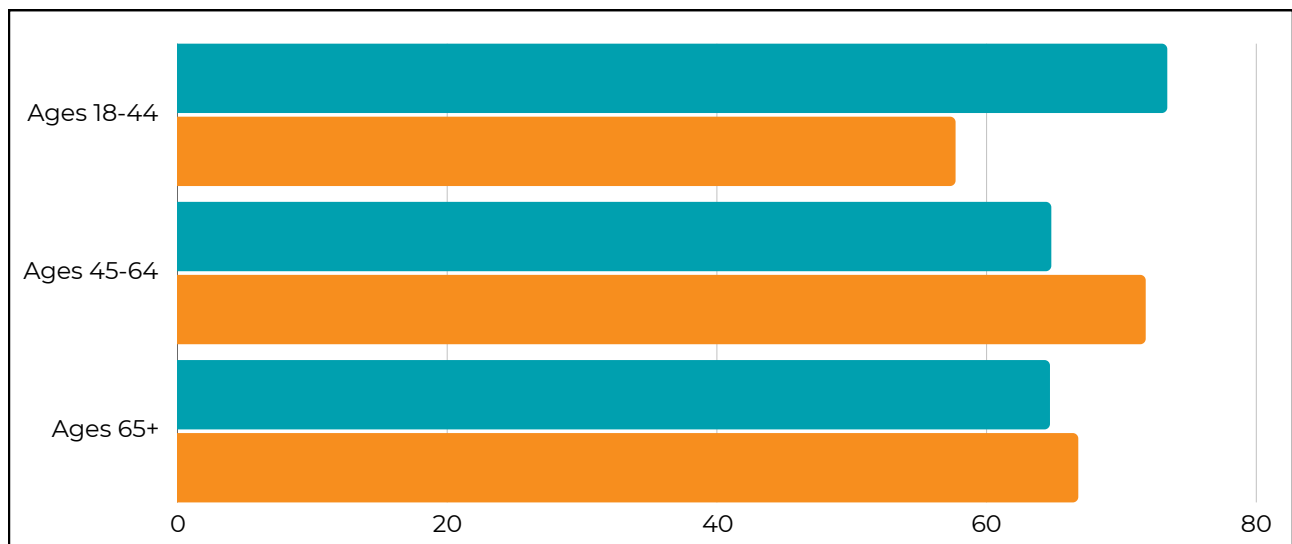
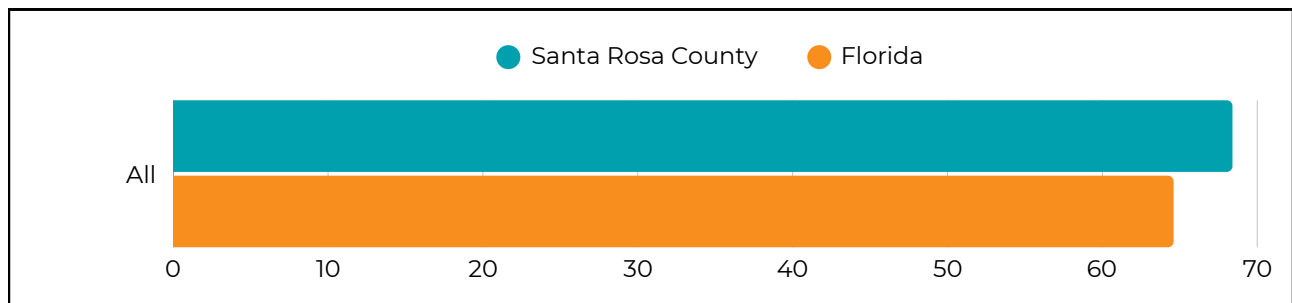


Figure D1. Percentage of Adults Overweight or Obese, 2019. *Data Source:* FLHealthCHARTS (2023).

APPENDIX E

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS



Figure E1. Health Priorities Identified for Santa Rosa County, 2022. *Data Source:* Achieve Healthy EscaRosa (2022).

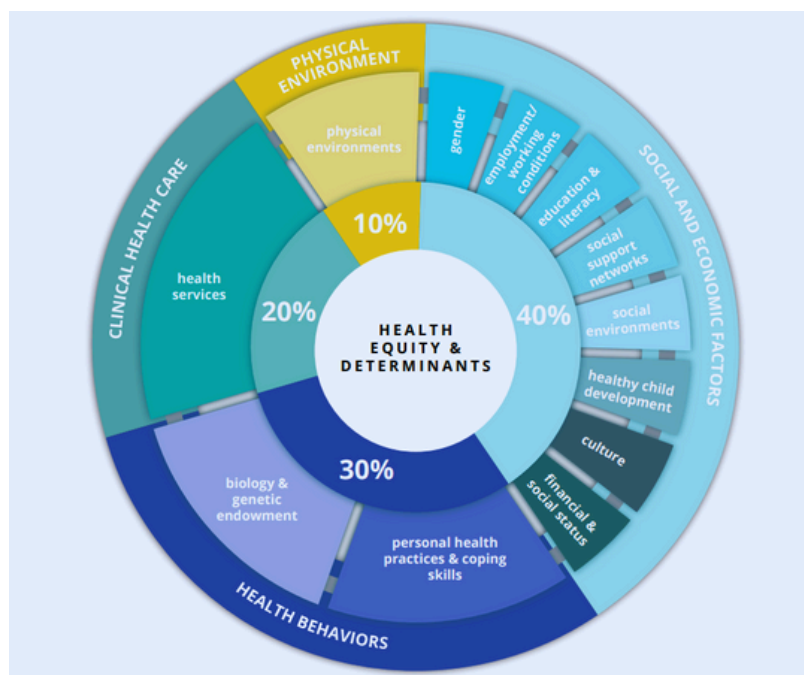


Figure E2. Social Determinants of Health. *Data Source:* Achieve Healthy EscaRosa (2022).



Bagdad Mill Site Park



Tiger Point Park



Navarre Park



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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