

As seen below, Walking, hiking and biking trails, Indoor Fitness and Exercise Facilities, Outdoor Swimming Pools / Water Parks, Indoor Pool and Adult Activity Center are the top five highest facility / amenity priorities in Richland County.

RCRC Facility/Amenity Priority Rankings	
	Overall Ranking
Walking, hiking and biking trails	1
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	2
Outdoor swimming pools / water parks	3
Indoor pool	4
Adult activity center	5
Picnic areas and shelters	6
Boating and fishing areas	7
Playground equipment	8
Outdoor tennis courts	9
Outdoor basketball courts	10
Indoor basketball / volleyball courts	11
Golf course	12
Youth soccer fields	13
Youth baseball and softball fields	14
Racquetball courts	15
Youth football fields	16
Adult softball fields	17
Lacrosse fields	18
Adult soccer fields	19

Table 4.5

4.5 PRIORITIZATION OF DEMANDS & NEEDS

The purpose of the Facility and Program Priority Rankings is to provide a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs and recreation program needs for the community served by the Richland County Recreation Commission.

This rankings model evaluated both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes the statistically valid Community Survey, which asked residents to list unmet needs and rank their importance. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained in community input and demographics and trends.

A weighted scoring system was used to determine the priorities for parks and recreation facilities/amenities and recreation programs. For instance as noted below, a weighted value of 3 for the Unmet Desires means that out of a total of 100%, unmet needs make up 30% of the total score. Similarly, importance-ranking also makes up 30%, while Consultant Evaluation makes up 40% of the total score, thus totaling 100%.

This scoring system considers the following:

- Community Survey
 - Unmet needs for facilities and recreation programs – This is used as a factor from the total number of households mentioning whether they have a need for a facility/program and the extent to which their need for facilities and recreation programs has been met. Survey participants were asked to identify this for 19 different facilities/amenities and 21 recreation programs.
 - Importance ranking for facilities – This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility or program by the community. Each respondent was asked to identify the top four most important facilities and recreation programs.
- Consultant Evaluation
 - Factor derived from the consultant’s evaluation of program and facility priority based on survey results, demographics, trends and overall community input.

The weighted scores were as follows:

- 60% from the statistically valid community survey results.
- 40% from consultant evaluation using demographic and trends data, community focus groups and public meetings and levels of service.

These weighted scores were then summed to provide an overall score and priority ranking for the system as a whole. The results of the priority ranking were tabulated into three categories: High Priority (top third), Medium Priority (middle third) and Low Priority (bottom third).

The combined total of the weighted scores for Community Unmet Needs, Community Importance, and Consultant Evaluation is the total score based on which the Facility/Amenity and Program Priority is determined.

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Needs Assessment

As seen below, Adult fitness and wellness programs, Adult Enrichment programs, Senior adult programs, Water fitness programs and Youth Learn to Swim programs are the top five highest program priorities in Richland County.

RCRC Program Priority Rankings	Overall Ranking
Adult fitness and wellness programs	1
Adult enrichment programs (cooking, cultural history, computer skills, literacy)	2
Senior adult programs	3
Water fitness programs	4
Youth Learn to Swim programs	5
Adult Learn to Swim programs	6
Adult arts and crafts programs	7
Youth summer camp programs	8
Tennis lessons	9
After school programs	10
Youth sports leagues (i.e. football, basketball, baseball)	11
Martial arts / self-defense classes	12
Teen programs	13
Adult sports leagues (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	14
Youth drama / performing arts programs (dance, singing, acting, etc.)	15
Tennis leagues and tournaments	16
Adult drama performing arts programs	17
Youth arts and crafts programs	18
Pre-school programs	19
Adaptive recreation programs	20
Before school programs	21

Table 4.6