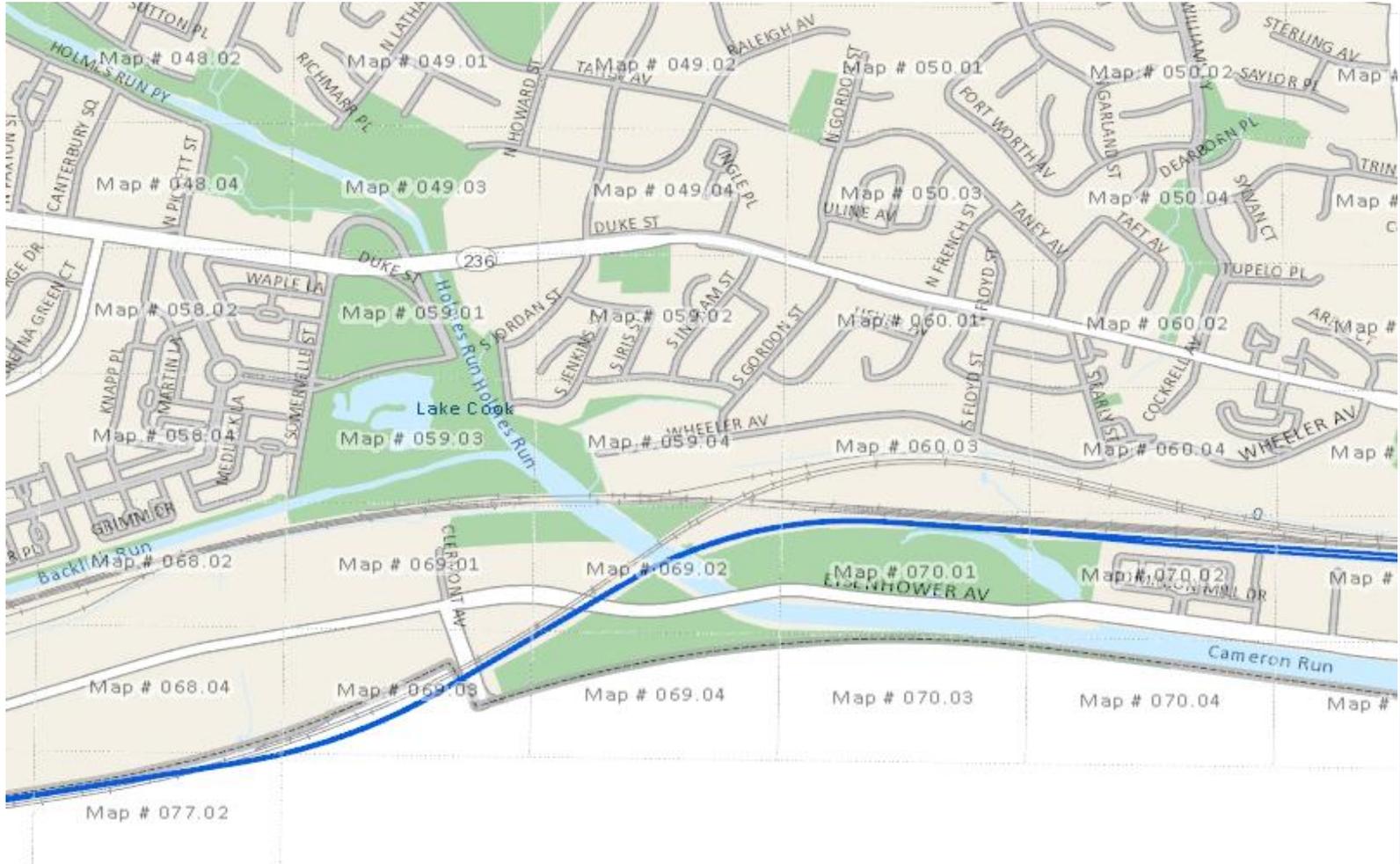


# Cameron Run Area Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan

November 20, 2014



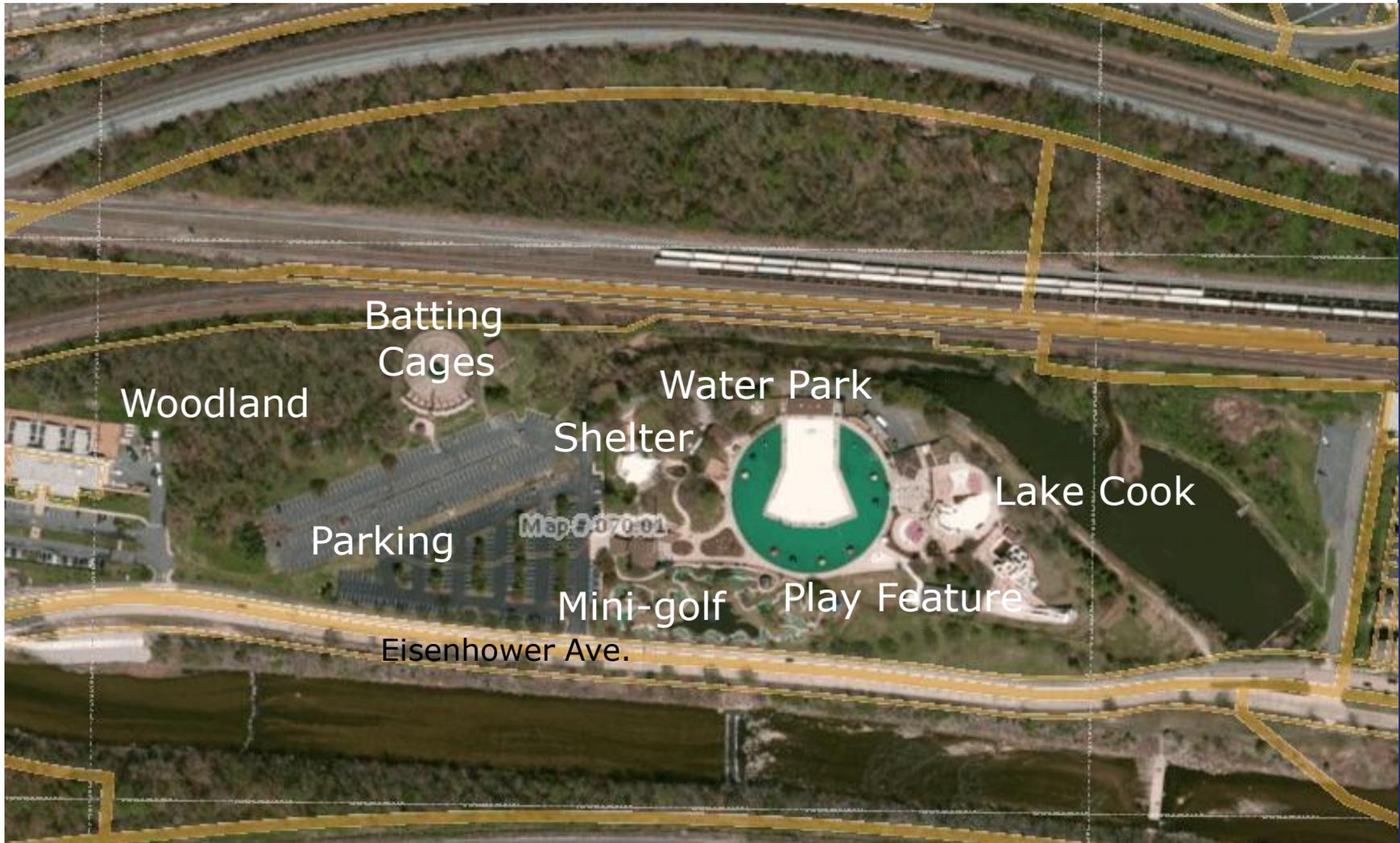
# Cameron Run Area Parks and Open Space



# Cameron Run Area Parks & Open Space



# Cameron Run Regional Park Today



# Background

- ❑ Alexandria is a member of a group of 6 jurisdictions that support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks)
- ❑ The 6 member jurisdictions are: City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, Arlington County, Fairfax County and Loudoun County.
- ❑ As a supporting member jurisdiction, Alexandria pays the Park Authority \$652,472 annually.
- ❑ The lease was originally signed in 1981 and included Hensley Park, Animal Shelter site and City Mulch site
- ❑ The lease was modified over time to include the current Cameron Regional Park site
- ❑ NOVA Parks proposal to add new water feature and request for a 40 year lease extension



# Background

## **City began a planning process for the park and open space area**

### Review of existing plans:

- Open Space Master Plan
- Urban Forestry Master Plan
- Eco-City Action Plan
- Citywide Parks Plan for Hensley Park

# Background

## City planning process for the park and open space area

- ❑ Coordination with related current planning initiatives in the area
  - Eisenhower West Small Area Plan
  - Stormwater Improvements, including the Lake Cook Retrofit Project
- ❑ Citywide Regional Park Needs Survey (Leisure Vision) to supplement 2013 City Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment
- ❑ Public outreach and public meeting
- ❑ Public Hearing with the Park and Recreation Commission



# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

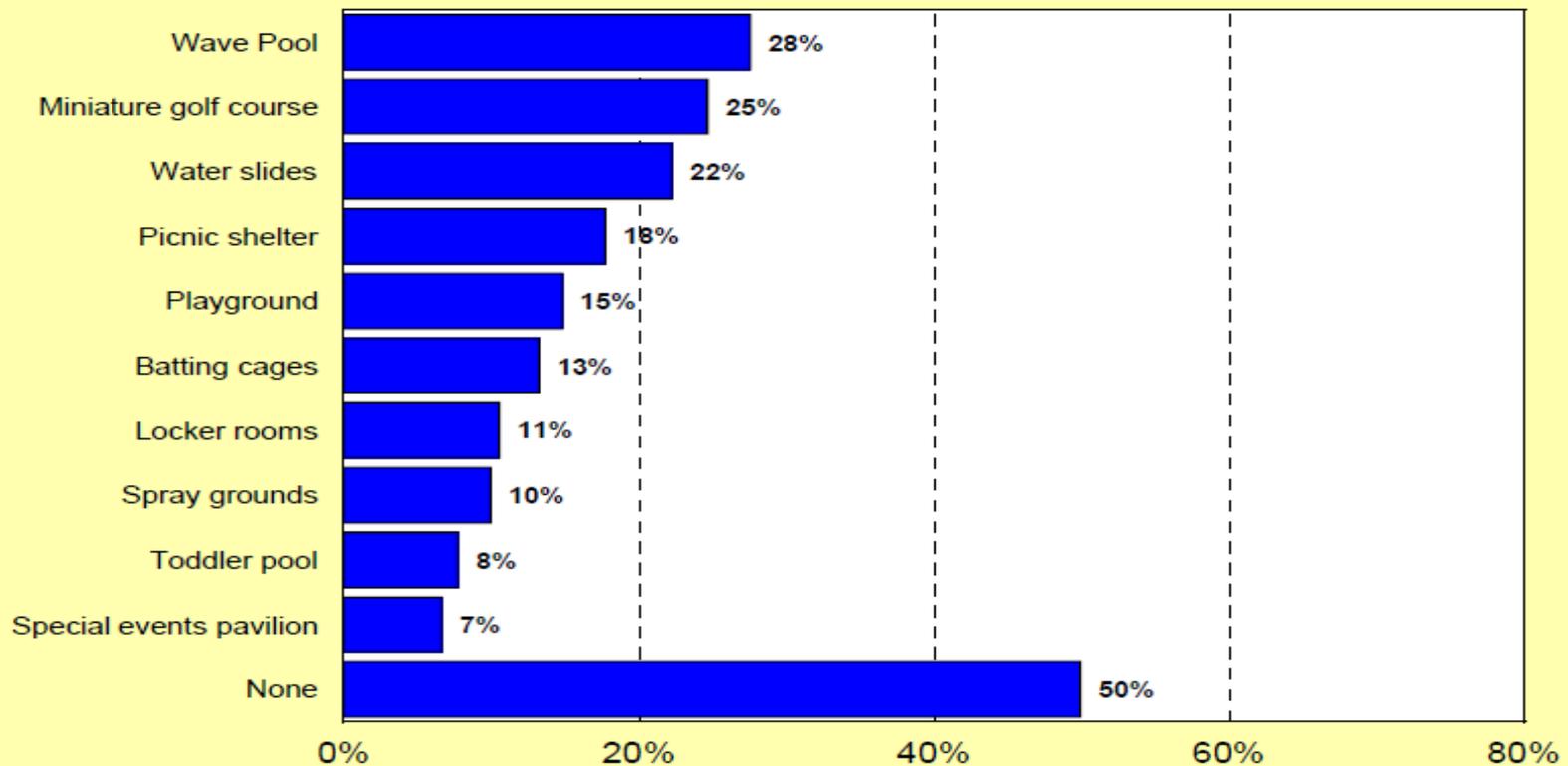
## **Cameron Run Regional Park Visitation:**

- Fifty-five (55%) percent of households have visited Cameron Run Regional Park over the past two years
- Sixty percent (60%) of those visited 2-5 times over the past two years

# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

## Q5. Facilities Respondent Households Have Used or Visited at Cameron Run Regional Park Over the Past 2 Years

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)



Source: ETC Institute for the City of Alexandria Regional Parks Survey (October 2014)



# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

## **Parks, Trails and Facilities Households Would Use at Regional Parks:**

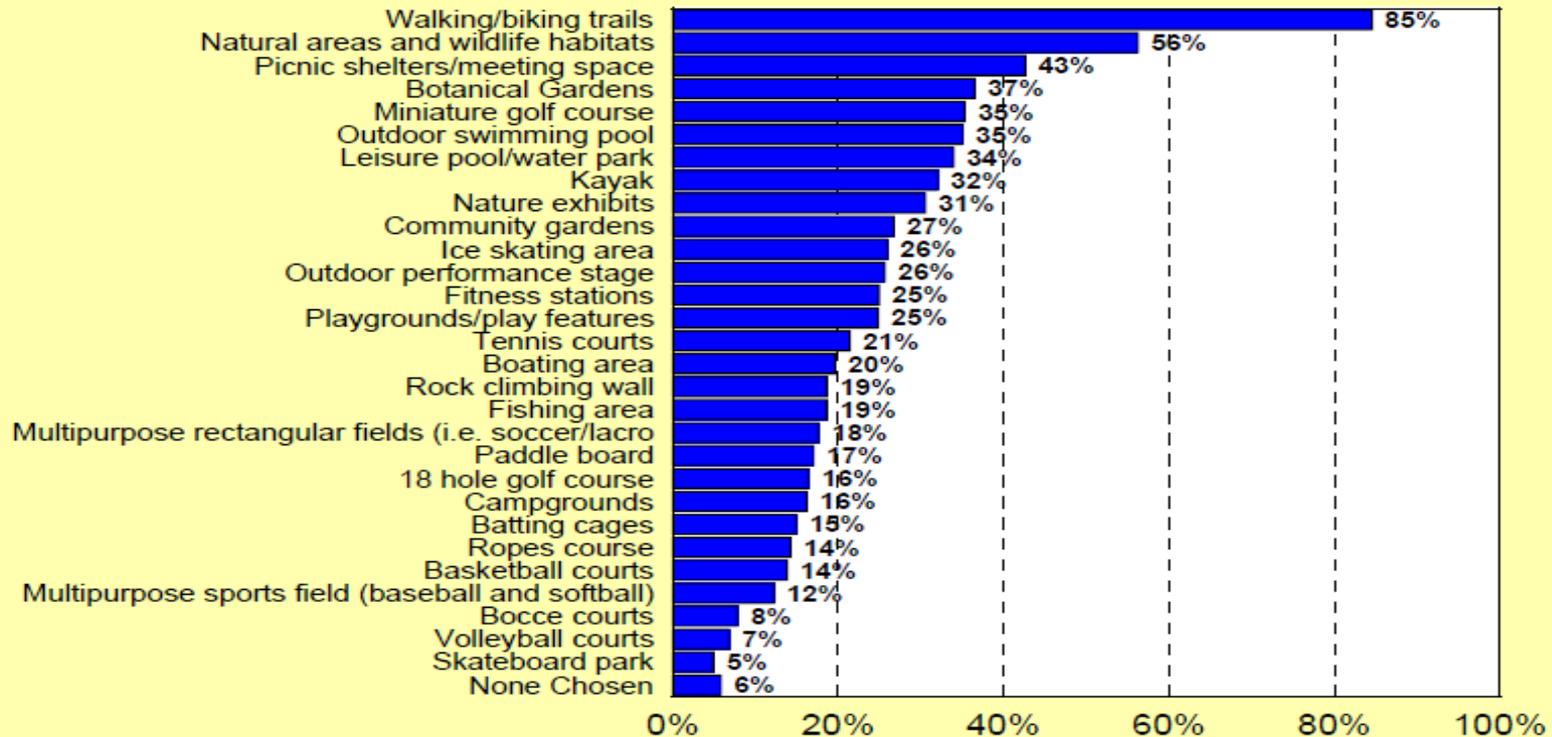
- Walking and Biking Trails (85%)
- Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats ((56%)
- Picnic Shelters and Meeting Space (43%)
- Botanical Gardens (37%)
- Miniature Golf (35%)
- Outdoor Swimming Pool (35%)
- Leisure Pool/Water Parks (15%)



# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

## Q9. Parks, Trails and Facilities Respondent Households Would Use at the Regional Parks

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)



Source: ETC Institute for the City of Alexandria Regional Parks Survey (October 2014)



# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

## Top Four Parks, Trails, and Facilities Households Would Use Most Often:

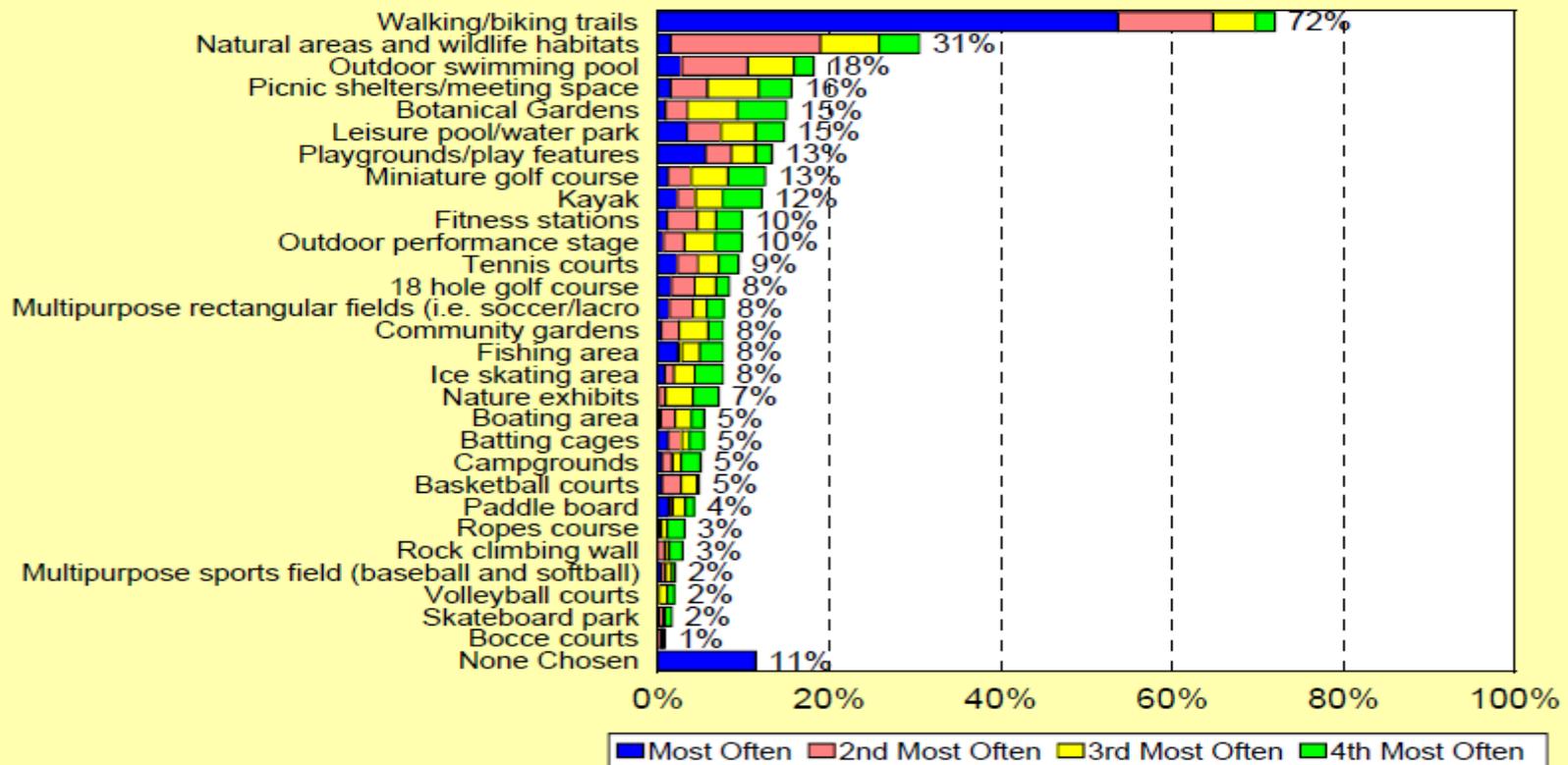
- Walking and Biking Trails (72%)
- Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats (31%)
- Outdoor Swimming Pools (18%)
- Picnic Shelters and Meeting Space (16%)



# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

## Q10. Parks, Trails, and Facilities Respondent Households Use the MOST OFTEN at a Regional Park

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



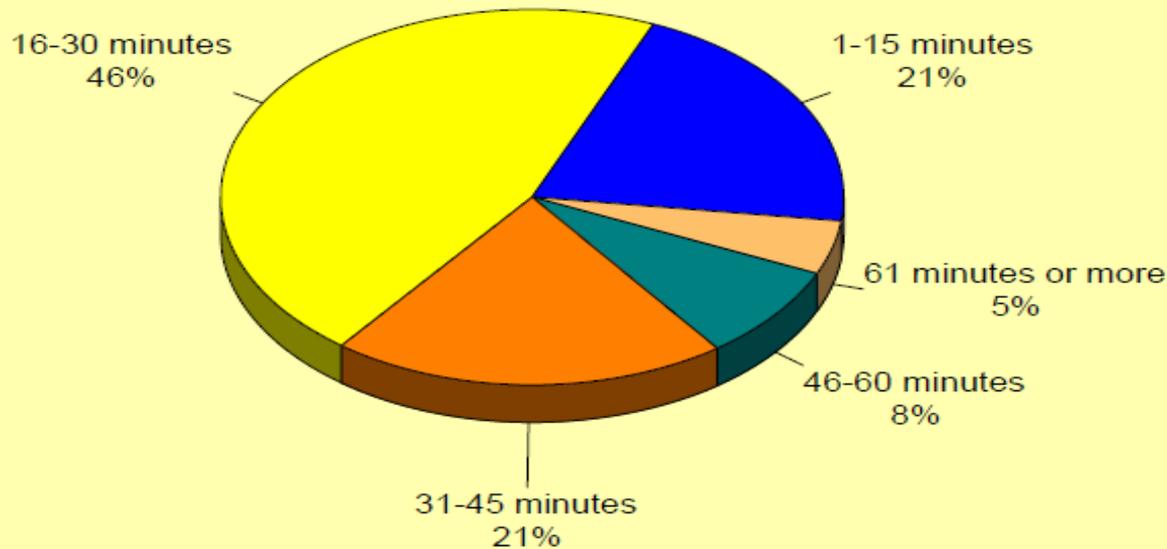
Source: ETC Institute for the City of Alexandria Regional Parks Survey (October 2014)



# Citywide Regional Parks Survey

Q11. The MAXIMUM Time Respondent Households Would be Willing to Travel to a Regional Park to Use the Facility they Would Use the Most Often in Question #10?

by percentage of respondents



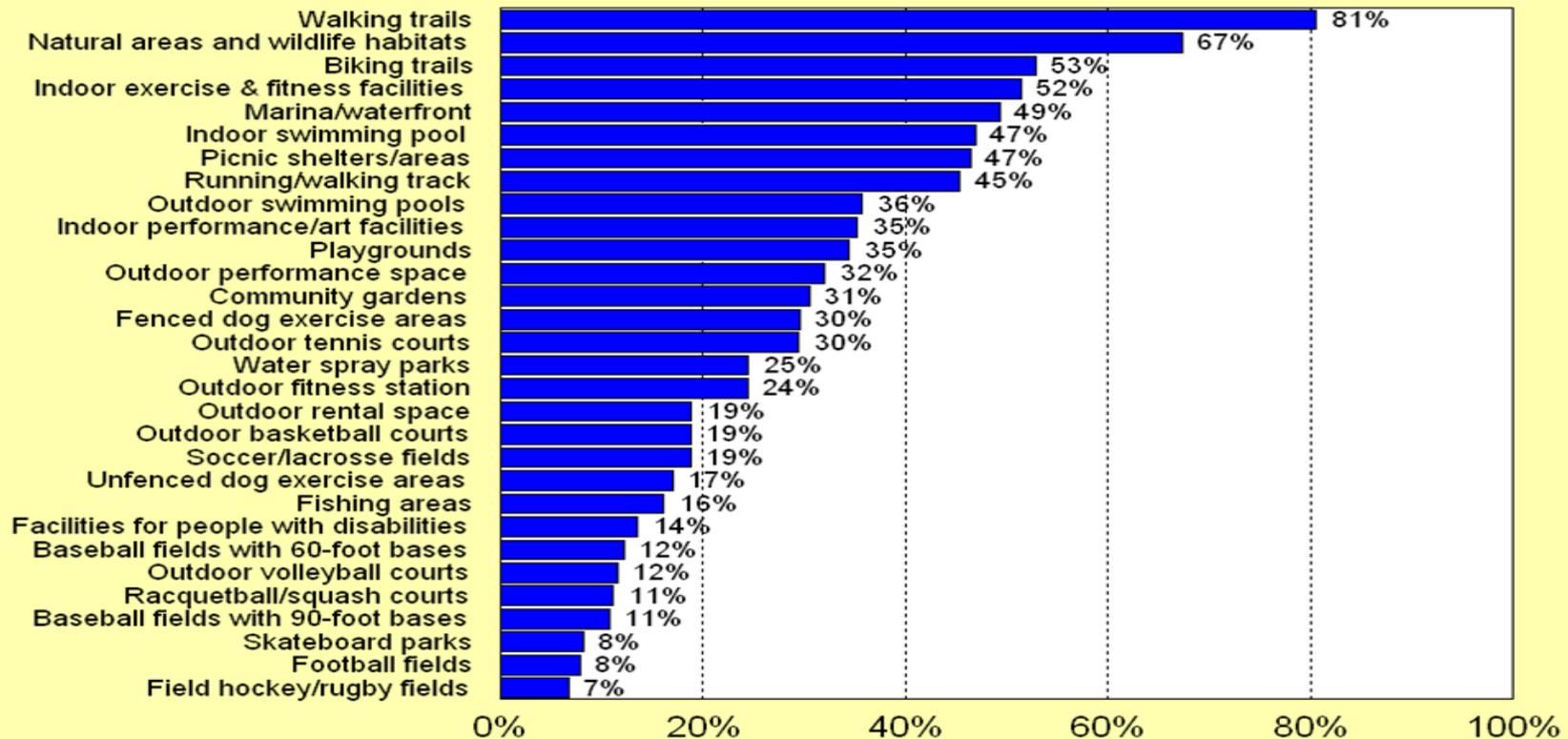
Source: ETC Institute for the City of Alexandria Regional Parks Survey (October 2014)



# 2013 Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Q5. Parks and Recreation Facilities Respondent Households Have a Need for.

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2013)



# Public Feedback

- Limited parking with peak use at Hensley Park
- Limited parking with peak use at the Cameron Run Regional Park
- Eisenhower West planning poll identified protection of nearby parks and open space as a top priority
- Environmental Policy Commission and Arlington Tree Stewards (includes Alexandria members) want to ensure protection of native woodland areas throughout the Cameron Run area
- Maintain the amount of parking adjacent to Lake Cook

# Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Feedback

- Support Lake Cook improvements as long as there is no impact to Great Waves operations
- Nature Trails more appropriate for Clermont Natural Area, not on the Cameron Run Regional Park site
- Hope to maintain options for further expansion of Great Waves

# Proposed Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area



# Proposed Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area

## Key Plan Elements

- ❑ Active Recreation Areas: Section of Cameron Run Regional Park, all of Joseph Hensley Park, and City Mulch Site
- ❑ Nature Trail Connections: Clermont Natural Area, Lake Cook Loop, and Connection from Lake Cook to Holmes Run Trail
- ❑ Protect Natural Area and Passive Use Recreation Areas
- ❑ Improved Lake Cook with Enhanced Access

# Protected Natural Area



-  Wooded Area - 4.3 Acres
-  Watershed Boundary

1 inch = 136 feet  
0 137.5 275 Feet

**NVRPA  
Wooded area**



# Approved City Plans

## Open Space Master Plan

- Goal 1: Protect existing natural resources and expand public education and enjoyment of them.
- Goal 4: Protect and Expand Stream Valleys and Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Goal 5: Create an Open Space Network in New Development Areas
- Goal 10: Link and Expand Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail System
- Goal 12: Protect Existing Trees and Woodland Areas



# Approved City Plans

## Urban Forestry Master Plan

- ❑ Recommendation 1: Citywide tree canopy coverage of 40%

## Eco-City Action Plan

- ❑ Goal 3: Protect and Enhance Alexandria's Open Space and Green Infrastructure Including Wildlife Habitat, Parks, Trails, Tree Canopy, and Watersheds



# Next Steps

- ❑ Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing and Recommendation on the Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area
- ❑ Ongoing Implementation of the Citywide Parks Plan for Joseph Hensley Park, Holmes Run Park and Ben Brenman/Boothe Park
- ❑ Lake Cook Stormwater Retrofit Project Design and Implementation
- ❑ City Council Consideration of Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Request for Lease Extension and Improvement Plan

