

# Community Public Opinion Surveys Throughout Minnesota

City staff and elected officials are sometimes criticized for "being out of touch with resident's needs". Community public opinion surveys are an excellent means of taking the pulse of your constituents. Mail-back questionnaires were designed to address the unique issues facing these communities. The questionnaires were designed for ease of use and to ensure a high response rate (35–50%). The survey results were enter into a computer and analyzed using Minitab software. A summary of the results and recommendations for action were presented to City Councils, Commissions and community groups.



## UNIQUE FEATURES

The issues covered in the surveys include satisfaction with public services, development and growth attitudes, support for public programs and financing, communication methods, recreation user satisfaction, park and facility needs, and preferences for various land development options. The survey results have proven to be a cost-effective means to help guide public policy and funding decisions.



**7. In which additional indoor recreation activities would you and/or members of your family be interested?**

Racquetball    Fitness center    Gymnasium (volleyball, basketball)    Climbing wall

Indoor play equipment    Swimming    Running/walking track    Indoor golf practice

Skateboard    Auditorium    Indoor tennis    Indoor soccer

Aerobics    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

December 15, 1998 Summary: A total of 509 surveys were returned for a response rate of 32%. This is an excellent response and indicates a high level of interest in the issues. The numeric results are shown below. A detailed analysis and recommendations will follow.

1. How often do members of your household visit the parks or public recreation facilities in Shakopee?

At least once a week (26%)	1-3 times a month (24%)	Several times a year (37%)	Never (12%)
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**8. Which of the following improvements/additions to the Arden Hills parks and recreation system would you be willing to support? i.e. through a temporary or annual property tax increase**

Great   Marginal   No support

        Additions to and extension of bikeway trails

        Renovation of existing parks

        Improvements to existing athletic complexes

        Improvements to existing passive, nature parks

        Acquisition of land for new community athletic parks

        Acquisition of land for new passive use community parks

        More alternative recreation including skateboard, climbing, BMX tracks, mountain bike trails, frisbee golf, etc.

*These are samples of the types of questions that we have asked the community in our past surveys. Each survey is unique to the city or community body it is designed for.*