

Section 3

Public Engagement

INTRODUCTION

The Public Engagement process included one-on-one interviews, public meetings, presentations to Focus Groups, Service Clubs, Business Associations and meetings with the Recreation Committee. Interviews included residents who are involved with the Celebration Parks Department in an elected or appointed capacity. Also interviewed were representatives of the Osceola County Parks and Recreation Department, Osceola County Community Development Department, and Osceola County Public School District.

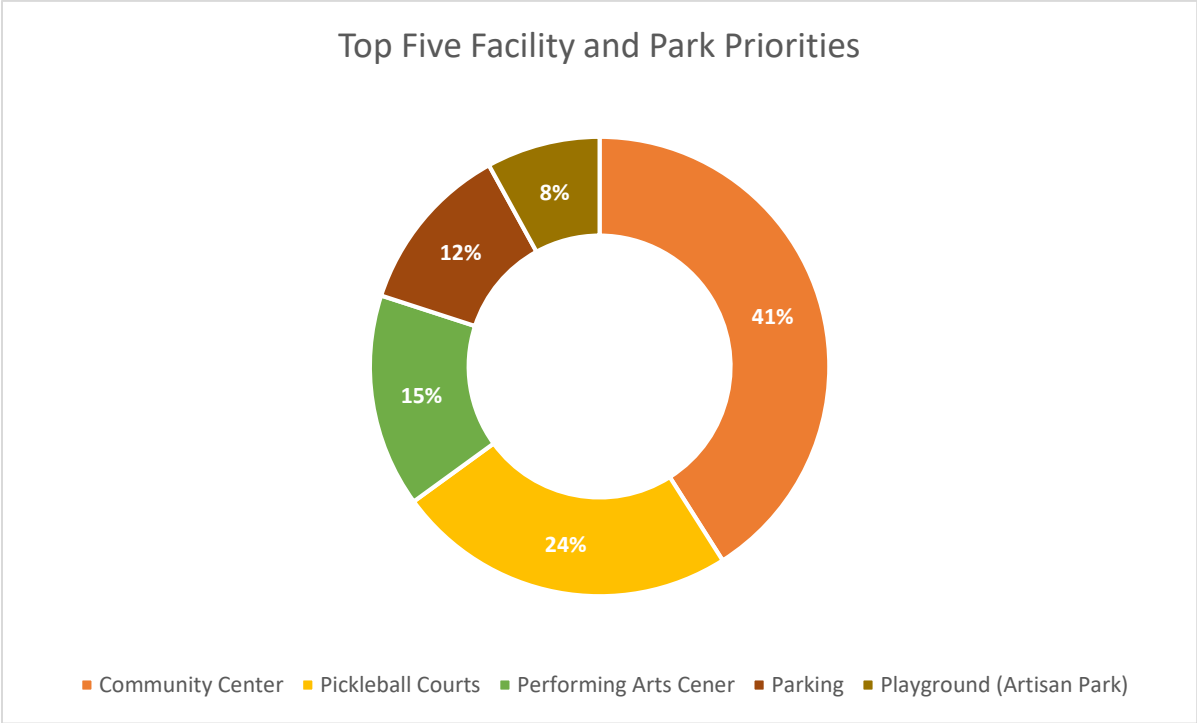
To begin the process of gathering public input, a community meeting was held at the onset of the planning process on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Celebration Town Hall, for residents to provide feedback on personal utilization of the Celebration Facilities and Parks system and to collect positive/constructive feedback. The meeting was well attended, with approximately 125 community members present. Attendees were invited to participate in an interactive exercise around the room with various tables to mark on display boards and maps of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan indicating areas, facilities, and parks that should be considered for inclusion in or exclusion from the updated master plan. Attendees were also given comment cards to complete and leave behind after the meeting, allowing all who were present to communicate information to the planning team, even if they were not able to share their input verbally at the meeting. Facilitators discussed the need to understand the vocabulary of a modern park system and how the updated information could benefit the community. Additionally, the attendees were informed of the project's planning process, with upcoming Focus Group meetings that would be held over the course of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. Together, these elements paint a comprehensive picture of Celebration while creating a consensus on current issues and opportunities.

Presentations were also given to the Seniors program participants, Youth Sports representatives, Partnered Programs, Committee councils (Recreation, Special Events, Dog Park) and CCMC Management Team. Several participatory methods were used to obtain information from members of these diverse groups. The needs and opportunities presented in this report were prepared as part of the 2019 Parks Facilities Master Plan Update and are consistent with the planning process. The most important source of data and input into this plan comes from engagement with Celebration residents and consultation with Focus Group stakeholders.

The analysis phase of the project is a detailed process that identifies community characteristics and allows the project team to become familiar with previous and current planning efforts. In order



to understand what facilities and parks survey respondents most are interested in funding; they were asked about the facility and park improvements they would like to see. Additionally, respondents were offered several options to offer input, and given an opportunity to suggest other improvements as well. Data from the various reference collection inputs were consolidated, and the planning team analyzed all public input, demographics, and existing planning documents. Existing parks and recreation goals were analyzed and restructured in response to interviews, workshops, and public comment. The planning team reviewed the goals and objectives of existing planning reports to determine the extent to which those goals have been achieved. The planning team utilized the consensus results of public input, personal interviews, and Focus Groups meetings to shape demand analysis questions that are part of a Community Needs Assessment Survey. The figure below shows the top five ratings that Celebration residents are interested in funding.



Source: 2019 Celebration Parks Facilities Master Plan Update Public Engagement Process

The residents of Celebration have identified many positive attributes of their community, including its vibrant facilities and parks system, great school system, a family-oriented and safe community, and Celebration’s central location to many urban centers. While the results of this process produced a diverse list of facility and park strengths, taken together most opinions reflected a simple communal goal for the residents of Celebration that are consistent with past planning efforts. Looking to the future, residents want to maintain and enhance these valuable assets of



their community, while adapting to population change and encouraging the development of cultural and area recreation activities to occur in a way that complements Celebration residents' vision. Therefore, the list of proposed parks and recreation needs was compiled from needs assessments and opportunities identified by the Celebration residents, Focus Group committees, the Celebration public input session, and from the data collected throughout the planning process. They are divided into five categories: Community Center/Wellness/Rec (41%), Pickleball Courts (24%), Performing Arts Center (15%), Parking (12%) and a playground at Artisan Park (8%).

This report's assessment will focus on residents' input and discuss Celebration's most relevant request for additional opportunities for service enhancements. The largest cited community need is the public demand for a Community Center. This needs assessment is further supported by the Celebration's Recreation Program Plan, which began in April 2016, the 2018 Celebration Board of Directors Goals, the 25 Years Community Conversation 2018 Recap, and the Celebration Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2015–2020 were also analyzed. Additionally, these reports also state that more opportunities for facilities and cultural amenities are needed, which has been consistent with the focus groups and recreation stakeholder findings. In terms of preliminary recommendations for the advancement of a proposed Community Center, it is understood that the physical boundary of Celebration is established and finding a suitable new site development footprint of approximately 5 to 10 acres to house the facility and associated site improvements such as parking, stormwater management, special events, etc. would be difficult. Based on our knowledge of these types of facilities, the design characteristics will likely need (at minimum) a drama and music center auditorium seating 500; intimate hall for chamber music, art center with art gallery and studios for painting, sculpture, and crafts; floral display hall, dance studios, and meeting rooms. Therefore, exploring existing properties with similar characteristics is the most viable option. Section 4, of this report will cover this topic in more detail.

The development of Intergovernmental Agreements with area and regional partners (e.g. schools, healthcare agencies, and the County) would also enhance opportunities for funding and return on investment. If possible, the project design should include other amenities facilities such as an exercise facility, classrooms, rental space, etc. This would greatly help to accommodate the need for additional indoor programming space as well as provide opportunity for additional revenue streams.

