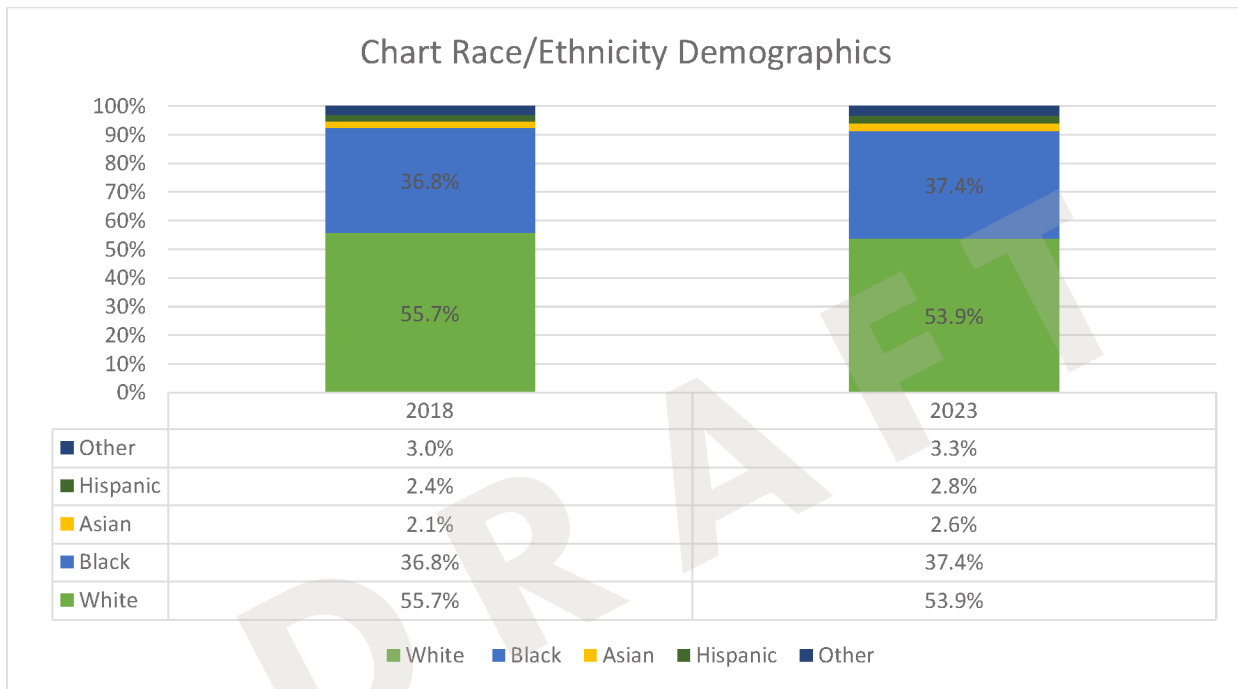


Ethnicity & Race

Ethnicity and race can be an interesting indicator of recreation program and facility needs and desires. Various peer-reviewed academic studies have shown that certain ethnic groups tend to show preferences towards specific park settings, activities, or amenities.

Figure 1.6 demonstrates the projected ethnic shifts that Valdosta-Lowndes County expects to experience from the year 2018 to 2023.

FIGURE 1.6 - ETHNICITY & RACE



Source: ESRI Community Profile data

Age Distribution

The type of programs and recreation facilities that a County provides its residents is directly related to the age distribution of the county’s population. Counties with a high concentration of population ages 0-9 and 10 – 19, for example, may offer more before-school or after-school care programs and youth athletics, and may therefore require more playgrounds, athletic fields, and stronger joint-use agreements with schools; conversely, counties with a high concentration of population ages 65 and older may require more senior programs, senior center space, and transportation services to transport seniors from activity to activity.

Figure 1.7 shows the projected change in age distribution from the year 2018 to 2023 for Valdosta-Lowndes County. In 2018, 61 percent of the population in Valdosta-Lowndes was over the age of 25. By 2023, this age cohort of the population is projected to remain about the same. This suggests that adults will continue to remain the dominant population cohort in the county, with seniors over the age of 65 growing the most of any cohort. This may suggest that the County may continue to experience a higher demand for adult- and senior-based recreation programs, activities, and facilities such as tennis, pickleball, shuffleboard, walking, biking, hiking in nature, and the like, versus youth programs, activities, and facilities.