

2015 Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Visioning Plan



Snohomish County Parks & Recreation

Acronyms

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

CIP – Capital Improvement Program

GPP – General Policy Plan

GMA – Growth Management Act

LOS – Level-of-service

PIP – Park Improvement Plan

PIR – Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Inventory Report

PRE – Snohomish County Park and Recreation Element

RCO – Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

REET - Real Estate Excise Tax

SEPA – State Environmental Policy Act

UGA – Urban Growth Area

WSU – Washington State University

Preface

Snohomish County residents greatly value the role that parks and open space facilities contribute to their quality of life. Whether it's the open space lot in their neighborhood that provides green space, the spray park that is visited with grandchildren, or the saltwater beach that provides the opportunity to whale watch, Snohomish County residents recognize that parks provide the opportunity to spend time with loved ones, connect with nature, get some exercise and recharge from the busy life that so many of us live.

This document summarizes input received from Snohomish County residents about what they think is important for the future provision of parks. Their comments reflect some of the unique priorities of Snohomish County (e.g. focus on equestrian recreation and access to water), but also parallel national priorities (e.g. provision of trails). The input received from Snohomish County residents was merged together with analysis completed by staff, as well as information received from other Snohomish County recreation providers, to create a long term vision for parks in Snohomish County. The vision presented in this 'Snohomish County Park and Recreation Visioning Plan' (Plan) is forward looking, considering growth anticipated to occur over the next 20 years, but it also includes priorities that can inform short-term actions that will support realization of the long-term vision.

Snohomish County is dedicated to including the public in planning for parks and language in the Snohomish County General Policy Plan specifically directs the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks) to actively seek public input. This input is integrated into other Parks planning efforts, as summarized in this Plan, and satisfies guidance contained within Washington State Administrative Code which suggests that the development of Growth Management Act (GMA) based planning and development of level-of-service standards start with a public visioning process.

This Plan also contains content that documents completion of park planning requirements stipulated by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for agencies that seek to receive funding from it. The RCO is a major grant source for parks and past awards to Snohomish County have supported many of the facilities that are now being enjoyed by the public (e.g. portions of the Centennial Trail and Lake Goodwin and Lake Stevens Community Parks). Grant funding from the RCO helps Parks provide facilities requested by the public and support by the RCO for these efforts is invaluable. Addressing RCO planning requirements with this visioning document is appropriate, as the RCO encourages regular public input into park planning and provides a shorter planning horizon than that which is considered by GMA plans. It is anticipated that this Plan will be updated at least every six years so that current public interests can be captured and incorporated into Parks efforts. This document is organized around RCO planning requirements and incorporates, by reference, other documents which address certain RCO planning requirements.

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A Vision for Snohomish County Parks & Recreation

“Snohomish County Parks is an entrepreneurial based system focused on fiscal and environmental sustainability through exceptional customer service, efficient staffing models, strong stakeholder equity and strategic capital investments that honor our long term commitments in creating new parks, trails and public spaces while prudently stewarding our current portfolio of parks, trails, built facilities, natural areas and open spaces.”

Snohomish County’s Parks & Recreation Vision is further described by the following.

The values of parks are multiple and diverse - There are innumerable benefits provided to our community by the provision of parks. These range from health benefits, to providing alternative transportation options, to open space benefits, to economic development opportunities. These all support quality of life for county residents.

Parks seeks to operate in as sustainable a manner as possible – Sustainability for the Parks Department means seeking to have as high a return on investment as possible, while striving to ensure user fees do not become barriers to park use. Parks seeks to increase revenues through a mix of appropriate user fees, vendors in parks, selling of naming rights, sponsorships and other innovative funding opportunities. Parks seeks to be socially sustainable by ensuring access to park facilities, both by evaluating access fees to ensure they are appropriate and don’t become barriers to use and also by ensuring Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to the park system. Parks also strives to contribute to environmental sustainability through management of existing properties, acquisition of key habitat holdings and improvements in operations.

Parks should continue to seek opportunities to provide revenue to the department and be innovative in its approaches to funding – Parks has been taking aggressive steps in recent years to increase the revenue generated by the department and increase the amount of private dollars brought in through sponsorships, partnerships and contracts. Although the question of increased fees to support Parks was a controversial topic when posed to the public through a survey, one-on-one feedback obtained through public meetings clarified that the public is generally supportive of sponsorships and vendor agreements for parks, as long as they are used appropriately. Parks will continue to build upon recent efforts and is focusing on increased marketing efforts to expand private investments. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will be used to outline Parks’ expenditures on capital projects and funding needed to maintain defined level-of-service will be monitored to ensure Parks can meet the required minimums.

Parks seeks to partner with other jurisdictions – Parks seeks to partner with other jurisdictions as appropriate to provide recreational services in an efficient manner. Other recreation providers face similar challenges to provision of recreation services and coordination between groups may result in efficiencies in providing services to the residents of Snohomish County.

Parks should focus on adding amenities to existing facilities rather than establishing new parks –

This statement was heard repeatedly from the public and also reflects Countywide Planning Policy PS-11, which states “The county and cities should maximize the use of existing facilities to promote financial and energy conservation benefits and saving.” In addition Snohomish County General Policy Plan (GPP) Objective PR 3.B states “Consider improving developed park properties before improving undeveloped park sites.” Implementing this point as part of Parks’ vision for the next six years will also help support Parks’ sustainability efforts.

Parks should focus on renovation of existing facilities –

The Parks system includes many aging parks that require significant maintenance inputs and/or include out-of-date or inefficient infrastructure (power, water, etc.). The public repeatedly commented that they would prefer Parks to focus on existing facilities, rather than developing new ones and, well-used parks, such as Kayak Point and Flowing Lake, have significant improvement needs. In addition to basic needs such as replacing lifted asphalt and failing structures, improvements which focus on updating stormwater systems would bring facilities up to current standards and integrating ADA improvements in the parks would provide increased accessibility to the Parks system. A challenge in completing renovations is identifying funding to complete the work. A possible method of addressing this is to create an account for park maintenance/renovations created from park revenue. This potential should be evaluated and implemented if practicable.

Parks’ role in providing urban parks should continue to be coordinated with the surrounding cities –

It is anticipated that in the future, current Urban Growth Areas (UGA) will be annexed by cities and they will be the primary recreation provider in those areas. In preparation for this shift, Parks should collaborate with cities on planning and operation and maintenance of properties in these areas in order to facilitate a smooth transition of park services. As annexations occur, or as appropriate, Parks will evaluate and pursue potential transfer of park facilities from the county. Parks will continue to support recreation facilities in urban growth areas and support cities in their efforts to provide parks.

Parks is a regional service provider –

Snohomish County Parks has a unique role as a regional service provider and should provide facilities that serve rural and urban residents via provision of unique, often larger, destination parks, such as water access, camping and hiking opportunities.

Parks should continue to seek opportunities to provide water access –

Water access is a high priority for Snohomish County residents and relatively few public access points are available within its boundaries. Where possible, acquisition or expansion of services at water access sites should be provided.

Parks is a regional trail provider –

Because the county service area connects cities and adjacent counties, Parks has a special role in providing long distance trails. These trails are immensely popular with the public and serve to provide alternative transportation options. Parks has developed a draft Regional Trail Planning and Management Guidelines document that focuses on provision of this service and efforts to continue development of trails should be prioritized.

Parks will continue to provide and maintain Open Space/Preserve properties in its inventory – Parks has a strong presence in preservation of county open space and will continue to maintain these lands and seek ways of providing enhanced management. Parks will also continue partnerships with other groups to improve existing properties and/or partner for new acquisitions, as appropriate.

Parks should focus on improvements at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds – The Fairgrounds offers a unique opportunity to provide diverse recreation services and significant revenue generation opportunities due to the facility size, diversity and location on Hwy 2. The property also has the potential to act as a ‘hub’ in the Sky Valley Recreation Area, providing a jumping-off location for recreation seekers. The facility has significant upgrade needs, however, and capital investment is needed to maintain the current facilities and take advantage of expansion at the site.

Parks should focus on provision of equestrian facilities– This type of specialized facility was identified through development of this Plan as needed within Snohomish County. Equestrian facilities are a priority to serve the unique population of Snohomish County. The equestrian community lends heavily to the recreation culture of Snohomish County and providing facilities for this population will help ensure continuation of that identity.

Parks should focus efforts on expanding/improving recreational opportunities in Recreation Areas – The benefits to users, the community and operations by focusing on recreation areas are significant. There are currently five Recreation Areas identified: Sky Valley Recreation Corridor, Snohomish River Estuary, Seven Lakes, the Whitehorse Recreation Corridor and the Southwest County Recreation Area.

Parks has a limited role in providing programs –There are many program providers within the county, including cities, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs and others. Parks staff currently provide programs where a need is identified, or where it specifically fits a Parks facility (such as swimming lessons at McCollum). Other programs are offered by Parks through vendor contract or agreements with other entities and it is envisioned that this approach will be continued. One-on-one opportunities via volunteer and internship programs will also continue and potential partnerships and/or specific programs will be considered on a case by case basis, taking into consideration need, return on investment and existing relationships with partners and facilities. Parks predominantly supports programs through provision of diverse facilities where programs can occur (such as the fairgrounds) and will continue to consider requests for specific facilities to support emerging recreation needs.

Parks should continue to acquire appropriate lands which meet the goals and objectives of this Plan – A prioritization scheme already exists for evaluating proposed acquisitions, which are brought to the department, and identified acquisition needs are pursued or taken advantage of, as appropriate. Although there is a current sentiment to focus on existing properties, rather than developing new sites, some acquisition is anticipated to be needed to meet the currently defined level-of-service. In addition, unforeseen acquisition opportunities may arise which further the goals of this Plan, the GPP, or other

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county planning documents and should be pursued. Waterfront property, for example, is a high priority for park acquisition, but finding large enough pieces of property to support public recreation are unusual to find. Taking advantage of these types of opportunities should continue to be a priority.

Parks has a role in preserving, enhancing and interpreting historical and cultural resources in the county – As a public land owner, Parks has the opportunity to steward cultural and historical resources in Snohomish County through acquisition and thoughtful protection of historical sites and also by providing opportunities for the public to learn about the history of Snohomish County while visiting county parks. -

I. Introduction

Parks Vision Statement

“Snohomish County Parks is an entrepreneurial based system focused on fiscal and environmental sustainability through exceptional customer service, efficient staffing models, strong stakeholder equity and strategic capital investments that honor our long term commitments in creating new parks, trails and public spaces while prudently stewarding our current portfolio of parks, trails, built facilities, natural areas and open spaces.”

A. Purpose of the Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan

Welcome to the 2015 Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan (Plan). This document provides a forward looking vision for the future of park facilities provided by the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks). The vision provided in this document summarizes input from residents of Snohomish County about what they think is important in provision of parks and is paired with county-wide analysis of specific trends and needs, as well as input from other recreation providers located in Snohomish County. This Plan is intended to inform selection of Parks’ priorities over the next four to five years, at which time a public input process will again be conducted in order to check current priorities and update this vision.

Creation of the vision contained in this Plan is based on a process that also satisfies planning requirements of the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO is a major funding source for park projects and has established specific planning requirements for fund recipients. This Plan documents adherence to those requirements and is organized around the six planning requirements identified by the RCO.

B. RCO Planning Requirements

The RCO provides the following planning requirements:

- Goals and Objectives
- Inventory
- Public Involvement
- Demand and Need Analysis
- Capital Improvement Program
- Plan Adoption

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These requirements are similar to some of those stipulated for Growth Management Act (GMA) based planning. Currently, Snohomish County's GMA plan for parks provision is contained in the 2015 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Element (PRE). The PRE is centered around future population projections and planning for capital facilities required to meet the need that is anticipated to be generated by that population. GMA based planning typically considers anticipated population change over a twenty year timeframe. Washington State Administrative Code suggests that creation of GMA based Park and Recreation Elements be based on a public visioning process, which is contained in this Plan.

It is appropriate that vision creation and RCO planning be paired together as the RCO emphasizes public input into identification of park priorities and is on a shorter update schedule, which provides the opportunity to check progress in achieving the vision while also tracking shifts in public priorities. The RCO requires that park plans be updated on a six-year cycle, although update may occur more frequently. It is anticipated that update of this Plan will occur in four years so that it will occur at the mid-point of GMA park planning update efforts.

II. Goals and Objectives

Parks Mission Statement:

“Provide safe, enjoyable, attractive parks and diverse programs with responsive services which enhance our quality of life and preserve the natural and recreational resources of Snohomish County.”

Goals and objectives are provided for Snohomish County Parks and Recreation (Parks) through the Snohomish County General Policy Plan (GPP). The GPP currently provides goals, objectives and policies for Parks in the following areas:

- Provision of recreation services through coordination with other recreation providers
- Provision of diverse recreational opportunities
- Meeting minimum level-of-service standards
- Priorities for acquisition and development of park properties and facilities
- Provision of open and natural spaces
- Provision of recreation programs
- Support for preservation of cultural and historic resources
- Promotion of sustainability

Full language related to these goals, objectives and policies can be found in the current GPP.

III. Inventory

A. Description of Planning Area

Lying along the northeasterly edge of Puget Sound and covering more than 2,000 square miles, Snohomish County contains some of the most scenic and diverse natural areas in the Pacific Northwest. Snohomish County ranges from the crest of the Cascade Mountains on its eastern border, to Puget Sound and its associated lowlands to the west. Snohomish County is bordered by Skagit County to the north and King County to the south. Many of the natural areas contained within Snohomish County have been recognized for their unique and special environmental qualities and have been set aside, or acquired, by federal, state, and local agencies, as parks or restrictive preserves. Over the last 50 years, Snohomish County Parks has invested resources to make sure that many of these exceptional lands are protected and made available to the people of the county.

Within Snohomish County, there are a total of 20 cities/towns ranging in size from the City of Everett in western Snohomish County (population 101,081 - 2010 census) to the Town of Index located toward the county’s eastern boundary (population 178 - 2010 census). Population within the county is weighted toward incorporated areas, with an estimated 427,340 residents living in incorporated areas as compared to 330,260 estimated to be residing in unincorporated areas, according to the Washington State Office of Financial Management April 2015 data release (Washington State Office of Financial Management). Within this population the age distribution (based on 2010 census) is as follows:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Percent of Total Population</i>
< 18 years	24.4%
18 – 24 years	8.8%
25 – 44 years	28.6%
45 – 64 years	27.9%
>65 years	10.3%
Total:	100%

B. Projected County Conditions

The 2015 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Element (PRE) includes projected population figures through 2035. Overall, Snohomish County has, in recent years, experienced the fastest growth rate of the four central Puget Sound counties. This new population creates the need for additional parks of all types and attention to park elements which meet emerging needs.

Specific trends that are of interest in provision of park facilities include a trend toward an aging population and increases in obesity within Snohomish County. Currently it is estimated that 24.8% of Snohomish County population will be sixty or older in 2025 (Snohomish County Area Agency on Aging, 2011) and the proportion of obese adults in Snohomish County has increased from 13% in 1993 to 24%

in 2004 (Snohomish Health District, 2007) and increased again in 2009 to 28.8% (Snohomish Health District, 2010).

Consideration of these trends helps guide the priorities for provision of park services. In the Snohomish Health District report “How Big are We?” (Snohomish Health District, 2007), six goals are presented to aid in prevention of obesity. Three of the goals are related to nutrition and three are related to physical activity. Of the three physical activity goals, all can, in some way be addressed through the provision of parks. The physical activity goals are:

1. Increase the physical activity opportunities available to youth.
1. Increase the number of people who have access to free or low-cost recreational activities.
2. Increase the number of community environments that are conducive to physical activity.

C. Park Inventory

Facilities

A complete listing of facilities managed by the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks) is provided in the annual Snohomish County Parks Inventory Report (PIR). A summary spreadsheet included in the PIR lists each park alphabetically and includes information on classification, size and general amenities. A description of each of the classifications is located in the PRE and includes information about the intended service area for each classification. Further information on each Snohomish County park property is found on individual park maps in the PIR, following the summary listing. An overview map is also included in the PIR showing the distribution of park facilities around the county.

Park Programs

The Parks Department supports multiple programs at its facilities, primarily through agreements with other recreation providers. In 2014, summer camps were provided at Hole in the Sky Park through an agreement with the YMCA. Individual classes for Yoga, martial arts and art classes were offered at Willis D. Tucker Park through contracted vendors. Parks allows special events at park facilities through facility use agreements with outside organizations. In 2014, cross country events, orienteering competitions, long distance races and ‘Movies in the Park’ were only some of the events offered. Other long-term, standing agreements exist with Washington State University (WSU) Extension, which has offices at McCollum Park and was at one time a part of the Parks Department. WSU Extension provides multiple educational opportunities for Snohomish County residents ranging from Master Gardeners to Beach Watchers to resources on canning. WSU Extension also provides the 4-H program, which uses the Evergreen State Fairgrounds extensively for meetings, training sessions and showing during the annual fair.

The Evergreen State Fairgrounds is another park site which provides extensive programs throughout the year. Totalling approximately 193 acres, the fairgrounds include a wide variety of buildings which

provide the setting for approximately 850 events per year. Spaces at the fairgrounds include an event center, commercial building, racetrack, equestrian arena, animal barns, meeting rooms and grandstand. The diversity of facilities and amount of space available allow great diversity in the events that can occur at this facility.

Parks staff are utilized for swim programs at McCollum Pool and for a specialized recreation program. McCollum Pool is one of the few outdoor pools in the area and is typically open from June until September each year. Parks staff offer swimming lessons at the facility and the facility is available for open swim sessions and private rental during the summer. The specialized recreation program was started in 2009 and was established to provide recreation opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. This program is supported by an annual distribution from Snohomish County Council and fills a much needed gap in recreational services within the county.

Many of Parks' ranger staff have experience in resource management and environmental education. The ranger staff averages over thirteen years working for the Parks Department and have intimate knowledge of Parks' properties. The ranger staff offer front-line contact for park visitors and are able to share their knowledge about park properties to the public. Parks has offered organized Ranger programs in the past, but as staffing levels have dropped, these programs have been available less frequently. Parks does partner, however, with other agencies to provide on-site educational experiences and the Marine Resources Committee, Beach Watchers and Sound Salmon Solutions have provided programs to the public at Snohomish County Parks.

The county has supported a regional environmental educational learning center through its partnership with the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation to develop and operate the Northwest Stream Center at McCollum Park. This is a regional environmental education and interpretive facility focused on stream and wetland ecology and fish and wildlife habitat restoration. Additional opportunities for regional educational facilities, observation points, and study areas, are of interest and public/private partnerships would be considered at regional parks such as Spencer Island, Thomas' Eddy, Robe Canyon, Paradise Valley Conservation Area, Kayak Point and other significant natural resource areas.

Lastly, the Parks Department works to make available internship and volunteer opportunities through the department. These opportunities provide individuals a chance to participate with park sites on a one-on-one basis and pursue projects of specific interest to them.

D. Parks Condition and Capacity

Condition of Facilities

Many of the facilities in the Snohomish County Parks system were developed over thirty years ago and have reached the point of needing renovation. Parks that fall into this category include: Kayak Point, Flowing Lake, Wenberg, the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, River Meadows, and Squire Creek. Interestingly, this list of aging parks also includes the entire list of camping facilities, which are a profit

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center for the department. Due to the age of these facilities, repairs at these parks are increasingly common and Parks' campgrounds do not always include the modern amenities campers are looking for (e.g. increased power, internet access, larger camp sites, etc.). Typical on-going repairs at aging facilities include water and power issues, asphalt cracking, and stormwater related concerns. Larger issues related to these older facilities also include awkward Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) retrofits and lack of stormwater treatment. Renovations are needed at these facilities to replace aging infrastructure, to fully incorporate ADA accessibility and to address stormwater treatment and detention, all to support the goals of providing a quality visitor experience and of reducing operation costs and maintenance needs.

The age of the Evergreen State Fairgrounds presents a particular concern. Buildings at this facility (besides the Shanahan cabin, which dates to 1900) range in date of construction from 1948 to the recent addition of the Evergreen Event Center in 2011. Over half of the main structures were built before 1980, including significant structures such as the Grandstands, Commercial Building and Indoor Arena. A Redevelopment Initiative was developed for the fairgrounds which identified several building and facility challenges including "the lack of usable space of several buildings, the impacts of deferred maintenance on existing buildings, and the lack of capital funding resources to upgrade, replace and/or develop buildings and facilities" (Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation, 2009). The fairgrounds have existed in their current location for over sixty years and include approximately 54 buildings, seven of which were recommended for demolition in the Redevelopment Initiative. In 2011, three of these structures were demolished and replaced with a single, open span, multipurpose building, utilizing federal recovery zone economic development bonds which are planned to be paid back with revenue from rental of the facility. Construction of this new building has kick-started efforts to reinvest in the fairgrounds and a master planning effort was completed in 2015 to guide future improvements.

The age of Parks' system also means that modern efficiencies in power fixtures and building components are not necessarily incorporated into the parks. For example, newer light fixtures can reduce power needs, as can on-demand water heaters and improved insulation and windows. Low-flow toilets and targeted irrigation systems can reduce water consumption. Piecemeal retrofits have been made at some parks as the opportunity has presented itself, but facility wide renovations are needed to incorporate efficiencies and reduce overall operating impacts, while also reducing maintenance needs associated with maintaining older infrastructure.

In recent years, Parks has improved strategies for scheduling maintenance/replacement of structures and has implemented a new work order system, created a new Asset Management Plan and has also dedicated capital funding to life-cycle replacement projects. In the six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding is identified for such things as playground replacements and asphalt preservation projects. In addition, large-scale renovation projects are included within the CIP to address the needs of aging facilities.

In the interest of improving efficiency and reducing operation impacts, Parks has explored a naturalization program, which is intended to reduce maintenance inputs at park facilities and also to

reduce environmental impacts associated with park operations. At Kayak Point Regional Park, for example, several edge areas exist which are not used by the public, but are currently mown. Some of these lawn areas could be replaced with shrubs or let grow long and be cut back only one or two times a year, instead of the weekly maintenance that they currently receive. This change would reduce staff time required to maintain the park, reduce carbon emissions from maintenance equipment and increase space available for wildlife use, all with minimal impact to the park user. Implementation of this program will require a site-by-site analysis to identify areas suitable for inclusion in the program in order to develop a plan for execution. The benefits of this type of effort are significant and should be pursued as staff becomes available to develop plans.

Public Input on Park Conditions and Services

As part of the public survey process undertaken for development of this Plan, specific questions were asked about how the public felt about the condition of Snohomish County parks. Although the public was generally positive about the condition of Parks facilities (66% responded that they either somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement that they were satisfied with the condition of Parks facilities), there was a definite focus on prioritizing maintenance and use of existing facilities over developing new ones, expressed in the open ended comments collected through the survey process and in public meetings. Some typical comments received were:

“I think it is more important to maintain what we have than to develop new facilities”

“Take care of existing facilities before spending our tax money on new facilities...”

A significant number of comments were also made noting specific improvements that users sought at existing facilities. Requests for replacement restrooms on the Centennial Trail (instead of sani-cans) were common as were comments about the age of certain playgrounds. These types of upgrades are a priority, in order to enhance and improve existing use, where appropriate and feasible.

The public survey also asked for feedback in three specific areas related to public satisfaction with Parks’ facilities. The public was asked to indicate their level of agreement, or disagreement with the following statements:

1. I am satisfied with the types and availability of facilities provided by Snohomish County Parks and Recreation.
2. I am satisfied with the condition of Snohomish County Parks facilities.
3. I am satisfied with the security of Snohomish County Parks facilities.

Respondents to the survey were asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, were neutral, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with these statements. The results to these inquiries are as follows:

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1. "I am satisfied with the types and availability of facilities provided by Snohomish County Parks and Recreation."

Sixty-seven percent of respondents agreed with statement one, with 54 % noting that they 'somewhat agree' and 13% noting that they 'strongly agree'. Eighteen percent of respondents were neutral on this statement and a total of 15% disagreed with the statement (12% somewhat disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed – the difference between the sum of these two figures and 15% summary figure is due to rounding).

2. "I am satisfied with the condition of Snohomish County Parks facilities."

Respondents were also generally positive about the condition of Parks facilities and 66% agreed with the statement, with 49% noting that they 'somewhat agree' and 17% strongly agreeing. A larger percentage (23%) of respondents were neutral on this statement, than the first statement, and 11% disagreed with the statement (10% somewhat disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed).

3. "I am satisfied with the security of Snohomish County Parks facilities."

Respondents were most ambivalent with this statement, with 34% noting that they were neutral on the statement. A total of 53% however did agree with the statement (41% somewhat and 12% strongly) while 14% disagreed (12% somewhat and 2% strongly).

A challenge that Parks faces in using survey results like these to judge public satisfaction with the services it provides is that responders often are not aware of which parks are provided by Snohomish County and tend to answer questions based on the parks that they frequent. These parks may be city or state operated and may not reflect Snohomish County Park users' views of the Parks system. There are, of course, some respondents who responded specifically about the county parks system and the following are a sampling of some of the comments received:

"The South County Park (off Olympic View Dr., near Perrinville) is a beautiful location for adding some longer walking trails. Having more people walking amidst these beautiful trees would be a nice change for south county residents. (Somehow discouraging paintball warriors would be nice, too) Meadowdale Beach Park is a gem. Keeping the parks free (with voluntary user fees) seems better than charging mandatory fees. Thanks for asking."

"The Martha Lake Municipal Airport Park is AWESOME. A fabulous job was done on this park. It is used a lot by people in the nearby neighborhoods. The remodeled Lynnwood Rec Center is awesome as well." [Note that the Lynnwood Rec Center is not a Snohomish County facility, although Martha Lake Airport is]

"My only "park" experience is Esperance in unincorporated Edmonds. It is not well maintained, and there is a user element that is creepy. They hang in the woods."

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Another example shows that park users often don't differentiate between Snohomish County facilities and the others they frequent:

"I live near Legion Park [City of Everett park]. I love seeing families enjoying the park and surrounding areas. The arboretum is lovely. I would like to see the park rangers around more often. Maybe the police driving through the park once in a while."

IV. Public Involvement

An extensive public input process was utilized for development of this Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan (Plan) and included distribution of random and directed surveys, public meetings, and invitations to submit written, verbal or email comments as well as distribution of press releases. Soliciting input from individuals who use Snohomish County parks and participate in park activities is critical to the success of any plan. Public input not only provides valuable insight into current park and program use, it also helps to define the need for new, or additional, parklands and facilities.

Introductory public meetings were held to seek feedback on what the public most valued in park facilities. Meetings were held in Monroe, Arlington and unincorporated Snohomish County. Invitations were mailed to interested parties and advertised through a press release, fliers and the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks) e-newsletter. Follow-up public meetings were held to present draft plans and solicit feedback on the direction proposed by Parks. These meetings were held in Monroe and Everett. Invitations were mailed or emailed to interested parties and were again advertised through press releases, fliers and Parks' e-newsletter.

In addition to public meetings, the following methods were used to obtain public input into the Plan:

- Three press releases informing the public about planning efforts and inviting participation in meetings or through other methods of feedback were issued.
- Solicitation for public input was posted on Parks' website.
- Random surveys were sent to approximately 20,000 county residents (unincorporated and incorporated).
- Modified surveys were made available to the public through the Parks e-newsletter and as hard copy (distributed at events such as the Evergreen State Fair).
- Meetings were held with other recreation providers in Snohomish County (cities, YMCA, school districts, etc.).
- Presentation was made to the Snohomish County Tomorrow Planning Advisory Committee.
- Comments were collected via email, phone calls, etc.
- Briefings and discussions were held with the Snohomish County Parks Advisory Board.
- Briefings and a hearing was conducted with the Snohomish County Planning Commission.
- Multiple briefings were made to Snohomish County Council.

In addition to efforts to collect input from the public, input from Parks staff was also incorporated into development of this Plan. Parks Department staff was invited to participate in a survey intended to identify both areas of opportunity and areas of improvement. Following collection of input from the public and staff, a Parks Advisory Team was formed with representatives from the various sections of the Parks Department and this group met to review input collected from the public and make recommendations for appropriate responses to feedback.

Survey Results

Survey participants were asked to indicate where they felt Parks should focus its resources. Participants were prompted to select from the following broad choices:

- **Water access**, such as motor boating, kayaking, beach access, fishing and swimming pools
- **Trails**, such as hiking, walking and horseback riding
- **Sports facilities**, such as baseball and soccer fields
- **Conservation and wildlife areas**, such as viewing locations, interpretive trails and protected areas
- **Leisure**, such as picnic areas, camping and viewpoints
- **Special use facilities**, such as golf courses, fairgrounds and civic centers

Respondents rated these categories as follows (1 being the highest ranking, 6 being the lowest):

Recreation Category	Average Ranking
Trails	2.26
Leisure	2.87
Water access	2.99
Conservation and wildlife areas	3.15
Sports facilities	4.25
Special use facilities	4.69

It is not a surprise that ‘trails’ and ‘water access’ ranked as high as they did – this follows state and national trends for preferred recreation activities. What is surprising, however, is that ‘leisure’ was ranked second highest among the options. This ranking may reflect the slowed economy and the leisure category of activities (picnicking, camping, etc.) may be seen as low-cost ways to get out and/or spend time with family. Within the leisure category, preference was shown for picnic areas (22.9%), followed by camping (19.7%), playgrounds (17.3%) and off-leash areas (16.8%). Community centers, viewpoints and convenience camping did not rank well within this category.

Following the ranking of recreation categories, respondents were asked to identify their highest priority of activities within each category, provide feedback on their satisfaction with Snohomish County Park services and respond to two funding questions. The full results of this survey are included in Appendix A.

Public Meetings

Five public meetings were held to ascertain what the public valued about parks and get specific comments about areas of focus. The following is a summary of key comments collected at these meetings:

Evergreen State Fairgrounds (1st meeting)

Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan

- Group identified equestrian activities, hiking (including wheelchair experiences) and water activities (beach swimming, kayaking and beach combing) as important. Mention of off-road vehicle (ORV) riding was also made.
- Strong interest in additional equestrian opportunities.
- Group favored natural, wildlife type parks – especially with equestrian access.
- Interest in Sky Valley Recreation Corridor improvements.

Arlington

- Group identified equestrian, hiking and water activities as important. There was also an emphasis on nature enjoyment and preservation.
- Strong interest was expressed in additional equestrian opportunities - in particular, development of the Whitehorse Trail and trailhead improvement in general.
- Group also expressed interest in camping and picnicking opportunities.

Willis D. Tucker Park

- This group identified large-scale national type parks as being of particular value, but identified more urban-type improvements as desired improvements including lit trails and park connection (linking park facilities).

Evergreen State Fairgrounds (2nd meeting)

- Group was very interested in shooting range in Sultan area.
- Group was interested in equestrian facilities, including access to new West Lake Roesiger site and Whitehorse Trail.

Snohomish County Administration Building

- Participants identified specific value of parks in urban areas – access to open space is important.
- Interest expressed in more soccer fields in central and northern county.
- Would like better, and more frequent, information about Park activities and happenings.

Summary of Public Input

Generally speaking, the public is very supportive of parks and appreciates access to park facilities and the benefits parks provide to individual users and also the community. Snohomish County residents who participated in development of this Plan reflected state-wide prioritization of trails and walking/hiking opportunities as their top priority for facilities, followed by 'leisure' (picnic areas, camping and viewpoints) and water access as their next highest priorities.

V. Demand and Need Analysis

A. Recreation Demand and Need

Long term recreation demand and need is considered in the 2015 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Element (PRE). This documents considers population projections for 20 years and evaluates current capital facilities against the need for facilities caused by anticipated population growth. This anticipated population is evaluated against adopted level-of-service standards and planning for needed facilities to meet level-of-service standards is included.

In addition to evaluating raw numbers of anticipated population, the PRE considers long term countywide trends such as shifts in age demographics, and health concerns, and considers anticipated needs that can be addressed through provision of recreation facilities. Longer term planning for parks also includes evaluation of current facilities and projected needs for renovation/replacement.

Demand and need considered within this Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Visioning Plan (Plan) is shorter in focus and is centered on priorities identified through the public process. These priorities can help select, and/or refine, projects from those identified to serve long-term needs. This Plan works together with the PRE to guide selection of projects for the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

With this in mind, the following is a summary of key take home points from the public input process described in the previous section:

- There are a wide variety of recreational interests represented in the county.
- Trails are extremely popular and continuing to provide trail opportunities should be a priority. There is significant interest in opening the Whitehorse Trail.
- The Centennial Trail in particular is extremely popular and suggestions for improvement should be reviewed for feasibility.
- Focus on leisure facilities should be a priority, in particular picnic areas, camping, playgrounds and off-leash areas.
- Water access continues to be a priority and opportunities for expanded access should be pursued. Saltwater access in particular is limited in the county and opportunities for acquisition should be explored.
- The comment was made repeatedly that the county should focus on maintaining existing facilities rather than developing new sites.

- Equestrian facilities are very popular in Snohomish County and there is significant interest in maintaining/expanding opportunities.
- Response to questions about funding parks drew polar opposite feedback. Special funding for parks is a sensitive issue and needs to be considered carefully before making changes to the current structure.
- Many citizens do not have a clear understanding of who Snohomish County Parks is, which parks are owned and managed by the county, and what programs the county provides. Parks could do a better job of identifying facilities that are offered through the county.
- There was significant interest in the Evergreen State Fairgrounds facility and improvements to it.
- There was significant interest in development of the shooting range outside of Sultan.

B. Analysis

The projects listed below were identified in the PRE to address long-term demands for recreation facilities through 2035.

Project
LOS Identified Improvements
Provide a minimum of 15 new active recreation facilities, 11 new passive recreation facilities, 6 new developed Regional Trails miles, 1 new mile of waterfront, 43 new campsites and 393 new parking spaces.
ADA Improvements
Continued accessibility improvements at existing parks, as well as incorporation of accessibility features into larger capital projects and inclusion in new site developments.
Park Renovations
Renovate Kayak Point, Wenberg and Flowing Lake Parks as well as the Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Life-Cycle Replacements
Complete life-cycle replacements as identified and prioritized in the Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks) Asset Maintenance Plan.
Additional park improvements

Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan

Utilize level-of-service methodology to provide improvements to serve additional population at existing parks, when appropriate
Water Access
Acquire and develop at least one additional saltwater access property
Complete the Snohomish River Estuary Recreation Area Plan and complete improvements/acquisition based upon recommendations
Improve saltwater access at Meadowdale Beach through access improvements in the vicinity of the railroad crossing
Provide additional parking access to Meadowdale Beach
Acquire and develop additional lake access park(s)
Participate in capital improvement projects at the 10 th St. Boat Launch as required through agreement with the Port of Everett and City of Everett
Renovate Kayak Point Park to allow continued use of this popular facility
Trails
Develop park-based trails at Heybrook Ridge
Develop park-based trails at Flowing Lake Park
Develop Reiter Foothills trailhead
Develop West Lake Roesiger trailhead
Develop Wellington Hills County Park-based trails as part of site development
Develop the CT south of the City of Snohomish to King County
Develop the CT spur between the City of Snohomish to the City of Monroe and acquire land as needed for the improvement
Complete trail acquisition from the City of Monroe to the King County line and complete development
Identify and develop a connection to the Centennial Trail from the City of Stanwood through the City of Arlington (possible bikeway project)
Continue to provide improvements along regional trail corridors to address public identified priorities
Complete development of the Whitehorse Trail, including trailhead development and acquisitions, as needed

Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan

Acquire and develop trailheads on all Regional Trails at a minimum spacing of 2 – 6 miles apart
Support Public Works in the completion of the North Creek Trail
Provide trail/bikeway connections between public facilities, as feasible
Consider and provide paved or soft surface trails at parks as appropriate
Equestrian
Renovate and improve equestrian facilities at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Develop the Whitehorse Trail and provide equestrian trailheads
Provide additional equestrian trailhead access to the Paradise Valley Conservation Area
Make trail improvements at Lord Hill, as needed
Develop West Lake Roesiger trailhead for equestrian access
Camping
Expand camping at Kayak Point Park
Expand camping at Flowing Lake Park
Move camping at River Meadows to upper terrace
Make improvements to existing campgrounds as identified and prioritized by Camping Team
Provide additional convenience camping
Replace ranger stations at Kayak Point and Flowing Lake Parks
Provide new camping areas as feasible and appropriate
Develop camping opportunities along the Whitehorse Trail
Aquatic Facility
Acquire and develop a new aquatic facility to support competition events and maximize return on investment
Athletic Facility
Acquire and develop a new regional athletic field facility
Sky Valley Sportsman’s Park

Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan

Complete master planning for Sky Valley Sportsman’s Park and pursue development as indicated by master planning process and evaluation of partnership opportunities
Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Complete master planning update process and pursue improvements as indicated by master plan
Complete annual improvements utilizing fund 180 and project prioritization process
Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) Implementation
Complete system improvements which further the goals of the SOAP.

VI. Capital Improvement Program

A. Parks Financing

All actions pursued by the Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) require funding to support the effort. Funding for Parks is currently provided from a mix of sources. These include Snohomish County general funds, Real Estate Excise Tax (REET I and REET II), grants, park impact mitigation fees, revenues generated at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, donations and sponsorships. Two kinds of park impact mitigation fees are currently collected, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and Growth Management Act (GMA) based impact fees. GMA based fees were implemented in 2005, replacing SEPA based fees, and are currently used specifically for projects addressing demands related to growth. SEPA based fees continue to be collected on buildable lots established before implementation of the GMA based fees and are used for capital improvements at parks within the area that the funds were collected. The Evergreen State Fairgrounds partially operates as an enterprise fund and a portion of revenues generated at the site are used for facility improvements. Identification of funding for specific projects is determined each year through the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP allocates funding for the first year of the CIP then projects funding for projects over an additional five years, taking into consideration different funding sources.

Included within the CIP is a 'Parks - General Improvements' line item which supports minor contracted and in-house capital improvements that are identified by the department through an analysis of safety priorities, opportunities for enterprise development (increased return on investment), increases in efficiencies and effectiveness, partnerships, public input and other criteria that lead to project prioritization. Examples of work that has been funded through this line item include Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit improvements, playground enhancements, etc.

Parks also generates revenues through a variety of methods, which are distributed back to the county's general fund (with the exception of the Evergreen State Fairgrounds generated revenues), and which partially offset the funding provided for Parks operations. In 2014, Parks generated 74.6% revenue of the general funding received for that year. This equates to one of the highest return on investments for any park system in the United States.

Increased funding collection may be available to Parks through a variety of marketing strategies. These include such things as sponsorships, selling of naming rights and donations. Parks has recently created and filled a marketing staff position to pursue these possibilities, primarily for the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, but with the potential to consider the entire Parks system.

B. Annual Capital Improvement Program

Snohomish County currently operates under an annual budget process that results in adoption of a six-year CIP. The CIP lists specific park projects including land acquisition, development, renovation and

Parks & Recreation Visioning Plan

restoration. Funding for each of these projects is detailed over the six years of the CIP and anticipated source of funding is indicated as well as funding amount.

Development of Parks' CIP is a cooperative process, involving Parks, Finance and the Executive and Council offices. Available funding and project priorities are reviewed and decisions made on which projects are selected for inclusion. Development of the CIP is guided by the 2015 Snohomish County Park and Recreation Element (PRE) and this Snohomish County Park and Recreation Visioning Plan (Plan).

Adoption of the CIP typically occurs around the end of November each year and goes into effect on January first of the following year.

VII. Plan Adoption

This Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Visioning Plan has been adopted by the Snohomish County Council. -A copy of the motion by which this document has been adopted is available on the Snohomish County Council website, or may also be obtained upon request to the Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation at the contact information below.

Snohomish County Department of Parks & Recreation
6705 Puget Park Dr.
Snohomish WA 98296
425-388-6600
Email: parks.department@snoco.org

Works Cited

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Appendix A - Public Survey and Results

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Survey

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation
Comprehensive Plan Survey

Introduction: Thank you participating in this Snohomish County Parks & Recreation survey. We are currently updating our Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan and would like your input to help determine what types of facilities we should offer you and your household over the next six years. Please take a few moments and let us know what types of recreation facilities you use and value and where we should be focusing our efforts in providing recreation opportunities. If you have questions about the survey or would like to take a paper survey instead, please contact Sharon Swan by phone at 425-388-6616 or by e-mail at sharon.swan@snoco.org.

Thank you very much for your participation!

***1. Please enter the user code from your postcard invitation here.**

First, please provide some information about your household:

2. Do you live within unincorporated Snohomish County or within city limits?

- Unincorporated Snohomish County City Limits

3. How long have you lived in Snohomish County?

- Less than one year 8 - 12 years
 1 - 3 years 13 - 20 years
 4 - 7 years 21 or more years

4. How many people live in your home?

- 1 4
 2 5
 3 6 or more

5. What is the age of the youngest person who lives in your home?

- 0 - 4 years 26 - 40 years
 5 - 10 years 41 - 52 years
 11 - 17 years 53 - 64 years
 18 - 25 years 65 years or older

6. What is the age of the oldest person who resides in your home?

- 18 - 25 years 53 - 64 years
 26 - 40 years 65 years or older
 41 - 52 years

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Survey

Now, please tell us about the kind of recreation facilities that are most important to you:

7. Please rank the types of facilities according to where you would like Snohomish County Parks to focus its resources during the next six years (1 - highest priority, 6 - lowest priority).

	1 - highest	2	3	4	5	6 - lowest
Water access, such as motor boating, kayaking, beach access, fishing and swimming pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails, such as hiking, walking and horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports facilities, such as such as baseball and soccer fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation and wildlife areas, such as viewing locations, interpretive trails and protected areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leisure, such as picnic areas, camping, and scenic viewpoints	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special use facilities, such as golf courses, fairgrounds and civic centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Select the one activity within the WATER ACCESS category that is most important to you:

- Motor boating
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Swimming at beaches
- Other (please specify)
- Fishing
- Indoor/outdoor pools
- Beach-combing

9. Select the one activity within the TRAILS category that is most important to you:

- Hiking/walking
- Signed interpretive walks
- Jogging or running paths
- Horseback riding
- Other (please specify)
- Off-road vehicle sites
- Bicycle paths
- Mountain biking
- Roller-skating and in-line skating

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Survey

10. Select the one activity within the **SPORTS FACILITIES** category that is most important to you:

- Baseball or softball fields
- Soccer fields
- Football fields
- Lacrosse fields
- Other (please specify)
- Basketball courts
- Skateboard parks
- BMX tracks
- Tennis courts

11. Select the one activity within the **CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE AREAS** category that is most important to you:

- Wildlife viewing
- Interpretive walks
- Outlook points
- Other (please specify)
- Naturalist tours
- Natural area restoration
- Preservation of natural areas

12. Select the one activity within the **LEISURE** category that is most important to you:

- Picnic areas
- Camping
- Convenience camping, such as yurts & cabins
- Viewpoints
- Other (please specify)
- Playgrounds
- Community centers
- Off-leash dog areas

13. Select the one activity within the **SPECIAL USE FACILITY** category that is most important to you:

- Golf courses
- Shooting ranges
- Archery galleries
- Indoor recreation center
- Other (please specify)
- Reception/banquet facilities
- R/C aviation
- Fairgrounds

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Survey

Please let us know what you think of our current service by telling us if you agree or disagree with the following three statements (select the number that most closely corresponds to your agreement):

14. I am satisfied with the types and availability of facilities provided by Snohomish County Parks & Recreation:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. I am satisfied with the condition of Snohomish County Parks facilities:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly Disagree
Response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. I am satisfied with the security of Snohomish County Parks facilities:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We are always challenged to provide park services with limited funding. Please let us know if you support user fees by responding to the following:

17. I would be willing to pay user fees to support the operation and maintenance of parks facilities:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. I would be willing to support a short term (e.g. 5 year) funding effort to acquire and develop new park facilities:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we progress through our park plan update? Or, any other comments you would like to offer about our facilities?

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this survey! Results will be available in our updated comprehensive plan.

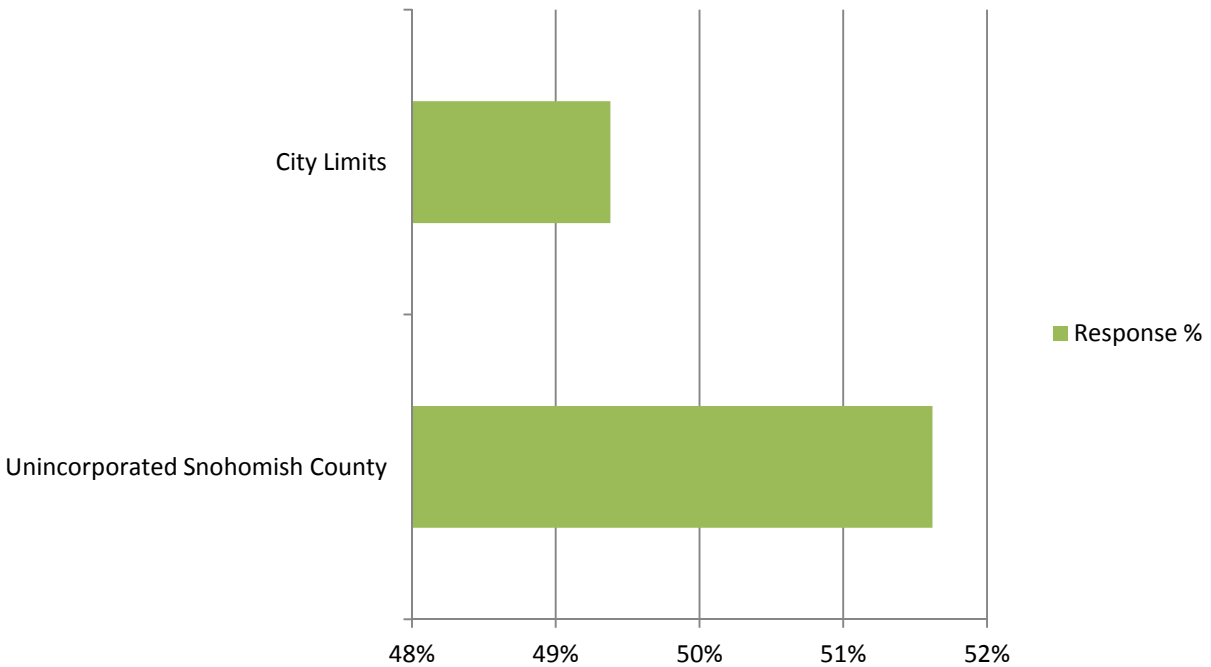


Snohomish County Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan Update

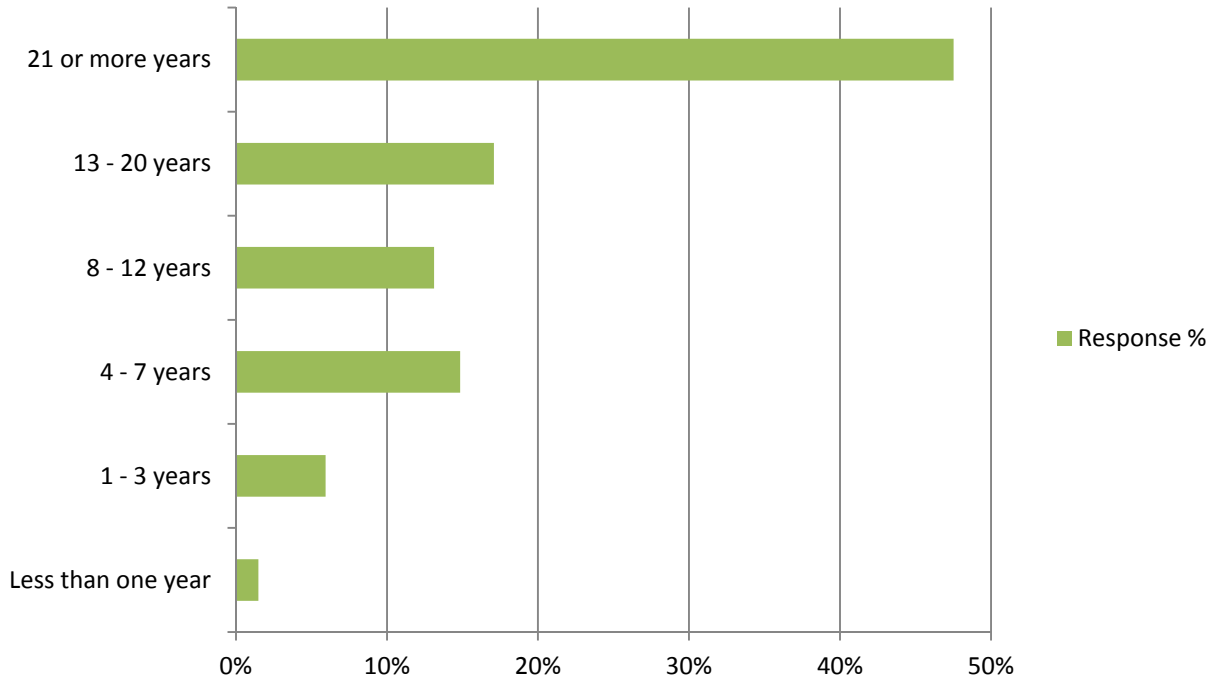
2011 Public Survey Results

A public survey was initiated in 2011 to collect information from Snohomish County residents about their preferred recreation activities, their satisfaction with Snohomish County Parks & Recreation services and their potential support of fees for park purposes. This survey was conducted in order to collect information for development of the Snohomish County Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan update, which is completed every six years and is written to reflect current population interests, as well as forecasting into the future to address upcoming needs. Invitations to participate in the survey were sent to a random list of Snohomish County residences, both located within unincorporated and incorporated areas. Recipients were given the option of completing their survey on-line or requesting a paper copy of the survey. The results below are a compilation of these two response methods.

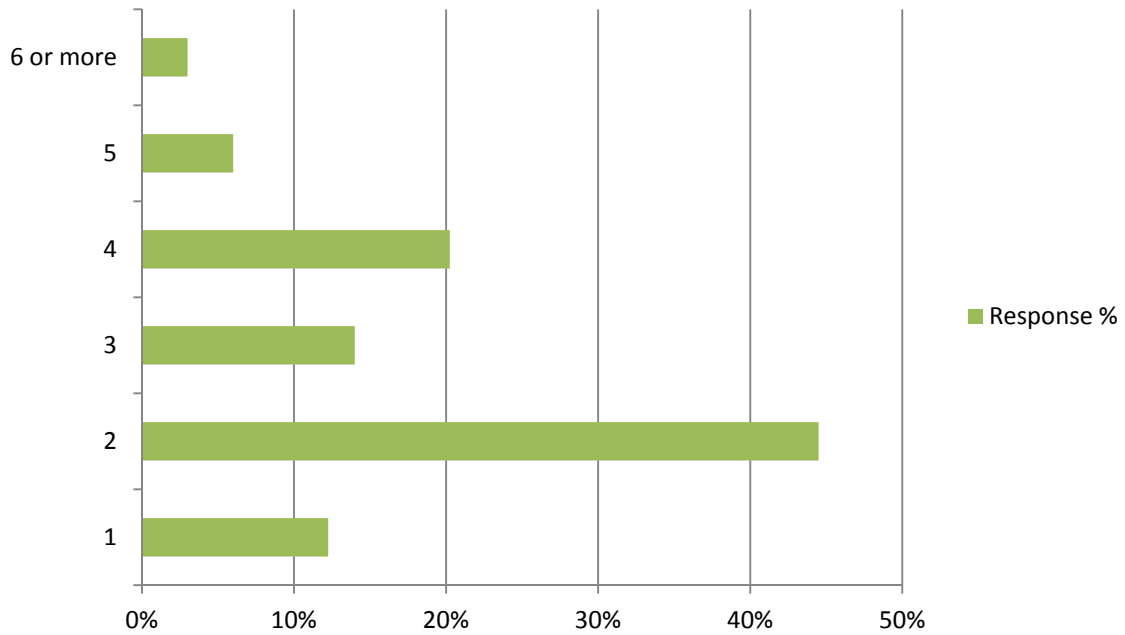
1. Do you live within unincorporated Snohomish County or within city limits?



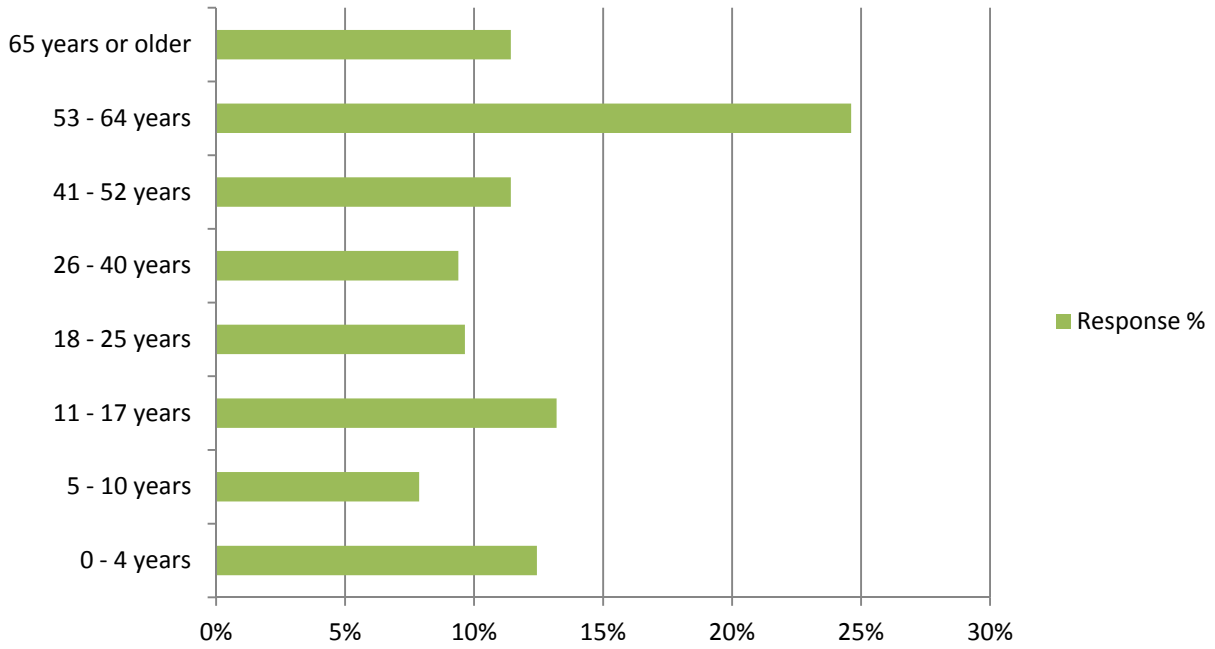
2. How long have you lived in Snohomish County?



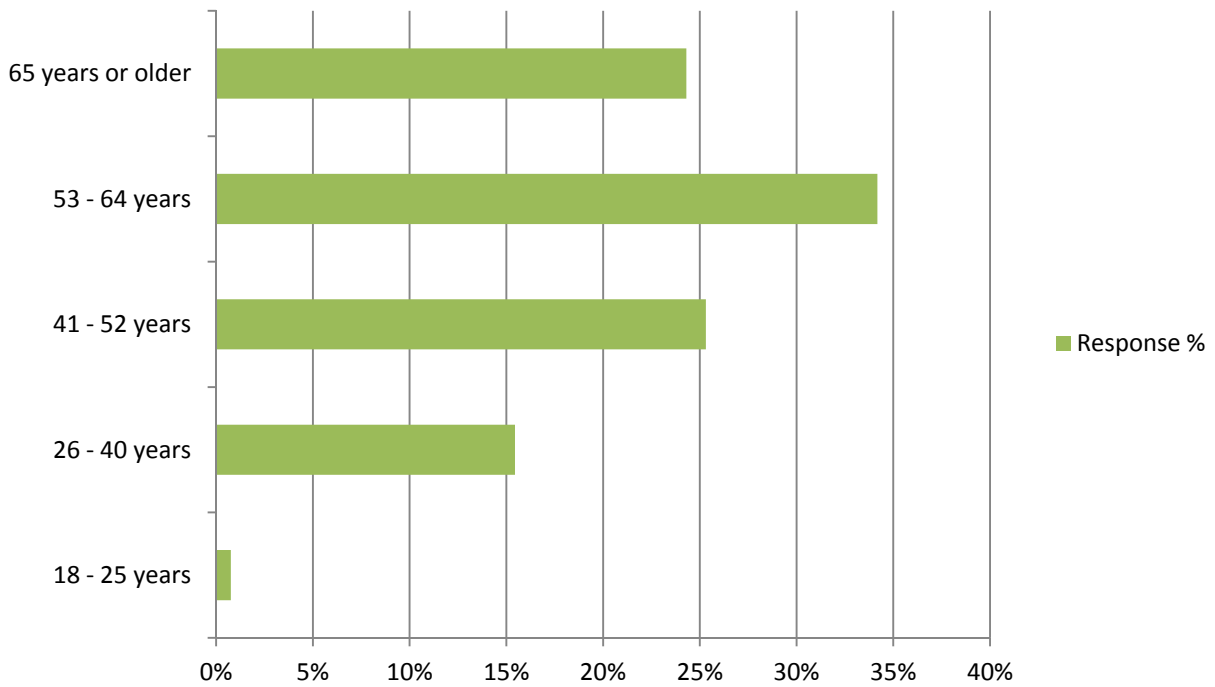
3. How many people live in your home?



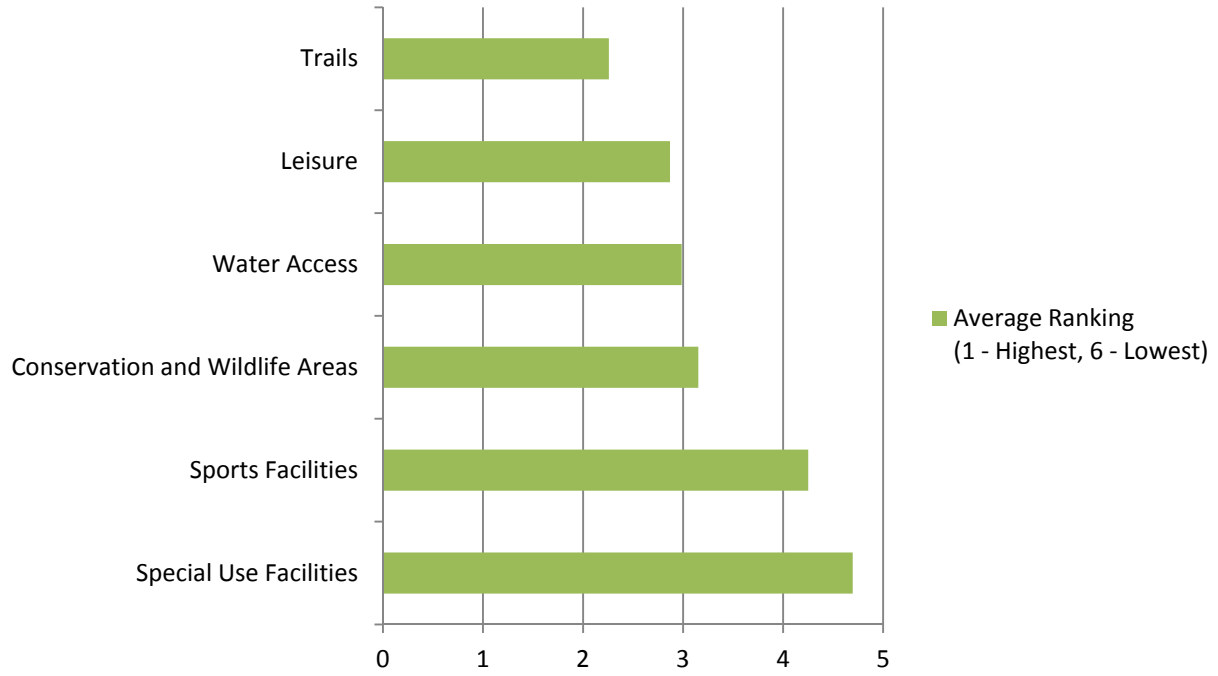
4. What is the age of the youngest person who lives in your home?



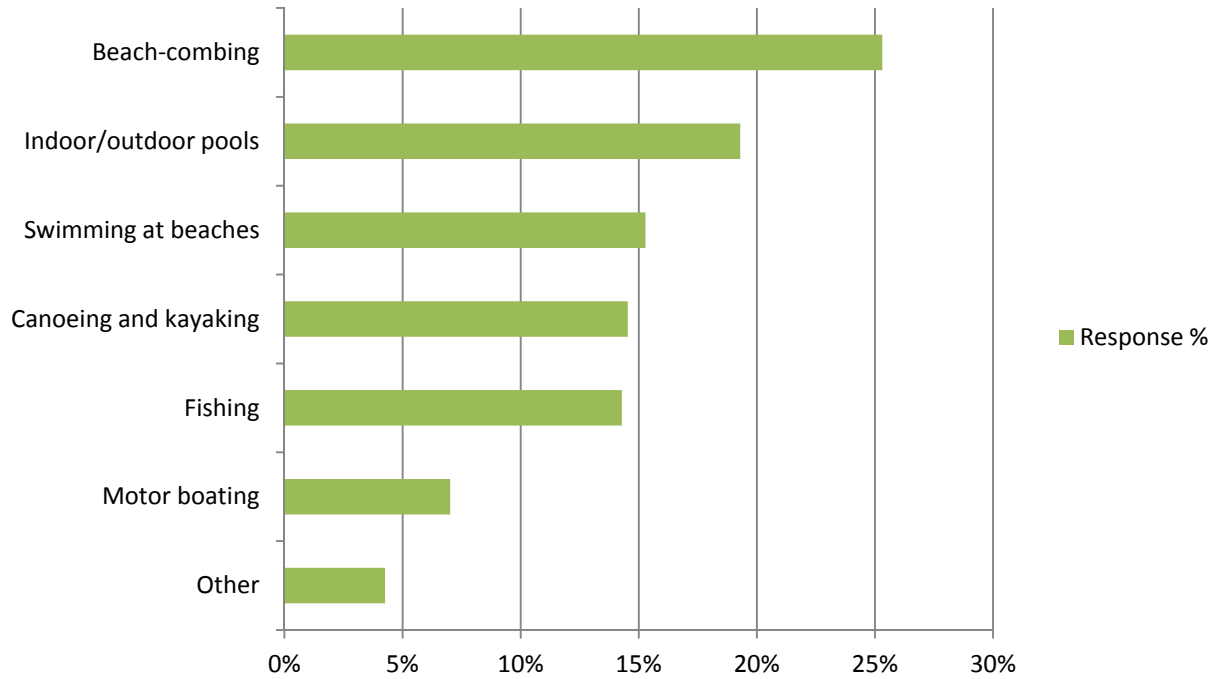
5. What is the age of the oldest person who resides in your home?



6. Please rank the following types of facilities according to where you would like Snohomish County Parks to focus its resources during the next six years (1 - Highest priority, 6 - Lowest priority).

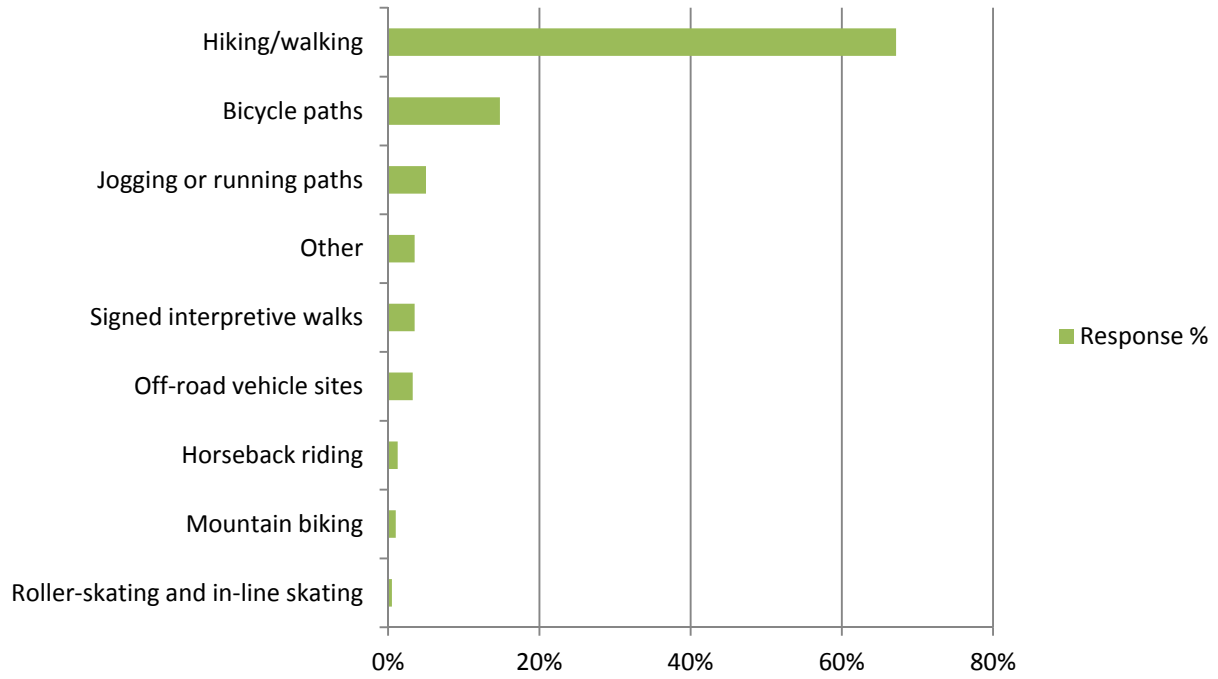


7. Select the one activity within the WATER ACCESS category that is most important to you:



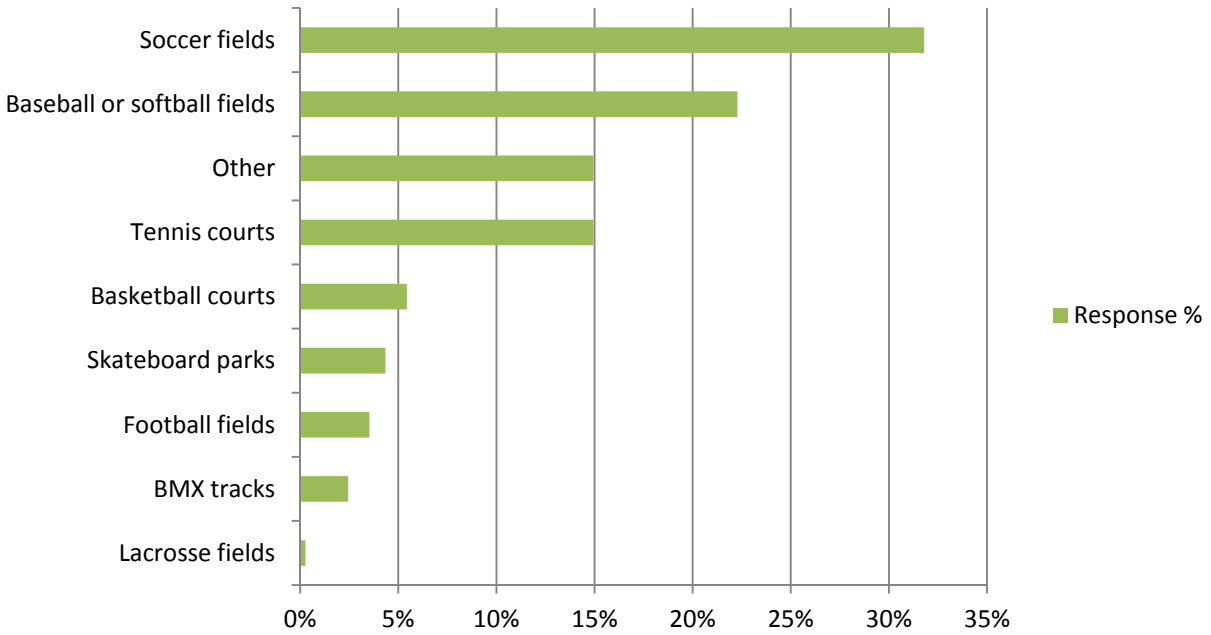
'Other' responses received (duplicates are listed only once): Water access is a scarce resource in the county; walking by water; scuba diving/underwater parks; places to relax/enjoy our beautiful water; none; motor boating, fishing and clam digging; duck hunting and fishing access; dog swimming areas/dock jumping; dog parks; bonfires, beer, food and fun; and biking.

8. Select the one activity within the TRAILS category that is most important to you:



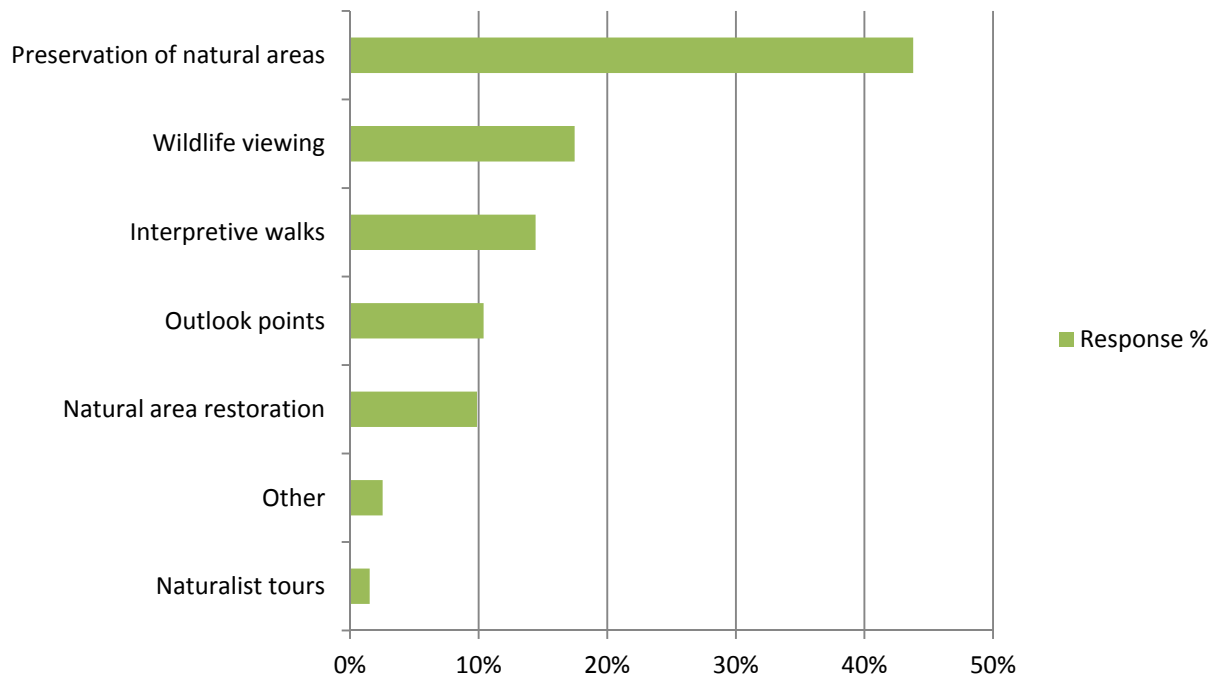
'Other' responses received (duplicates are listed only once): walking dogs; off-leash areas; just availability to those that use; jeep trails for hunting and fishing; hiking and walking trails that allow dogs; don't use; biking; and ATV and motorcycle access.

9. Select the one activity within the SPORTS FACILITIES category that is most important to you:



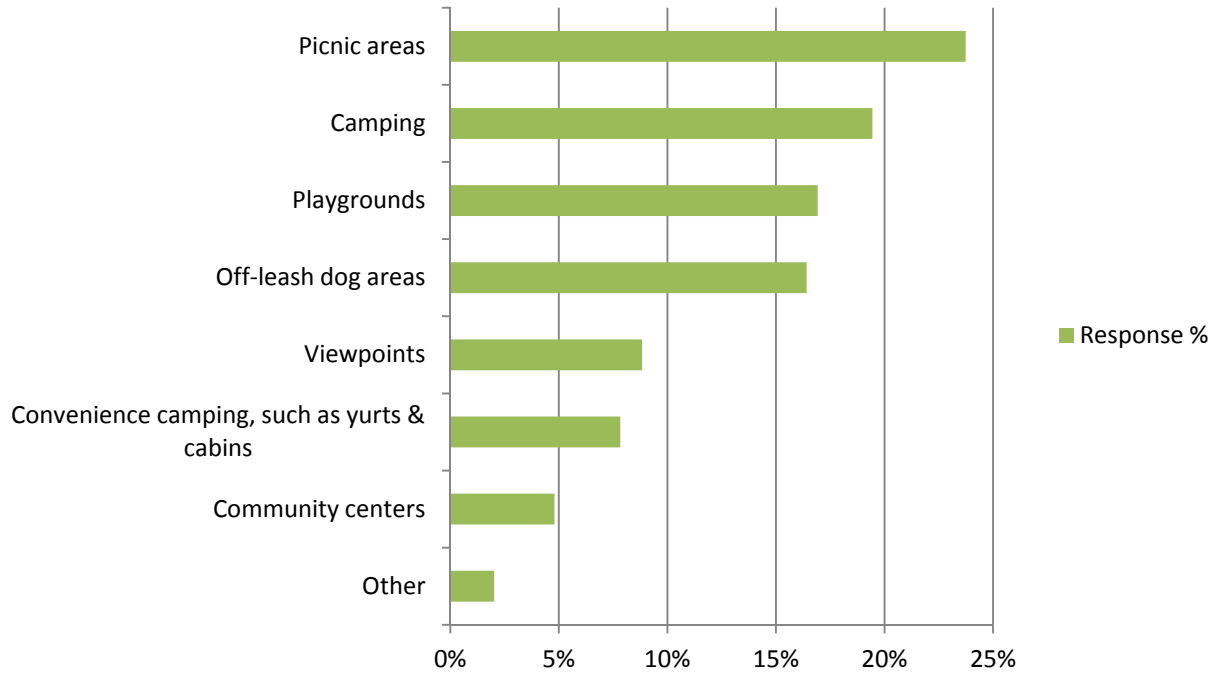
'Other' responses received (duplicates are listed only once): whatever is cheapest; we have plenty of sports facilities; volleyball courts; sand volleyball area; track and field; running; outdoor walking/running track; tennis; skating and not just skateboarding; shooting ranges for children and adults (family); save Wellington Golf Course as a regional use facility; rock climbing; playground; pickle ball; open use grass area; off-leash areas; dog training areas; dog agility areas; none; no preference; no more; we don't play sports; multi-use fields; model aircraft fields; indoor teen center with sports courts; indoor pools; Frisbee golf; don't we have enough sports facilities – privatize them; don't really have an interest in sports; disc golf; both baseball and soccer; bike paths on the roads; baseball, soccer, basketball and tennis; badminton; archery, bocce ball, golf (par 3); and all equal.

10. Select the one activity within the CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE AREAS category that is most important to you:



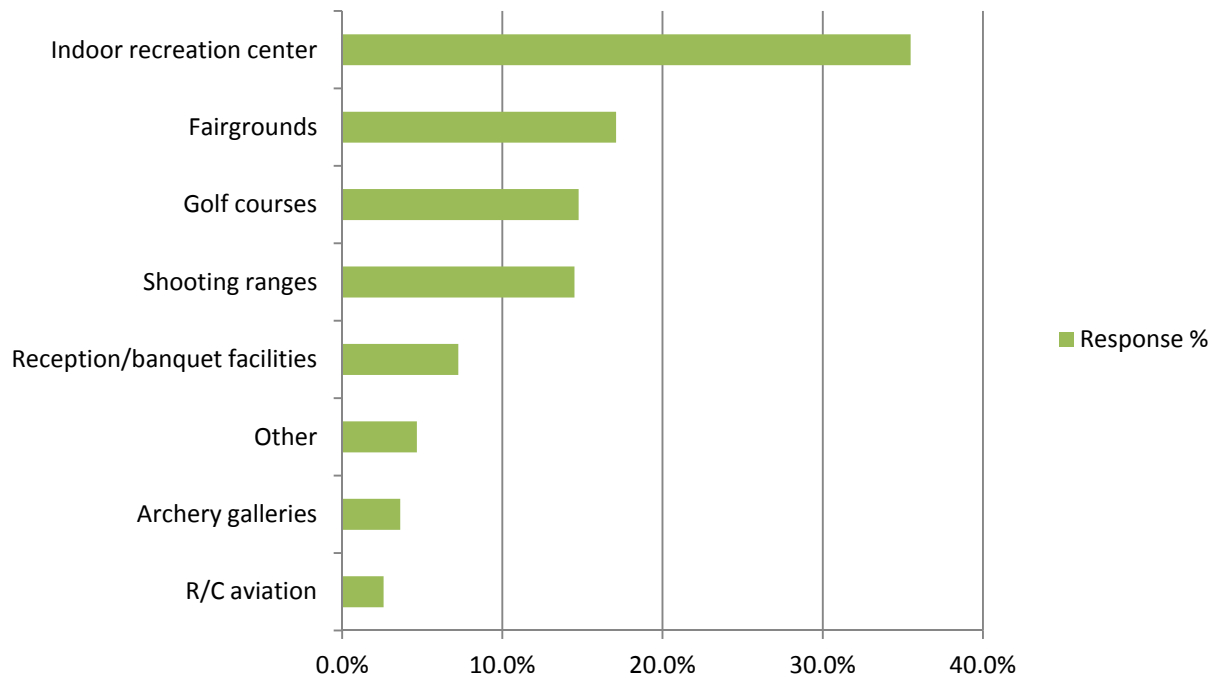
'Other' responses received (duplicates are listed only once): we already have too much land dedicated to conservation, let's bring back freedom of use; waterfowl hunting; hunting/shooting; hunting access with wildlife viewing; stop locking up wilderness; no opinion; dog parks; and all the above.

11. Select the one activity within the LEISURE category that is most important to you:



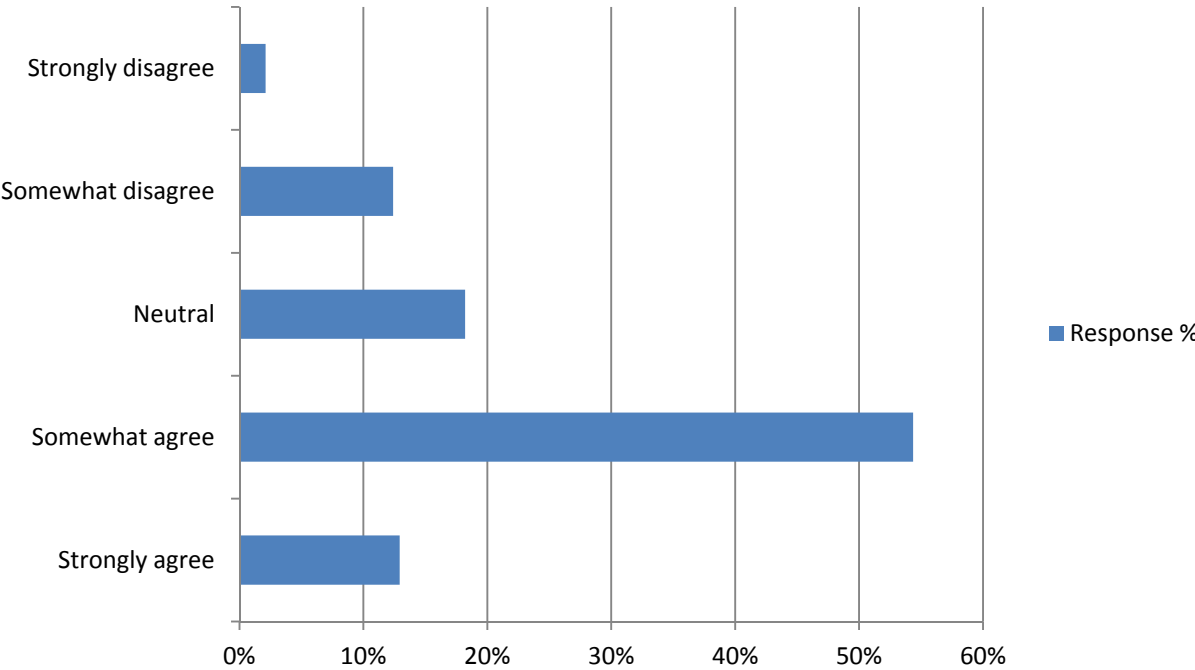
'Other' responses received (duplicates are listed only once): walking dogs – not off leash; areas I can train my dogs for obedience/tracking; Shakespeare in the park; rock hounding; ORV park; handicap access; and golf courses.

12. Select the one activity within the SPECIAL USE FACILITY category that is most important to you:

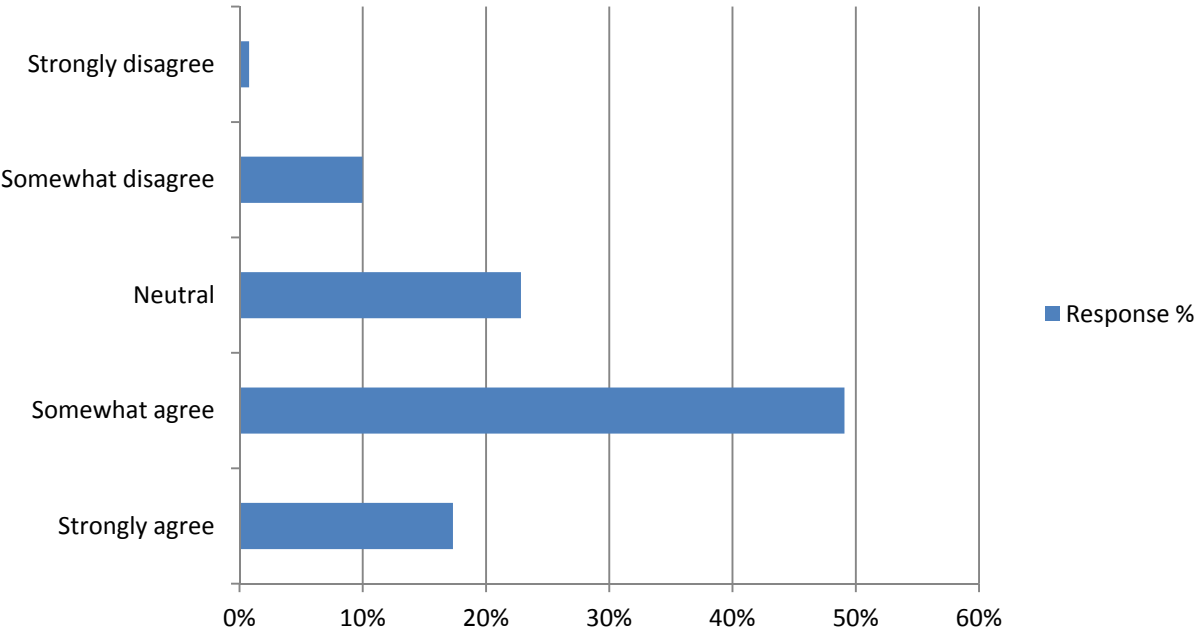


'Other' responses received (duplicates are listed only once): yuck; utilize facilities already in existence; skiing; restrooms; off-leash dog parks; not enough ORV – create facility on Reiter Rd.; none; non-chlorine (saline) swimming pool; no ideas; indoor walking track; hiking trails; and enjoying natural wildlife.

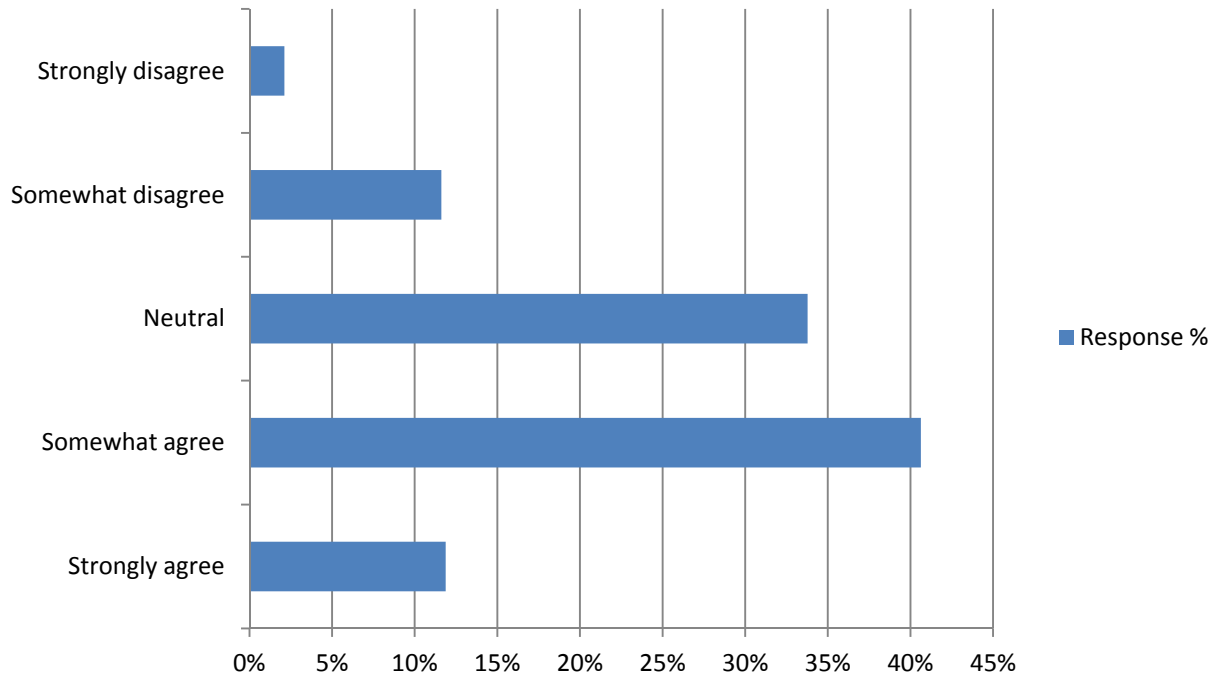
13. I am satisfied with the types and availability of facilities provided by Snohomish County Parks & Recreation:



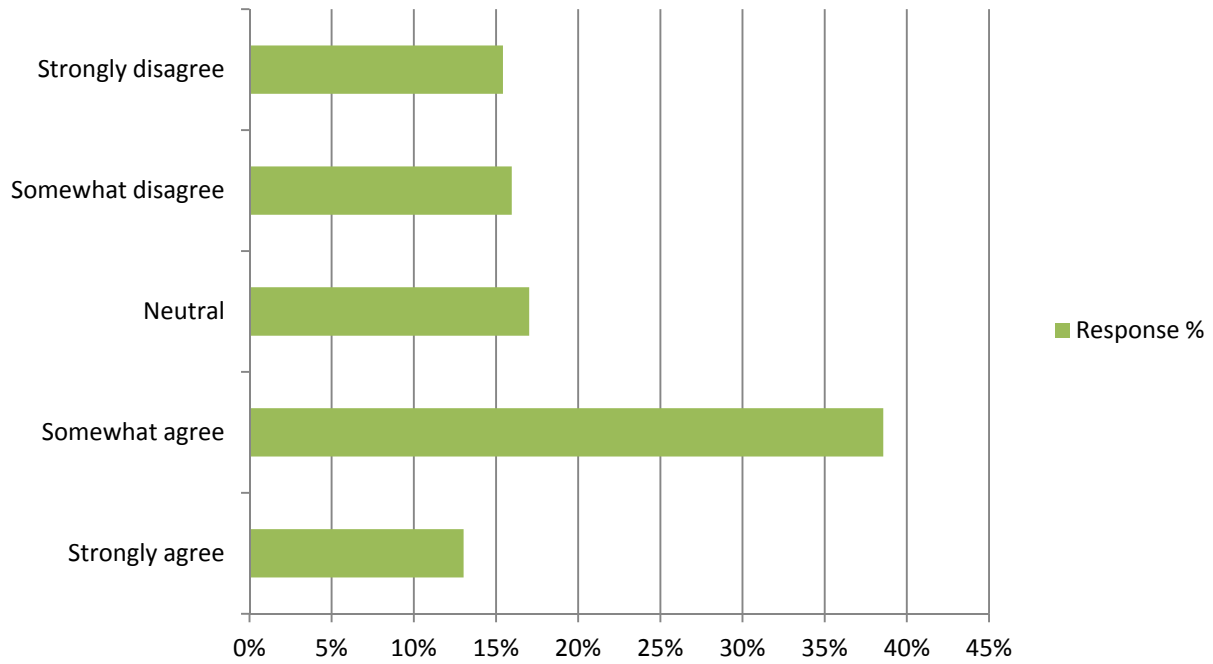
14. I am satisfied with the condition of Snohomish County Parks facilities:



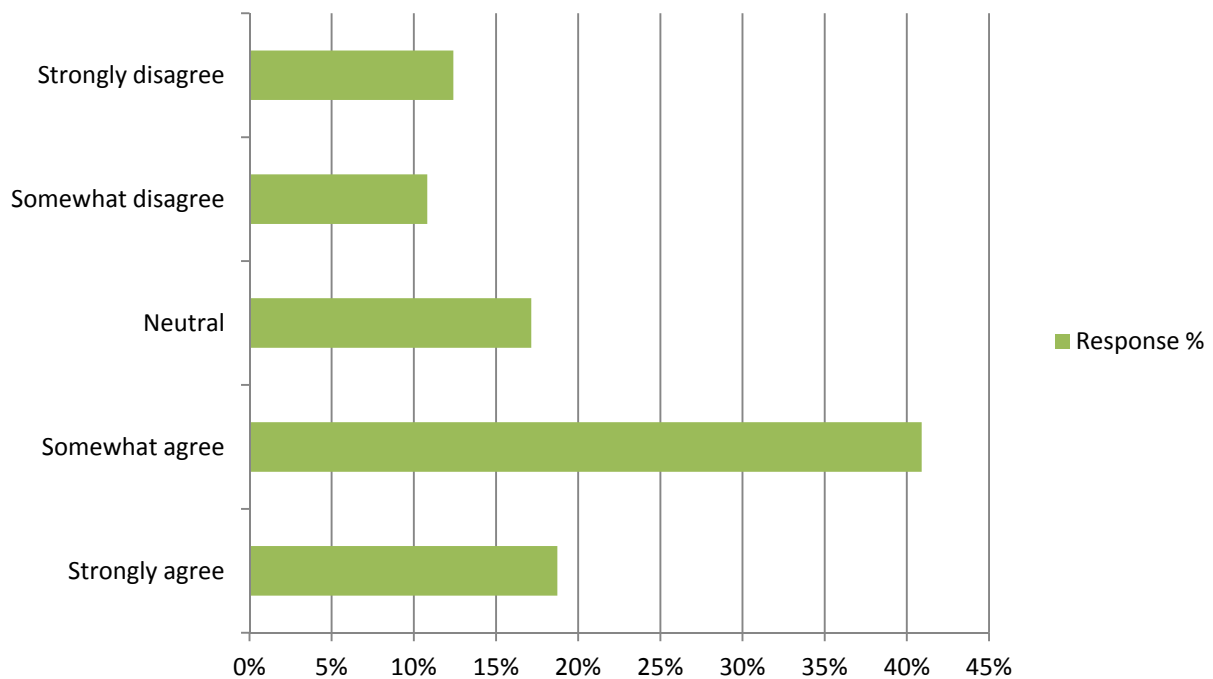
15. I am satisfied with the security of Snohomish County Parks facilities:



16. I would be willing to pay user fees to support the operation and maintenance of parks facilities:



17. I would be willing to support a short term (e.g. 5 year) funding effort to acquire and develop new park facilities:



18. Open Ended Comments (these comments are included verbatim, with the exception of removal of individual names and contact information, when provided and correction of typos):

Regarding funding, I would like the option to donate towards the maintenance and expansion of the parks system. I would donate generously because I use the parks and rec system a lot. I do not like paying individually each time I use a park facility.

Ask the KIDS what they need to stay active, busy and out of TROUBLE. TEENS NEED SOMEWHERE TO GO AND SOMETHING TO DO that they come up with and create so they "earn it" and respect it. But it has to be their ideas!!

Provide better smelling restrooms at trailheads. The new naturally composting ones are unusable during the hot summer months. Thanks!

Preserve the natural area you have first and restore others if you can. This will lead to the best long term result.

I already pay an annual fee for the parks pass but I hear that money goes into the general fund. Shouldn't that money stay in the parks system?

Would love to have an indoor pool to use year round in the south Everett area.

I like parks and think they are great to have, however if a portion of our tax money already goes for parks then access to those county parks should be free. I would support paying a fee for access to parks if no tax money goes to funding any part of the park. I think those who use recreational areas rather they be county or private should pay for the use of such areas, there is no need to tax those who don't.

We strongly oppose the Discover Pass!! We have already paid for the development of those roads and our tax dollars already pay for their maintenance! We have 3 vehicles that now require \$30/yr passes! What gives the state the right to say now we have to pay for a pass to venture outdoors?! "Your ticket to the outdoors"?? What is that? Balance the budget and quit layering fees on top of fees we already pay!

My family enjoys the park services, and it appears that there are other facilities available that we will use. Parks do not need to be fancy, just keep the open space and preserve the habitat.

This may not be the best time to implement a short term funding effort. Taxes and unemployment are high. Are there other ways to get funding i.e. gifting in wills, donations etc?

Please cut the bloated and abused food stamp, disability and assistance programs and shift this money to park maintenance, upgrades and security.

More visibility of where all the parks are and what they have to offer. Encourage more community involvement.

Please consider partnering with existing facilities before buying new park lands or facilities.

Since the Centennial Trail already exists, it makes sense to me for the county to piggy-back other facilities on this trail. We need more and easier access to the trail--by that I mean more access points with parking areas.

Levy a tax to cover costs, don't single out those who use the parks from the greater community that owns them.

Encourage community participation to maintain parks and recreational property instead of using taxes to do it,

i.e. trash pick up, raking, mowing, reseeding. We do not need to always use professional services for every need. Just need to get out the request to the public. Try it.

I wouldn't mind having a splash park/pad in the Lake Stevens area, but I also understand the economic difficulties with that. And I know there is at least one fairly nearby already. Nothing is technically free.

Make some kind of effort to keep the Park on the South Fork Stilly (River Meadows?) from washing away.

Quit developing natural areas.

Boating access on Snohomish river is important to us and we love the water access too.

Parks give us all breathing room and should absolutely be supported. Thanks for doing this survey.

The parks need to be dog friendly and off leash dog parks need to be more accessible. For me they are few and far from where I live.

Do improvements to the land on firetrail road for hiking trails

More expansive availability of children's play areas would be high on our agenda

I support and appreciate that the parks are pesticide free and that you have an integrated pest management system. I feel it is safe to have my children play at our parks and I don't have to worry about exposure to dangerous chemicals.

Keep up the good work! Thank you!!!

We would like to see more pocket parks and undeveloped areas that would be available to view the night sky or sunset/sunrise.

It's not so much that we're unwilling to pay, it's that we have no money with which to pay. If you charge user fees we will never go.

Have you thought about asking local business for support like Redmond Parks and Rec.? You could have businesses buy the names of parks in the area. For example, Redmond has Microsoft Marymoor Park.

Better outdoor lighting around the Pavilion parking areas would be safer.

I live near Legion Park. I love seeing families enjoying the park and surrounding areas. The arboretum is lovely. I would like to see the park rangers around more often. Maybe the police driving through the park once in a while.

Playgrounds should not be in parks that are in scenic, conservation or natural areas!

My only "park" experience is Esperance in unincorporated Edmonds. It is not well maintained, and there is a user element that is creepy. They hang in the woods.

You refund policy for activities is REALLY BAD. I signed up for a baseball camp at Willis Tucker park and you cancelled my son's camp just a week before it was supposed to start. I had to call your office just to pretty much beg you to give me my refund back and then when you agreed to give it to me it took more than a month to get it after I called your office numerous times and my friend and his son had the same problem. You guys cancelled the camp and then you drag your feet in giving us our refund. That was the 1st time I ever signed up for an activity thru the Parks and recreation dept. and it will also be my last. I also had my car broken into at the Willis

Tucker site about a year ago and my car was parked right close by the office. I am mostly taking this survey to express my disappointment with your services.

I encourage the use of Snohomish County parks for outdoor activities such as geocaching and letterboxing.

Yes, I would please urge the parks to not use ANY pesticides or chemicals herbicides in the parks, this includes Round-up (glyphosate)... For further info see the numerous articles on it <http://www.panna.org/search/node/Glyphosate>, this article http://www.i-sis.org.uk/EU_Regulators_Monsanto_Glyphosate_Toxicity.php and <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway/pesticide/glyphosate.htm>. Also, please do not use extremely toxic chemicals to treat fences or other woods in the park, such as Pentachlorophenol ("Penta") - see <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway/pesticide/penta.htm>, a good one to read is this <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/wood/pubs/poisonpoles/findings.html> This toxins get into our water supply, birds, insects and entire eco-system. Please help make our State and its parks safe for all living creatures and especially our children, whose growing bodies and immune system are most susceptible to harm by this toxic chemicals. PS My only concern with fees for park is that I don't want parks to become only a place that those, such as myself, who are fortunate enough to have a good paying job can go. EVERY citizen should be able to use the park, regardless of income/ wealth.

Snohomish County needs more and better maintained off-leash dog areas, and needs more off-lease water access spots.

Start a nonprofit 'Friends of Snoco Parks' with fun fundraisers. See westu.org to learn how they raise funds for parks.

If one doesn't pay for use, one does not value the park/facility, etc. The typical "the tragedy of the commons" mind set! Paying = care and value. It's as simple as that! Thank you for all you do to protect the wild areas for all to enjoy and cherish.

Cut spending on individual handouts. Increase spending on parks/trail heads/security for everyone. I should NOT have to pay to deliver my non-motorized boat to my neighborhood lake!

Newly acquired property by Lake Roesiger should be used for ORV.

Centennial Trail development through the town of Snohomish. The trail is used by all types of users of all ages. Great use of tax payer dollars.

The facilities are clean and well managed. Thank you for all of your work on the existing parks and areas. Our family appreciates the opportunities we have available to us with the Snohomish County Parks Dept.

I was born and raised here. I am 50+ and I am appalled at the limited shooting & Hunting facilities and how they have been eliminated.

While I would be willing to pay user fees (Q 17) I am cautious about supporting such fees as they might prevent lower-income families from using park facilities.

Snohomish County Map of all Parks and types of Parks

You need to address invasive species in a big way.

We need a waterfront trail

Update and maintain the playgrounds hardware for kids. Keep fees low for indoor rec areas.

My daughter plays select softball and most of our tournaments happen in south King county and Pierce county. The only softball complex that is decent in Snohomish county is the Kasch Park Athletic Complex however we have never played a tournament there. I have heard different reasons for this - cost is too much and they do not accept the ASA insurance policies. It sure would be nice to have a complex in the same caliber as South King County Fields, Celebration Park and Service Fields in Kent. What is the possibility of putting one in at the old Lynnwood High School site? I heard that there is a Costco going in (REALLY?) but I think there could be room for both and maybe Costco could contribute to help pay for it! Summer tournaments can bring in teams from Canada, Oregon and eastern Washington. This would bring in extra revenue to Snohomish county towns. Thanks for taking my suggestions.

I would strongly support a short term (e.g. 5year) funding effort to repair and upgrade the existing parks and facilities.

I strongly oppose user fees. It's important to make the parks available to anyone - even those with no money. I would support funding sources or taxes that do not affect the lowest income brackets. I would very much like to see more sidewalks and walking paths in neighborhood parks and surrounding community.

More overnight camping sites

Going to user fees is a cop-out. Might as well have private parks!

Marysville has lots of waterfront property. I would like to see the city put it to good recreational use.

Providing more bike trails.

It is very sad that low income families with this new Discover pass and what the county/city would charge leaves those people and their families out in the cold. I am tired of those people always excluded and the people with money having it all. Think about that, will you.

Cut all programs. Fire yourself. Go get a real job. Get a life that is not supported by the government. Do you get it? We can't afford you.

A pool at Willis Tucker

Would like to see a boat launch on Silver Lake in Everett.

We love the parks - both the playground and dog parks especially! We have had some trouble booking a meeting room for a nonprofit in our neighborhood - it's a cumbersome process and costly. Is there a way to make rooms more available to community residents?

Short term funding never goes away, I would support that if it truly did!

With the budget shortfalls we cannot afford to build or acquire new parks.

Consider using volunteer groups or individuals from the community to offset funding issues. Perhaps offer them a chance to earn rights to a reserved spot in the park or 1st pick as a reward for their service.

Kayak Point needs better boat access. Too many boats trying to launch in one launch. Shortage of boat parking. Hard walk up and down hill for boat trailer parking in upper lot. Theft in the upper parking lot. Rangers not much help when theft occurs.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for we who use the parks every day to make our voices heard!

Parks users are continually shouldering the burden for the growth of other government services. There are well over \$110 in fees annually to use state parks and most serious hiking trails, which are on national forest land. And that doesn't include the parking fees to use Jetty Island. Besides from the basics (police, fire, roads), parks are one of the few government services I use. Given how much parks users already pay in extra taxes, it's time government cuts come from someplace else.

There seems to be great county parks in Snohomish County, but the park closest to our house, Forsgren Park, is out of date, especially the play equipment. I have 2 kids and one on the way and they don't like the play structure. It doesn't have the variety that most playgrounds have and it does not have enough play choices for younger kids (2-4 year olds). I would love to see the play structure updated and would support a funding effort to pay for the update. There are a lot of kids in our surrounding area yet the park is not often full (I think because of the quality of the play equipment). We usually have to drive to another park, because of the lack of interest our kids have in it. Also, We would love to have a community center/indoor swimming pool and tennis courts in our area. The closest one for us is Mountlake Terrace. Again I wouldn't mind paying user fees for such a facility.

I could not get the survey to accept my responses on many of the items. Not sure why

Please be more cost effective. Example: plant perennials instead of annual flowers. We found it rather wasteful (seen this summer at Forest Park).

I would like to make sure that public off-leash dog parks are well supported. Thank you.

Parking for long trailers and vehicles. I.e. motor homes, horse trailers, equipment vans and trailers.

I can't even think of where any Snohomish County Parks are. But I'd like to have some available for walking without getting mugged.

More off leash areas

In order to have healthy, happy, and productive lives, we need the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and the natural beauty of Snohomish County. Especially our youth. Families need inexpensive places to go as a family unit.

Thank you! Green space is so important.

Maintain what we have, preserve natural areas and areas for animals, keep parks clean and open for all walks of life.

Please spend less money. The last thing you should be doing in this economy is spending tax dollars on things that are nice, but we can live without.

Not a time to raise taxes

Do away with the 35.00 user fee's I will not pay it won't use the area

Don't forget us in south Snohomish county!

We need more good dog areas, North Everett has hundreds of dogs and no areas designated. The wetlands park between Marysville and North Everett has a great space but instead it is used for drug deals and sex acts. The small mud pit / dust bowl depending on the season in Lowell is hardly fun for dogs, and the beach access near

Mukilteo is a "car break in" trap with no quick access back to your vehicle.

Reopen Reiter pit in Gold Bar soon.

More large RV sites and we would then be more inclined to use the parks that are within our county

As an 82 yr old widow I can hardly be the ideal user of these facilities but I do have kids, grandkids and visitors who may be interested in all this. I moved into the area of Alderwood Manor in 1961 and have lived ever since in the area(Mountlake Terrace - unincorporated Lynnwood and now Brier)

Safety is the most important thing to me, I would like to see horse or walking patrols on the most populated trails

Would appreciate more hiking trails to remote areas. I despise ATVs and the damage they do to otherwise unspoiled areas.

Thanks for maintaining the quality of our parks.

I think Edmonds should have an indoor pool. I think Edmonds should get kayaking and canoeing businesses going on the waterfront. thank you

Offering of senior prices to the parks or a long term pass

Still waiting for a shooting park/range in the county.

Yes. You took away our off leash dog park and ruining it at Willis D. Tucker park. The gravel (unlike what was there, dirt) hurts my feet & back. My dog's feet hurt and it's very hard for her to walk on. It sucks!! Please change it back.

I really enjoy the off leash areas for dogs - this is very important to me. I really enjoy Loganberry park - nicely maintained and a very beautiful location.

The South County Park (off Olympic View drive, near Perrinville) is a beautiful location for adding some longer walking trails. Having more people walking amidst these beautiful trees would be a nice change for south county residents. (Somehow discouraging paintball warriors would be nice, too.) Meadowdale Beach park is a gem. Keeping the parks free (with voluntary user fees) seems better than charging mandatory fees. Thanks for asking.

With skate parks and other trails being in abundance throughout the County. We have NO off-road vehicle parks to take our kids to ride their dirtbikes.

The Martha Lake Municipal Airport park is AWESOME. A fabulous job was done on this park. It is used a lot by people in the nearby neighborhoods. The remodeled Lynnwood Rec Center is awesome as well.

My home value is down, but my property taxes are disproportionately up. It would be difficult to support any type of levy or increase in property tax for parks and recreation. It should be site-specific user fees. You use, you pay.

Re # 18 above.....not for NEW park facilities but yes to improving present facilities

Downsize the entire operation. Maintain what you have. Sell off what doesn't provide a reasonable cost/benefit return. We are in the middle of a recession. This is not the time to be growing government!

Restroom safety and cleanliness is important to me.

I think it is more important to maintain what we have than to develop new facilities.

I do support the addition of user fees if they are not large. With the way the economy is progressing, the introduction of user fees that are more than a dollar or so per person per visit (depending on the area and purpose of the location) might cause people to stop doing these activities. If it cost even \$2 or \$3 to go for a quick hike in the afternoon, I probably wouldn't go. A \$10 or \$15 per person year pass for all Snohomish County activities might be a good way to go. It would be an excellent way to bring in some extra revenue, but not deter people from purchasing. Perhaps family passes could also be introduced so that families are not having to refrain from amazing and gorgeous outdoor activities because of the price. This would encourage an active lifestyle for the children too.

Why do some parks have \$7 fees and others none? This issue alone would cause me to vote against any additional funding effort.

Thanks you. There are no facilities in the South Snohomish County area above Woodinville. Roads are too dangerous to walk dogs. Trails nearby are non-existent. I need to go to distant King County parks for recreational walking. Wellington Hills Golf Course should be acquired for the future as a regional facility with as many uses as are possible. Also, please hang on to what natural areas are left before growth chews up important wildlife habitat. Thank you for the survey. Please send me the results when available.

It is nice to be able to get out and hike/walk for exercise without having to drive to another city/county. I am excited for this project. Thank you for allowing input!

As a participant in the development of the projected park on 33rd pl w in Lynnwood, I would like to remind planners we decided on a natural, non-invasive bordered park to the properties N & S of its location. Would also like any updates on projected development.

We need to keep off road sites available and improve our children's soccer field availability.

Stand by your agreements with your neighbors and keep the facilities trimmed and looking good!

As I answer these questions, I realize I have little current perspective of the conditions and use of our counties resources. It's a big county. I need to get out more. Pay attention. These resources need to be available to all citizens of the county, not just the ones who pay. A suggestion: make people aware of the numerous opportunities and places - regularly - so we visit. We get stuck in the groves of our life.

We think you do a wonderful job....it's the government spending in general that is upsetting. Waste and fraud should be cut so that there are funds for this area!

No

There is a serious drug use problem at the skate parks this should be address more forcefully

Clean and safe facilities

Thank You!!!

If there were more indoor playgrounds I think the outdoor playgrounds would be less busy on sunny days. Also, it would give children on opportunity to get out and play even on a rainy day.

Maintain what you have, pick up the trash.

Open park areas are vital to give our young families who live in population dense areas a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

You do an AWESOME job in the Everett area. I wish you wouldn't take out all the beautiful flowers along Mukilteo Blvd at Forest Park so soon. You could have left them in for another 2 or 3 weeks. They were still in beautiful bloom. Also, some of the leafy trees at Harbor View Park are starting to obscure the beautiful Harbor view more and more. Trim them or cut them now before they get too big. The needle trees are OK, but the leafy ones grow too fast. In a couple of years, Harbor View Park will have to have a name change to Where's the Harbor View Park. Especially take down the big leafy trees behind the flag pole that are between the park and the pit. They're obstructing more and more of the beautiful park view. Other than that, the parks are beautifully maintained and appreciated. Thank you for asking the public's thoughts.

More cycling paths in and around the city's with safety in mind.....

Focusing on native plants and wildlife while landscaping parks is important.

Family friendly areas (including our dogs) for picnics etc that DO NOT allow alcohol consumption

Your direction of more fees and taxes are making it very difficult for one income and/or low income families to enjoy the parks in our area. We use the local parks for our homeschool education as well as our family's camping/recreation as we cannot afford to travel far from home. The continual fees are very upsetting to us and causing us to contemplate moving from this area/state. Many other states have more user friendly parks and recreation close to where the majority of the population resides (i.e. - Missouri).

Proper rest room facilities for the Centennial Trail and other similar trail facilities should be constructed ASAP. The portable toilets are disgusting. They greatly diminish the quality of the county's largest and most expensive park. The parking lots should also be paved as striped. Trail pavement should be repaired more quickly when it buckles. Dips and upward creases are extremely dangerous to cycling children and everyone on skates.

I believe parks should be maintained on a scale of manicured to wilderness based on the ownership level of the park: city parks should be manicured with no wild areas, county parks should have a convenience area with maintained trails through the wild areas, and national parks should have only basic facilities and basic maintenance of trails. Maintenance dollars per square mile of park, perceived security, range of facilities available, etc. should likewise follow similar scales.

Hire more rangers - they appear to be spread way too thin.

Keep the bike trails well maintained.

Take care of existing facilities before spending our tax money on new facilities. After paying taxes to support these facilities for over 50 years, we are not enthused about user fees imposed on us.

More parks/updated play area for younger children

We need more scenic running trails that DON'T smell of raw sewage!

Focus on using what we have.

In 2008 I was forced to drive 1 hour from the trail head and leave 5 eleven year old boys to go purchase a trail pass (which I buy every year-including another \$4-500 in licenses and fees). I am an avid outdoorswoman (clean up others garbage-remind people not to cut trails etc.) and that day sticks in my craw bad. It is not the way to make allies in this economy.

We camp with a motor home so overhead and side clearance is important to us. You also need to consider your camp host because they have a big impact on how much we enjoy our stay. Some appear to us as work release from prison. They have a don't screw me demeanor.

The children's play area in Maltby (next to the ball fields) needs to be completely renovated. I am a stay at home mom in the area and do not have a decent park close by to take the kids. There are a lot of families in the area who would benefit from a new playground that included structures for tots as well as older children, a better picnic area with more tables, swings for the young children, and a better trail. The current playground is boring for kids and is unusable in the winter and spring because poor drainage causes huge mud puddles. As a former city planner for Bellevue I have a uniquely qualified to participate in this process and would be happy to help brainstorm ideas for a park for those of us who need a useable outdoor recreation structure in Maltby. All the facilities are there (bathrooms, baseball/soccer fields). It is a shame the play structure is so poor.

I am very impressed with the two facilities I occasionally use: McCullough and Willis Tucker

Discover Pass keeps people way. Charge for day use, boat launch, parking, camping, fishing and hunting licenses, etc. Too many fees. Provide more liter barrels at exit points for park users. I live within 1 mile of a park. Every day during the summer I pick up liter along the road leaving the park. Including a lot of beer cans from river rafters. My back yard border is the south fork of the Stillaguamish river. I get litter from both sides. I have discontinued using parks and hiking Mt. Pilchuck due to excess fees. You have a difficult job at a difficult time. Families cannot afford \$50 - \$100 per day for a visit to a park. How much does it cost to camp for a week? Too much!

Dog parks, access to Ballinger lake

I love Everett Parks - We use them often. N.W. Neighborhood Park, Legion, Forest Park, Would like more off leash parks closer to city.

As a one time ago user of State Parks and County Parks my late husband and I thought it would be nice to have "roughing it" parks for self contained units only. No improvements other than level spots and fire pit with table.

A park or greenway where bird watchers could view birds in a natural setting.

Parks are a place you are supposed to be able to have fun without spending money.

Snohomish County needs an ORV Park. I have to go to Skagit County to ride my dirt bike.

I would like to see bushes and trees trimmed away from the walkways. To leave the 4 ft sidewalk clean. No bushes hanging over either. I do not like the branches hang over on me.

Keep dogs out of parks. Dog attack and injure people. Charge fees, big time, for anything that includes dogs.

I've taken my grandkids to our parks for years. I've watched them improve and enjoyed them.

Did not answer 14, 15 and 16 as we do not use county parks and haven't for a few years due to our age and other factors. Thank you for sending this paper copy!

SAD to see large kids on the play equipment, over 11, and parents

Please consider conversion basketball courts, and tennis courts

Use some of low-risk (to public) offenders to help clean; parks, beaches, underbrush, equipment, etc.)

Thank you!

Why does government need to be responsible for this type of facilities (special use)? How can one choose just one activity pertaining to each category? Although I rarely visit County parks I recognize the importance of easy access to such facilities and areas. I trust that Wenberg Park is being well maintained as it is an exceptional area. Our family has utilized it since the 1950's.

I would like to see the tract of land on south Davies Rd. in Lake Stevens, between Stitch Lake and Lake Stevens, turned into a multi-use park with walking trails, archery area, maybe picnic spots and areas to observe any wetland areas that can't be mitigated or reclaimed. I think even elevated walkways could be interesting. The general population needs parkland to enjoy. Most of the parks around Lake Stevens are orientated toward swimmers and watercraft devotees, as well as some fishermen. People run and walk along the very narrow walkway on the west side of Davies Rd. Very dangerous and congested during the summer months! The area I'm referring to along Davies, east of 9th place, is a very large area that could include walking/jogging trails, event areas, camping (possibly) and just general relaxation areas. No ballfields! No cruising allowed! In other words, a park! A green space where people can, walk, read, think, breathe, enjoy and escape from the "doing" recreational areas. In developing this park, a real asset could be gained for the county. And, of course, the neighborhoods across from the park would increase in value as well, if the development were along the lines of Greenlake. There would have to be sufficient parking so people from the surrounding area could get in, run or job the paths and elevated walks and head on out to their activities. Meanwhile, others could take advantage of the quiet serenity to paint a picture, practice some archery, play a game of bocce ball or badminton, or just read a book. On consideration I as a homeowner would enjoy, would be the implementation of height limit for some of the very large trees now obscuring our lake/mountain view. But if this park could be built, just the addition of such an amenity would counter balance the loss of view, because a nicely kept park can be both seen and used.