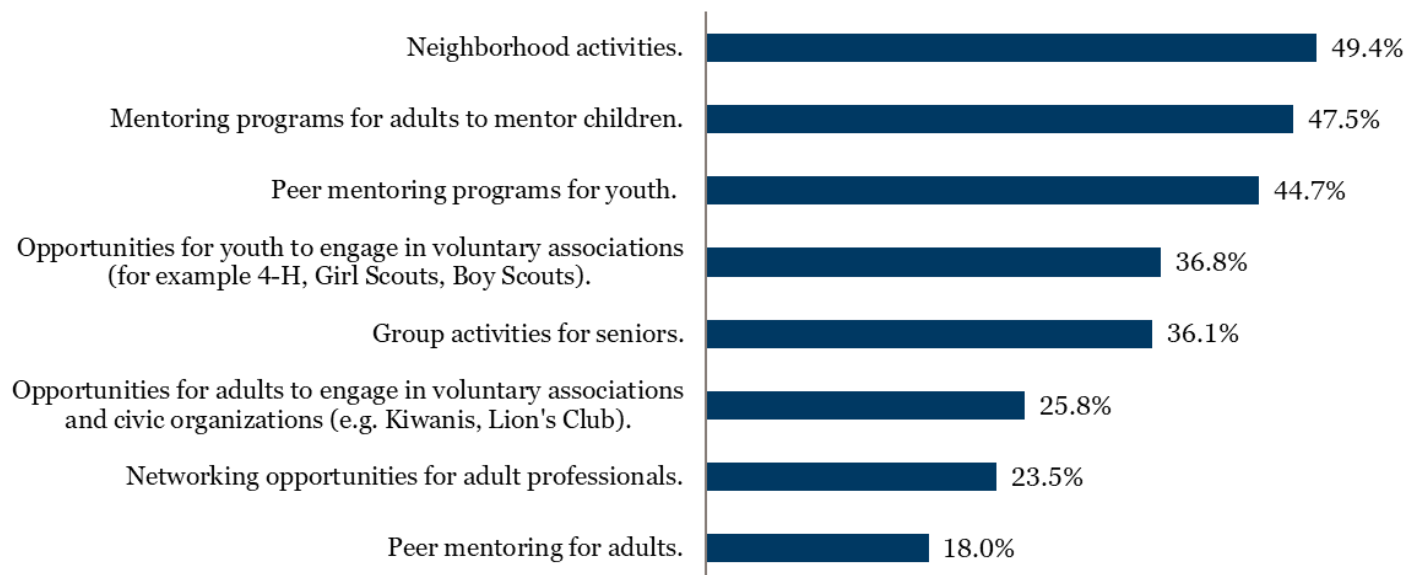


With funding from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, the IU Southeast Applied Research and Education Center held community listening sessions and surveyed Clark and Floyd county residents, nonprofit, business, and local government leaders, and the Foundation's fund holders to identify priorities, assets, aspirations, and opportunities for growth and improvement to support thriving communities. Findings will be used to guide the Foundation's grant making to support the community's *Priorities for Progress*.

*Community* looks at the combination of social capital, public infrastructure and services, and arts and cultural amenities.

### Top Selected Priorities for Community Building in Clark and Floyd Counties

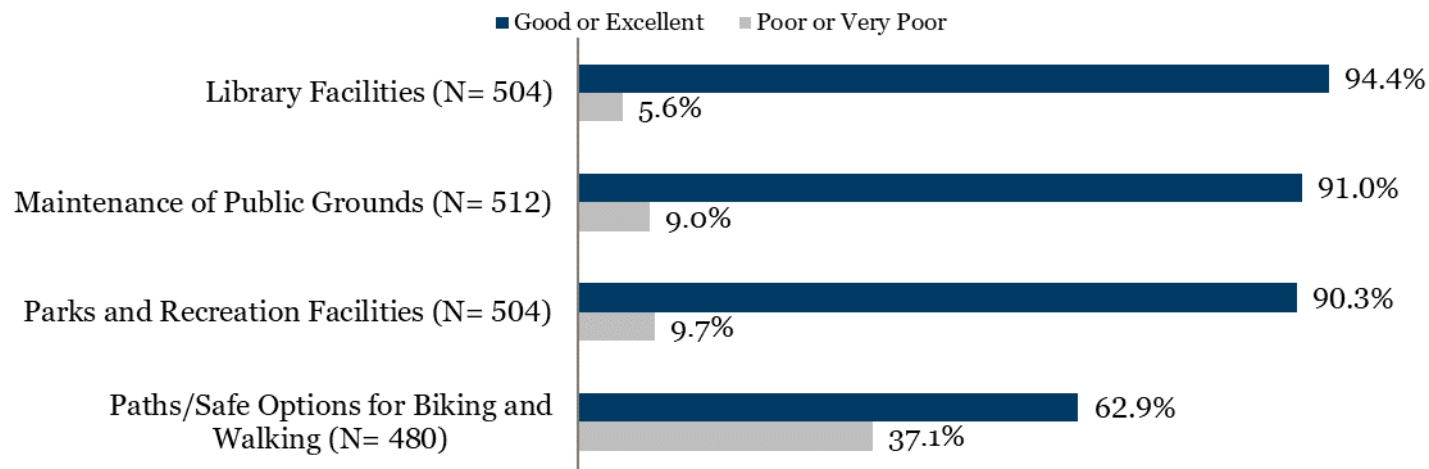


Various regions of Clark and Floyd counties have differing priorities for community building. More rural residents tended to value outdoor green space, while those living in population centers prioritized neighborhood associations and more activities with other residents. Many of the residents in Clark and Floyd counties have positive views of the region's social infrastructure, including services such as public libraries, parks and recreational areas. However, there are still improvements to be made, including the walkability of the region and accessibility of amenities.

### Priorities for Progress

- Identify opportunities to use public social infrastructure to engage community-building activities. These may include youth mentoring programs and opportunities for seniors to interact across generations.
- Engage various levels of government in understanding the unique emergency response needs of the growing suburban/rural parts of the region.
- Improve availability and access to public transportation for low-income individuals, differently abled persons, and those with special needs.
- Help make art and cultural activities more easily accessible to people across income levels and other barriers.

## Social Infrastructure– Percent Rating “Good” or “Excellent”



Improvements to social infrastructure are a top priority for residents of Clark and Floyd counties. Improving these areas can impact other regional priorities and can support economic development, health and wellness. One of the highest-rated social infrastructure services are the public libraries in the two-county area; the region is home to four libraries with six locations across Clark and Floyd counties. The libraries offer programs including, but not limited to, book discussion groups and children’s activities.

## Art and Cultural Opportunities in Clark and Floyd Counties

Residents of Clark and Floyd counties value celebrating community history and culture. With relatively easy access to Louisville and other smaller performance venues in Southern Indiana, the region has ample opportunity for cultural experiences. However, for many, low incomes remain a barrier to accessing these services.

