

## PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

### City of Northfield, Minnesota

The City of Northfield has retained Fieldstone Research to conduct a survey designed to help city staff and elected officials determine the desires, perceptions and priorities of Northfield residents as they relate to enhancing the parks and recreation opportunities within Northfield. By way of background, the city currently has 35 parks, totaling 564 acres of land; 23 miles of trails; 22 playgrounds; and 4 park shelters.

Please invest seven minutes to complete this survey and provide your city leadership with the information necessary to make quality decisions on your behalf to help Northfield provide the best parks and recreation spaces possible. All answers are confidential and the data will only be supplied to the city in an aggregated form. If you have other eligible voters in your household who would like to complete a survey, please call Michelle Mahowald at 507.645.3012 and she will have Fieldstone Research send a survey out to them.

Thank you, in advance, for helping Northfield be the best community it can be.

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1. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not important at all" and 5 being "very important," how much do you value the parks in Northfield?

- 1       2       3       4       5

2. How often do you or your family members utilize the parks and recreation spaces in Northfield?

- More than once a week                       Less than once a month  
 Several times a month                       Never  
 Once a month

3. Of the parks and recreational spaces in Northfield, which of the following do you or your family members utilize?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ames Park                          | <input type="checkbox"/> River Walk            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babcock Park                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lion's Riverside Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Square                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sechler Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Arena                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Creek Park     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadows Park                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Park/Pool/Skateboard Park |  |

4. Of all the parks identified in question three, please list the top five parks you think should receive the greatest resources for improvement.

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
ii. \_\_\_\_\_  
iii. \_\_\_\_\_  
iv. \_\_\_\_\_  
v. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Briefly explain how you use the existing parks and public recreation spaces in Northfield?

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6. Are there specific services or facilities that are not available through Northfield’s parks and recreation spaces that you or your family go out of town to use or would likely use if they were available in the community?

Yes  No (If yes, please list):

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7. Which of the following best reflects your view on an ice arena? (Please select only one)

- We should make minimum repairs to the ice arena.
- We should remodel the existing ice arena.
- We should build a new ice arena.
- We should build a new multi-purpose facility that includes an ice arena.
- We should do nothing to the ice arena (which would lead to it being closed down).

8. Please check the option that best reflects your view based upon the following statement. If the city funded an ice arena through public funding that also included other large community activities such as the DJJD Rodeo, the Hospital Book Fair, other sports opportunities, concerts and other community events, my opinion about supporting an ice arena would:

- Become stronger
- Stay the same
- Become weaker

9. On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how satisfied you are with the City of Northfield’s Parks and Recreation spaces (with 1 being “not at all satisfied” and 5 being “very satisfied”).

- 1       2       3       4       5

10. Based upon feedback from residents, the city is considering enhancements to the parks and recreation spaces in Northfield. Parks are currently funded through city property taxes. One of the possibilities for funding enhancements is through a 0.5% local sales tax on retail sales and taxable services in Minnesota (example: not clothes or groceries) that would be paid for by all consumers including those not residing in Northfield. Which of the following best reflects your views on this? *(Please select only one)*

- I fully support a 0.5% local sales tax for enhancing parks and recreation in Northfield.
- I support a 0.5% local sales tax for enhancing parks and recreation in Northfield with some reservations.
- I don't feel strongly one way or the other about a 0.5% local sales tax for enhancing parks and recreation in Northfield.
- I am against a 0.5% local sales tax for enhancing parks and recreation in Northfield.
- I am against a 0.5% local sales tax for anything.

11. Please rank the following potential **new facilities or spaces** for the City of Northfield based on their importance to you and your family *(with the most important being "1")*:

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ___ Build indoor gymnasium space   | ___ Build new athletic fields (for soccer, lacrosse or other activities) |
| ___ Build new ice arena            | ___ Build a new splash pad   |
| ___ Build new outdoor tennis space | ___ Build new walking trails   |
| ___ Build new indoor tennis space  | ___ Build new bicycling trails   |
| ___ Build new pickleball space     | ___ Other: _____   |

12. Please rank the following potential **improvements to existing facilities or spaces** for the City of Northfield based upon their importance to you and your family *(with the most important being "1")*:

- \_\_\_ Improve shelters in existing parks
- \_\_\_ Convert some athletic fields to synthetic turf
- \_\_\_ Remodel the existing ice arena
- \_\_\_ Add restrooms in existing parks
- \_\_\_ Add downtown public restroom on or near Bridge Square
- \_\_\_ Expand/enhance skateboard park
- \_\_\_ Expand/enhance existing walking trails
- \_\_\_ Expand/enhance existing bicycle trails
- \_\_\_ Enhance baseball/softball fields    restrooms    bleachers    scoreboards    dugouts
- \_\_\_ Enhance the senior center with expanded exercise facilities
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Given all the options you just reviewed, which **five** are most important to you? (*mark up to five*)

- Add downtown public restroom in or near Bridge Square
- Build new indoor gymnasium space
- Expand/enhance existing bicycle trails
- Build new bicycling trails
- Improve shelters in existing parks
- Add restrooms in existing parks
- Build new athletic fields (for soccer, lacrosse or other activities)
- Convert some athletic fields to turf
- Remodel the existing ice arena
- Build new ice arena
- Build new outdoor tennis space
- Build new indoor tennis space
- Expand/enhance skateboard park
- Build new pickleball space
- Build a new splash pad
- Expand/enhance existing walking trails
- Build new walking trails
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Please identify your gender:  Male  Female  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Please identify your age range:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18–25 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> 55–64 years of age       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26–35 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> 65–74 years of age       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36–45 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> 75–85 years of age       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46–54 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> 86 years of age or older |

***Thank you for your participation in this survey.***

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, January 10, 2020.