



The Red Line Survey 2011

Final Results

PREPARED BY:



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The Red Line Survey

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		Overall
Most Important: In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?	Types of activities offered at the park or type of park	31%
	Cost of installation	18%
	Number of users of the park	17%
	Staff resources needed to manage and maintain restrooms	16%
	Safety and security	8%
	Distance of the park from homes or other facilities with res	6%
	Cost of operation	4%
	Other	0%
TOTAL		100%
	n =	239
Second Most Important: In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?"	Staff resources needed to manage and maintain restrooms	26%
	Number of users of the park	17%
	Cost of installation	15%
	Safety and security	11%
	Distance of the park from homes or other facilities with res	11%
	Cost of operation	10%
	Types of activities offered at the park or type of park	9%
	Other	0%
TOTAL		100%
	n =	235

24 Jun 11

Source: GP RED - Lafayette, CO

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		Overall
In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?	Staff resources needed to manage and maintain restrooms	42%
	Types of activities offered at the park or type of park	40%
	Number of users of the park	34%
	Cost of installation	33%
	Safety and security	18%
	Distance of the park from homes or other facilities with res	17%
	Cost of operation	13%
	Other	1%
TOTAL		198%
	n =	239

24 Jun 11

Source: GP RED - Lafayette, CO

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		Overall
Does your agency have a formal (written) policy that addresses when, where, or how restrooms will be provided in parks?	Yes	18%
	No	82%
TOTAL		100%
	n =	237

24 Jun 11

Source: GP RED - Lafayette, CO

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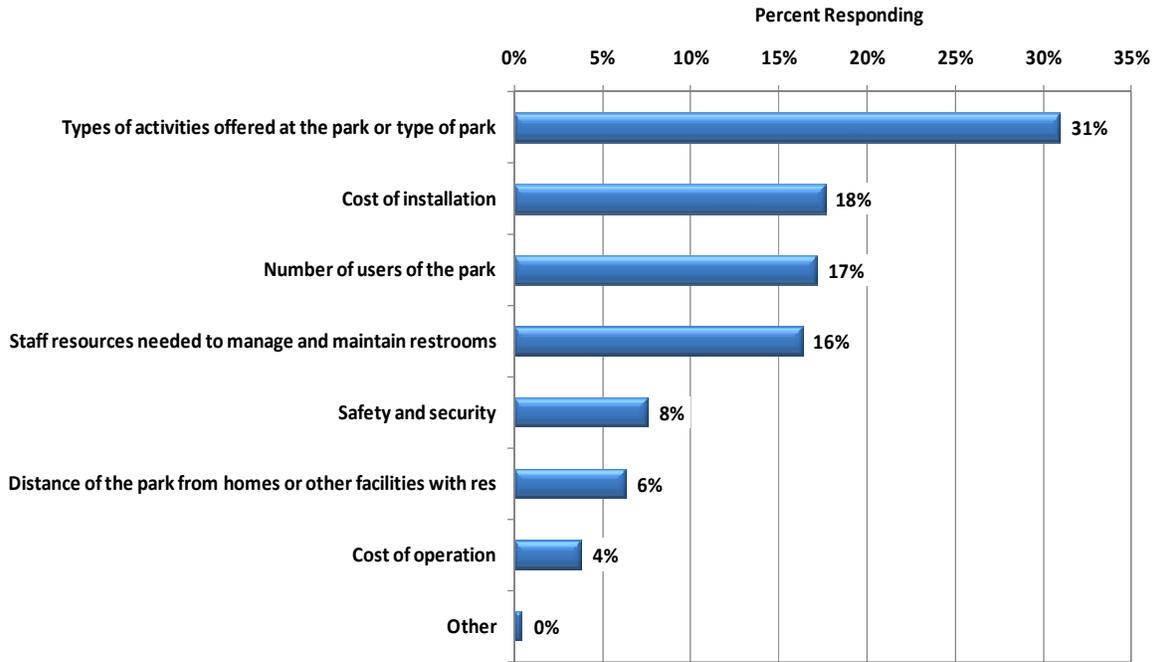
		Overall	Formal policy about restrooms in park	
			Yes	No
In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?	Staff resources needed to manage and maintain restrooms	42%	43%	42%
	Types of activities offered at the park or type of park	40%	38%	41%
	Number of users of the park	34%	36%	34%
	Cost of installation	33%	26%	35%
	Safety and security	18%	19%	18%
	Distance of the park from homes or other facilities with res	17%	21%	16%
	Cost of operation	13%	12%	14%
	Other	1%	2%	
TOTAL		198%	198%	199%
	n =	239	42	194

24 Jun 11

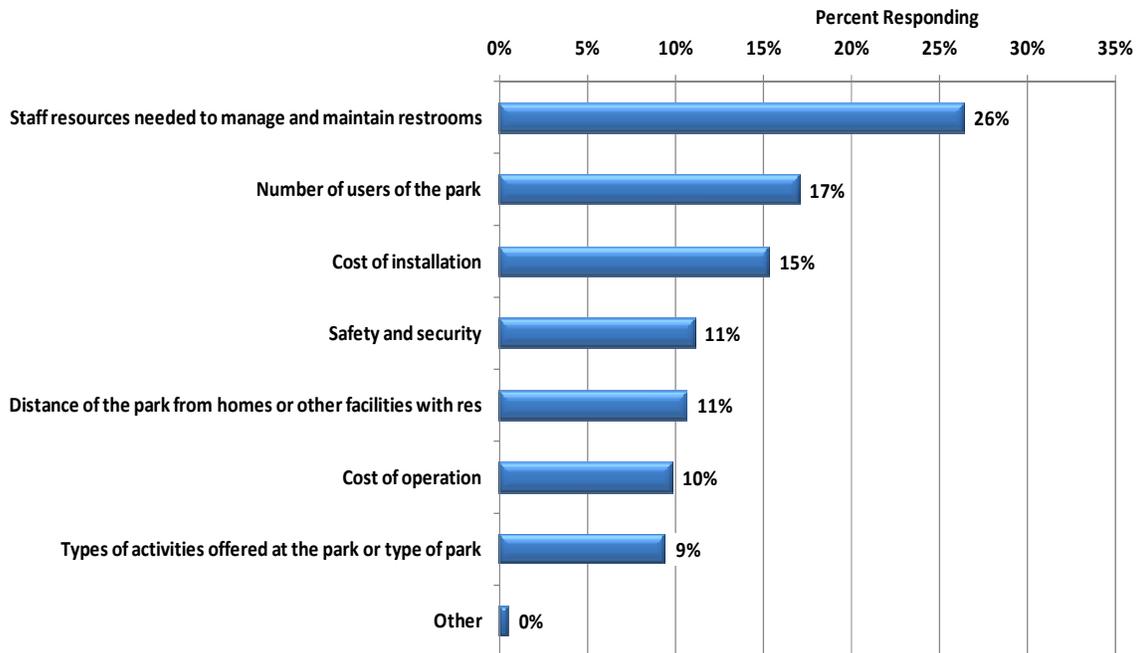
Source: GP RED - Lafayette, CO

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Most Important : In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?

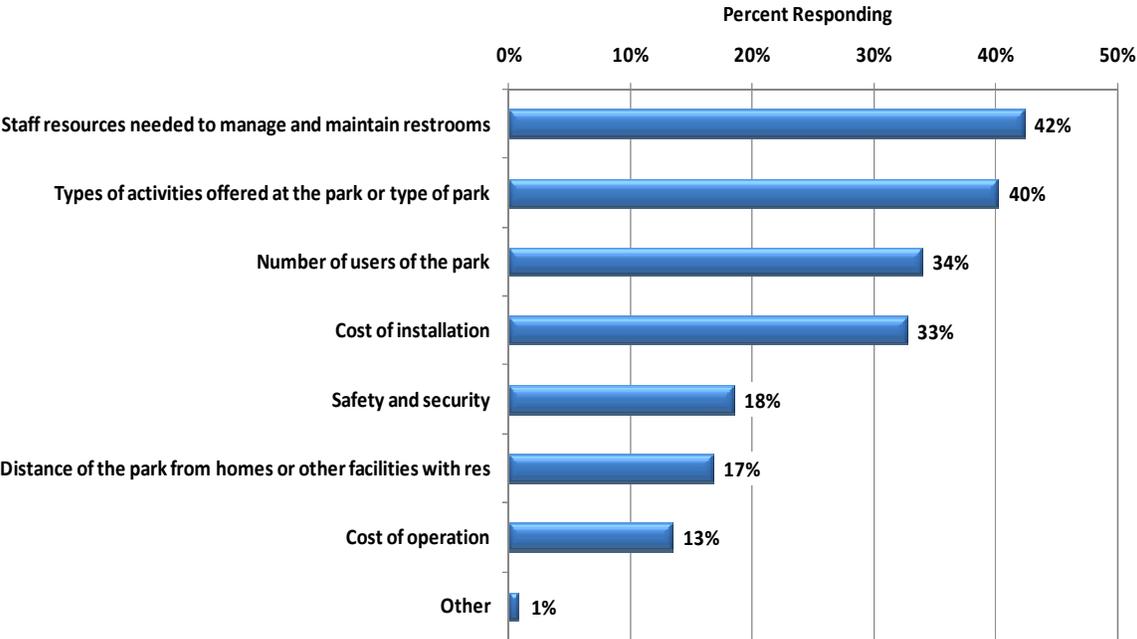


Second Most Important : In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?"



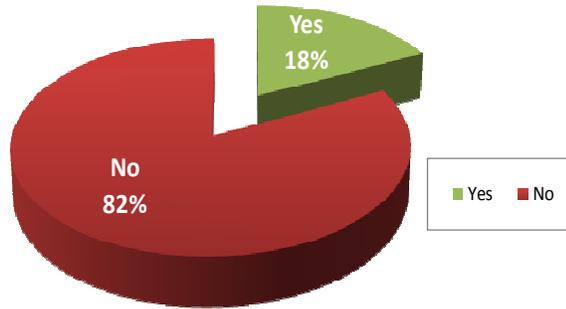
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In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?

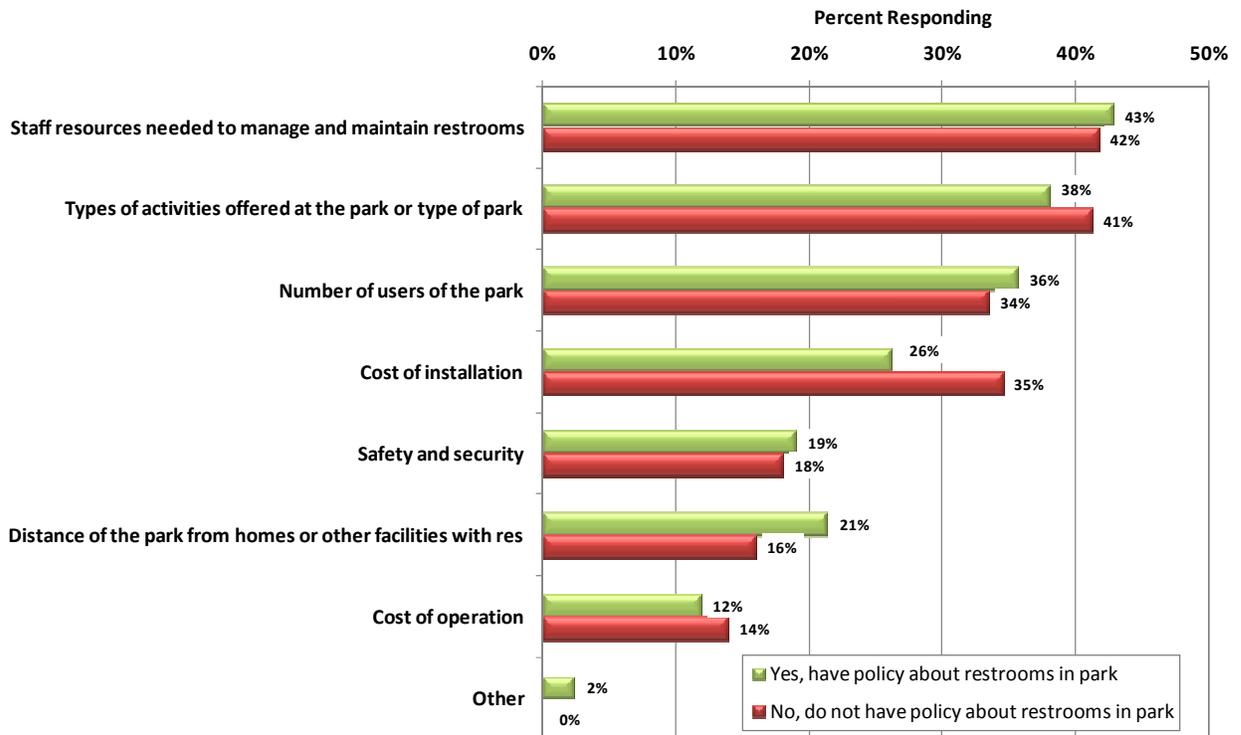


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Does your agency have a formal (written) policy that addresses when, where, or how restrooms will be provided in parks?



In your experience, what do you feel are the two most important factors in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms at a park?



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Comments:

Does your agency have a formal (written) policy that addresses when, where, or how restrooms will be provided in parks?	Do you have any additional comments on your experiences with restrooms in parks?
Yes	Close to childrens play area.
Yes	Constant challenge to keep the restrooms clean and in operational condition due to excessive use and vandalism. The public expects to have restrooms at our neighborhood parks and wants them in top condition.
Yes	Damned if you don't, or damned if you do. There's always a demand, and unless they are clean, they'll be a constant source of complaints.
Yes	Every two or three years there seems to be a lot of vandalism
Yes	Expected by the parents of small children and expected to be clean at all times - something almost impossible to do.
Yes	For our open space we have found that for the most part, when people need to go they will, whether or not there is restroom close. Also, the more restrooms we provide and the nicer they are the more people expect.
Yes	I think restrooms are important for parks, but are lost with budget cuts.
Yes	In a previous position I was manager of planning for an urban park system. After repeated budget cuts, we found that we were unable to maintain restrooms in a condition that anyone would want to use unless they were associated with some kind of staffing. The staffing could be volunteers from a youth sports association who were responsible for the facility up keep or rest rooms associated with a group shelter. People renting the shelter would be given restroom keys and held responsible for restroom conditions following their event. The association between restrooms and park use may have a lot to do with the number and kinds of activities typically associated with sites for which restrooms are installed. I would be careful about drawing the conclusion that the restrooms themselves generate site visitation.
Yes	In cases of no permanent restrooms or large groups, vault or building, portable ones are used.
Yes	In general restrooms in the parks are needed. The biggest problem is the up keep and people that abuse the restrooms. If the restroom can not be maintain people will not use that park because the restroom is in poor condition.

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Yes	It is important to monitor daily
Yes	It's a health and safety issue - if the site is open to the public and you don't have a restroom/portapotty/toilet, you WILL have a raw sewage issue, and the environment will be compromised.
Yes	Maintenance resources for restroom upkeep is a concern at the operational level.
Yes	no
Yes	Our Town Council mandated all our parks be built with a restroom in them and it is also included in our Parks and Recreation Design Standards. Mainly geared for private developers creating HOAs or large residential areas requiring them to build recreational areas for the residents they intend to attract.
Yes	put them in and open during operating hours.....
Yes	Quality restrooms, along with good park design and maintenance, upgrade the park experience and reflect well on the surrounding community. Parks and park facilities add to the overall quality of life, home values and visitor satisfaction.
Yes	restrooms are a target for vandalism--however if there is a ballfield or soccer field you really need them--automated locks are a must and daily cleaning a necessity--
Yes	restrooms at parks is a challenge - not having them at all parks, the ones we have not getting them cleaned often enough - have many sites with portable toilets and even that is a cost factor and we don't have at all parks.
Yes	The size of the park, and the activities programmed into the park through the amenities there, will determine the quantity of users. Larger quantities of users will dictate a need for restrooms as these parks are considered 'community' parks. Vandalism and Graffiti and Safety are the big, big issues with restrooms.
Yes	They better be clean or it reflects directly upon the agency/park!
Yes	They must be kept clean and sanitary
Yes	vandals and stealing of toiletries
Yes	We offer lots of programs in our parks. In fact, we promote that coaches of recreational flag football, soccer, t-ball, coach pitch and machine pitch use our parks for practices. Because little leagues and soccer organizations have first priority on schools grounds, we find it best to promote our own parks and have coaches use them for practices. Unfortunately, most of these parks don't have restrooms. It's very unfortunate for parents and coaches. While you do need to prepare in advance, it makes it very challenging on parents, players and coaches. I think not have restrooms, in the long run, discourages families from coming to the park. It also promotes people randomly using 'bushes' to go to the bathroom when getting in the car and leaving is

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	impossible. I find more garbage in the park as well when there aren't restrooms.
Yes	We place a restroom in every neighborhood and community park

Does your agency have a formal (written) policy that addresses when, where, or how restrooms will be provided in parks?	Do you have any additional comments on your experiences with restrooms in parks?
No	After serving some 30+ years in a Recreation/Natural Resource agency, the words a wise, old Ranger once told me still ring true. 'Recreation - it's all about toilets.' I have found that to be true from the standpoint of both the recreation user as well as the recreation manager. The Recreation User - In order for people to recreate (participate in an activity that amuses or stimulates with the benefit of refreshing one's mind or body after work) they must be comfortable and feel safe. Taking care of this basic bodily need and feeling safe in doing so are critical to being in the frame of mind to be able to enjoy and benefit from the recreational experience. The Recreation Manager - Strategically placed toilet facilities are important in both delivering a quality recreation experience for the recreation site and in providing for sanitary conditions and avoiding resource damage. Of course the dilemma for the manager is how to provide for operation and maintenance of the toilet facility. I've found that the cost of installation can usually be overcome - there is frequently some grant or govt program that can be found to pay installation costs. It is the cost of continued operation, pumping (for vault toilets) and building maintenance that is far more difficult. However, choosing wisely with the type of toilet facility and materials used in construction can control operation and maintenance costs down the line. Vault toilet buildings made of concrete are durable, easy to clean, virtually indestructible, require no water or electric utilities, are not generally a hide out for vagrants, and generally need to be pumped only a few times during the year. Unless Recreational sites are in close proximity to other facilities that offer toilet facilities (such as gas stations, restaurants, etc), these sites need to have some provision for toilet facilities. These need not be elaborate, or even permanent structures.
No	All of the parks that we use for our scheduled activities have restrooms. Some of our older parks also have restrooms. The remaining parks are a passive type.

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No	Allen (Texas) Parks and Recreation provides restrooms in Community (or City-wide) Parks which are those of 75 acres or more. Neighborhood parks (those 5 - 15 acres in size) are not designed to provide restroom facilities.
No	another factor is safety and security, and when the restrooms are opened and closed.
No	Areas of congregation must address public health, safety, and sanitation concerns in an informed and planned out manner.
No	As a Deputy / Crime Prevention Specialist I am part of all planning reviews to include our parks. The park as a whole is reviewed by myself using CPTED principles. These principles address the intended user and unintended user (criminal activity) Only by working with all departments, citizens and intended users can a facility be built and used, if it is not used it is a waste of funding.
No	At our ball fields we made them self-locking which can be a pain but at least we know they are safe over night.
No	Biggest problem - vandalism. How do others deal with the vandalism - keep it down to a minimum?
No	build with the best material and be able to paint often
No	Cannot believe how much a vault toilet costs... ridiculous!!
No	Clean restrooms are very important to quality visitor experience.
No	Cost to build and maintain is always a factor. This would be my 3rd most important!
No	Cost to maintain; staffing needed to maintain & manage; vandalism issues; safety concerns in remote parks.
No	Decisions based on classification of the park. Generally use portolets in smaller neighborhood parks and look towards permanent restrooms in larger community parks that serve a larger geographic area of the community.
No	Despite your best efforts to plan, there are always a few 'surprises' thrown in to keep you on your toes. This is an issue that needs daily attention during the 'park season'
No	Funding sources for this type of basic support facility need to be developed.
No	I believe safety and security could easily be considered as one of my top two. I have selected my choices specifically from a budgetary point of view because these are items that we are currently experiencing in our organization.
No	I believe they are necessary a necessary evil. We need them, but they are difficult to manage.
No	I don't work for an agency so not sure how valid my response is to this survey. We do find that restrooms are among the most important or asked for components of any park however.
No	I have more comments than I have time to provide at this moment. Send me an email and I'd be happy to reply. administrator@cityofshoreacres.us
No	If there are not restrooms provided - portable or stationary - I tend to not

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	stay very long at a park. It is a necessary item in either form for people to be able to enjoy their stay. Or, people will find an out of the way spot to pop a squat so they can continue their activity. That could lead to unreasonable problems at parks and even greater diminished use.
No	If well maintained and managed it is a great perk to your park and agency.
No	if you cant maintain them, dont build them.
No	Install vandal proof/resistant facilities.
No	Must be easy to clean, well lit, and as vandal resistance as possible
No	Need more clean accessible restrooms
No	no
No	none
No	None
No	NONE
No	One of the two essential services in a park, (the other being roads). Use of TP a good way to measure level of use.
No	Our park's restrooms are open 24/7/365.
No	Our restrooms are opened in the morning and closed at dusk
No	Parents like restroom entrances to face playgrounds so they can monitor who goes in and out. In recent park master planning, community input was decidedly against the idea of unisex/family style individual restroom stalls with lockable doors to the outside. They much preferred the separate mens/womens entrances with stalls inside the building.
No	Parks that previously were 'open space' areas now have practice fields for soccer or baseball. This seasonal use by a number of children had us determine that restrooms are needed, but the cost was too much, which made renting porta-johns for 3 -4 months an option.
No	Permanent, year-round restrooms are needed in more of Colorado's parks.
No	porta johns are very useful in seasonal usage situations and also cheaper
No	prefab restroom buildings work best
No	Regular maintenance throughout the hours of operation, to safeguard against vandalism, and crime.
No	REI does not provide installation of public facilities. We are a retail operation.
No	Restrooms are absolutely necessary. When they aren't there, we find children use the landscaping as a restroom creating not only a mess but a

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	health hazard.
No	Restrooms in park properties are a necessary evil though with the addition of that component within a park, it has created a love / hate relationship within this organization. They are costly to build and operate and users hold an unrealistic expectation of not only what the facility should look like but how they should perform. However, they provide a comfort and an enhanced experience in some situations that perhaps offset the hassle and problems associated with them.
No	Restrooms in parks used to be a luxury, now it is an expectation. If there is not access to an indoor restroom, we make sure there is a handicap accessible port o' potty.
No	Restrooms in remote locations that are not staffed are difficult to keep clean and stocked with paper for the public. The maintenance crew can thoroughly clean the restroom and a large group or vandals can trash it in very little time. That said, restrooms that are kept clean are appreciated by the majority of the users.
No	Restrooms need to have staff personnel to monitor the use of park restrooms. Too many times unsupervised restrooms are used for inappropriate activities.
No	Safety, security and related staff and maintenance costs/concerns often become paramount in decision making
No	self contained units are easiest but need to be cheaper!
No	Staff resources need to manage and maintain restrooms. Our experience is that the main focus is on vandalism of the restrooms, this is our biggest problem with the restrooms in our parks.
No	The cost of tap fees from local water districts and other fees for storm drainage, sewer, etc. in our community are extremely high (3' tap @340,000+) and thus influence our park districts ability to construct restroom facilities.
No	The hardest part of restrooms in parks is keeping them clean and avoiding vandalism. Restrooms are an easy target for vandalism and repairs are often costly and time consuming.
No	The priorities question is too specific...there are lots of priority questions and they vary according to park situations.
No	The third most important factor in the decision of whether or not to provide restrooms is the staff resources needed to manage and maintain the restrooms. Looking forward to seeing the results of the survey.
No	The towns and cities don't want to even help with the cost of adding restrooms to the parks and playgrounds within the city, let alone have an employee take care of them.
No	They are probably the most requested facility by the public at our parks and trail heads, and they are one of the most expensive to install/permit and maintain.
No	They have been our most expensive facility to construct, on a cost per

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	square foot basis. Maintenance, vandalism, and unsavory activities within them remain the reason we usually elect to go with a portable toilet facility vs. permanent building. Going with 'unisex' design has helped.
No	They need to be rugged, vadal resistant and include water conservation features.
No	They WILL get vandalized no matter what and where you install them.
No	Up keep is important. The older the facility gets the more costly the maintenance cost get.
No	Usually smaller 'pocket parks' (2 acres or less) in our neighborhoods do not have restrooms. However, I have yet to see this as a written or formal policy in our city.
No	Vandalism and security for the restroom buildings are also great concerns
No	Vandalism is a problem
No	Vandalism is always a concern & can be quite costly to be constantly repairing damages done by careless people.
No	Vandalism is our biggest issue with park restrooms. It's another reason we're shy about adding more.
No	Vandalism is our biggest problems with restrooms. Because of this, the logistics and cost of managing restroom for a small community makes us reluctant to have them in anything but high use facilities. For those facilities that do have restrooms, we try to keep them locked unless during high use events.
No	Vandalism is the biggest problem we have with public restrooms.
No	Vandalism is the largest concern for such a large investment in the communities comfort.
No	Vandelism is a big concern and jointly, enforcement agencies (police, municipalities) don't seem to put much if any importance to the benefits of having parks let alone restrooms in them.
No	Vault latrines are a basic necessity in parks, though a written policy is not in place. Best management practices do specify location of latrines in proximity to water sources (lakes, streams). Flush restrooms are only installed in high use areas due to expense to install, operations and maintenance costs. Private sector sometimes considers flush restrooms, and especially showers, competition with private parks. I look forward to seeing the results of the survey - curious how you got my contact information. Thanks.
No	Visitor survey for the Los Caminos Antiguos Byway in Southern Colorado showed that visitors rated bathroom facilities as their number one priority.
No	Visitors need to understand that not all parks can have every facility.
No	We are a mile-square community and utilize porta-johns for our bigger special events or for our more frequently-used parks. Residents all live within a mile (or typically less) from any park, but when nature calls.....
No	We are in the process of considering the addition of restrooms to one of our parks because the residents are requesting facilities. Originally, the

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	residents did not want restrooms at this park because of it's proximity to houses. How time changes that opinion.
No	We attempt to provide restrooms or port-a-lets in our neighborhood and larger parks Port-a-lets are provided in parks where youth games and practices occur.
No	We currently have restrooms in two of our ten parks and are working to add them to two additional parks. Our biggest challenge has been push back from neighbors in close proximity to the park who see these are an attraction to the wrong element of society. Statistics on safety would be helpful in selling these to the community.
No	We do not have 'parks' in the since of community parks our facilities are more open space related so the restrooms are different (vault toilet vs flush toilets). But the questions may be the same for both types.
No	We feel they are needed even if they are expensive to maintain. We build very durable, full masonry with steel roof extended season restrooms (open April - Oct).
No	We have a very inconsistent model here. There are several parks that have restrooms, but they are not located in the most convenient place on the park, so many do not use or know about the use. The doors are on an EMS system allowing for auto lock and unlock based on day light savings, which a great benefit.
No	We have been using Port-Johns in many of our Parks for soccer and baseball season which is upsetting many neighborhood residents
No	We have had a major problem with vandalism on our restrooms in the parks. That is the number one challenge. People want them open, which we do open them, but the weekly vandalism is a huge cost to the park district. Hard to determine value to the citizens when the dollars we are spending to upkeep them is outweighing the need.
No	We have had success using electronic timers systems to lock and unlock our restrooms saving on staff time.
No	We have included in our concession contract that they maintain our restrooms on weekends. This is a REAL cost saver for us!
No	We have restrooms at regional parks and some community parks. We do not need them at neighborhood parks, except seasonally with sport field activities, so we rent sanolets during those months.
No	We have restrooms in our city park that are constantly being vandalized. That is the biggest issue we have with them - maintenance and staff time.
No	We have stopped planning for restrooms in mini parks or neighborhood parks. Factors are operational costs related to cleaning, graffiti, vandalism (damage to fixtures), illegal acts inside the restrooms, neighborhood complaints, etc. No complaints whatsoever from adjacent neigjhorhood as they understand. In the past year we have removed three old restrooms in existing neighborhood parks. We do advocate and support restroom facilities in our larger community and regional parks.

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No	We provide restrooms in all but the small neighborhood parks. In the winter they are closed, though.
No	We typically consider restrooms when a park is classified as a community, regional, or signature park. The neighborhood parks are designed to be used by the nearby residents thus restrooms are not required.
No	We typically do not offer restrooms at our neighborhood parks. They are generally centrally located within a 1 square mile grid making them close to home. I suppose if cost of installation and maintenance wasn't a factor, we would install them at all locations. These are relatively small parks close to homes and frequented primarily by residents of that neighborhood.
No	We will be installing a new restroom within the next 60 days and after feed back from staf and parks commission we have chosen to have them be self locking to help prevent SOME of the problems with vandalism.
No	Well designed and well maintained restrooms are important factors in how good people feel about their park experience. Portable toilets are not popular with the public and can often leave a negative impression on an otherwise positive park experience.
No	While many park users feel a restroom is a priority, maintenance/repair/upgrade of facilities is considered a burden on the taxpayer, so too many facilities go to a high level of disrepair and closure. Restroom issues, including ADA compliance, can be more frustrating to deal with than tennis courts!
No	With 2 exceptions, we keep place restrooms only in Community-sized parks.