



CITY OF HORSESHOE BAY

PARKS MASTER PLAN

2013 - 2022

May 21, 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. PURPOSE
- II. INTRODUCTION
- III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- IV. PLAN PROCESS
- V. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE
- VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PUBIC SURVEY RESULTS
- VII. PRIORITY PROJECTS
- VIII. FORMAL ADOPTION

PURPOSE

The City of Horseshoe Bay is relatively new to the parks and recreation arena since the past seven years have been spent with the City Council and the City management putting in place the items necessary to operate as a newly formed city. Consideration of parks and recreation needs for the citizens of Horseshoe Bay has not been a high priority for several reasons. The City is a resort community with many amenities for its citizens to take advantage of that are provided by Horseshoe Bay Resort (the Resort). Within the City there are numerous Property Owners Associations that provide many more recreational facilities such as the Horseshoe Bay POA, Applehead Island POA, The Trails POA, and numerous others. Attractions such as five golf courses, considerable tennis facilities, swimming pools, walking trails, a world class putting facility, marina and water sports facilities are among the opportunities that the citizens have possible access to.

High priority has not been placed on developing more recreational facilities in addition to the many afforded by the Resort and the various POA's. The City Council understands that not all park related needs are met by the Resort and the various POA's and that some of the citizens cannot either afford to hold membership in the resort, or choose, for many reasons, not to attain membership. Defined needs have been identified through the initiative and leadership of the Parks Committee through a needs assessment and citizen survey that will be discussed in detail later in this document.

Therefore the purpose of this plan is to provide guidance for the development and growth of recreational facilities and to provide guidance on future decisions concerning operations, capital improvement needs, and programs for the citizens of Horseshoe Bay for a period covering the next ten years.

The City does not presently have a Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan on file with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Such a Master Plan is needed to qualify for additional points with respect to competing for and securing local park grants. The concept of a Master Plan, initiated by Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1994, directs local governments to

complete local park and recreation master plans, to be updated approximately every five years. This Master Plan is designed to guide local decision making through 2022 and be updated as appropriate. It is also the intent of this master plan to meet the Texas Parks and Wildlife requirements in order to secure grants in the future.

INTRODUCTION

The City of Horseshoe Bay is blessed with recreation facilities that are world class, available within the resort community. A 2009 study concluded that 85% of the property owners in the City were members of the Resort; therefore most of the property owners have access to these excellent facilities. The City has five golf courses and many other amenities and a great deal of vacant land from lots that have been sold but without a house. A vital component of any community is space dedicated to open space, trails, recreation facilities, and play fields that are devoted to satisfying recreational needs. Other than land that is private property, most of the open space land in the City is owned by the Horseshoe Bay POA. The HSB POA has limited funds to develop this open space and cooperation (discussed later) between the HSB POA and the City will be critical in meeting recreational needs in the community.

The City is located approximately 40 miles northwest of Austin in the heart of Central Texas and the Highland Lakes region. The City's 6,500 full and part time residents are increased exponentially during the high recreation season and holidays. The City lies on the south shore of Lake LBJ, in both Llano and Burnet Counties. Statistical data on population demographics will be introduced in the section later described as the Needs Assessment and Public survey.

Currently the City has almost no recreational facilities with the exception of Martin Park located close to the City offices. This Master Plan document will attempt to address the needs of the community. Paramount in this process will be the identification of possible open space available for park use that is currently owned by several different entities. Without cooperation from entities such as the Resort, Lower Colorado River Authority, POA's, private parties and the City, there will be no land on which to build facilities for the general public to utilize as open space and parks. Cooperation among all of these organizations has been excellent and is expected to continue.

This Master Plan provides the citizens of Horseshoe Bay with an inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, assessment of community needs, and summarizes local park and recreation priorities for the next 10 years. This Master Plan should provide a guideline for staff, City leaders, and citizens as they make decisions on future park facilities and the possible development of a park system for the City. This plan also serves as a basis for City officials to make application for private, state and federal funding in order to gain funding for their objectives. This is designed to be used as a broad guide for developing a recreational system for the Horseshoe Bay community.

Throughout this document, various Property Owner Associations will be mentioned. There are numerous POA organizations within the city. They own a good amount of open space property and have developed recreation facilities on them. Utilization of those recreation facilities are by the POA members, and it is up to each organization to determine usage of their facilities. The Horseshoe Bay POA is the dominant POA within the city owning many acres of open space property and various recreational facilities. Within this document are numerous suggestions to construct facilities on POA property or to upgrade existing facilities. It is clearly understood that the City would not be able to construct or upgrade any facilities unless ownership of the HSB POA property is transferred to the City. At present, there is a general understanding between the two organizations that this is the best way to develop new recreational facilities in the community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 - Enhance the health and quality of life for citizens through supplementing park and recreational facilities that are available through the Resort and the various POA's. Emphasis should be on recreational needs that are not presently being met.

Objective 1. Develop standards for the citizens of Horseshoe Bay with respect to recreational development. In the development of these standards, utilization of existing facilities open to the public in nearby communities such as Marble Falls should be considered.

Objective 2. Develop and implement a plan including hiking trails. Hiking trail development should be a high priority as the trail corridors already exist for a minimum of three excellent opportunities.

Objective 3. Continue to update existing park facilities at Martin Park and invest in several vest pocket parks (small open space parks) in the HSB POA area.

Objective 4. Develop a standard for identifying city facilities including standards for signage, buildings, and architecture.

GOAL 2 - Develop maintenance standards for existing park and recreational facilities and ensure future facilities receive like standards.

Objective 1 - Renovate and replace existing facilities to meet current standards for safety of users.

Objective 2 - Develop and implement an annual budget line item to ensure minor repairs, upgrading of current facilities, and maintenance of trails as they are included in the system.

Objective 3 - Develop and support relationships with local groups, the Resort, LCRA, the POA's and private individuals that will assist in maintaining present facilities and in future park programming opportunities as they arise.

GOAL 3 - Plan and develop new park and recreational facilities that are desired as depicted in the Park and Recreation Needs Assessment.

Objective 1 - Acquire the necessary property and develop such property to provide hiking trails, picnic areas, a dog park, and other needed recreation as addressed in the Needs Assessment.

GOAL 4 - Develop and support a community effort to assist the City in park and recreation plans and development. Utilization of focus groups desiring certain recreational facilities can solidify and expedite both budgetary issues and volunteer issues in the development of additional facilities and maintenance of those facilities.

Objective 1 - Maintain the current citizen Parks Committee for advising the City on recreational issues.

Objective 2 - Establish a Friends of Horseshoe Bay Parks non-profit foundation that can readily accept donations to assist the city in constructing facilities and maintenance once on-line.

Objective 3 - Produce and distribute brochures describing existing facilities, future planned facilities and information on all recreational facilities in the City, excluding the Resort.

PLAN PROCESS

The planning process for this first Master Plan should incorporate several public meetings to receive input from citizens. Utilization of the recent Needs Assessment will drive the initial plan process as facilities desired from the public. Obviously, needs assessments are a one-time survey meant to establish a base-line to begin a planning process. Where a large number of surveys were returned, input from citizens were on a voluntary basis with second home owners, citizens away from the area, or citizens not understanding the need for additional recreational facilities probably not getting full input into the survey.

The process to implement and accept this Master Plan should incorporate the following:

- Initial approval of the Park Committee members
- Initial presentation to the City Council for comments/revisions
- Hold two public presentation meetings concurrent with City Council meetings for public comment
- Establish a time-line for public to comment on the Master Plan
- Revisions by the Park Committee and the City
- Adoption by the City Council and implementation of the plan by the City

INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE

CURRENT FACILITIES:

- MARTIN PARK - five acre park consisting of new play structure installed in 2012 utilizing Game Time play structure, two park benches, and concrete trail from parking to play structure. Accessible facilities also include a covered picnic shelter the public can reserve, set of restrooms, picnic tables, fire grills and benches. The area is a fenced enclosure, safe for children with adult supervision. Future possibilities include play fields or sports courts.
- HIKING TRAIL - There is currently a rough hiking trail leading from the campground located in the south area of Horseshoe Bay and leading to the Martin Park area along Slick Rock Trail. The trail is currently utilized by hikers and hiking clubs and was planned to be rustic with limited use.
- HIKING TRAIL - The same hiking trail leaving the campground also terminates at the stables area.
- VEST POCKET PARK - SOUTH HORSESHOE BAY - This small park is owned by the HSB POA at the current time and could use significant improvement. A sports court, new play structures and fencing along with picnic tables and benches could serve the community well if reconstructed with new equipment.
- POA CAMPGROUND - There is currently a 35 unit campground with electricity, water, and restrooms located in the southern most part of Horseshoe Bay. This facility is owned by the HSB POA and is utilized sparingly. The facilities are sparse - spaces too small for most camping units, and restrooms very limited and outdated. This facility could become an important park setting for Horseshoe Bay if re-developed as a public campground with modern facilities. Ownership and related development could be either by the HSB POA or the City. The land the campground is constructed on is one of the most desirable parcels in Horseshoe Bay for recreation potential and could be changed from a campground to another recreational amenity.

- QUAIL POINT - This outstanding facility is owned and operated by the HSB POA. Quail Point is an important open space/park utilized by many Horseshoe Bay citizens as a picnic area/rest area/basketball court/and a general place of serenity to soothe one.
- HORSESHOE CREEK TRAIL CORRIDOR - This City has accepted generous gifts from Mrs. Eileen Hurd, the Resort and the HSB POA for the Horseshoe Creek trail corridor. This trail corridor is a spacious open space/trail corridor running from the bottom of Thanksgiving Mountain off HWY 2147 to the Mausoleum in Horseshoe Bay South. Plans for trail construction and picnic areas in the corridor will result in three trail loops highly desirable for hiking, picnicking and enjoying nature. The trail loops will likely have varying degrees of difficulty and will be so indicated.
- GENERAL OPEN SPACE - There are many open space pockets located within Horseshoe Bay owned by the Resort, LCRA, the HSB POA, and others. These areas should be studied to determine if any park usage can occur on them and be developed for the good of the citizens.
- LAKE LBJ - Much of the City is along the shore of Lake LBJ. Access to the Lake provides excellent opportunities for numerous activities. These activities and how to access them will be covered in the planned brochure regarding recreational facilities available. Such activities are outside the present scope of the Parks Committee.

One of the most critical problems faced in developing park and recreations facilities in Horseshoe Bay is the lack of open space that can be utilized for those purposes. It will take continued cooperation from all parties to consolidate open space for the good of the citizens and the development of a park system.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

To determine what the public in the City believes are its needs for additional recreational assets other than the Resort and the various POA's, a survey was developed by the Parks Committee in March of 2011 and sent out to all utility users of the City with the monthly billing requesting return to the City by July 1, 2011. A copy of the Needs Questionnaire is attached as Attachment 1. The general purpose of the survey was to find out the demographics of the City residents, determine what was their most important recreational amenities they use, whether they are full time residents or secondary homeowners here on a part time basis, past usage of current facilities, and to find out which facilities were the priority to provide. A copy of Needs Assessment Results is attached as Attachment 2. Approximately 300 completed surveys were returned.

The largest request for facility construction was for hiking trails. There is a strong desire to have trails available to get hikers and walkers off main roadways and onto a safe environment for their desired activity. Current hiking trails available in Horseshoe Bay are on Horseshoe Bay POA property and are used by a few hikers and trekkers but are in rustic condition. Once planning is complete, construction will begin on the Horseshoe Creek property to complete three loops from the Mausoleum to Highway 2147 and will be a great addition to the City. It is likely that trails will include picnic areas (see third priority below).

The second highest request was for playground structures that are safe for the children to play on and meet current standards. Martin Park has been a high priority for the City, and new play structures have been installed and are highly used. Since this is the only play structure within the City, families have to travel to utilize the playground. Vest pocket parks with smaller play structures would provide play areas within walking distance to homes.

Picnic facilities were the third highest request on the surveys. There are relatively few picnic areas in the City. Currently the facilities at Martin Park, Quail Point and the

campground get the most use, but scattered vest pocket park facilities would be useful for residents. Construction of picnic facilities on the Horseshoe Creek property will add a great asset.

The fourth highest request from the survey is for a dog park. The manner in which Horseshoe Bay was constructed leaves no alternative but to have dog owners walk their pets on roadways or a golf course. The roadways can be dangerous and the demand is high with a many homeowners in the City having dogs. A dog area with proper amenities would be highly utilized and well-funded by private donations.

Sport courts are desirable and are very limited in the surrounding area, let alone the City. The Resort is a tennis mecca but is available only for members or visitors with recreation privileges. The City of Marble Falls cannot provide enough sports courts for their residents; so use there by Horseshoe Bay residents is non-existent. Currently there is a basketball hoop at Quail Point in the parking lot and that is the only facility in the City. Tennis courts are available in numerous locations in the City either belonging to the Resort or within several POA developments.

The other main desire for residents was open space. Open space is a very difficult concept in the City since the area was planned as a golf resort, and except for relatively new developments, all lots have been sold and are under private ownership. Open space in the future resides with citizens that may desire to see their properties be utilized under an open space concept and donate such property to the City. It is unlikely that significant City funds would be used to purchase property.

More in-depth results of the surveys can be located in the city offices where all surveys were filed.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

This list of priority projects stand alone and is not in any priority order. It is also not all inclusive and can be added to at any time at the discretion of the City.

ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

- Found a non-profit organization, i.e. The Friends of Horseshoe Bay Parks, to assist the City in the ability to accept donations, volunteer projects, and other available opportunities. This non-profit 501-C-3 organization would give the City an avenue to solicit assistance from individuals and corporations interested in parks and recreation in the Horseshoe Bay area. Once established, the non-profit board would answer to the city manager in its endeavors. Gifts could also be made, on a tax deductible basis, directly to the City.
- Establish a Horseshoe Bay Conservation Corps to build, maintain, and re-establish trails on lands owned by the City. The Corps would be a seasonal contingent hired by the City utilizing funding from the City, the Friends organization, or grants from the State of Texas and the United States government. The Corps would also be utilized to make improvements on park projects and to maintain existing parks.
- Continue the Parks Committee to provide guidance and citizen input to the City on its parks system as established in the charter for the committee.
- Establish rules and regulations for the park system as it grows and the need for regulations arise.
- Design a Horseshoe Bay Parks logo for park signage and to delineate and separate the City owned parks from the Resort, LCRA, and the various POA's to avoid confusion with the public.
- Design, produce and distribute a brochure for the public that describes and maps the recreational facilities available in the City.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROJECTS

- Continue Martin Park upgrades to include handicap tables, grills, volleyball court, tether ball sets and possible coloring of the concrete sidewalks to blend in with the environment.
- Partner with the HSB POA on improving their facilities such as the campground by transfer those facilities to the City which could then improve them. The HSB POA has access to open space and park areas that could possibly be used as park land for the City which could expand the recreational opportunities in the area.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Construction of the hiking trail on the Horseshoe Creek property from the mausoleum to a trailhead established off Highway 2147. Proposed construction of this trail would be accomplished by the Horseshoe Bay Conservation Corps over a period of three summers. A minimum of three picnic areas would be constructed at the trailheads.
- Horseshoe Creek trail amenities including parking; restroom facilities at three locations; benches along the trail; and trailhead signage.
- Determine a suitable location for a dog park and establish the park as soon as possible. The dog park should be built to high standards with fencing, water, irrigation, trash receptacles, turf, signage, and electronic gates. Rules and strict controls should be in place to prevent incidents before opening the park.
- Vest Pocket Parks should be established on available open space lands throughout the City if transfer of the land to the City were to occur. Simple amenities such as tables and small play structures could be constructed within those areas to provide recreation close to home throughout the City.
- Sport Courts are needed. A basketball court located at Fox Hollow could be built if the Fox Hollow Park is transferred to the City.

- Open Space designation should be made on all parcels of land owned by entities that do not have current plans for other uses. Open space is very important in communities and Horseshoe Bay is very limited in open space opportunities.

ADOPTION

This Master Plan should be formally adopted by the City Council once approved through the full approval process including public meetings and public input.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Needs Assessment Survey form
2. Needs Assessment Survey results

Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

The City of Horseshoe Bay would like your input to help determine parks and recreation priorities for the open spaces available in Horseshoe Bay for the next several years. Please complete this survey and return by July 1, 2011 to City Hall, email to tmoore@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov or mail to City of Horseshoe Bay, Parks Advisory Committee, P. O. Box 7765, Horseshoe Bay, TX, 78657.

Thank you for your assistance in making Horseshoe Bay a better community and place to live!

1. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

Under 5 yrs old: _____ 6-14 yrs: _____ 15-25 yrs: _____ 26-40 yrs: _____
41- 60 yrs: _____ 61-70 yrs: _____ +71 yrs: _____

2. During the past year, has anyone in your household used Martin Park facilities? (Circle one) Y N

Other non-resort recreation facilities? Y N If so, please give a brief description of your usage.

3. Please indicate if you or your household would like to see the following facilities developed in Martin Park and on Horseshoe Bay City property. Please rank each item in order of importance from 1-7 (1= most important and 7=least important).

A. Play grounds for children: _____ Suggested locations _____

B. Nature trails/hiking trails: _____ Suggested locations _____

C. Picnic facilities: _____ Suggested locations _____

D. Dog parks: _____ Suggested locations _____

E. Open space fields: _____ Suggested locations _____

F. Sport Courts (i.e. Tennis, Basketball, etc.):

_____ Suggested locations _____

G. Other requests: _____

4. How often would you frequent the facilities you gave top priority to? (Please circle one per item)
Most Important item (#1): daily weekly bi-weekly monthly seasonal Second most important (#2): daily weekly bi-weekly monthly seasonal Third most important (#3): daily weekly bi-weekly monthly seasonal

5. Have you or your household used the Horseshoe Bay Campground within the last year for camping or other purposes? _____ If yes, how often? (Please circle one) 1-2 3-5 6 or more

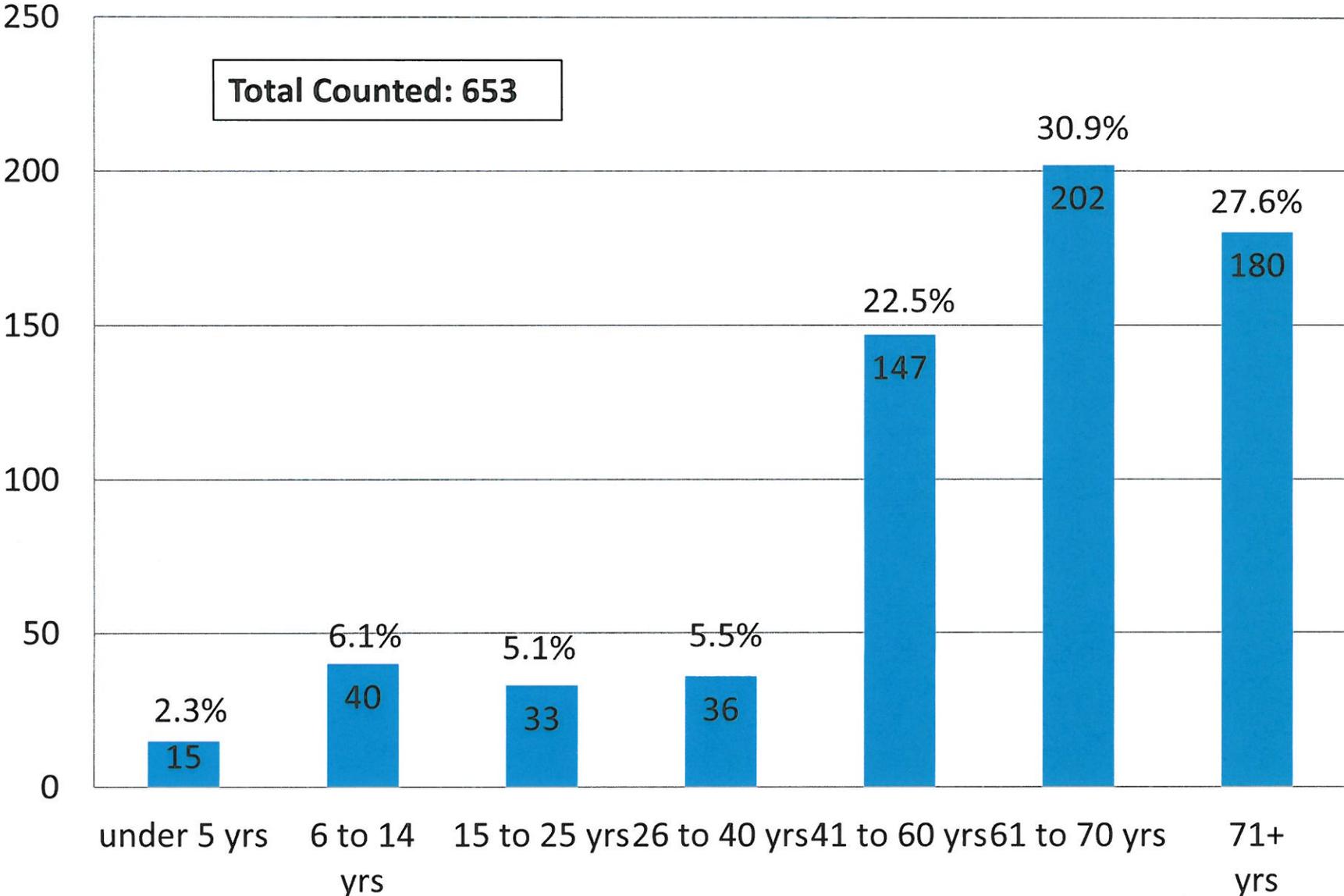
6. Is this your primary or secondary home? _____

If secondary, how often are you here? (Months occupied) _____ Do you own or rent your home? _____

7. Additional Comments:

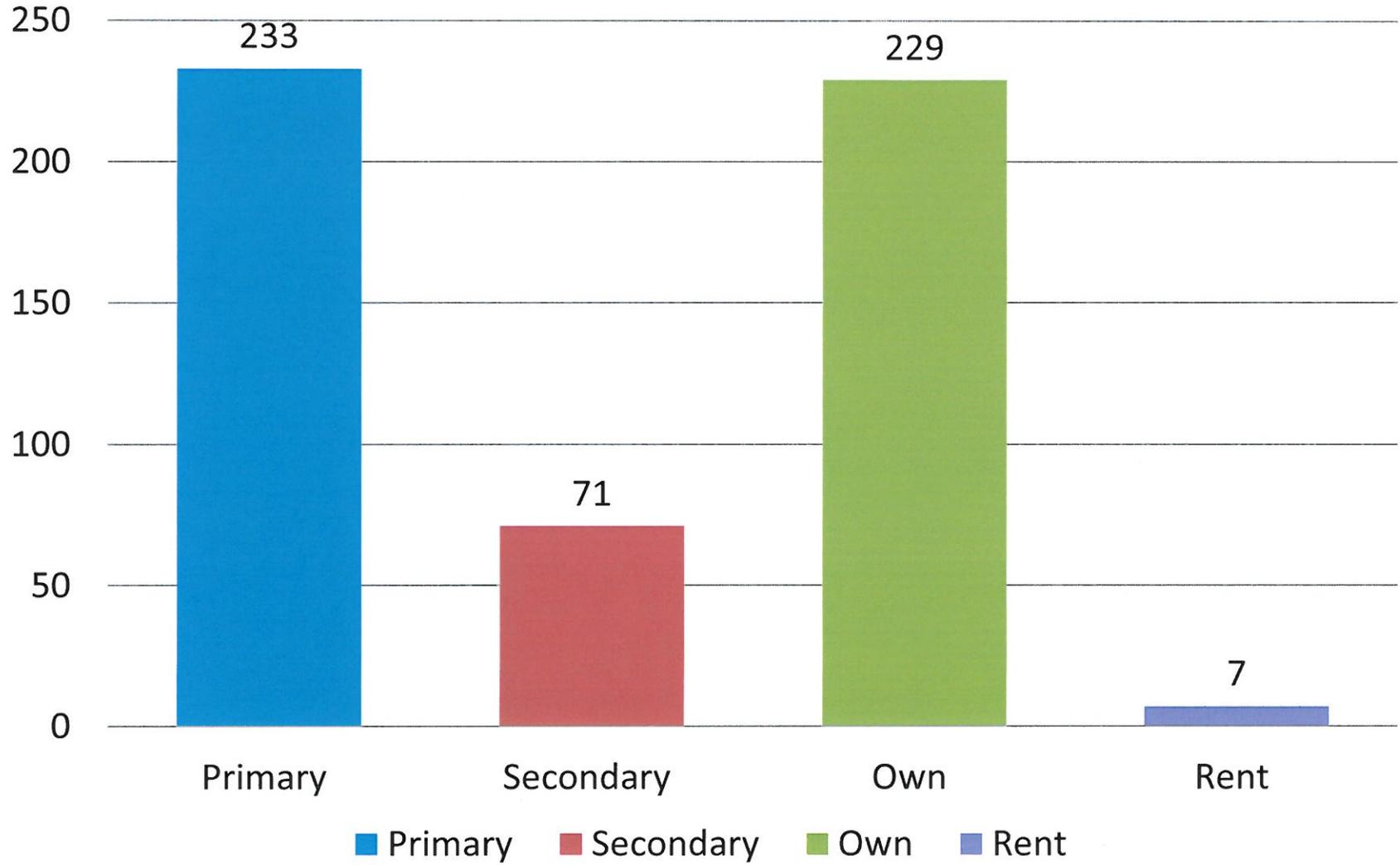
Name: _____ Address: _____

Total Resident Demographics

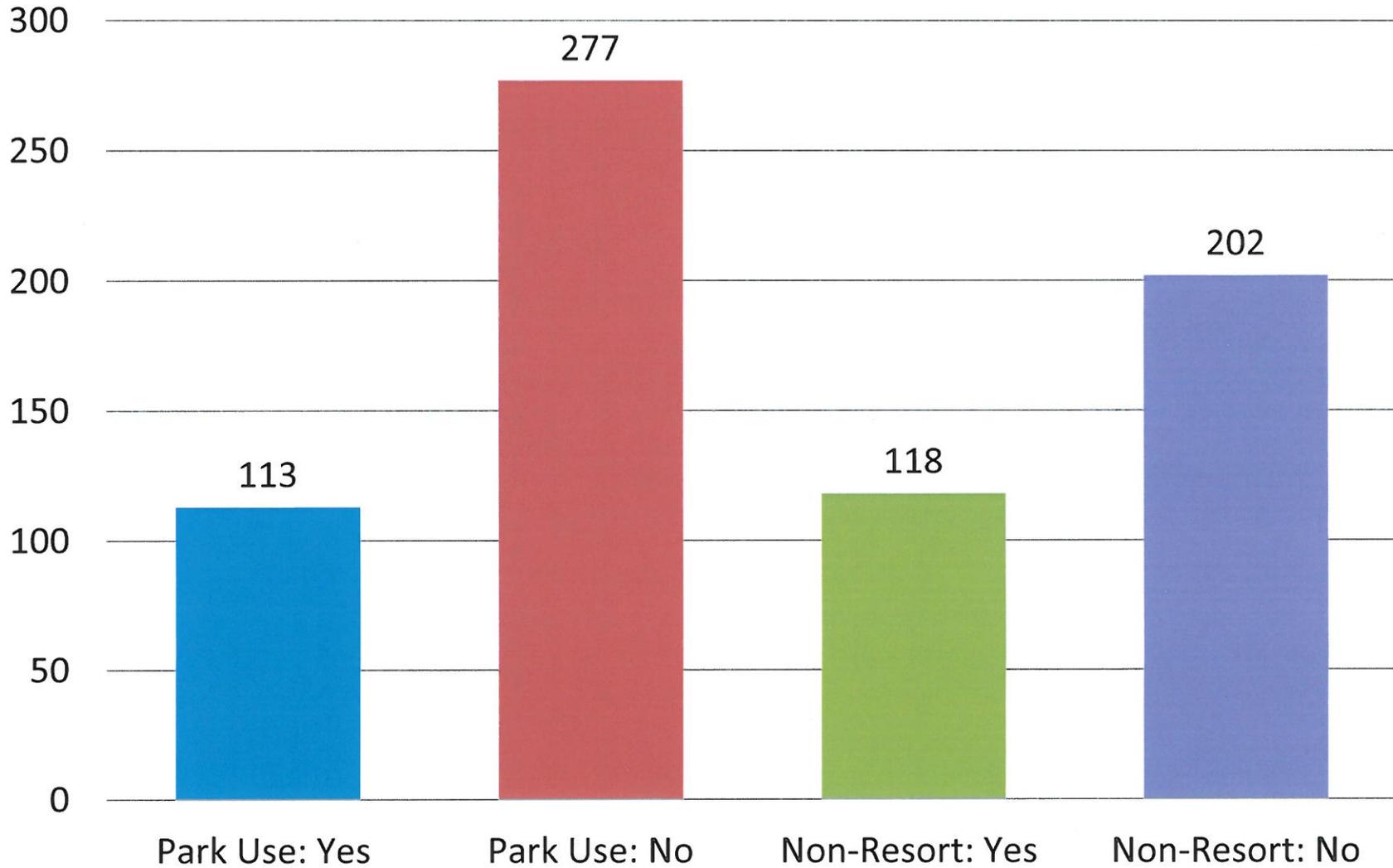


Primary/Secondary Home

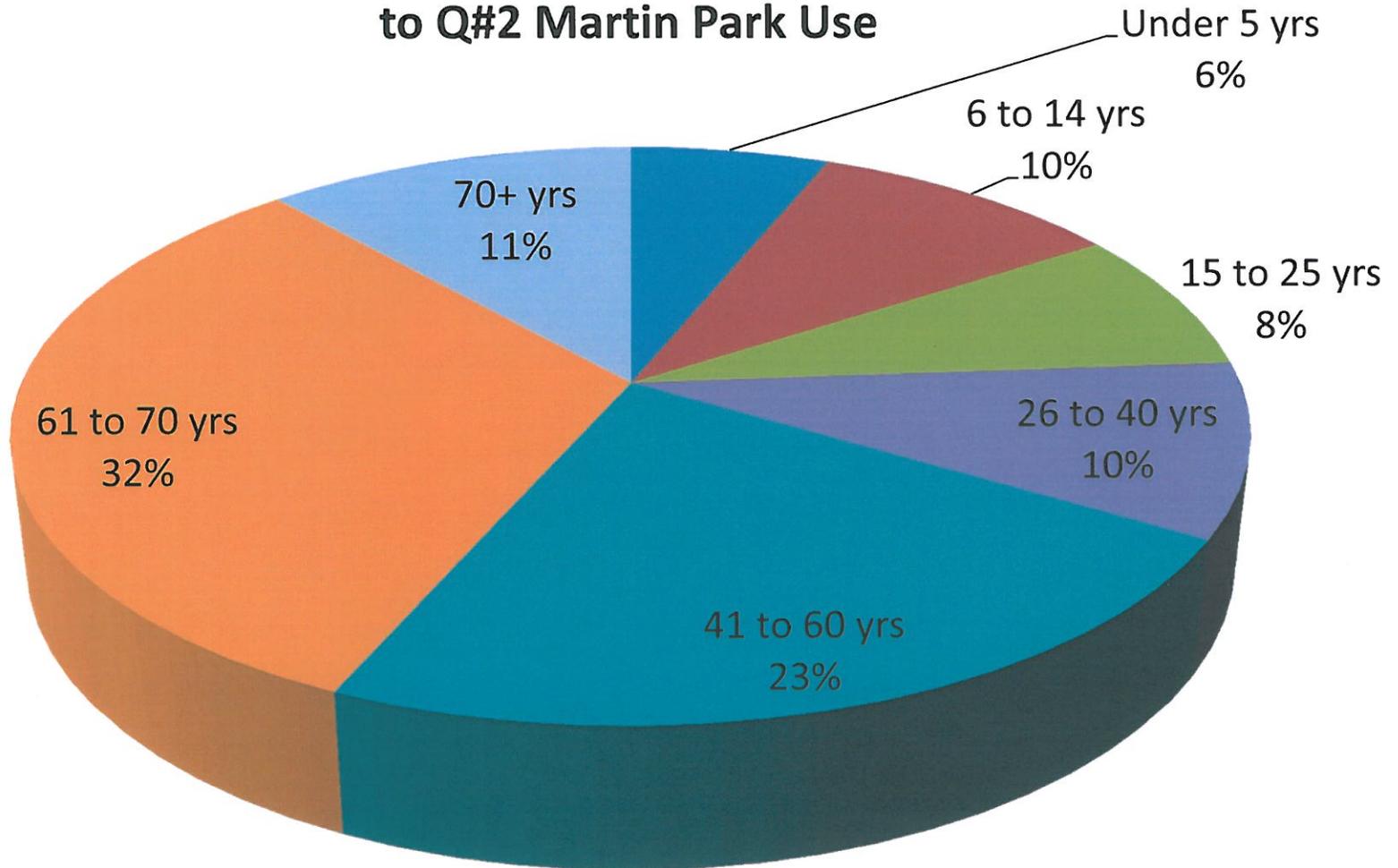
Own/Rent



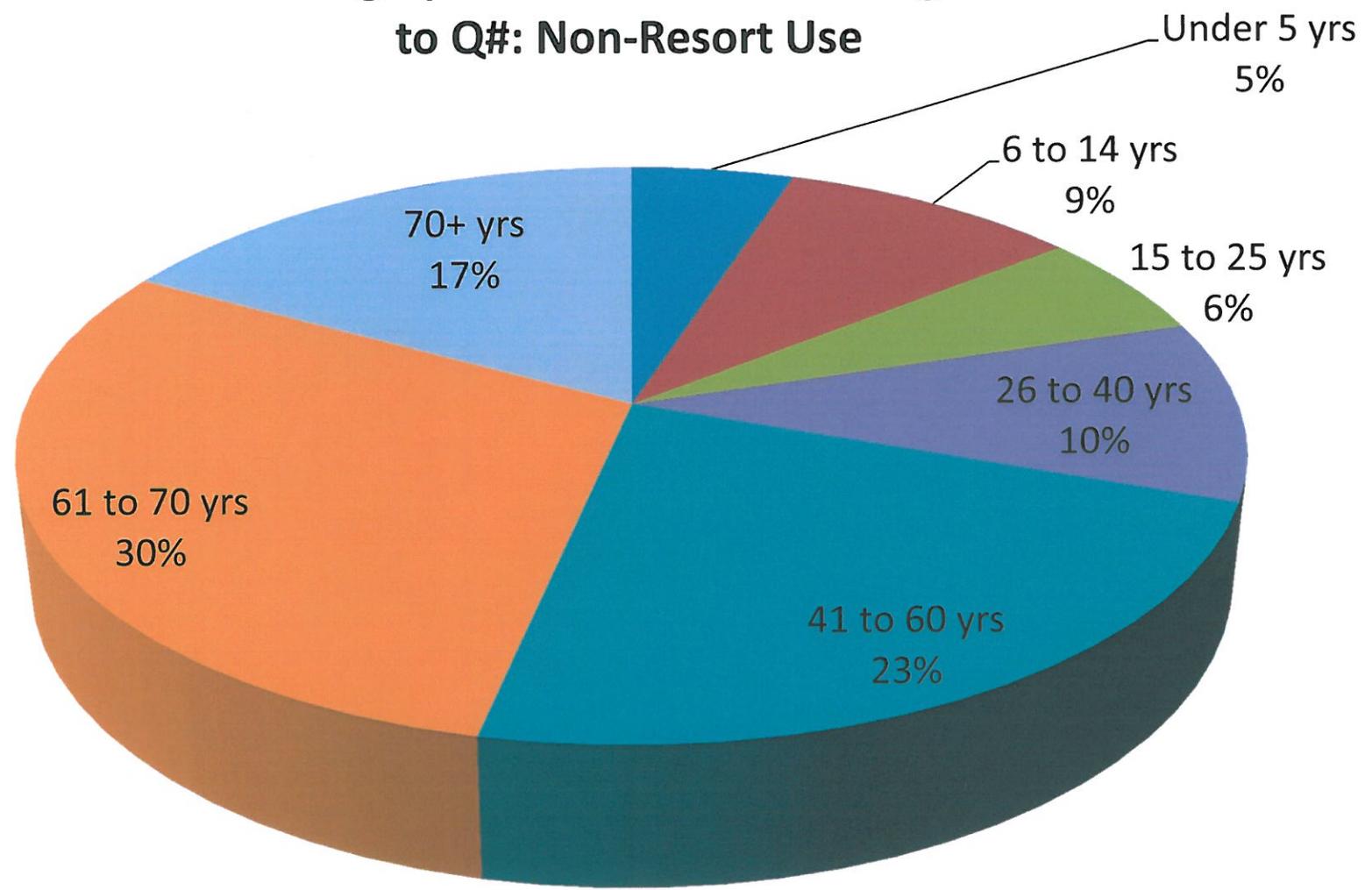
Past Year Use of Martin Park or Non-Resort Facilities



Demographics of those answering YES to Q#2 Martin Park Use



Demographics of those answering YES to Q#: Non-Resort Use



#1 and #2 Most Important Facilities

