

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
2007 PARKS & RECREATION SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Snapshot

Overall, we can call this a successful survey with a nearly six percent response rate. The average age of respondents was 50 years old, with the average resident living in Lower Pottsgrove for 19 years. Approximately 40 percent of the respondents attended a Township event, with those who attended events averaging about two events a year.

The purpose of this survey was to learn 1) about the quality of our programs, 2) the quality of our facilities, and 3) how we can improve them. Generally speaking, residents seem pleased with the quality and number of activities we provide throughout the year. On the other hand, residents did see room for improvement in our park facilities and the promotion of our facilities and activities. (It may be helpful to note, that we had record attendance at our Halloween Festival this year after the surveys were sent to all Township residents). There also seemed to be strong support for the following: an annual community day, trails, and playgrounds. Safety was another concern in our facilities.

Another prevalent theme throughout this survey was the desire to not increase resident's tax burden in order to provide new and/or improved facilities and activities.

Below is a detailed accounting of the survey results for your review and consideration.

Total Responses:	173 (2,900 sent out = 5.97% response rate)
Average Age of Respondents:	50 (23 youngest, 88 oldest)
Male Respondents:	63
Female Respondents:	107
Average Tenure in LPT:	19 years
Least Amt. of Time in LPT:	1 year
Longest Time in LPT:	79 years
#/% of People Attend Twp Events:	70, 40%
Average # Twp. Events People Attend:	2 events

4. Event Attendance	Total Respondents	Total Event Attendees
• Zydeco-A-Go-Go	5%	11%
• Mad Jazzsters	3%	7%
• Bill Koss Combo	11%	27%
• Mango Men	12%	29%
• Fishing Derby	5%	13%
• Barbone Street Jazz Band	4%	10%
• Burning Bridget Cleary	5%	13%
• In Full Swing	6%	16%
• Pottsgrove Community Band	10%	24%
• Halloween Festival	10%	24%

• Happy Feet	5%	13%
• Akeelah & the Bee	3%	9%
• Flushed Away	2%	6%
• Easter Egg Hunt	10%	26%
• Santa’s Hotline	5%	13%

5. Most Enjoyed Events (very few responses, many thought they were all good) – Ranked in Order

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1. Mango Men
2. Bill Koss Combo
3. Movies
4. Halloween Festival
5. Tie
  - Fishing Derby
  - In Full Swing
  - Pottsgrove Community Band
  - Easter Egg Hunt
6. Tie
  - Santa’s Hotline
  - Barbone Street Jazz Band

6. Least Enjoyed Events (the following received one vote each)

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- Burning Bridget Cleary
- Mad Jazzsters
- Fishing Derby
- Santa’s Hotline
- Zydeco-A-Go-Go
- Mango Men

7. Is the variety of events ok? 87% Yes      13% No

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7. Explain why you do not find the variety of events offered by the Lower Pottsgrove Township Parks & Recreation Board appropriate.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| • Was not aware of the events, insufficient advertising        | 4 |
| • Stop spending tax money on fun and games                     | 2 |
| • Need more                                                    |   |
| • More for seniors – exercise program?                         |   |
| • We need more handicap accessible places and events           |   |
| • Not enough for toddlers                                      |   |
| • I’m too old                                                  |   |
| • No events of interest to us                                  |   |
| • I wish there had been programs when my children were younger |   |

8. Is the number of events appropriate? 89% Yes      11% No

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8. Explain why the number of events offered by the Lower Pottsgrove Township Parks & Recreation Board is not appropriate.

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- More Events 9
  - More than one movie/mo. Possibly two?
  - Would like to see some spring/fall concerts also
  - Events should be every weekend
  - Could use more modern music concerts
  - Need town concerts say at Kmart or Town Hall
  - I wish there were more community events
  - The schools! The Township needs to provide more activities for children as well as adults
- Didn't know about these anyway (are they taxpayer funded?) 2
- Way too many, zero would be better 2

9. How did they learn about the event?

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- Mailer 32%
- Bill 15%
- Banner 25%
- Marquee 13%
- School 7%
- Mercury 25%
- Website 14%
- Church / Community 1%
- Community Connection 9%
- Word of Mouth 18%
- Other 1%

10. What type of music would they prefer?

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- Big Band 31%
- Jazz 21%
- Zydeco 7%
- Celtic 20%
- Pop 20%
- Folk 13%
- Country 34%
- Rock 36%
- Classical 17%
- Swing 21%
- Other 8%
  - Gospel 1%
  - Kids 3%
  - Christian 1%

- Talent 1%
- Polka 1%
- None 1%
- Oldies 1%
- Bluegrass 1%

11. Do you have any suggestions for bands?

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- O’Bro’s Duo – Royersford
- Rock Bands
- Good local rock & alternative bands
- AYUDAR (local teen band)
- John Flynn
- Philadelphia Mummies
- High School or College Bands
- Pottstown Symphony
- Miss Sherling’s Milk & Cookies, Makin’ Music
- Try the radio (as in do not bring in any bands)
- Upper Merion has a great program

12. What types of Movies do you prefer?

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- Animated 21%
- Action/Adventure 23%
- Romance 14%
- Independent 9%
- Children’s/Family 43%
- Horror 5%
- Thriller 5%
- Classics 23%
- Science Fiction 6%
- Musical 20%
- Comedy 35%
- Fantasy 3%
- Documentary 10%
- Other 1%
  - Sports 1%
  - Christian 1%

13. Do you have any suggestions for movies?

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- Love’s Comes Softly
- Love’s Enduring Promise
- End of the Spear!
- Hitchcock/Bogart movies.
- Anything with Audrey or Katherine Hepburn

- High School Musical 2
- Talledega Nights/ Finding Nemo
- Walt Disney Movies 3
- Movies appropriate for teens as there is little to do on weekends and summer for this age group
- I like all kinds of movies. I think children/family type movies and classics are important.
- You had a good selection.
- Remember the Titans
- Ice Age II
- Kicking & Screaming
- The Natural
- “Sicko” – Michael Moore,
- Citizen Kane
- Sound of Music
- Maybe short films tailored toward toddlers or an adult only night

14. Are There Other Events the Township Should Offer? 42% Yes 58% No

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14. Please explain what other types of events you would like to see the Township offer.

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- Community day/festivals 4
  - Community festivals and parades – 4<sup>th</sup> of July in park was just sad
  - Restaurant Festival
- More Runs 2
- Trips to plays, casinos, discount tickets 2
- Teen dances or recreation groups 2
- More for handicapped individuals
- Community yard sale – Gerald Richards Park
- Bike & walking trails
- Fireworks
- Invite the Mummies
- Caroling or other Christmas activity for the whole family
- Fiddler’s Picnic
- Bike Rodeo for all ages
- Ice skating at Sanatoga and Ringing Hill Parks
- Memorial, Labor day events
- Information seminars about investing in business within the Township
- Run the Township as a business
- Thank you for improving the park & rec program!

15. Do you find the days and times for each of these events appropriate?

• Friday Night Movies (9 p.m. at dark)	85% Yes	15% No
○ Earlier	3	
○ Saturday	1	
○ 5:30 p.m.	1	
○ 7 p.m.	1	
• Sunday Evening Concerts (7:30 p.m.)	81% Yes	19% No
○ Earlier	1	
○ Saturday	3	
○ Friday	1	
○ 6 p.m.	4	
○ 7 p.m.	1	
• Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday 10 a.m.)	94% Yes	6% No
• Fish Rodeo (Saturday 7 a.m.)	92% Yes	8% No
○ 9 a.m.	1	
• Halloween Festival (Sunday 1 p.m.)	82% Yes	18% No
○ 4 p.m.	1	
○ Saturday	4	
○ Later	2	
○ Night	1	
• Santa's Hotline		
○ Parent Calls (weekdays 2-4)	89% Yes	11% No
▪ 3-5 p.m.	1	
▪ Lines Busy	1	
○ Santa's Calls (weeknights 5-7)	91% Yes	9% No
▪ No Santa	1	

16. Are You Aware of Park Our Facilities? 41% Yes 59% No

17. What Parks Do You Use?

• Al Miles	3%
• Keim Street	3%
• Schuylkill River	11%
• Crimson Lane	1%
• Ringing Rocks	24%
• Gerald Richards	32%
• Snell & Norton	3%
• Sanatoga	38%
• Srogels Run	1%

18. What Park do you Primarily Use?

• Gerald Richards	39%
• Ringing Rocks	17%
• Keim St.	3%

- Sanatoga 34%
- Al Miles 1%
- Schuylkill 4%
- Sunnybrook 1%

19. What Activities Do You Use These Parks For?

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- Walk/Jog 42%
- Bike 12%
- Birds 8%
- Other Twp 9%
- Fish 12%
- Boat 2%
- Picnic 10%
- Skateboard 0%
- Soccer 13%
- Concerts 15%
- Rollerblade 1%
- Baseball 11%
- Movies 6%
- Other 4%
  - Dog 1%
  - Kayak 1%
  - Playground 1%
  - Lacrosse 1%

20. Frequency of Use

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- Daily 2%
- Weekly 10%
- 3-8 Times a Year 16%
- Never 11%
- 4-5 times a week 3%
- 2-3 times a month 7%
- 1-2 times a year 9%
- 2-3 times a week 5%
- 8-12 times a year 8%
- Less than 1-2 times a year 5%
- Other 2%

21. How Would You Like to See Facilities & Programs Improve?

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- A-Ok 10%
- Tennis 11%
- Baseball 7%
- Roller Hockey 5%

- Play Structures 18%
- Concerts 19%
- Other Twp Events 13%
- Trails 38%
- Basketball 4%
- Multipurpose Fields 4%
- Skateboard 10%
- Picnic 13%
- Movies 9%
- Other 4%
  - Exercise Stations 1%
  - Volleyball 1%
  - Tickets 1%

22. Are There Improvements We Can Make to Current Facilities? 46% Yes 54% No

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22. What type of improvements can the Township make to any one or all of its facilities to improve their quality?

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- I appreciate the effort to provide recreation I would love to see spring clean-up reinstated
- Lower my taxes
- Bathroom facilities 4
  - open during day – summer
- Have residents help (“Citizens for Lower Pottsgrove Parks”)
- Playgrounds 7
  - Ringing Rocks playground is an eyesore and dangerous (we think this is the elementary school). We need a nice play park for kids
  - Large playground at Ringing Rocks Parks like Kerr Park in Downingtown for children w/disabilities. Don’t have kids with disabilities, but it is very accessible for all kids.
- Advertise/Promote Parks & Activities 7
  - I am not familiar with all these parks. The Township should have a welcome package for people moving into the area with everything that Lower Pottsgrove has to offer new residents.
  - Market them more
  - More information where the parks are located and what facilities are available. I like to hike, bike and play tennis, but use the Schuylkill River Trail and high school because I am unaware of other facilities.
  - Advertise events via mail/email
  - Map of parks with recreation facilities
  - Send a schedule of concerts & events with the water& sewer bill along with a map of location of parks and venue sites
  - Map of public trails
- LPT day – crafts, food, games etc 2
- Trails (biking, walking, running) 4
- Activities

- Need hangouts for the 18-25 year olds to meet people, hang out, talk, and dance. It would be better than the bar scene.
- Movies are too late for families with young children
- Please have more oldies bands at concerts
- Safety
  - Need better lighting
  - Safer walking trails
  - Better police patrols to limit criminal activity (drugs, graffiti)
  - More patrolling by police along trail. Safer bike lanes along Moser Rd to trail – A man in an SUV tried to run me over and yelled to get bikes off the roads. I need to ride on the road to get to the trail. VERY SCARY!
  - Some parks aren't very user friendly
  - More safe and well lit walking trails
- Equipment and facilities
  - Better basketball courts and markings
  - Tennis courts
  - Benches near baseball fields
  - Repave the walkways at Gerald Richards park when it rains they are below grade; the patches are not good for older people
  - Schuylkill River: Better accessibility to improve security, construct boat ramp and parking to draw more interest
  - Get the open space developed into fields and walking trails
  - Below the basketball court there is a storm runoff drain (18") that needs a protective grate Improve baseball fields – dugouts, fencing , lights
  - Ice skating at the lakes
  - I actually use the facility in Limerick by the turf farm. I live in Woodgate and can walk to the Snell and Norton Park. It really needs to be developed. We love the one in Limerick. At least they got it right.
  - Parking, Maps
  - Fix the exercise stations at Gerald Richards Park
  - Install drinking fountains at Gerald Richards Park
  - Sanatoga Park too small now – used to walk there daily before it was destroyed for what?
  - More baseball fields
  - Baseball only facility, 3-4 LL fields & snack bar; I would like to serve on a committee or team (Joe Vecchio)
  - Keep the trails clean at Keim St. Park
  - Stop vandalism at Gerald Richards Park.
  - Add a picnic pavilion at Gerald Richards Park
  - Some Townships have beautiful well kept fields, parks, recreation facilities. I wish some of my very high taxes (compared to other townships) went towards improving & increasing facilities.
  - TREES!
  - Clean up the lake
  - More parking at Sanatoga and Ringing Rocks Lakes

23. Please provide us with any comments you would like to add to help us improve Lower Pottsgrove Township's Parks & Recreation facilities and activities.

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- Santa never called son. Called to remind Township and Santa still never called
- Don't use parks. I go to Valley Forge or French Creek.
- Movies/concerts should be early, before mosquitoes descend.
- Promotions
  - More info on Parks and locations – directions and availability
  - Your website could use more detail when it comes to events
  - Email reminders for events would be great.
  - More info. I didn't realize these other areas existed
  - I would like to know about biking trails
  - Get the word out more on the activities offered. If I had known about all these then I would have attended
  - Communicate! Do you have a recreation director?
  - Residents need to be more aware of the events
  - New to the area and didn't know about events
  - I have received the borough of Pottstown Park & Rec newsletter with Pottstown events, but have never seen Lower Pottsgrove events. How do I find out about them?
  - Being fairly new to the Township it would be nice if a map showing these parks was available as well as general street area
  - More concert advertising
- Playgrounds
  - Soft-play area for young grandchildren ( 2-4 year olds) – not cement / macadam
  - Nice playground like the one in Amity Township would be great at Gerald Richards Park.
  - Park for small children to play
- Seniors
  - More for seniors
  - I have no transportation to these events, but would like to attend. When I did have transportation we went to every concert. I would like to come to these events. You have a great program!
  - I am not able to go to events but enjoy knowing there are things for the younger people. My age and health are against me. I think it is great!
- Trails
  - Safe parks to walk in
  - More trails for walking/running/biking/hiking
- Kudos
  - I think all these are great! I didn't know you have so much going on!
  - Thank you for the services and concerts offered!
  - Programs are wonderful! Hopefully we can attend more in the coming year! Thank you!
  - The Township is doing a good job! Keep up the good work!
  - My wife plays in the Community Band. Thank you for supporting them.
- Facilities and Equipment

- Improve quality of water in pond near quarry. Clean up trash around perimeter and dam/creek to river.
- A park all in one area like the one in Limerick
- Better investment in baseball fields
- I don't use the parks because they are unsafe, unlighted, inaccessible or don't offer what I need
- I think we need a football team for kids and I know enough kids in Lower Pottsgrove that would play!
- I would suggest considering constructing a skateboard park to provide juveniles a place to skateboard to alleviate damage/loitering on private property
- Multi-purpose fields do not seem to be working; too much conflict between the organizations for field use.
- Keep the grass nicer. I like the parks I've seen! Thanks!
- Sanatoga Park doesn't feel safe. Movies should be away from Rolling Hills
- No more green space; we need better regulation of noise and use of vehicles such as ATVs
- Clean up Sanatoga Lake
- Please grade the steep hill at the concert site. Maybe sell sodas
- Re-open Upper Sanatoga Park where ball field used to be. I used to walk up there daily for years. Walking path?
- I and my neighbor were told the Township was going to buy the home below us for more park area. The home is falling down. It should be taken down before someone gets hurt.
- Lease fields to Pius and Pottsgrove who need them.
- Is there parking available?