



A Parks Plan for All

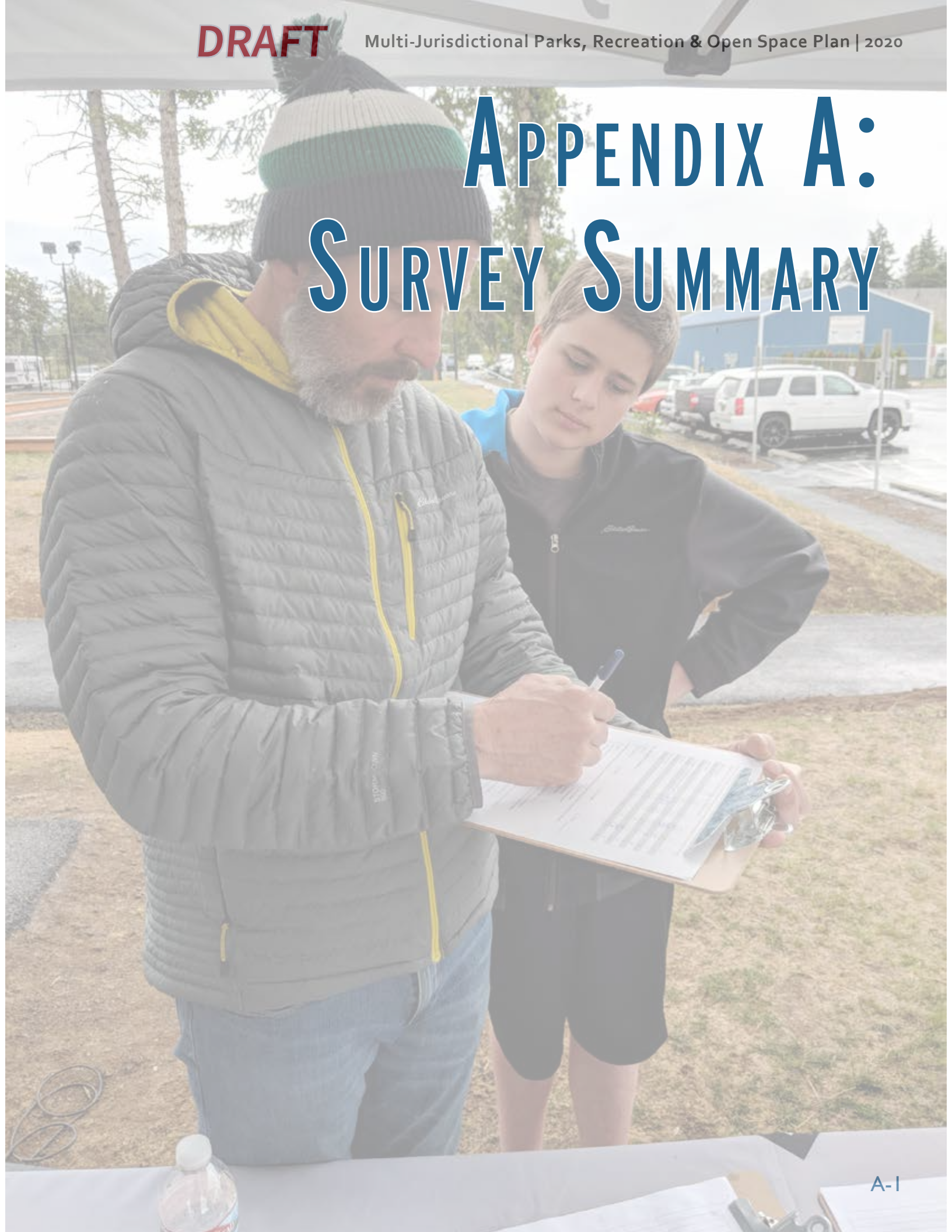
Hood River Area

**Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan
Supplemental Planning Material**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix A: Survey Summary	A-1
Appendix B: Open House Meeting Summary	A-23
Appendix C: Focus Group Meeting Notes	A-41
Appendix D: Stakeholder Interview Summaries	A-53
Appendix E: Guiding Documents.....	A-61
Appendix F: Implementation Tactics	A-65
Appendix G: Recreational Trends	A-73

APPENDIX A: SURVEY SUMMARY





To: Mark Hickok, Executive Director, Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: November 15, 2018
Re: **Hood River Valley**
Community Survey on Parks and Recreation – Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the Hood River Valley Park & Recreation District that assesses residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities.

KEY FINDINGS

District residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents think parks and recreation are important to quality of life in the Hood River Valley; 87% of respondents consider them essential.

Residents visit parks, trails and recreation facilities frequently.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents visit parks or recreation facilities at least once a week. Nearly all visit at least once per year.

Residents want to see more places to walk and bike and to recreate indoors.

In multiple ways, respondents indicated their desire for more urban walking and biking trails, road biking routes, and trail biking routes. Respondents, particularly those who live in Hood River, would also like to see more indoor recreation facilities and programs.

Residents would like to see improvements made to the parks & recreation system, including the Aquatic Center, and are willing to pay more to fund it.

A majority of respondents are supportive of building or expanding trails, acquiring more parkland in west Hood River and in the Mid and Upper Valley, acquiring natural areas, replacing the aquatic center and creating a new community center.

More than half of respondents said they would vote in favor of bond issues to replace the aquatic center (62%) or expand and develop local trail connections (56%). A majority of respondents (56%) would support a full replacement of the aquatic facility with a new combination aquatic and community center. To support these improvements, nearly half of respondents (48%) would be willing to pay \$10 or more per month, with another 26% willing to pay between \$6 and \$9 per month.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with staff and the Technical Advisory Committee, Conservation Technix developed the 16-question survey that was estimated to take approximately five minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the boundaries of the District on September 14th, and surveys were collected from to October 31, 2018. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on October 2, 2018. In all, 447 survey responses were received from the mail survey. While the survey design accommodated a random sample of households (both owner-occupied and rentals), the survey did not use a controlled collection protocol to establish quotas by age, gender or language. In particular, the survey did not get a strong response from:

- Younger residents: Residents between the age of 15 to 34 are slightly under-represented, they make up 25% of the District's population but only 11% of survey respondents. Older residents, particularly those over 55, are slightly over-represented in the sample (28% of population compared to 44% of respondents).
- Spanish speakers: 28% of District residents speak a Spanish at home, however only one Spanish-language survey was completed.

In addition to the mail survey, an online version of the survey was posted to the District's website and made available to the general public. Information on the online survey was posted on September 19th and closed on October 22nd, 2018. An additional 135 surveys were completed online by members of the general public.

Respondents to the online-only version were significantly more likely to have children in the household (73%) and were more predominantly aged 35 to 44 (43%) than respondents to the mail survey. They also use parks and recreation facilities more frequently than the mail survey respondents (80% use at least once a week) and were more likely to think that there are not enough parks and recreation facilities. They indicated higher use of, or interest in, the aquatic center and were more likely to want to support full replacement of the facility. For other questions, their responses were similar to those provided by respondents to the mail survey.

This report includes findings on general community opinions. Data are aggregated and summarized for the mail and online surveys to highlight overall community preferences, with clarifying remarks on response differences between the two datasets. The data for the mail and online versions were kept separated. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The main survey data were cross tabulated with the demographic data (e.g., age, location, number of children in household) to examine if differences existed between the different respondent subgroups. The summary below identifies variations in responses per question, if such variations existed and were significant between subgroups.

FULL RESULTS

How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Nearly all residents (97%) feel that local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in the Hood River Valley. Nearly nine in ten feel that they are essential; while an additional 10% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Only 3% of respondents believe parks are “a luxury, and currently overfunded relative to other local needs”. Respondents over 55, and those from Parkdale or Odell, identified parks and recreation as not necessary or a luxury by slightly higher percentages.

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in the Hood River Valley, would you say that local parks, recreation options and open space are...

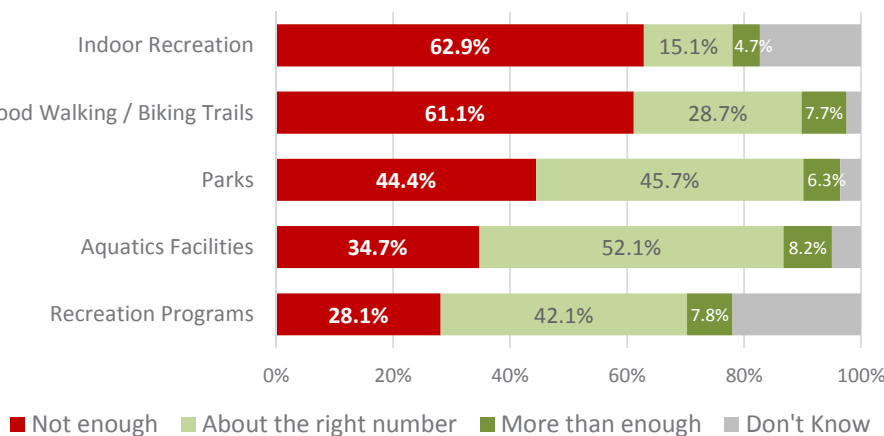
Response options	Percent	
Essential to the quality of life here	87%	97%
Important, but not really necessary	10%	
A luxury, and currently overfunded...	3%	
Don't know	<1%	

Do residents think the Hood River Valley needs more parks, trails, and recreation opportunities?

More than half of survey respondents think that the Valley does not have enough indoor recreation opportunities (63%) or neighborhood walking and biking trails (61%). Respondents felt that there were ‘about the right number’ or ‘more than enough’ aquatic facilities (60%) and parks (52%). Respondents were split on the adequacy of recreation programs, with close to half feeling there are about the right number (42%) or more than enough (7.8%), but similar numbers responding that there are not enough (28%) or they were unsure (22%)

Respondents under the age of 65 were more likely to think that there are not enough park and recreation opportunities than those over 65. There were no significant differences by location, ownership status or households with/without children.

2. When it comes to meeting the needs for parks, recreation programs, indoor recreation & aquatics facilities, and trails, would you say there are...

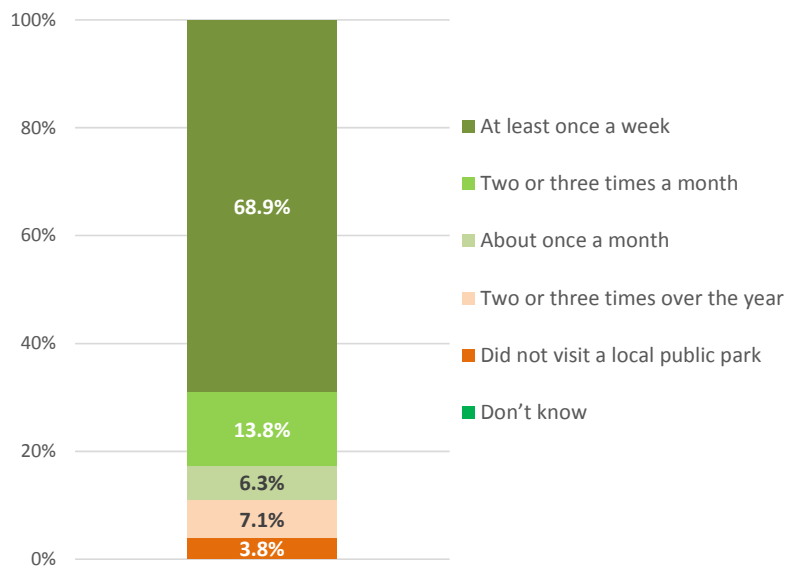


How often do residents use local parks & recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked how often they visit or use a local park or recreation facility in the Hood River Valley. Respondents overwhelmingly visit frequently, with 69% visiting at least once a week and another 20% visiting one to three times per month. Very few (4%) do not visit local parks or recreation facilities.

As compared to other age groups, adults under the age of 55 are the most frequent users of the Valley's parks & recreation facilities – over 90% visit at least twice per month. However, older residents also visit often, with over 55% visiting at least twice per month. Residents of Hood River are approximately two times more likely to visit parks or recreation facilities regularly as compared to residents of Parkdale, Odell or Dee. Residents with children in the household were more likely to be more frequent visitors to parks and recreation facilities than those without children.

3. How often do you visit or use a local park or recreation facility in Hood River Valley?



Why do residents visit parks?

Hood River Valley residents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are using trails to walk, run or bike (79%) and visiting the waterfront or riverfront (79%).

More than half of respondents visited to attend an event, concert or festival (52%) or to relax (51%), while 49% visited for swimming or water sports (47%). Traditional park activities, like using playgrounds, gathering with family or using an athletic field, were a main reason why some (29%-43%) residents visited parks.

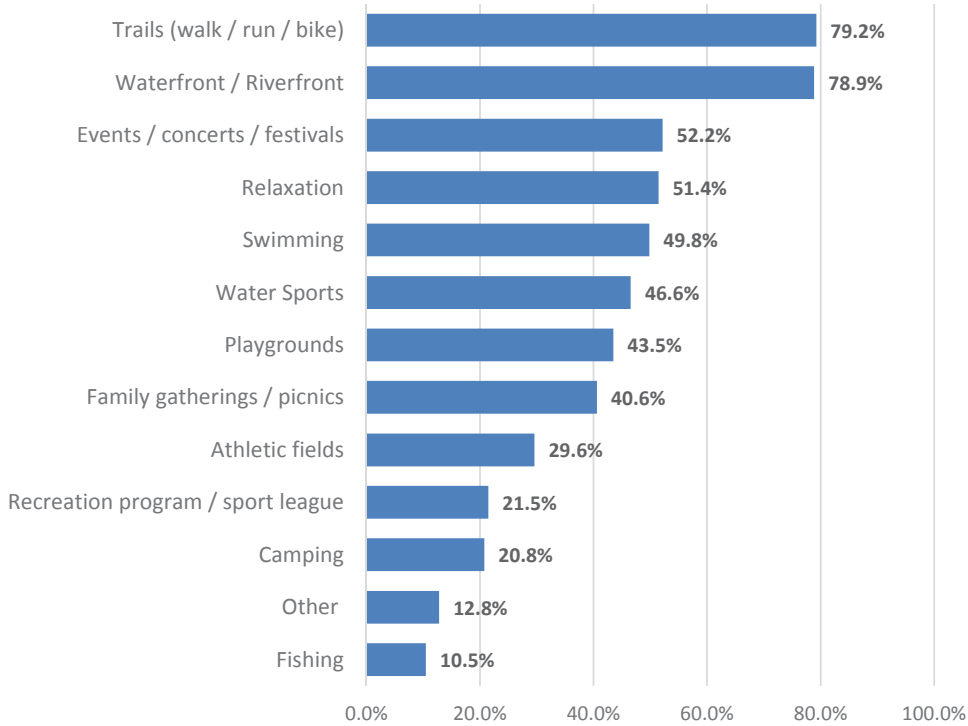
Fewer than one in four respondents visited a park or facility to camp (21%), participate in a recreation program or sports league (21%), or fish (10%). In addition, 26 respondents (6%) wrote in that they visit parks to walk or play with their dogs.

Respondents aged 35 to 44, who were the most likely to have children in their household, were the most likely to visit for playgrounds, family gatherings, and events or festivals. Respondents over 65 were less likely to visit for recreation programs, sport fields, camping or fishing. Respondents from Odell were more likely than the average to visit for family gatherings and picnics. Renters were more likely than the average to visit for relaxation.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Hood River Valley area parks in the last year?



Why don't residents visit more often?

When asked why they do not use Hood River Valley parks and recreation facilities more often, over half (52%) responded "None / I regularly use local parks...". Approximately one in five respondents identified that the facility, program, or equipment they are looking for is not offered (22%). Other top concerns included that parks and courts are too busy (14%), uncertainty about what is offered (13%).

Few respondents cited concerns about park and facility maintenance (5%), road conditions (2%) safety (2%), and customer service (2%). Some residents do not visit because they are too busy (12%); use facilities provided by other entities instead of public parks (9%); or their physical abilities restrict their use (3%).

5. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Hood River Valley parks or recreation facilities more often.

Reason	Percent
Facility or program is not offered	14.8%
Parks and sports courts are too busy	13.7%
I do not know what is offered	12.6%
Too busy to go to parks	11.3%
Parks and facilities are too far from my home	10.2%
Fees are too high	9.2%
Use parks or facilities provided by other organizations	8.6%
Parks do not have the right equipment	7.3%
Facility operating hours are not convenient	5.8%
Parks and facilities are not well maintained	5.5%
Inaccessible due to road conditions	3.2%
Inaccessible for my physical abilities	2.8%
Do not feel safe in park or facility	2.3%

What park and recreation options do residents have a need for? Do they feel their needs are met?

The survey asked residents two questions regarding their need for typical park and recreation facilities. The first asked which facilities the respondent’s household has a need for; the second, whether that need is well met, somewhat met, or unmet locally.

Respondents indicated that the highest unmet needs are for spray parks/splash pads, indoor fitness facilities, off-leash dog areas, and road and trail biking routes. Respondents also have a high need for urban walking trails, nature/wildlife viewing opportunities, aquatic and community centers, and picnic areas, but feel that this need is only somewhat met by existing facilities. On the other end of the scale, respondents expressed little additional need for BMX/pump tracks, skateparks, and baseball/ softball fields.

In general, the use and interest in listed facilities was highest among respondents aged 35-54, then declined among older respondents. Respondents from Hood River were more likely to express a need for trail biking routes, off-leash dog areas and indoor fitness facilities than residents of the Valley’s smaller communities.

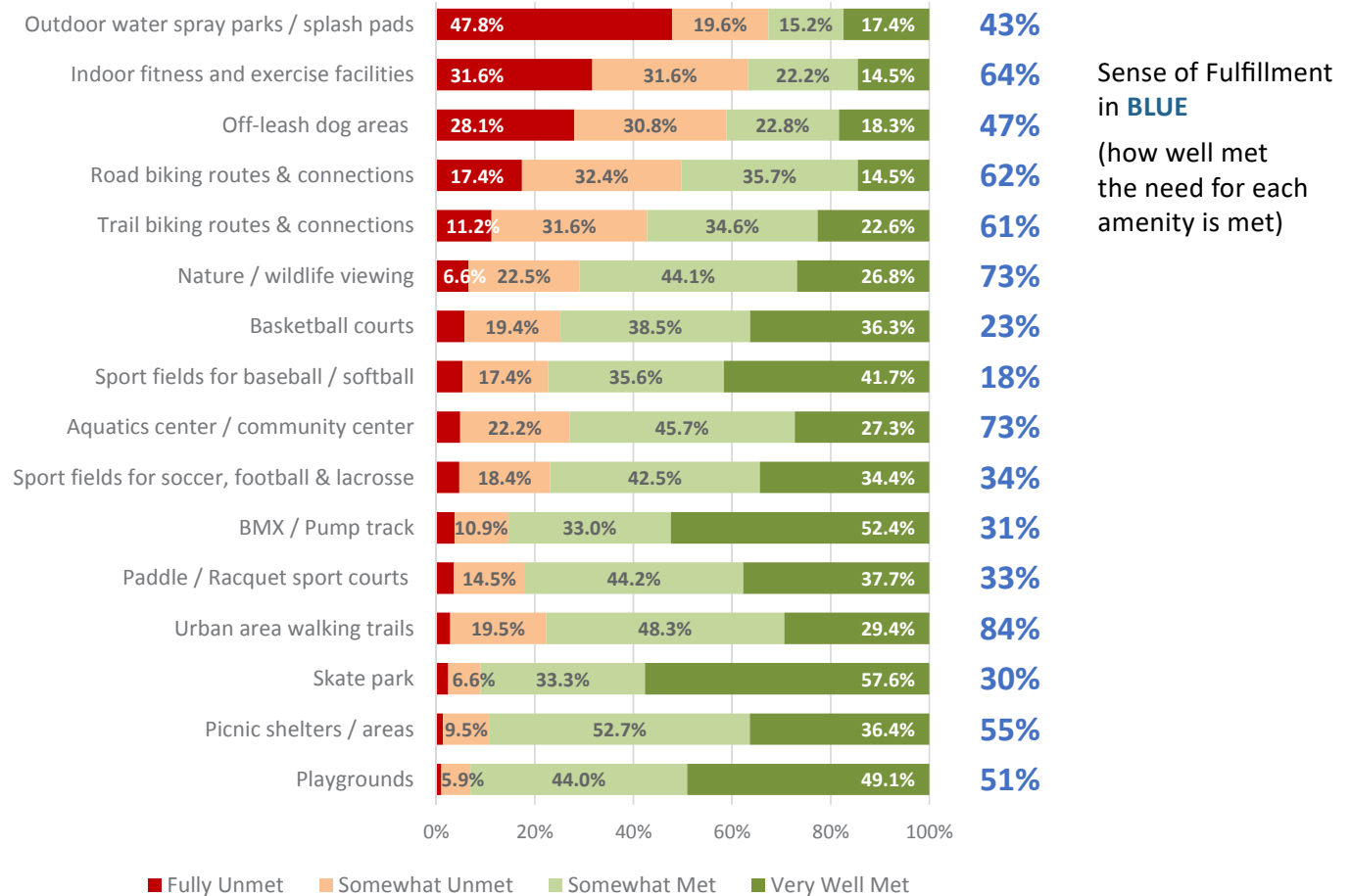
6. Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the park and recreation amenities or facilities listed and indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Higher Need / Well Met	Higher Need / Somewhat Met	Higher Need / Unmet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds (51% / 49%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban walking trails (84% / 48%) Nature / wildlife viewing (73% / 44%) Aquatic / community centers (73% / 46%) Picnic shelters / areas (55% / 53%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor fitness facilities (64% / 63%) Off-leash dog areas (47% / 59%) Road biking routes (62% / 50%) Trail biking routes (61% / 43%)
Lower Need / Well Met	Lower Need / Somewhat Met	Lower Need / Unmet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMX / pump track (31% / 52%) Skatepark (30% / 58%) Baseball / softball fields (18% / 42%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddle / racquet courts (33% / 44%) Fields for soccer / football (34% / 43%) Basketball courts (23% / 39%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water spray parks (43% / 67%)

Respondents aged 35 to 44, who were the most likely to have children in their household, identified a greater need for picnic shelters, playgrounds, sport courts and fields, BMX and skate facilities, and splash pads. Respondents over 65 showed less for road and trail biking routes; however, this subgroup had an equal interest in urban walking trails compared to the average. Respondents who own second homes in Hood River identified greater need than the average for road and trail biking routes and indoor fitness facilities. No significant differences were noted by location.

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Community Survey on Parks and Recreation



What park and facility improvements would residents prioritize?

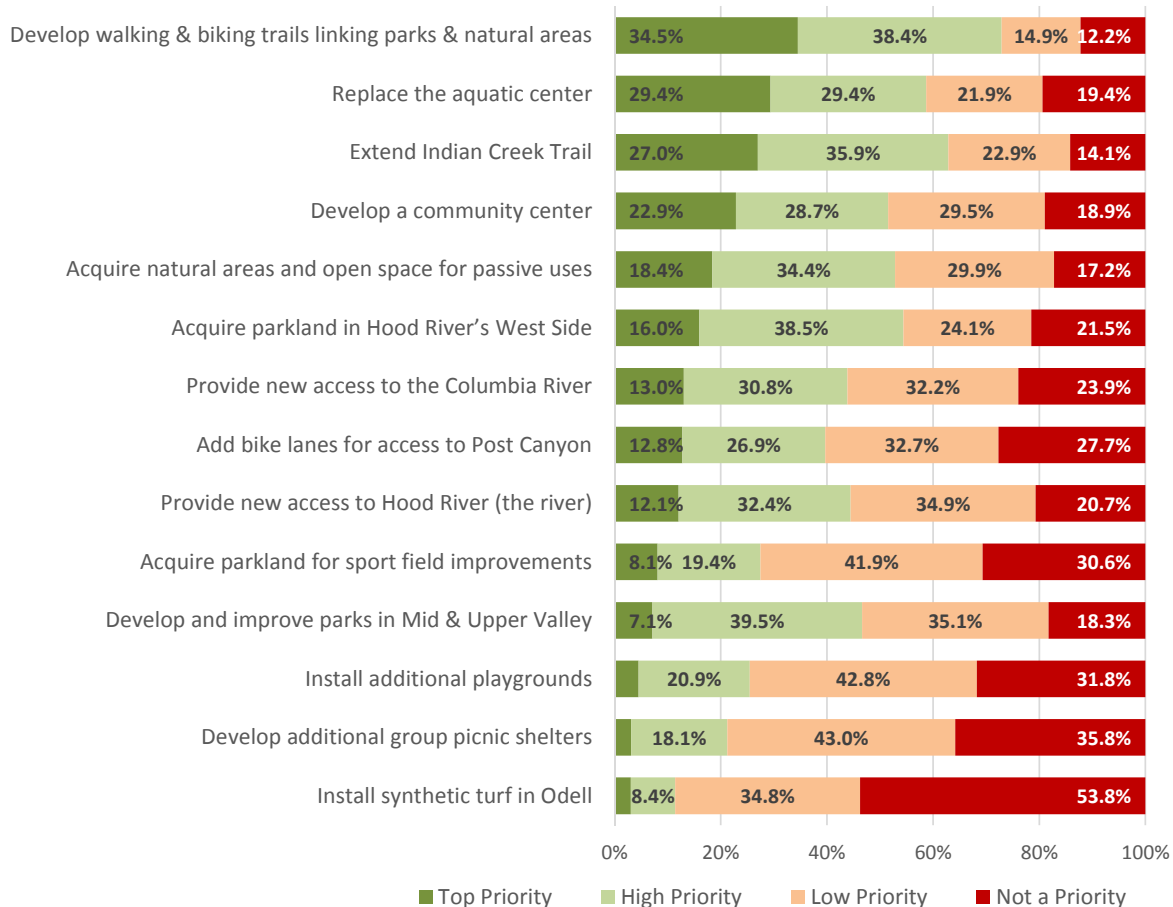
When asked which parks and recreation improvements they would like included in the new plan, respondents ranked trail projects – including developing new trails and extending the Indian Creek Trail – as the top priority. Over half of residents gave top or high priority to replacing the aquatic center, acquiring natural areas, developing a community center, and acquiring parkland in Hood River’s Westside.

Improvements located in a specific area of the Valley (e.g. extending the Indian Creek Trail) tended to be prioritized by respondents who live nearby. Respondents in households with children and those between the ages 35 and 54 were rated the aquatic center and the community center as top or high priority by higher margins than average.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

7. Next is a list of improvements and facilities that may be considered in the new Plan. Each one would be funded by your tax dollars. For each item, indicate whether you think that type of facility should be a Top Priority, a High Priority, a Low Priority, or Not a Priority at all.

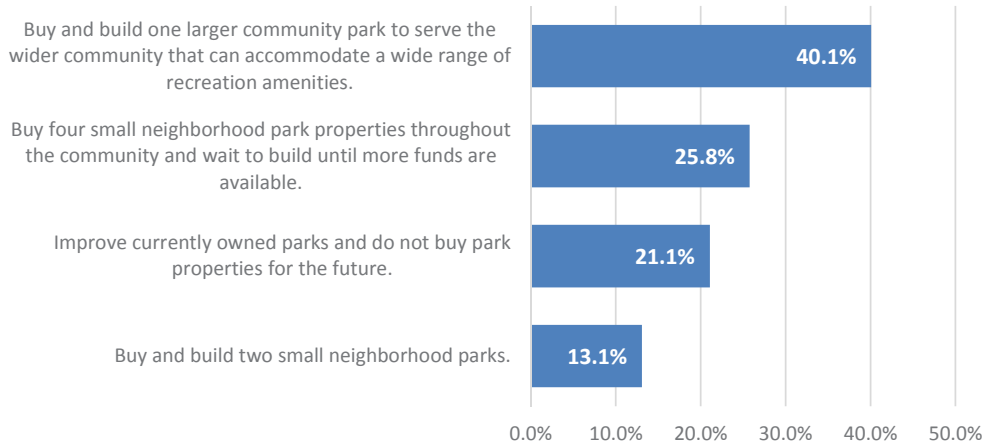


When asked how they would prioritize improvements to meet the needs of a growing community, a plurality (40%) of respondents prioritized acquiring and building a single, large community park. About one in four respondents would prioritize buying four neighborhood park properties, but waiting until more funds were available to develop them. One in five would prioritize improving currently owned parks and not acquiring additional parkland. Acquiring and building two neighborhood parks was the least popular option, as a priority for 13% of respondents. No significant differences existed between any of the demographic subgroups.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

12. The Hood River Valley is expected to grow a lot in coming years, and funds are limited...how would you choose to spend these funds to meet the needs of the growing community?



Do residents use, or have interest in using, recreational activities and programs provided by local agencies? Do they feel like their needs are being met?

The survey posed a series of questions about residents' use and need for recreational programs and amenities. The first two questions asked about their use, or interest, in using a variety of recreational programs or activities provided by local park and recreation agencies.

More than half of respondents have used, or have an interest in using, aquatics and swim lessons/leagues.

Between 33% and 45% of respondents indicated an interest or use in performing arts, community theater or concerts, adult enrichment and educational classes, and children's and youth activities, ranging from sport programs to summer camps.

Programs that target narrower groups of people – such as teenagers, adults over 55, and people who have special needs – were used by, or of interest to, fewer respondents (19-29%).

Adults between 45 and 54 years of age and those who live in Hood River had the highest level of use, or interest in, most recreational programs. Respondents from Parkdale, Dee and Odell indicated greater interest and need for children's program (afterschool and summer) and youth activities (music, arts/crafts and fitness).

8. Please indicate if your household has used, has interest in each of the programs or activities, whether you find the programs to be affordable, and indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Highest use or interest

More than 50% of respondents

- Aquatics, swim leagues & lessons (58%)

Moderate use or interest

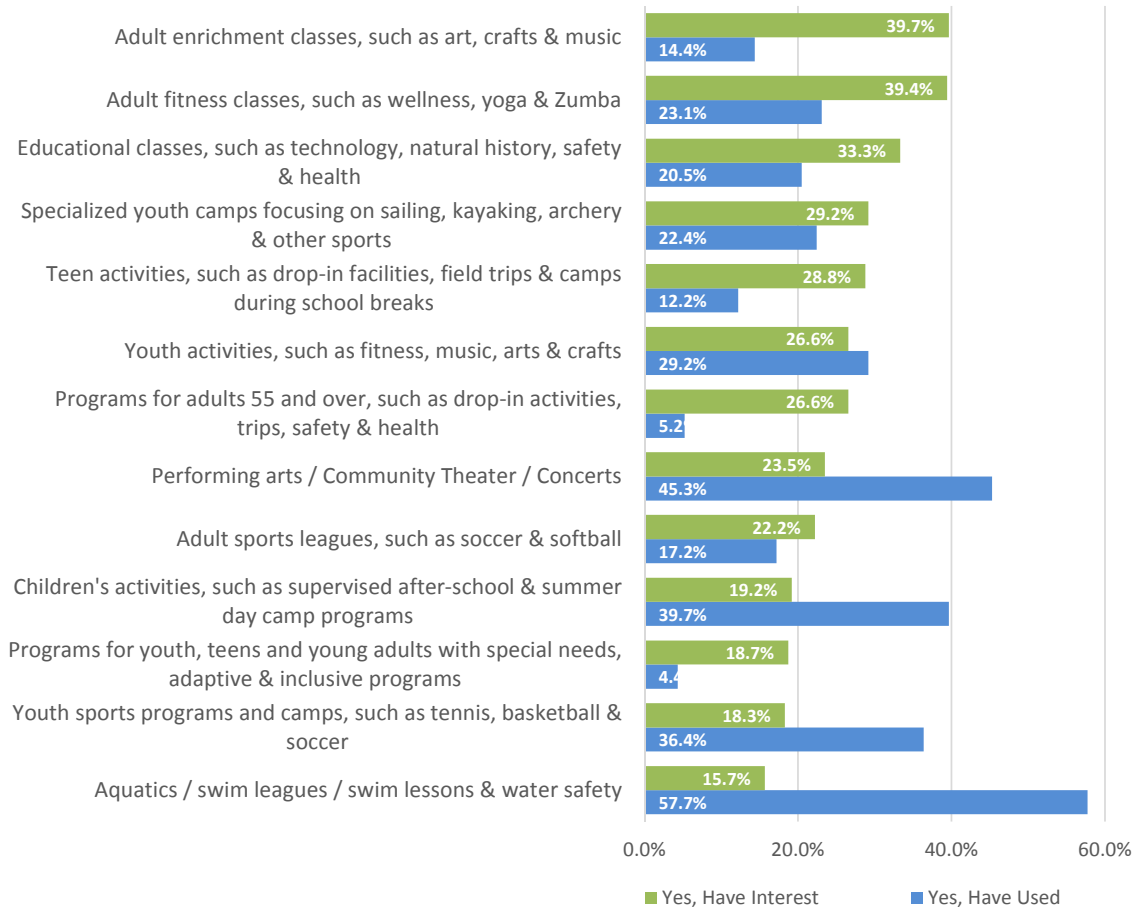
30 to 50% of respondents

- Performing arts, theater, concerts (45%)
- Adult enrichment classes (40%)
- Children's activities and camps (40%)
- Adult fitness classes (39%)
- Youth sports programs (36%)
- Educational classes (33%)

Lowest use or interest

Less than 30% of respondents

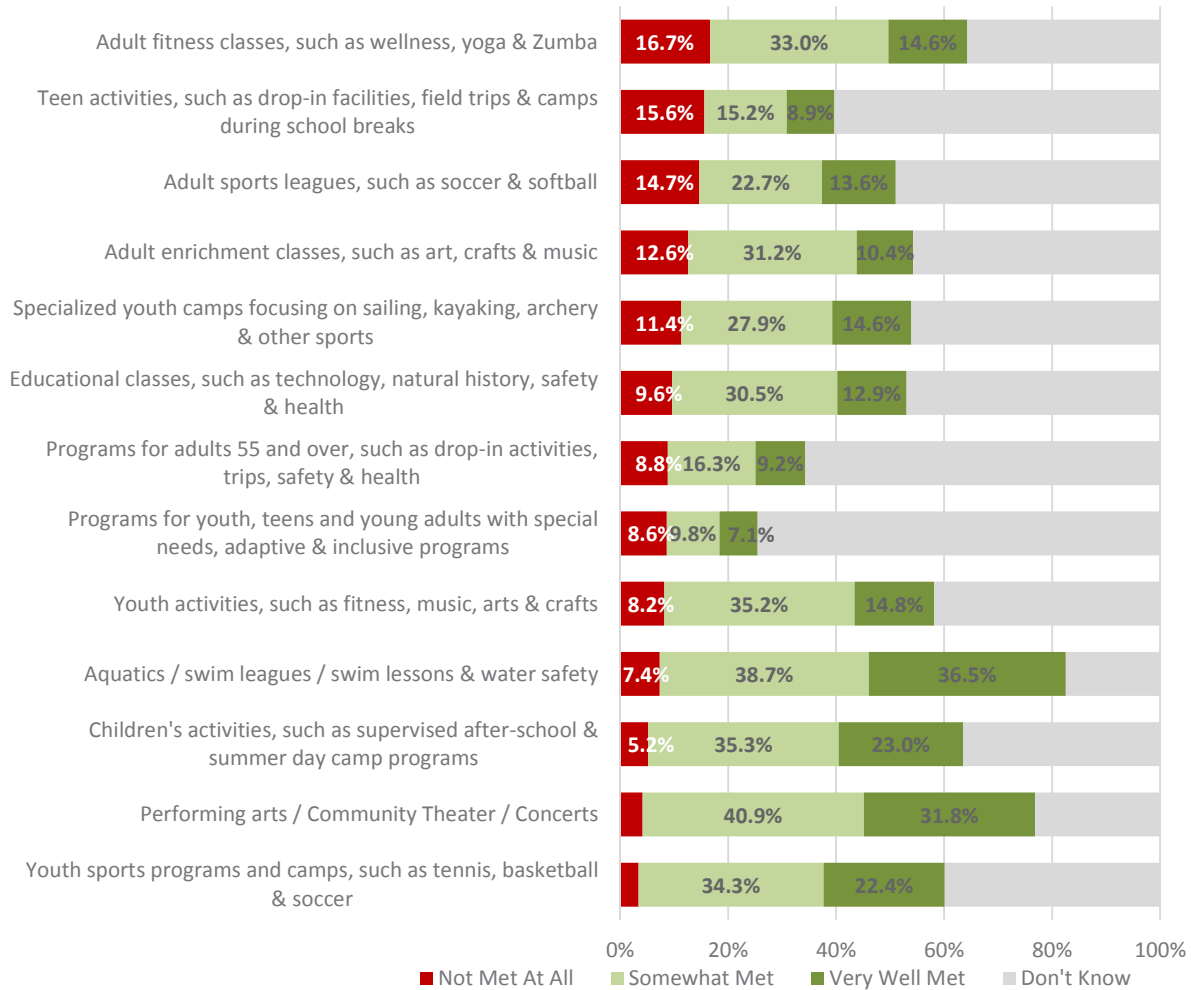
- Specialized youth camps (29%)
- Youth activities (29%)
- Teen activities (29%)
- Programs for adults 55 and over (27%)
- Adult sports leagues (22%)
- Adaptive and inclusive programs (19%)



A majority of respondents indicated that their need for these recreational programs and activities was very well or somewhat met by existing local opportunities. In general, responses followed a similar pattern as reported use of programs and activities; respondents felt their need was relatively well met for the activities for which they indicated higher levels of use. For example, approximately 75% of respondents felt their need for aquatics and performing arts were very well or somewhat met. These activities also had the highest use, as discussed above. Activities that are directed at specialized groups (adaptive programs and those targeted at teens and older adults) had the lowest use and also had the most respondents who felt their needs for these programs were unmet.

In general, respondent from Parkdale felt their recreational needs were met more than residents of other geographic areas. Respondents between 20 and 54 indicated that their needs were not met for adult sport leagues and adult fitness classes by larger percentages than average.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY
Community Survey on Parks and Recreation



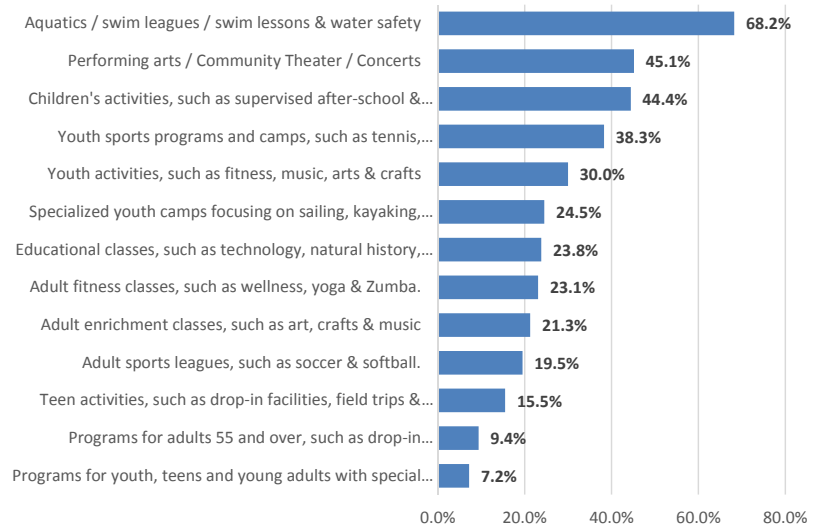
HOOD RIVER VALLEY

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Do residents feel that recreational program options are affordable?

The third part of question 8 asked whether each program type was affordable. Of the respondents who answer these questions, a majority of respondents (68%) felt that aquatics programs were affordable.

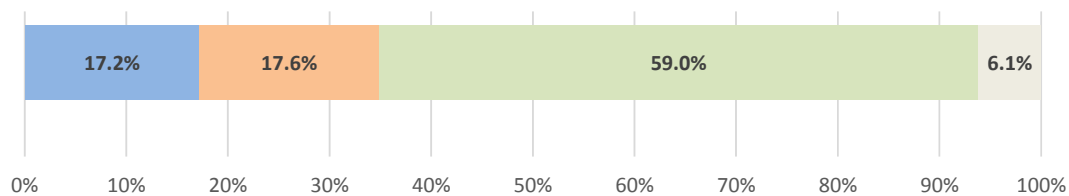
Percentages in the chart to the right represent the ratio of responses per item to the number of respondents who completed these questions. Due to a high rate of non-response, these data should not be used to guide pricing or policy decisions, and subsequent surveys should be conducted to examine affordability – preferably via end of program/class questionnaires or evaluations.



Do residents support replacing the Aquatic Center?

A survey question asked residents whether they would support replacing the Aquatic Center. A majority of respondents (59%) would support a full replacement of the facility with a new combination aquatic and community center, the most expensive option. Approximately one-third of residents would support a partial replacement of the pool building and enclosure and/or the addition of a recreation pool. Some residents (6%) think the District should simply close the pool at the end of its useful life and not pursue replacement. Respondents without children and those over 65 were only slightly more interested in closing the Aquatic Center at the end of its useful life. No other distinctions existed between the other subgroup categories.

9. The District recently finished a study of the Hood River Aquatic Center's condition... Which of the following options would you support?

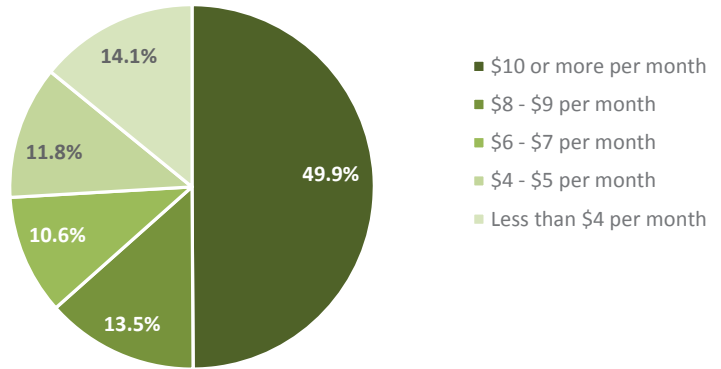


- Replace the pool building and enclosure; Keep the same pools; Upgrade mechanical systems (~\$13-14 million)
- Replace the pool building; Keep the competition pool; Add recreation pool; Upgrade mechanical systems (~\$16-17 million)
- Replace the pool building and pools with new facility to include competition pool, recreation pool, community center and fitness area (~\$20 million)
- None - Close the pool at the end of its useful life (in a few years)

Are residents willing to pay additional taxes or fees to fund improvements to parks and recreation?

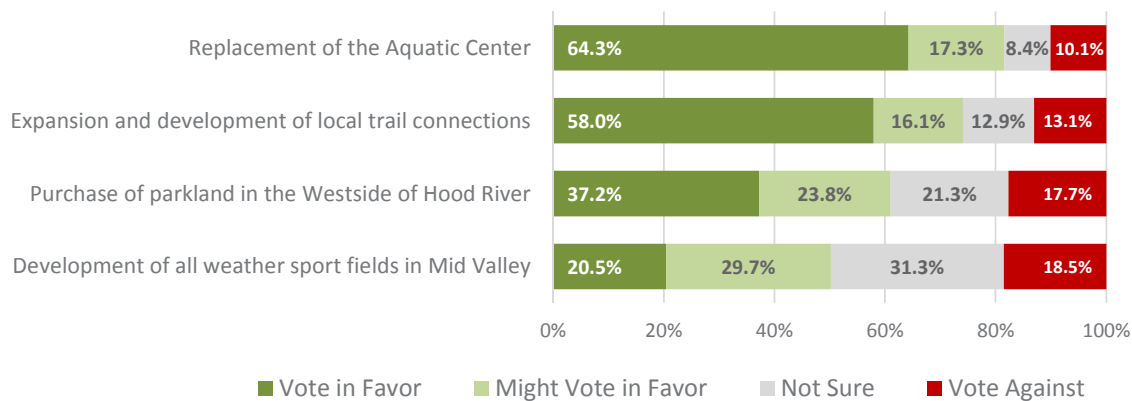
The survey asked residents about the maximum additional amount they would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks and recreation programs most important to their household. Half of respondents (50%) would be willing to pay \$10 or more per month. Another 24% would be willing to pay between \$6 and \$9 per month. Approximately 12% would be willing to pay \$4 to \$5 per month more. In all, over 85% of respondents were willing to pay at least \$4 more per month to support facilities and programs. Respondents over 55 were slightly more interested (23%) in limiting additional taxes or fees to less than \$4 per month; however, that age group also showed the same level of support as the average for the highest bracket of \$10 or more per month. Those from Parkdale and those without children also were more supportive of the lowest bracket of \$4 per month. Respondents with second homes were more favorable of paying more than \$10 per month.

10. ... what is the most additional amount you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?



The survey also asked residents how likely they would be to vote for a bond issue if it was used to fund various types of park and recreation improvements. More than half of respondents said they would vote in favor of bond issues to replace the aquatic center (64%) or expand and develop local trail connections (58%). Less than 13% of respondents indicated they would vote against these improvements. Respondents were more split in their support for bond issues to support the two other improvement options listed – purchasing parkland in the Westside of Hood River and developing all-weather sports fields in Mid Valley. A higher percentage of respondents were also unsure of their voting preference for these two improvements (21% and 31%, respectively). Across all subgroups, support for trail connections was the most consistently supported.

11. If an election were held for a bond issue to fund specific future projects, how would you vote for each in an election?



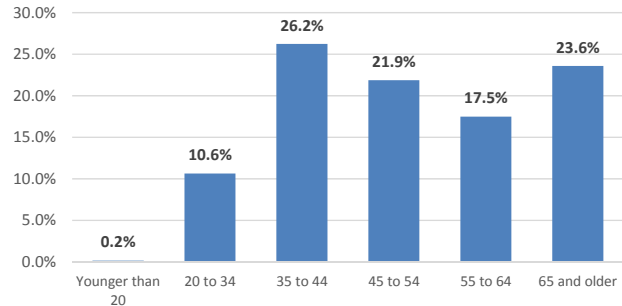
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Demographics

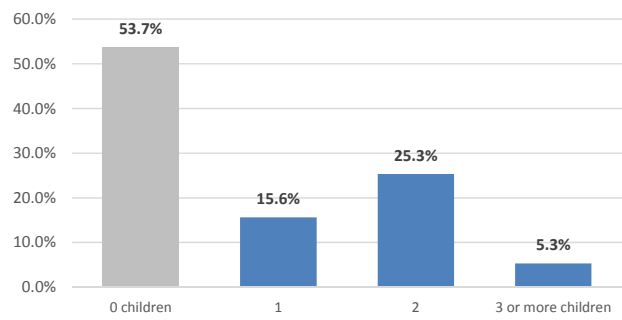
Age

Respondents to the survey were predominantly over 35 years of age (89%). Only one survey respondent (0.2%) was under the age of 20, while approximately 29% of residents are in this age group.



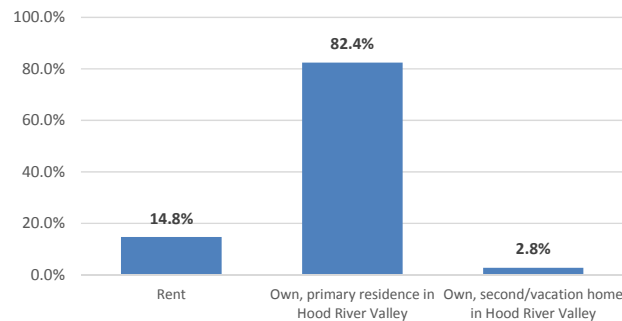
Number of Children in Household

Over fifty percent of respondents (54%) have no children in their household. These households tended to include older adults (over age 55). Roughly 46% of respondents have at least one child in the home, higher than the percentage of households with children in the county (24%) according to the 2016 American Community Survey data from US Census.



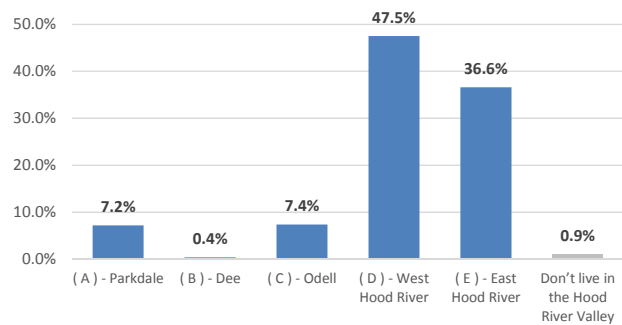
Home Ownership

The vast majority of survey respondents either own (82%) or rent (15%) their primary home in the Hood River Valley. Less than 3% of respondents live elsewhere, but own a second or vacation home in the Valley.



Location of Residence

The majority of survey respondents live in Hood River (84%). Most of the remaining respondents live in Parkdale (7%) or Odell (7%), with less than 1% living in Dee or outside the Hood River Valley.



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Hood River Valley Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Ayuda a nuestra comunidad.
Conteste la encuesta en el
siguiente sitio de internet
www.hoodrivervalleysurvey.com



Dear Hood River Valley Community Member:

The Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District is partnering with the other local parks providers: City of Hood River, Hood River County, the Port of Hood River, and the Hood River County School District to plan together for future park and recreation needs. By filling out this survey you will help Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District (District) understand your needs as the District updates its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan will form goals and guide specific projects for park and recreation facilities for the next 5-10 years.

Your participation is important. The survey has 16 questions and takes 5-6 minutes to take.

Take the survey in English or Spanish now online at hoodrivervalleysurvey.com

Thanks for participating!

1. When you think about the things that add to the quality of life in the Hood River Valley, would you say that local parks, recreation options and open space are... (CHECK ONE OPTION)

- Essential to the quality of life here A luxury, and overfunded compared to other local needs
 Important, but not really essential Don't Know

2. When it comes to meeting the needs for parks, recreation programs, indoor recreation & aquatic facilities, and trails, would you say there are... (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW)

	More than enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood Walking / Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How often do you visit or use a local park or recreation facility in Hood River Valley?

- At least once a week Two or three times over the year
 Two or three times a month Did not visit a local public park
 About once a month Don't know

4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Hood River Valley area parks in the LAST YEAR? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Water sports Camping
 Playgrounds Fishing
 Waterfront / Riverfront Family gatherings / picnics
 Athletic fields Events / concerts / festivals
 Recreation program / sport league Relaxation
 Trails (walk / run / bike) Other: _____
 Swimming

5. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use Hood River Valley parks or recreation facilities more often.

- Facility or program is not offered Too busy to go to parks
 Parks do not have the right equipment Fees are too high
 Parks and facilities are not well maintained Use parks or facilities provided by other organizations (such as private fitness clubs)
 Do not feel safe in park or facility Poor customer service by staff
 Inaccessible due to road conditions I do not know what is offered
 Inaccessible for my physical abilities Facility operating hours are not convenient
 Parks and sport courts are too busy None / I regularly use local parks or recreation facilities
 Parks and facilities are too far from my home

Save a stamp! Take this survey [online](http://hoodrivervalley.com) at the District's website in English or Spanish:
hoodrivervalley.com
Or send it back in the self-addressed envelope provided.
Thank you in advance for participating!

6. Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the park and recreation amenities or facilities listed below **AND** indicate how well your needs are met locally.

	HAVE NEED	NO NEED	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Somewhat Unmet	Fully Unmet
Picnic shelters / areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urban area walking trails (like Indian Creek, Waterfront)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road biking routes & connections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail biking routes & connections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields for soccer, football & lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields for baseball / softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paddle / Racquet sport courts (tennis, pickleball)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BMX / Pump track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor water spray parks / splash pads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics center / community center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature / wildlife viewing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Next is a list of improvements and facilities that may be considered in the new Plan. Each one would be funded by your tax dollars. For each item, indicate whether you think that type of facilities should be a Top Priority, a High Priority, a Low Priority or Not a Priority at all. Costs are estimated as: \$ (somewhat expensive); \$\$ (moderate); \$\$\$ (very expensive)

	Not a Priority	Low Priority	High Priority	Top Priority
Acquire parkland in Hood River's West Side (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install synthetic turf in Cidell (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop and improve parks in Mid & Upper Valley (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace the aquatic center (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a community center (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acquire natural areas and open space for passive uses (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extend Indian Creek Trail (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop walking and biking trails that link parks and natural areas (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acquire parkland for sport field improvements (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add bike lanes for access to Post Canyon (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install additional playgrounds (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop additional group picnic shelters (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide new access to the Columbia River (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide new access to Hood River (the river) (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation Preferences



8. Please indicate if your household has used, has interest in each the programs or activities, whether you find the programs to be affordable, **AND** indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Type of Program / Activity	Have used?	Have interest?	How well met are your needs for this type of activity?				Is Affordable?
	Yes	Yes	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met	Don't Know	Yes
Children's activities, such as supervised after-school & summer day camp programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, field trips & camps during school breaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts & crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, basketball & soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialized youth camps focusing on sailing, kayaking, archery & other sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for youth, teens and young adults with special needs, adaptive & inclusive programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aquatics / swim leagues / swim lessons & water safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing arts / Community Theater / Concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer & softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult fitness classes, such as wellness, yoga & Zumba	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult enrichment classes, such as art, crafts & music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, safety & health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. The District recently finished a study of the Hood River Aquatic Center's condition. The nearly 70 year old facility is near the end of its service life, and the study gave some options for the future. Which of the following options would you support?

- Replace the pool building and enclosure; Keep the same pools; Upgrade mechanical systems (~\$13-14 million)
- Replace the pool building; Keep the competition pool; Add recreation pool; Upgrade mechanical systems (~\$16-17 million)
- Replace the pool building and pools with new facility to include competition pool, recreation pool, community center and fitness area (~\$20 million)
- None - Close the pool at the end of its useful life (in a few years)

10. Your public recreation agencies are working together to find better ways to give you services, using your tax dollars for the greatest benefit. However, the costs to improve and develop parks, trails and recreation facilities may need to be paid through additional fees paid by participants and/or taxes paid by the community. The median home pays approximately \$8 per month in support of the Parks & Recreation District. Knowing that, what is the most additional amount you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and recreation facilities that are most important to your household?

- \$10 or more per month
- \$8 - \$9 per month
- \$6 - \$7 per month
- \$4 - \$5 per month
- Less than \$4 per month

11. If an election were held for a bond issue to fund specific future projects, how would you vote for each in an election?

	Vote in Favor	Might Vote in Favor	Not Sure	Vote Against
Replacement of the Aquatic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of all weather sport fields in Mid Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase of parkland in the Westside of Hood River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expansion and development of local trail connections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. The Hood River Valley is expected to grow a lot in coming years, and funds are limited. In the following scenario, how would you choose to spend these funds to meet the needs of the growing community?

- Buy four small neighborhood park properties throughout the community and wait to build until more funds are available.
- Buy and build two small neighborhood parks.
- Buy and build one larger community park to serve the wider community that can accommodate a wide range of recreation amenities.
- Improve currently owned parks and do not buy park properties for the future.

These last questions help us understand whether we have a cross section of the community. It's important that you provide a response to each question. Please remember your answers are confidential.

13. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

14. What is your age?

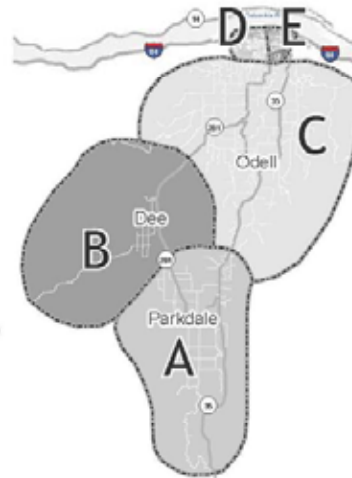
- Younger than 20
- 20 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 and older

15. Does your household?

- Rent
- Own, primary residence in Hood River Valley
- Own, second/vacation home in Hood River Valley

16. Using the map, in which section of the Hood River Valley do you live?

- (A) Parkdale
- (B) Dee
- (C) Odell
- (D) West Hood River (west of 12th/13th Street)
- (E) East Hood River (east of 12th/13th Street)
- Don't live in the Hood River Valley



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online: hoodrivervalleysurvey.com

Check the District's website for more information about the multi-jurisdictional Parks & Recreation Master Plan project.

The Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 12736
Portland, OR 97212

ATTACHMENT 2. OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

Q4: Main reasons to visit parks – Write-in Comments (Mail survey)

- church services
- Walk my dog
- Tennis courts
- Mc Post Canyon
- Dog walking
- Dog walking at Morrison park
- Free wifi
- Nature viewing
- disc golf
- am on oxygen 24/7 so I do not
- playing with our dogs
- essential exercise
- August - Families in the park
- nature
- skateboarding, roller blading
- frisbee, dog walking
- Walking the dog
- My children
- Tennis/windsurfing
- dog walking
- dog walking
- Company picnic
- skateboard & bike
- Being in nature
- dog exercise
- tennis
- Didn't visit. Live here.
- Kayaking, Rafting
- no fishing
- Families in the park— aug
- Skatepark
- Dog walking
- Dog play
- dog walking
- Dog walking
- Dog play
- Disc golf
- Open play space for children to recreate and find a sense of community
- frisbee golf

HOOD RIVER VALLEY

Page 20

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

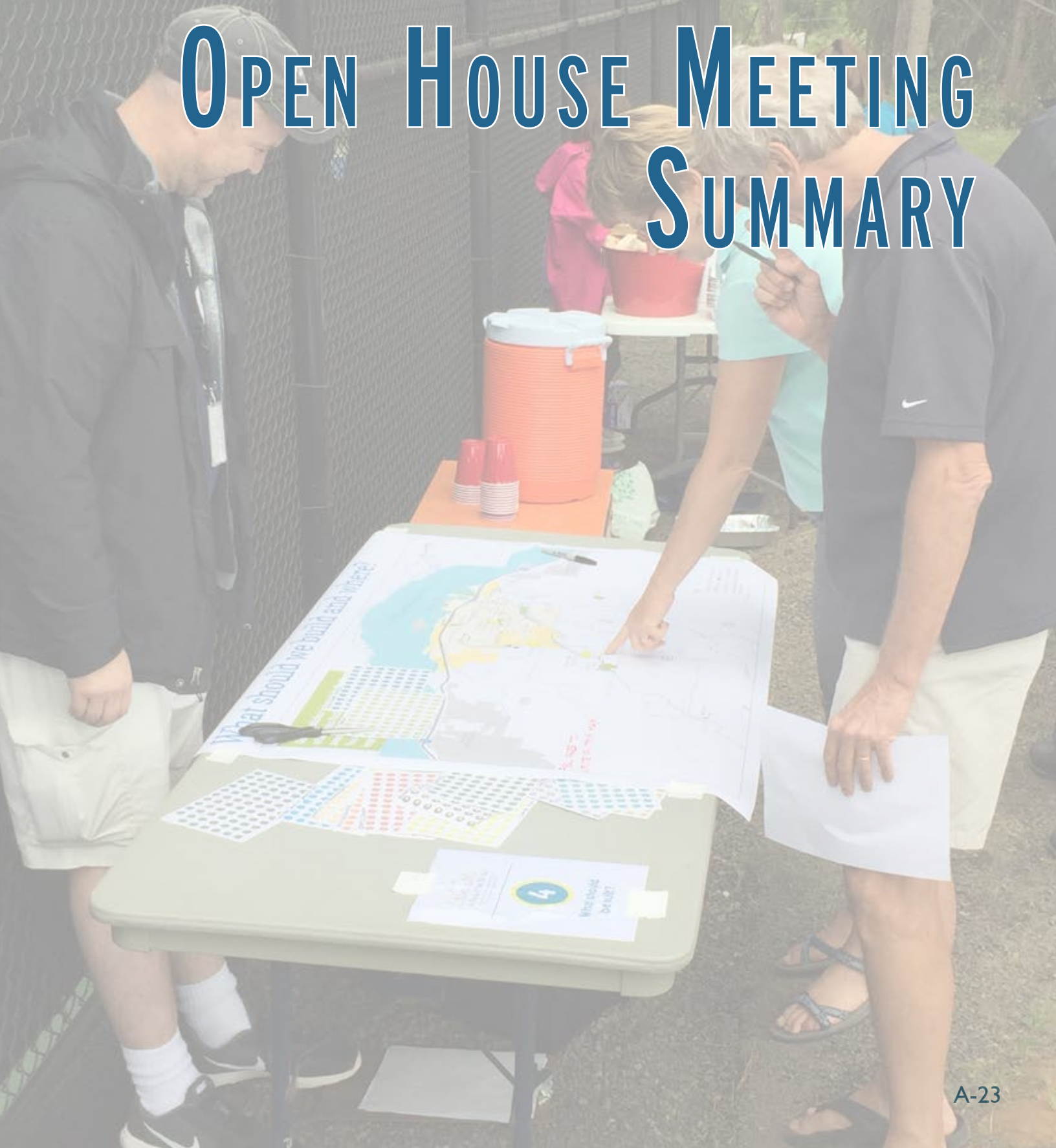
- Exercise the dog
- Never go
- Walk dogs
- water aerobics
- Pool too cold
- Did not visit
- Dog park
- Disc Golf and Skateboarding
- dog exercise
- Live here
- Retirement facility
- Tennis
- Pet
- UAV Flying
- dog play
- bird watching
- Calming aspect of being in nature - if only for a walk on the ICT
- Disc Golf
- tennis
- Marina, Hiking and dog walking.
- Tennis
- Walking/Exercising Dogs
- Tennis and Pickleball
- Dog walking
- To run my dog

Q4: Main reasons to visit parks – Write-in Comments (Online survey)

- disc golf at Morrison park and Nichol's Basin for recreational paddling
- tennis
- Disc golf
- Dog exercising
- Exercise and wellness and peace of mind! Emotional well-being for me, play for the kiddo.
- Pickleball
- Open area to play fetch with my dog.

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APPENDIX B: OPEN HOUSE MEETING SUMMARY





A Parks Plan for All

Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation
Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan

Outreach and Comment Summary

Prepared for:

Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District

Prepared by:

JLA Public Involvement

September 2018

Overview

From June to August 2018, the Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District (HRVPRD) conducted public outreach for the Parks and Recreation Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan. The goal of outreach was to inform Hood River Valley residents about the development of the master plan and to gather feedback about the types of parks programs and facilities desired by the community.

This report includes a summary of outreach and public comments received through the following efforts:

- **Community Engagement Planning Meeting:** 14 stakeholders participated in a meeting to provide input on the engagement and outreach process.
- **Comment Forms:** 450 total responses; 53 Spanish-language comment forms; comment forms were also available online
- **Interactive Comment Map:** 123 total responses; available for approximately 2 months
- **June 16th Community Workshop:** About 75 people attended. Six comment forms submitted, and approximately 30-40 responses to the interactive exercises
- **Tabling Outreach:** 156 comment forms were submitted at tabling events.
 - **Hood River Farmers Market (three consecutive Saturdays):** Approximately 110 attended.
 - **4th of July Parade at Jackson Park:** Approximately 12 attended.
 - **Hood River County Fair:** Approximately 100-125 attended.
 - **Latinos in Accion:** Approximately 15 attended.
- **Focus Groups:**
 - **Fields and Facilities:** 9 participants from sports leagues and organizations in Hood River representing soccer, baseball, swimming, water polo, pickleball, ultimate Frisbee, tennis, cross country track and other sports groups
 - **Wind, Water, and Trail Recreation:** 7 participants representing kiteboarding, windsurfing, the Forestry department, cycling and trail users, environmental interest groups, and Indian Creek Stewards
 - **Latino Community:** 5 Latina participants who are residents of Hood River and Odell; 1 Latino participant who is a soccer coach for Hood River Valley High School.

Key Themes

Comment Forms

- Respondents are generally satisfied with their neighborhoods parks
- In terms of activities/programs for youth, there's higher interest for sports leagues/activities, summer camps/after-school programs, and outdoor/nature field trip.
- In terms of activities/program for adults and seniors, there's a much higher interest for fitness and exercise programs than other options.
- Trail connections, community center/aquatic center, natural play areas, and after-school/summer recreational programs were rated the most important features to add. Picnic shelters, community events/festivals, and sports courts were among the least important features.

- Bicycle and pedestrian access to parks in the mid valley area are rated the poorest.
- The majority of respondents feel that there are not enough parks and recreation opportunities in Hood River Valley.
- Inconvenient park location and being too busy were the biggest reason respondents seldom use or do not use parks. Unsafe bicycle access to parks was cited frequently as another reason especially when biking with children.
- Walking, running, and exercising are the most common ways respondents use park facilities currently. Community events, picnics, playgrounds, and experiencing nature also had a high number of respondents for how they currently use parks.
- Commonly cited destinations that would be better served by direct and safe bike/ped trails include the Heights to Downtown, Waterfront Park, Westside area, Indian Creek Trail, schools, and along Hood River to Odell and Parkdale.

Combined results from comment forms are on page 7. A full list of open-ended responses is in Appendix A on page 18.

Interactive Map Comments

- Many comments advocate for acquiring land in the Westside for a large park to accommodate new developments. There are safety concerns for children and families walking or biking to school in the Westside as well.
- Many participants felt that Barrett Park was underutilized and a missed opportunity for a large park, sports fields, or natural open space. Many recognized the difficulty in rezoning the area for park use.
- Many comments would like to see the Indian Creek Trail full connected citing it will also provide students the ability to ride or walk to school.
- Many advocated for the preservation of Morrison Park, and a bike and pedestrian connection to the Hook and Waterfront area from Morrison Park.
- Many comments suggested a “rail to trail” route from Hood River to Parkdale.
- Several comments cited that Oak Grove Park is a widely used park in the neighborhood and should be preserved.

A full list of comments can be found in the attached Excel document named “Online Comment Map Results_Coded”.

Focus Groups

Wind/Water/Trail Recreation

- The dramatic increase in visitors and tourists in Hood River, especially at waterfront recreational spaces and trails, puts added pressure on finite resources.
- Crowding is an issue for these sports and users, and consideration should be made for capping access to some areas that are experiencing high usage.
- Accessibility is a key issue, and this group would like to see alternatives to vehicular access to recreation.
- There is keen interest in what happens to railroad in the eventuality that the railroad no longer runs through Hood River.

Sports Fields and Facilities

- There are not enough fields or facilities for sport league use in Hood River. Demand exceeds actual space. Dedicated courts and fields are great, but coordination is challenging and many fields are not well-maintained.
- Accessibility of recreation spaces is a key issue. It can be very difficult for people who live in the mid- or upper-valley to access parks, fields and facilities.
- This group sees parks and recreation as a part of a healthy community, and expressed keen interest in advocating for Parks if a ballot measure came up.

Latino Community

- **Aquatic Center** - The pool is too overcrowded, and cost can be too high especially for those with larger families. However, participants are willing to pay a higher fee for an expanded facility.
- **Programs and activities** – Youth programs at later times would make programs more accessible particularly for families who live in Odell and have to commute to Hood River by public transportation. Information about scholarships, programs, and recreational options available for youth and adults is not easily accessible or communicated to non-English speaking residents.
- **Sports fields and facilities** - More open fields and rectangular fields are need for both youth and adults particularly in Odell. Fields and courts need better lighting at night, and year-round access.
- **Parks** - Current parks are great, such as Jackson Park, Children’s Park, Tamarack Park, and Tollbridge Park, but there’s a need for more shaded areas for picnicking or resting, and shaded playgrounds. Waterfront Park used to be great to visit until the Port began charging fees for parking.
- **Amenities** - Impromptu fiestas and picnics are a large part of Latino culture. Therefore, communal spaces for fiestas where nearby neighbors are not bothered would be a huge benefit for the Latino community.

More detailed meeting summaries for all three focus groups can be found in Appendices B on page 49.

Notification

Project Website

The HRVPRD website had an existing webpage for the master plan process. This webpage was updated to include information about the project including an announcement for the community workshop event. The webpage also provided links to the online survey in both English and Spanish and the Spanish-language factsheet.

E-newsletter

An e-newsletter was sent to subscribers in late April to invite the community to the Golden Eagle Park Grand Opening and community workshop. The June newsletter provided an update on the workshop event and included a link to the project website. The newsletter was also promoted on social media.

Social Media

HRVPRD's existing social media handles (Facebook and Instagram) were used to generate interest in the project and promote the community workshop event. A social media plan was developed to manage regular posting and reminders about the event. A Facebook event was created for the workshop including additional Facebook ads and boosts to extend our reach. 6,400 people were reached and 195 responded to the Facebook event.

Local Latino Community

The local Latino radio station, Radio Tierra, announced the workshop event. HRVPRD also partnered with The Next Door, a local nonprofit providing health and family services for the Latino community, to support outreach and recruitment of participants for the focus group. HRVPRD provided The Next Door with an English and Spanish-language invitation letter to send to their constituents.

Outreach Format

Community Workshop

The project kick-off event was held on June 16, 2018 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., and coincided with the Golden Eagle Park Grand Opening. Approximately 75 people stopped by to participate in the activities. The workshop featured pickleball and tennis demos, a mountain bike skills course demo, bocce ball, raffle prizes and giveaways, and a local food cart.

The workshop was organized in a series of "stations". Each station included informational display boards, and some stations included interactive activities for people to provide input. Visitors were also encouraged to fill out comment forms for additional input.

Station 1: Welcome Table

- Participants were asked to sign-in.
- Factsheets were available in English and Spanish.
- Each participant received a "game board" guide at sign-in which acted as an event guide and included trivia questions for a chance to win a prize.

Station 2: Parks Plan Overview

- What will the Parks Master Plan do, and why do we need one?
- Brief description of what a master plan is and how the Parks Master Plan will build on the Westside Area Concept Plan.

Station 3: How does our parks system work?

- Map of existing parks land and trails, and the agencies involved in managing current parks and recreation



- How parks are funded and how it compares to other districts
- The challenges that the Parks Plan will address
- High-level statistics about the current parks system and projected population growth
- Typical steps for how a park gets built including a case study of Golden Eagle Park

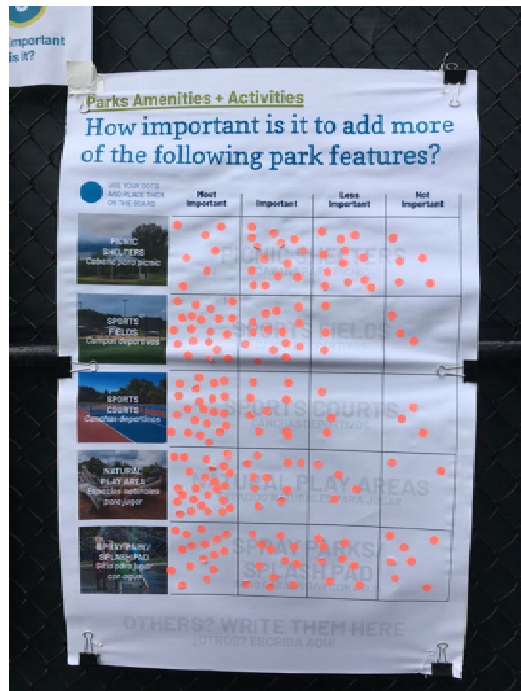
Station 4: What parks and facilities should be built?

- Large format map of existing parks facilities. The Hood River Valley area was divided into Hood River and the Mid to Upper Valley Area.
- **ACTIVITY:** Participants were provided sticker icons of 13 different parks facilities and amenities, and markers and pen to indicate what types of features they would like to see and where on the map. This activity was replicated for an online version (see below).
- **ACTIVITY:** An arts and crafts table was set up for participants to imagine and build their own park using arts and craft materials. Staff took photos of each creation.



Station 5: Parks Amenities and Activities: How important is it?

- **ACTIVITY:** Two display boards listed 11 different potential park amenities and activities. Participants indicated how important it is to add these park features by placing a dot sticker on the board.



Station 6: Next Steps

- Graphic timeline of the Parks Master Plan process and next steps after developing the Plan

Comment Forms

The comment forms asked specific questions about the community’s vision for parks and recreation. The survey asked participants to:

- Indicate the types of amenities, activities, and programs desired
- Indicate where additional bicycle and pedestrian trails are needed
- Indicate how they access parks and rate their experience
- Indicate how they use their parks
- Optional demographic questions

Comment forms were also available in English and Spanish at tabling events.

Online Survey + Interactive Map

The online survey mirrored the comment form and map activity at the workshop. Approximately 100 people participated in the online survey, and the interactive map received 123 comments. The online survey was also available in Spanish.

Tabling

HRVPRD conducted tabling outreach at various summer events in Hood River throughout the month of July. The purpose of the tabling was to inform Hood River area residents about the development of the Parks Master Plan, generate general awareness of the project, and gather public feedback on how people use the current parks system, and the types of parks facilities and amenities residents want to see in the future.

The tabling outreach included display boards which provided a project overview, a map of existing parks within the district, and a prioritization exercise of 11 different parks features. Participants were given a dot sticker for each park feature to indicate how important each parks feature is to them. Participants were also given the opportunity to fill out comment forms at the tabling. The team provided giveaways to incentivize visitors to participate.

Focus Groups

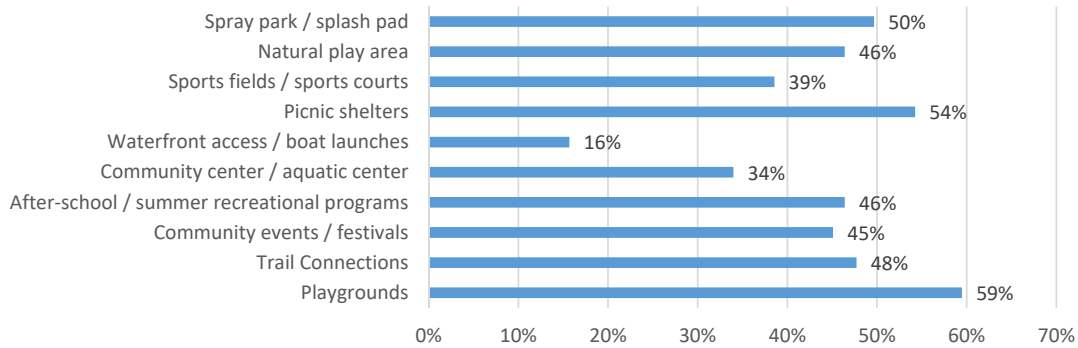
Three focus groups were conducted at the Aquatic Center and Pool in Hood River in August.

- **Wind/Water/Trail Recreation – August 21, 2018:** The purpose of this focus group was to learn and understand how these recreational organizations currently use the parks system and what their key concerns and parks needs are. Presentation on the Master Planning process, how the parks system is currently managed, and the outreach process. Participants discussed current participation levels in their leagues/organization, coordination and access to parks facilities; the quality and quantity of fields and facilities, and the types of improvements needed in the future.
- **Sports Fields and Facilities – August 21, 2018:** The format and discussion topics for this group was similar to the Wind/Water/Trail Recreation group. The purpose of the focus group was to learn and understand how youth and adult sports leagues and organizations currently use the parks systems, the challenges they face in sharing limited facilities, and ideas or preferences for future sports fields and facilities. The focus group was also an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about the current challenges the parks district faces in accommodating different needs, and build advocates to champion future funding initiatives.
- **Latino Community – August 31, 2018:** The purpose of this focus group was to understand the key barriers and needs of the Latino community in the use of parks, fields, and facilities in the Hood River Valley area. The Next Door advised on focus group agenda to ensure the meeting format was culturally appropriate. The meeting was facilitated in Spanish, and The Next Door provided interpretation services through headsets for English-speakers present at the meeting. Local Latino cuisine and refreshments were provided for participants and their families. Children of the participants were given free passes to the swimming pool so that participants can fully engage in the discussion.

Combined Outreach Results

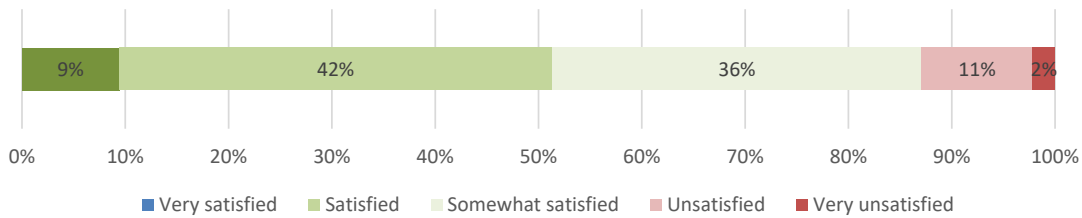
Comment Forms and Online Survey – English

What amenities and activities should the park include?

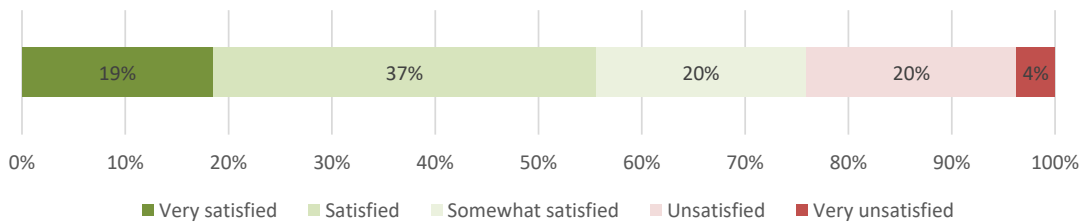


1. How satisfied are you with your neighborhood parks?

English Surveys

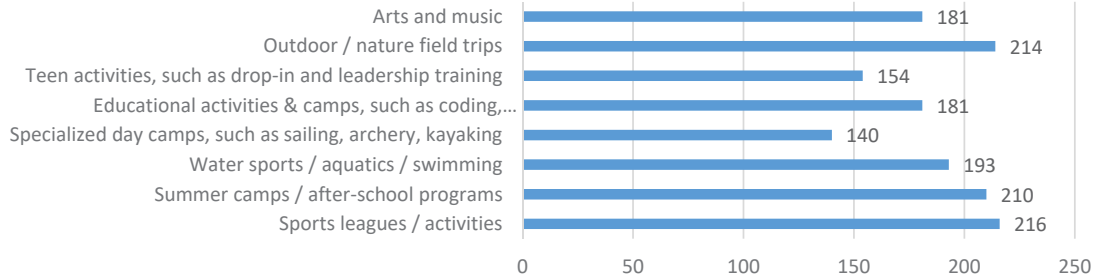


Spanish Surveys

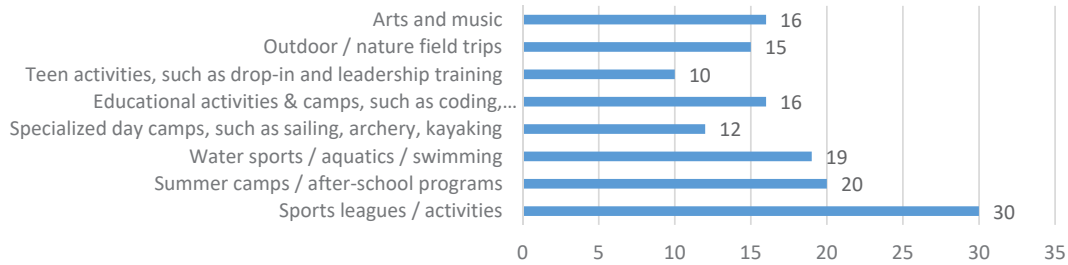


2. What types of activities/programs are most needed for youth?

English Surveys

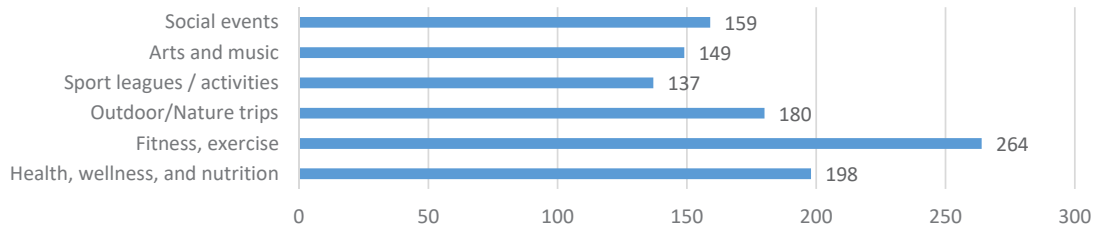


Spanish Surveys

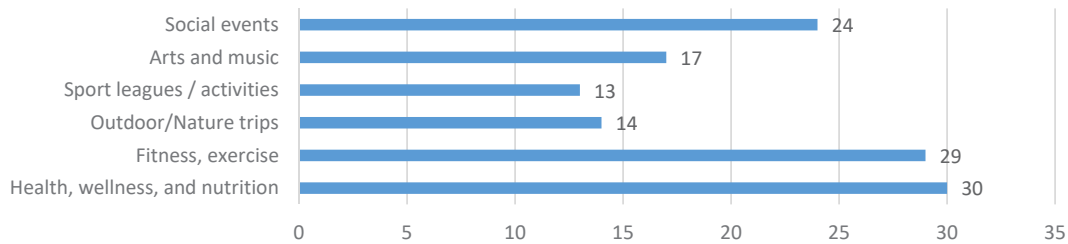


3. What types of activities/programs are more needed for adults/seniors?

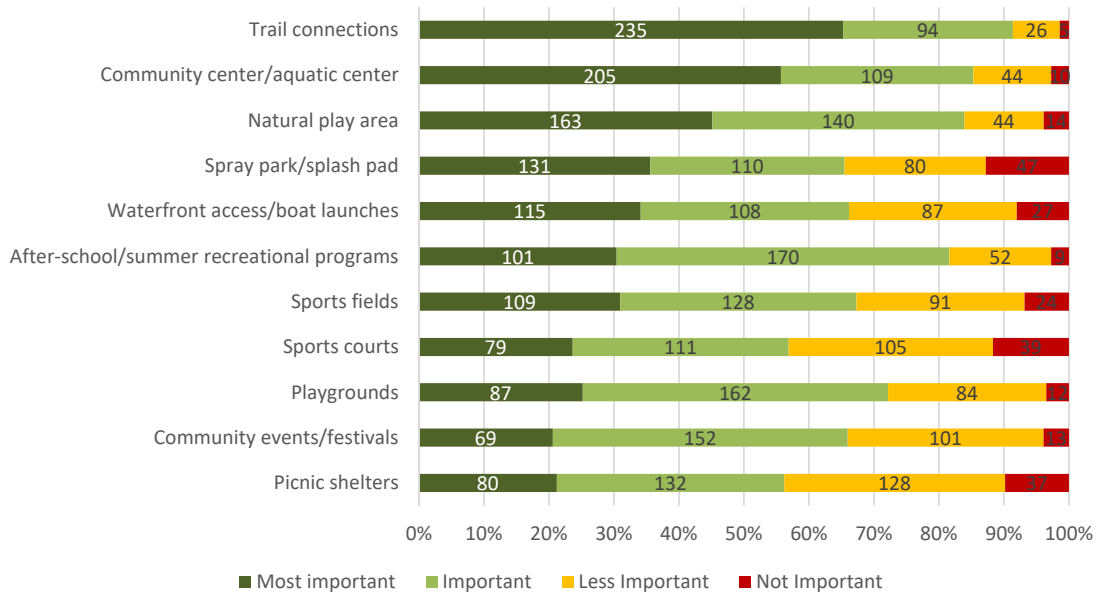
English Surveys



Spanish Surveys

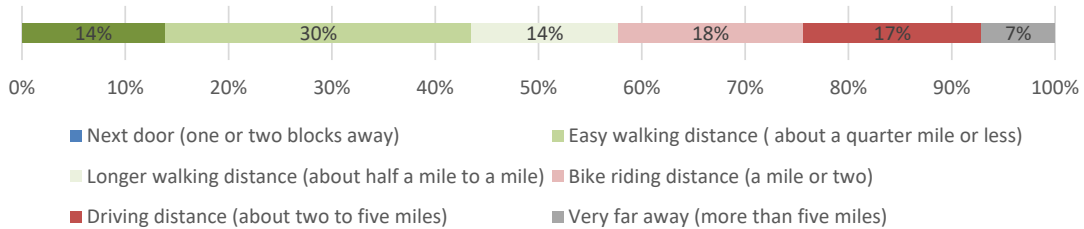


4. How important is it to add more of the following park features?

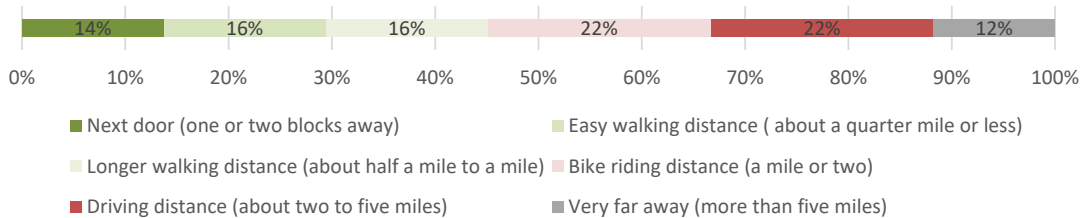


5. How far do you live from your nearest park?

English Surveys

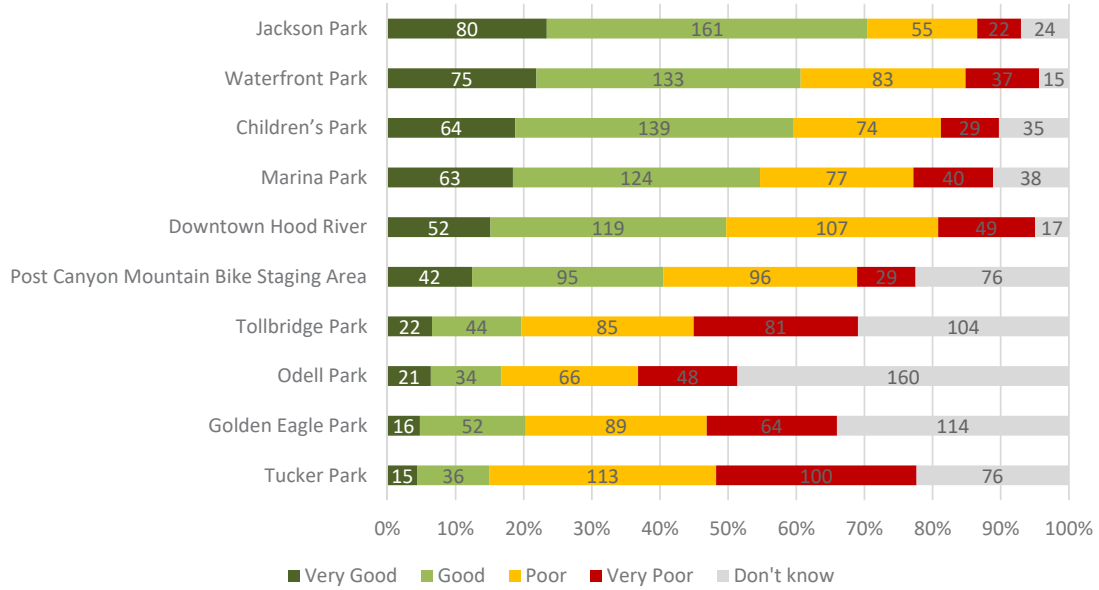


Spanish Surveys

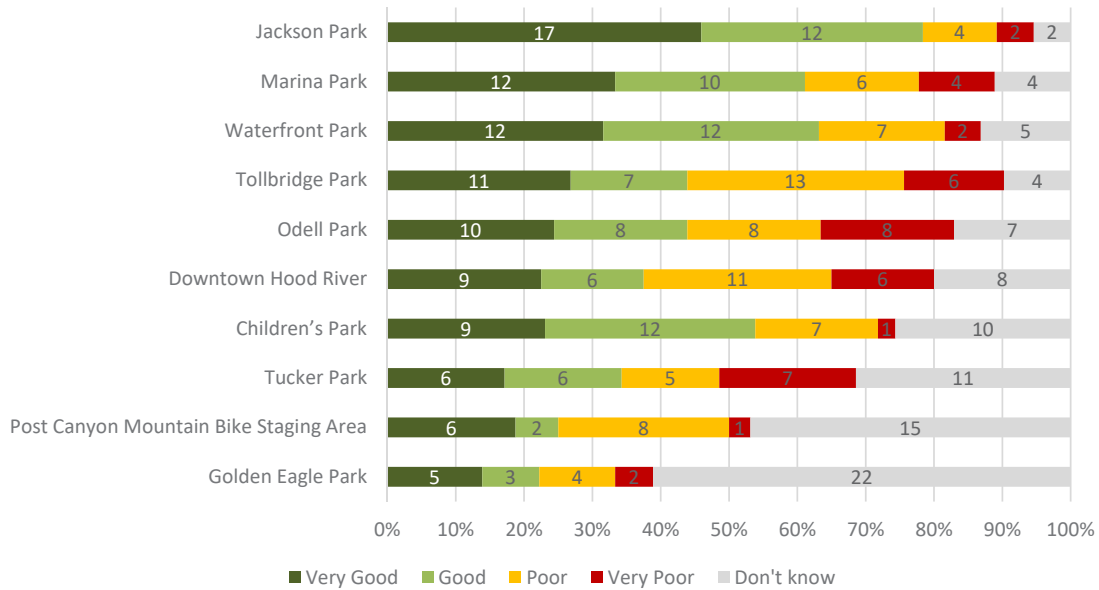


6. How would you rate bicycle and pedestrian access to the following locations?

English Surveys

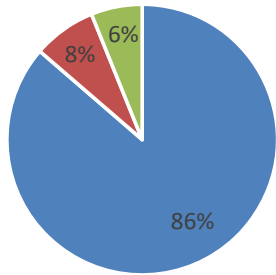


Spanish Surveys



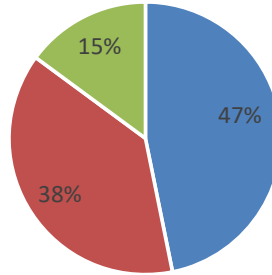
7. I live in...

English Surveys



■ Hood River ■ Odell ■ Parkdale

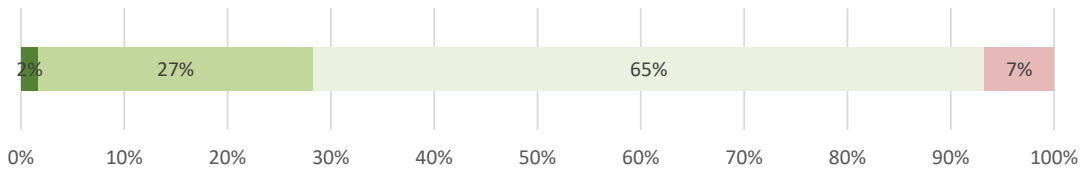
Spanish Surveys



■ Hood River ■ Odell ■ Parkdale

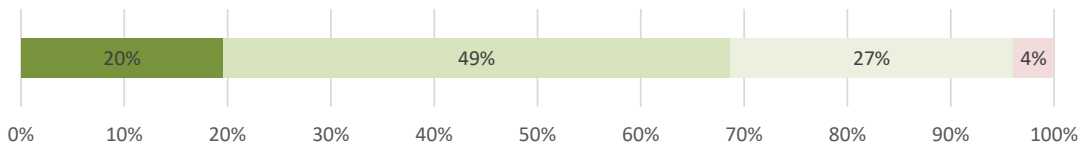
8. When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say there are...

English Surveys



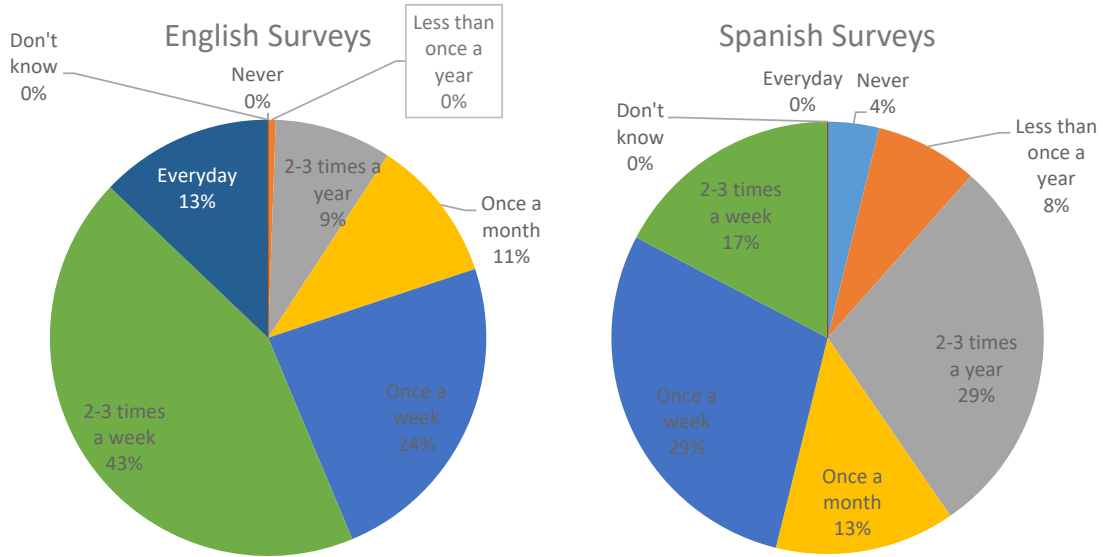
■ More than enough parks and recreation opportunities in the Hood River Valley
 ■ About the right number
 ■ Not enough parks and recreation opportunities in the Hood River Valley
 ■ Don't Know

Spanish Surveys

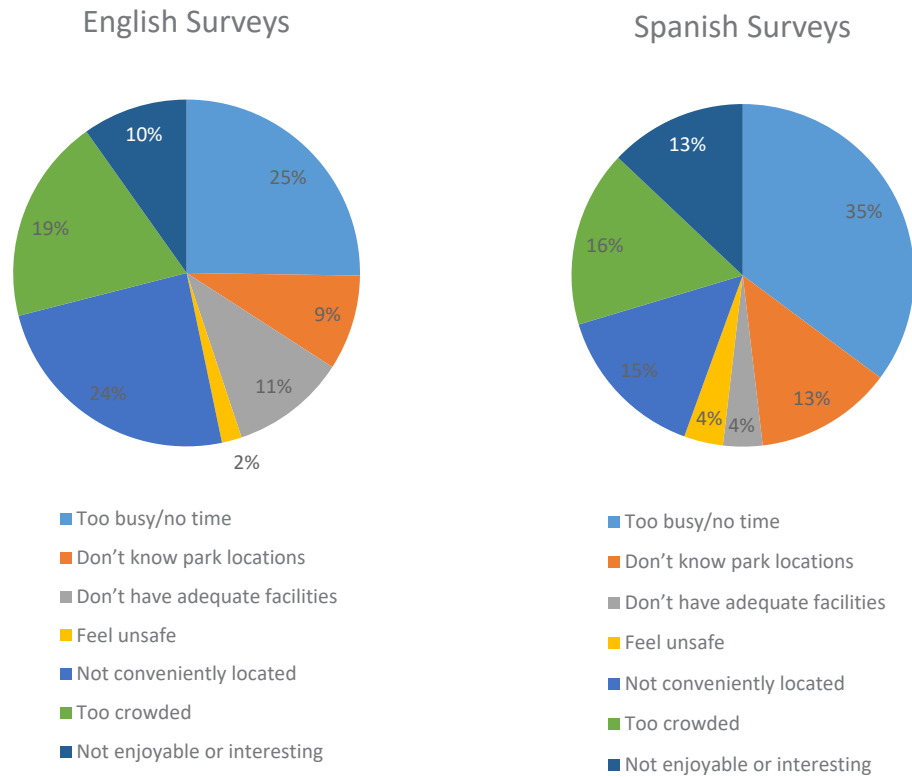


■ More than enough parks and recreation opportunities in the Hood River Valley
 ■ About the right number
 ■ Not enough parks and recreation opportunities in the Hood River Valley
 ■ Don't Know

9. On average, how often do you visit or use parks and recreation facilities in Hood River?

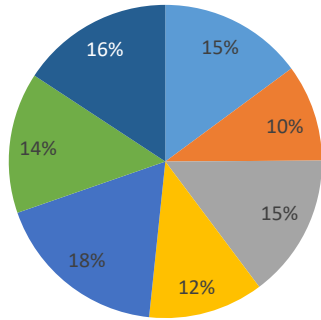


10. If you seldom use or do not use parks in the district, what are the reasons?

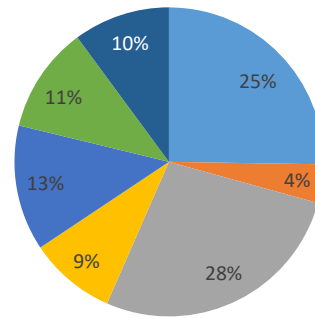


11. How do you currently use parks?

English Surveys



Spanish Surveys

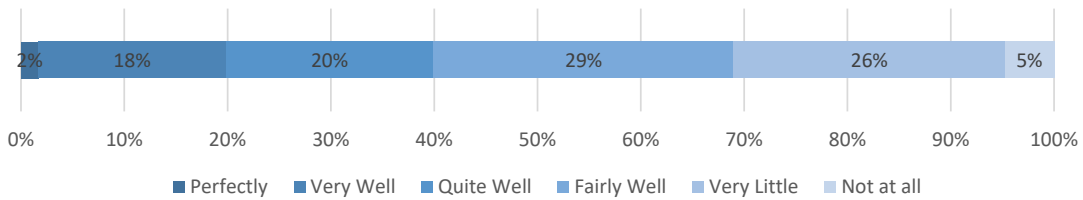


- Use playgrounds and play structures
- To exercise my dog
- Picnics, friend/family gatherings
- Use sports fields/courts or play sports in open areas
- Walking, running or exercise
- To experience nature
- Community events, concerts

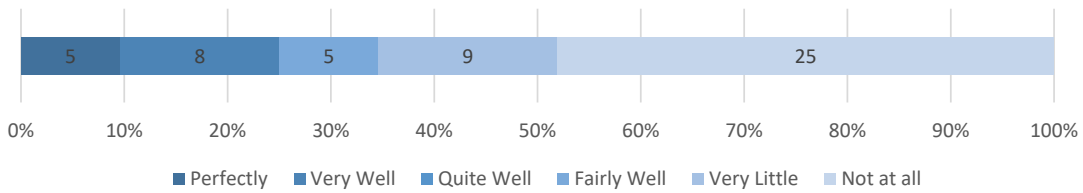
- Use playgrounds and play structures
- To exercise my dog
- Picnics, friend/family gatherings
- Use sports fields/courts or play sports in open areas
- Walking, running or exercise
- To experience nature
- Community events, concerts

12. How well do you feel you know how the parks in Hood River Valley are managed and operated?

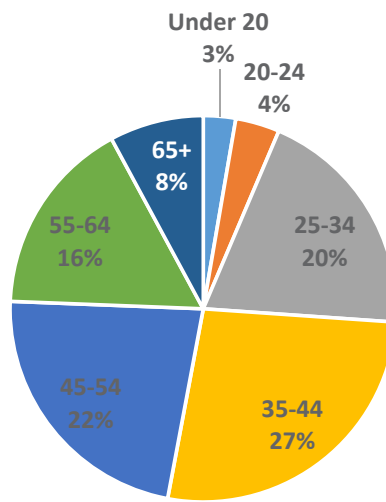
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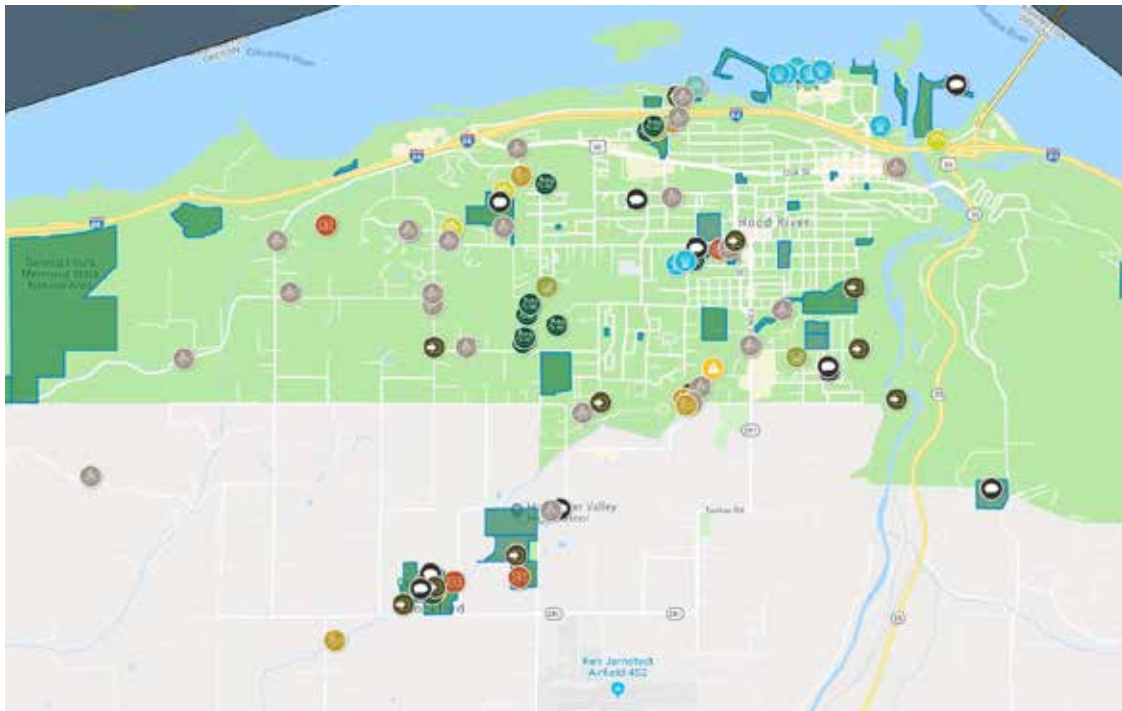
Spanish Surveys



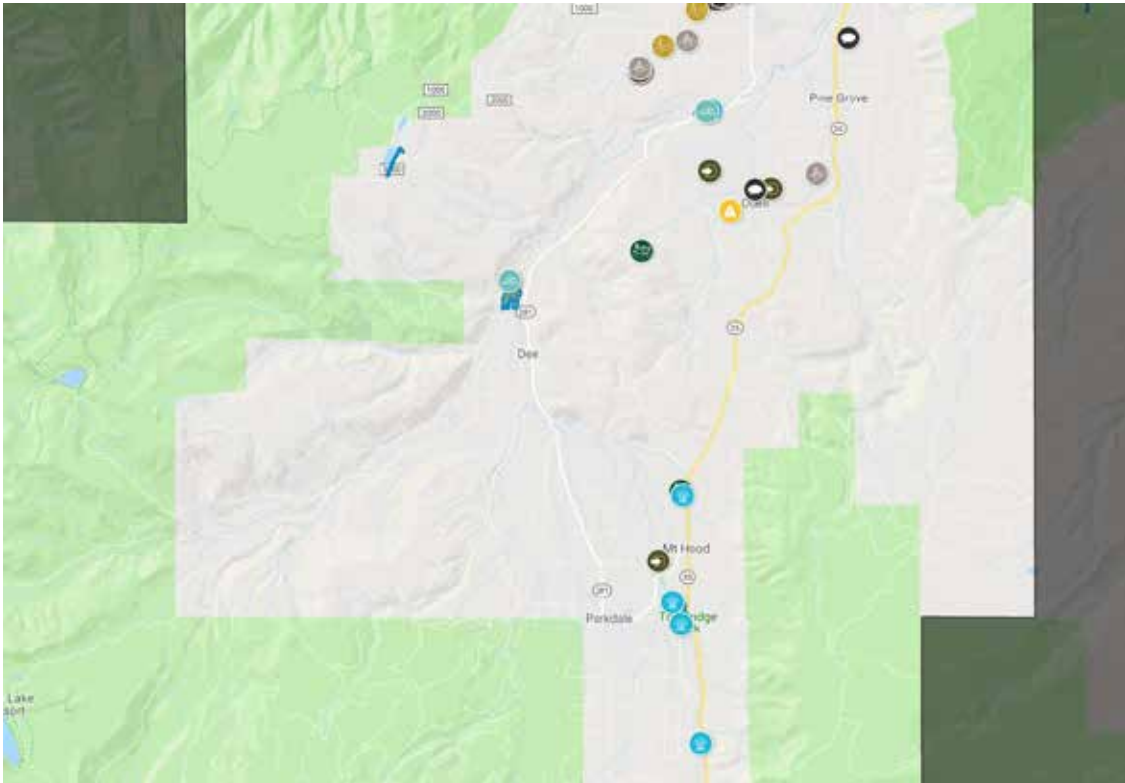
13. Age (All participants combined)



Interactive Comment Map
Hood River Area

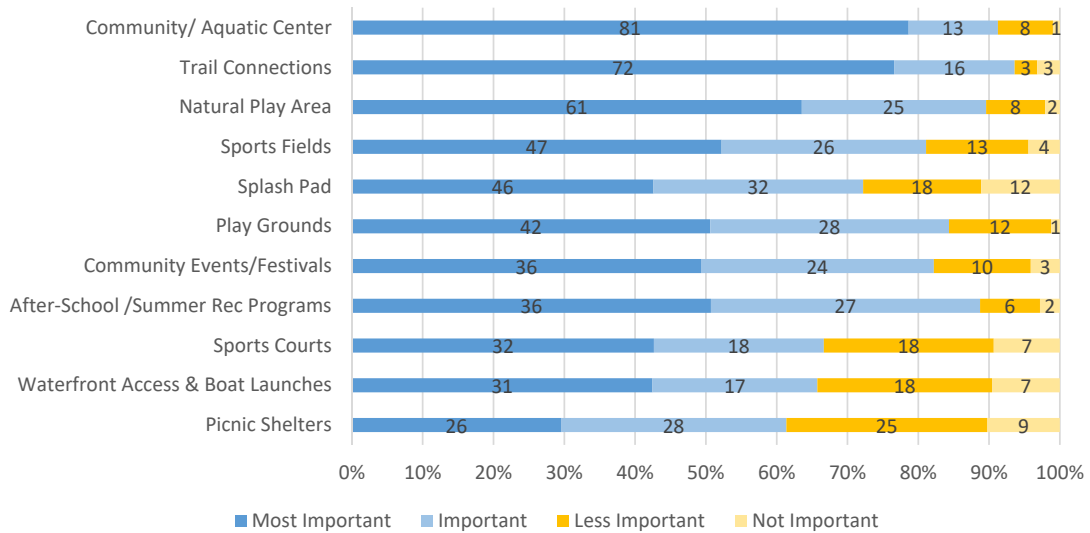


Mid and Upper Valley Area



Prioritization Dot Exercise

How important is it to add the following park features?



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APPENDIX C: FOCUS GROUP MEETING NOTES



Focus Group Meeting Summaries

Wind/Water/Trail Recreation Focus Group

August 21, 2018, 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Overview

On August 21, 2018, the Executive and Assistant Directors of the Hood River Parks and Recreation department met with leaders and representatives of wind, water and trail users in Hood River. Representatives from kiteboarding, windsurfing, the Forestry department, cycling and trail users, in addition to other environmental interest groups, were present at this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand the key needs of wind, water and trail sport participants that use Parks fields and facilities in Hood River.

Key themes:

- The dramatic increase in visitors and tourists in Hood River, especially at waterfront recreational spaces and trails, puts added pressure on finite resources.
- Crowding is an issue for these sports and users, and consideration should be made for capping access to some areas that are experiencing high usage.
- Accessibility is a key issue, and this group would like to see alternatives to vehicular access to recreation.
- Keen interest in what happens to railroad in the eventuality that the railroad no longer runs through Hood River.

Responses to Discussion Questions:

What are the trends in participation and the demographics of your sports/activities?

- Pressure from visitors and tourists on current spaces is very high. Waterfront is a key area of pressure, with lots of people using that area (fishermen, kayakers, swimmers, campers, tourists, etc.) and parking a continual issue.
- There's a sentiment that long-term residents are being pushed out of Hood River. Some felt that developing recreational spaces will draw more people, but will there still be places where residents can go to connect with nature?
- People want to be in Hood River (influx of people), and this has repercussions for both business and recreation. Regulars/locals actively avoid downtown (especially weekends) and other areas for recreation to avoid the influx of crowds.
- Identify that Hispanic community is underserved: feel that they are rarely seen at recreation sites in Hood River. Some see a lot of Hispanic folks at City Front Park.

Kiteboarding/Windsurfing

- Windsurfing generally sees that their regular demographic is getting older.
- Kiteboarding has had a big influx of young people. But like windsurfing, the 'regular' group of participants are aging.

- Majority of membership is from outside Hood River, but they see many of them as ‘regulars’ who have been participating in the sports and coming to the area for years.

Mountain Biking

- Mountain biking is increasing, and transitioning to a younger demographic. This is putting a strain on the current facilities.

Trails

- Forest Services see a diverse crowd on their trails, but some areas are more heavily trafficked than others.
- They have found that social media has changed the utilization of trails in the last year or two. Trails that were unknown are now heavily utilized.

What are some of the key issues facing the recreational spaces you use?

- Passive recreation sites are few and far in between: access can be hard, and these spaces are not always well maintained.
- Access to recreation is more difficult for people living in the Upper Valley.
 - Some shuttles are serving parts of the county (the Mt. Hood shuttles, for example). Group wonders if these could be implemented further to increase accessibility.
 - One participant notes that this didn’t work well as a system when Friends of the Gorge set up shuttle service to Dog Mountain and Multnomah Falls: need to pay attention on how shuttle access can help spread people out instead of concentrating crowding
- Parking is a key issue. Group feels that there needs to be a balance between increased parking access, and limiting/capping access to sites to keep crowds down.
- Participants feel that there needs to be a baseline capacity set for some recreational areas, particularly water recreation, in order to limit the amount of users in one area.
 - Kiteboarding community is finding that there are so many non-kite/wind surfing users that safety becomes an issue (having safe launch can be really challenging when there are other people there for swimming, walking and other recreational uses). Signage and designation of different kinds of water recreation is limited on the Hood River waterfront.
 - Events at the waterfront increase pressure on usage.
- Users of the waterfront space (especially windsurfing and kitesurfing business woners) feel that they are often called upon to give information to visitors. They would like to have more information on underutilized spaces to help spread out people using recreation sites.

How easy is it to coordinate use of recreational spaces and facilities?

- Mountain biking, kite and windsurfing find a timesharing occurring between locals and visitors. Locals will utilize spaces early in the morning (6-7am) and late in the evening (after 5pm), while visitors utilize more in the daytime and weekends. Generally, locals avoid using recreation spaces during the heavily trafficked ‘high season.’
- Mountain biking uses a lot of trails that fall into different jurisdictions, including private lands. Planning can be challenging (getting three different agencies to sign off on something, for example). They hope that a Master Plan across different jurisdictions could help alleviate that challenge.

- Mountain biking is hoping to expand their trails, but this requires a huge amount of coordination between agencies and partners.

Where would you want to locate any new recreational areas?

- The West Side. They recognize a need for smaller neighborhood parks and green spaces for residents to access and for children to play, especially as the area expands.
- The Hood River corridor and riverside access. They would like to see ways to get residents to the Hood River riparian areas.
 - Currently, people walk along railway bridge to get to the HR riverside, which is not safe.
- Hiking spots within 10-15 minutes of Hood River.
- Site where 12th Street Cleaners used to be (currently where they sell hot tubs). That area is for sale, could be site for small parking lot and folks could access the area around there.
- Powerdale Lands could be a passive recreation area, if they are following the designated land uses and incorporating access for Tribal communities.
 - There could be a trail put in where the Powerdale pipeline used to be. However, you still don't have legal access via the railroad bridge. Very difficult to work with Railroad (and they own property between HR and Parkdale). Eventually, the railroad might not be there and that could be a great possibility for trails and access. Could Parks/public agencies be ready for the eventuality that railroad goes away?
- Continuing Hood River waterfront trail to Culbert. Initial investigation into this idea showed that property owners are open to that idea, but coordination with ODOT is key. This would be good to have a flat trail for running and family-friendly recreation.
- Connecting Westside trail to the Hook.
- Public access to Wells Island.
- Connective trail between Upper Valley and Lower Valley. Forestry has a proposed trail in their Master Plan, but haven't connected all of the dots yet (there's some private land involved).
- Cycling use on the Old Dalles highway. This could potentially be as simple as adding signs directing cyclists along a loop.
- Utilizing golf courses for cross-country skiing in colder winters.
- Hiking/biking connection to Cascade Locks

What improvements would you want to see with Hood River parks in the future?

- Interconnected, multidimensional nonmotorized trails for all purposes (including residential access).
- Increased connectivity through Parks spaces and trails throughout the area. This includes sidewalks, bike lanes, and options for walkers, runners, cyclists.
 - Communicating with City Commission on upcoming transportation plan, and finding ways to align Parks needs with transportation.
 - County and City coordination on things like sidewalks and greater nonmotorized connectivity throughout Hood River that will serve the community.
- More beginner opportunities for hikers, cyclists and families, that include flatter and family-friendly trails
- A fire management and preparation plan for the Indian Creek corridor.
- Finding alternatives for vehicle access to recreation.

- Overnight parking for recreational vehicles (possibly campgrounds, overnight parking, etc.)
 - Participants suggested this could be in partnership with the County at the County Fair grounds.
- Community recreation center for children and wintertime recreation.
- Seasonal uses:
 - Lighting for ballfields and turf options to withstand winter.
 - Flooding parking lots in winter for ice rinks and ice skating.
- Capping and limiting access to habitat/natural spaces.
- Increased funding and opportunities for maintenance of Parks facilities.
- Balance between short- and long-term goals (making sure that plan has ‘low hanging fruit’ that can be easily achievable).
- Increase in recreational spaces and accessibility for Upper Valley residents.

Fields and Facilities Focus Group

August 21, 2018, 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Overview

On August 21, 2018, the Executive and Assistant Directors of the Hood River Parks and Recreation department met with leaders and representatives of sports organizations in Hood River. Representatives of soccer, baseball, swimming, water polo, pickleball, ultimate frisbee, tennis, cross country track and other sports groups were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand the key needs of sports leagues and groups that use Parks fields and facilities in Hood River.

Key themes:

- There are not enough fields or facilities for sport league use in Hood River. Demand exceeds actual space. Dedicated courts and fields are great, but coordination is challenging and many fields are not well-maintained.
- Accessibility of recreation spaces is a key issue. It can be very difficult for people who live in the mid- or upper-valley to access parks, fields and facilities.
- This group sees parks and recreation as a part of a healthy community, and expressed keen interest in advocating for Parks if a ballot measure came up.

Responses to Discussion Questions:

What are the trends in participation and the demographics of your sports leagues?

- **Ultimate Frisbee**
 - This sport has seen a slow decline every year (from 6 teams of 20 to 4 teams of 16-20). Not sure why this is happening, possibly competition with other sports.
 - Bulk of participation is in the summer league season.
- **Youth Lacrosse**

- Lacrosse has grown at a slow rate. Currently, they serve about 225 – 250 kids, primarily in the spring (although interest in growing for the summer season).
- There's growing interest among adults (usually parents of youth players) for an adult league.
- **Youth Tennis**
 - About 140 kids play tennis in the summer months. This league has been consistently full.
 - Growing interest in an additional season has prompted them to start a fall league this year.
- **Swimming/Swim Masters**
 - Swim Masters currently has about 45 swimmers, which stays relatively constant.
 - Around 70 children participate in swim programs, although this fluctuates during Olympic years. Numbers seem to hold at a slight increase.
 - This league is actively working to engage more young people and children.
- **Water Polo**
 - This sport has seen a decrease in the summer, likely due to competition with other sports.
 - High school Water Polo has seen a decrease with the girls team, and steady numbers with the boys team.
- **Baseball/Little League Baseball**
 - Numbers have been steadily decreasing, likely due to competition with other sports.
- **Pickleball**
 - Participation has dramatically increased, largely due to the dedicated pickleball courts now in Hood River.
 - Participants generally tend to be older, but the league wants to target younger players.

What is the quality of fields you currently play on?

Aquatic Center

- Pool temperature can vary day to day due to equipment failures.
- Pool facilities are clean and look good, but locker rooms feel small for the number of people using the pool.
- Parking can be an issue during peak times (especially around 4pm, when the cross over between the pool and the school causes greater congestion).
- The current pool doesn't have capacity to host big swim meets. This could be an area of economic growth and benefit to the wider community.

Parks and Fields

- New Golden Eagle park is great for tennis. Who maintains that park? Some issues with crank on net broken for a couple of weeks and hasn't been fixed. Unclear who to contact or who is maintaining these spaces?
- Pickleball has dedicated courts at Golden Eagle Park, but they find that they still have issues with wind and are exposed to elements in the winter.

- Pickleball has been playing in elementary school gym that's inadequate to purpose, and filled to capacity. New school will hopefully have a gym.
- Soccer and lacrosse would like to see an indoor or covered space to offer options for the winter season. Currently, gym time is maxed out and it can be very difficult to reserve that indoor space through the school district.
- Cross country has been displaced many times (they can't access space at Golden Eagle Park or the fields owned by the churches). Currently, they don't have a place to run, and are going to have to run on the roads with 50 kids during harvest season.
- There is a need for bathrooms in parks! Trying to get kids out into nature/trails, wilderness awareness, and leave no trace: nowhere for kids to go to the bathroom and has had repercussions on business/program viability. Can there be bathrooms at key points for access?
- Current bathrooms in parks aren't seen as quality options. The skate park has bathrooms, but there are sometimes safety concerns with using those, as homeless folks are seen around that park area.
- There's not enough lighting on the pickleball courts.
- Baseball plays at Catholic Church and pays fee to play there. Little League has two allocated fields (Parkdale and Cullens, and they pay fees to play there). Little League has to then call on volunteers to do all of the maintenance in their fields.
- Lacrosse also uses volunteers to maintain bathrooms at the schools where they use facilities.

How easy is it to coordinate use of fields and facilities?

Field Space

- Fields are coordinated through schools district.
- The feeling among all groups is that there is not enough space to go around for all the leagues and sports.
 - Lacrosse and soccer have a hard time finding fields in the spring, as there isn't enough space for everyone to play. Not enough access because there isn't enough space.
- People have strong feelings about dedicated courts for certain sports (tennis vs. pickleball courts). There seem to be some issues with sharing courts across sports, and coordination of these spaces.
- Ultimate Frisbee and soccer can only access fields at Wy' East, which isn't well maintained in the summer (hard soil, have gotten injuries). Field can be swampy and wet during the spring.
- Ultimate Frisbee often goes through private entities to get space.

Aquatic Center

- Water Polo goes through Parks and Rec to get lane space in the pool. General feeling is that this works, but there is a lot of competition for pool space.

Where would you want to locate any new fields?

- These groups would like to expand and have more facilities around the Hood River area (upper and mid valley). Questions are there around connectivity and accessibility for other communities in the area.
- Interest in utilizing the 15 acres behind LDS church for recreation purposes.

- Interest in turning the aquatic center location into an indoor court and gym location if the pool moves to a new location.
- Could Parks collaborate with the new school being built on the West side?
- Groups reported that they don't see a lot of Latino participation in their sports. Some feel that this is because of the difficulty of access between different parts of Hood River County. They want to make sure that anything in the future would be accessible to folks who live in other parts of the Valley.
 - Co-ed soccer league does see some representation of Latino folks in their league (about 30% of team, representative of demographics).
 - There is a once-weekly bus that offers Upper Valley residents connection to the pool ("swim bus").
 - Lacrosse would like to do outreach to get Latino students involved but don't have enough field space to be able to increase their size.

What improvements would you want to see with Hood River parks in the future?

- Would like to see a Community Center that acts as central point for larger community, provides gym space appropriate for many different sports.
- A dedicated outdoor spaces for joggers, runners, cyclists in the area: especially for young people!
- An Olympic-sized swimming pool with better lockers and parking. Willing to put it anywhere, would be a big draw for folks and they would drive to it (Parkdale, Odell, etc.). Big enough to accommodate all the folks who want to use it, as well as more recreation aspects.
- Would like to see added climbing resources (possibly adding in climbing to a rec center). Representative noted that this is a growing interest in the area and a great sport for winter months.
- Wooded park space. Currently there are few trees and wooded spaces (Morrison park had poison oak and some safety issues with homeless folks). If there are not permits with Forestry, private enterprises with kids can't take them into the woods.
- There needs to be an aligned vision for what we want Parks to be (vision and mission statement for Parks). Should Parks just serve our communities? Produce Olympic athletes? Building higher goals for the community and the Parks department?
 - Is this just doing the best with what we have or is there a coordinated vision that communicates that?
- A funding solution for Parks and Recreation. Group raised the possibility of a Parks Foundation to increase funding.
- Coordinated transport system to increase access across the County to recreation spaces.

Feedback on the Aquatic Center proposals:

- Concern that proposals don't increase the size of the pool, and therefore can't accommodate more people.
- Group had some dissent about the inclusion of a splash pad/lazy river/recreational pool space. Some feel that those aspects would be great indoor recreation options for families, especially during the winter. Others felt that it might detract from the competitive sports and dedicated swim space in the pool.

- Group wondered if the improved aquatic center could also gather revenue. The current center serves a lot of surrounding communities (the Dalles, for example). Could future plans include options for a café or retail space, or some kind of private partnership, to increase revenue?

Latino Community Focus Group

August 31, 2018, 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Overview

On August 31, 2018, the Assistant Director of the Hood River Parks and Recreation District met with residents from the Latino community in at the Aquatic Center in Hood River. Hood River Parks and Recreation worked closely with The Next Door to support outreach and recruitment, and help tailor the focus group agenda for Spanish-speaking participants.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand the key barriers and needs of the Latino community in the use of parks, fields, and facilities in the Hood River Valley area.

There was a total of 6 participants in the focus group. 5 participants are women, and most live in the Odell area. 1 participant is a soccer coach for Hood River Valley High School.

Key themes:

- **Aquatic Center** - The pool is too overcrowded, and cost can be too high especially for those with larger families. However, participants are willing to pay a higher fee for an expanded facility.
- **Programs and activities** – Youth programs at later times would make programs more accessible particularly for families who live in Odell and have to commute to Hood River by public transportation. Information about scholarships, programs, and recreational options available for youth and adults is not easily accessible or communicated to non-English speaking residents.
- **Fields and facilities** - More open fields and rectangular fields are need for both youth and adults particularly in Odell. Fields and courts need better lighting at night, and year-round access.
- **Parks** - Current parks are great, such as Jackson Park, Children’s Park, Tamarack Park, and Tollbridge Park, but there’s a need for more shaded areas for picnicking or resting, and shaded playgrounds. Waterfront Park used to be great to visit until the Port began charging fees for parking.
- **Amenities** - Impromptu fiestas and picnics are a large part of Latino culture. Therefore, communal spaces for fiestas where nearby neighbors are not bothered would be a huge benefit for the Latino community.

Responses to Discussion Questions:

What are the things you like and don’t like at the Aquatic Center?

- Having an Aquatic Center in general is a great way for their kids to stay active and keep the community connected, but participants would like to see a larger facility with more diverse uses.
- The pool is currently extremely crowded and frequently maxed out in the summer.

- Participants don't mind tourists using Hood River facilities since it's only temporary during the summer, and locals can enjoy it in the winter
- In general, the cost of using the pool can be steep for families, particularly larger families. Participants typically visit the pool on Fridays because of \$1 nights, but this means only being able to use the pool when it's very busy due to the price discount. Families have to make the choice of paying more to use a less crowded facility or paying less to use a packed facility.
- Classes at the Aquatic Center fill up very quickly and miss their chance to sign up. Most participants were not aware of scholarships offered by the District for swim lessons. Information is translated in Spanish, but not accessible or seen.

How about the aquatic facilities? Bathrooms? Locker rooms?

- Younger boys can't follow their mothers to the women's bathroom. Their older siblings will help them. Some participants were not aware that a family changing room was available at the pool. There's a need for additional family changing rooms
- In general, more changing rooms with curtains and additional privacy is preferable. Open changing rooms are not as prevalent or comfortable in Latino culture.

What parks do you visit?

- **Waterfront Park** – Participants used to visit Waterfront Park frequently, but not as much anymore after parking fees were implemented. Waterfront Park is also too crowded, and now visitors need to pay to enjoy it.
- **Jackson Park** – Participants like the park, but there's not enough shaded areas. Swings are too exposed in the sun, and the metal gets too hot for kids and toddlers to use.
- **Children's Park** – Participants like the wooden features.
- **Tamarack Park** – Parking is limited, but it's a nice park. Bathroom facilities are currently portapotties, and difficult to use. Participants said they understand that a permanent facility can have the risk of being abused and would require additional maintenance/staffing, but a better restroom facility would be great. This park is also missing swings and playgrounds for smaller children.

What prevents you from using parks today?

- Technology and cell phones are a big deterrent for kids and youth to enjoy outdoor activities.
- A large barrier is time. The only time to do more outdoor activities and enjoy the parks is in the summer while kids are out of school, but with work and other family obligations, it's difficult to find time to enjoy parks.
- Most of the Latino population lives in Odell, and many parents have to commute to Hood River to get their kids to their meets on time. It's a struggle to participate in sports leagues if both parents are working and have to rely on public transportation to get their kids to their meets and lessons.
 - CAT is not reliable. Riders have to ask for pick up a day in advance, but it's not typical in Latino culture to plan a visit to a park or the Aquatic Center in advance. It's more typical to plan for things more spontaneously.
 - CAT also takes an hour to get to the Aquatic Center from Odell. More frequent buses might be helpful, but CAT is not a dependable mode of transportation.

- Some parents might not have driver’s licenses. For those folks, they either have to depend on others for rides or only drive for essential needs which makes it difficult for them to access parks facilities and programs for youth and adults.
- Soccer is a year-round sport and a huge passion for the Latino community, but scheduling is difficult for fields. The majority of the youth that play soccer are from marginalized communities.
 - There’s a need for indoor spaces and a larger need for fields and facilities in the future.
 - Lighting is a barrier during the night and winter seasons
 - Hood River Valley High School has plans to build an artificial field that any sport can play on.
 - In general, there’s a need for more rectangular fields for adults and youth.
- Jackson Park has coin-operated lighting. The participants and their kids liked this system very much. It’s low maintenance and helps pay for parks.

What are the most important improvements that should be made in the short and long-term?

- There are many missing sidewalks in Odell. Many families walk to school with their children and it’s not safe to walk on the street.
- Participants would like to see a park with basketball, soccer, and volleyball courts in Odell or wherever there is space. There’s a “build it and they will come” mentality. Location isn’t as important as having more capacity for different sports and activities, such as a sports complex.
- More coin-operated lighting at parks and courts.
- Communal space for family/community gatherings – a space that the whole community can use.
 - BBQs and doing carne asada is a huge part of Latino culture, but participants experience discomfort in using grills at parks. One participant received stares and comments from other parks user for using an open fire grill at Waterfront Park, but they didn’t know the rules, or what might be common knowledge in American culture.
 - Latinos are also concerned about noise or being a nuisance to nearby residents at parks, so a more secluded or private space is preferred.
- Shaded areas at parks are important. Many Latino residents work in the orchards and spend 8+ hours/day in the sun, and would prefer to stay in the shade when not working.
- Free parking access. Participants suggested a parking pass system for certain time periods, or discounted pass for locals.

What’s the best way to keep you informed?

- Participants at the meeting preferred email, but many community member may prefer traditional mail.
- It’s not enough to say “Habla español”. There needs to be more grassroots, face-to-face community outreach.
- Facebook groups such as KidSense are a good way to get the word out.
- Sharing information with parents groups at schools.
- Local Hispanic radio stations.
- Folks who work in the orchards are very isolated. Radio would be the best way to inform orchard workers.

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APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES





Memorandum

Date: 13 June 2018

Subject: Hood River Valley Parks District Multi-Jurisdictional Parks Master Plan
Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

From: Scott Keillor and Steve Duh

To: Mark Hickok and Marcie Wily

Route to: Project Advisory Committee

The Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District (HRVPRD) and its partners (the City of Hood River, Hood River County, Hood River Valley School District, and the Port of Hood River) are preparing a multi-jurisdictional park master plan. HRVPRD and its partner agencies that deliver park services sought input from stakeholders who represent a broad set of user groups. On June 6–7, BergerABAM and Conservation Technix staff interviewed 10 stakeholders in eight sessions at the HRVPRD office, and completed one interview as a telephone follow up. Questions included how parks and open space are used, and what recreation needs should be considered by the master planning effort. Responses helped to identify opportunities and constraints, and these will be used to inform recommendations for potential park plans, system improvements, funding, and parks and recreation service delivery. All responses are compiled by topic below and a list of interviewees is attached.

Stakeholder history with and views on parks

Those interviewed were very familiar with HRVPRD and have been active users and supporters. These general responses reflect their experiences:

- Cycling, soccer, skiing, stand up paddle boarding, and other watersports are popular.
- Use of various parks, including the Children’s Park, Waterfront Park and the Pool, and Toll Bridge Park.
- The newer Odell Park includes pathways, exercise, and covered basketball.
- The Parkdale Elementary school has a playground, community center (pre-school uses in daytime).
- The Waterfront Park is a great asset, especially for Hispanic families for gatherings, picnics and barbecuing. With housing limitations, there are apartments without yards, and lower income families need spaces to gather and play.

HRVPRD Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan – Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

13 June 2018

Page 2

- Jackson Park is a great asset – events, stage, families. Children’s Park also well used and received Rotary support. Schools offer supplemental support for recreation. Waterfront Park is another excellent addition, used by families and visitors.
- Soccer is very popular, and Little League is, too. The schools have opened up their facilities for places to play field sports.
- City parks are key to livability, recreation, and serve various user groups from youth sports to elders on nature walks to active sports enthusiasts.
- The forest lands and connectivity from urban to remote recreation are also important.
- Community Education Program offers pre-schools, youth recreation, adult special interest classes, sports programs, after school care and events (such as Families in the Park and Movies in the Park).

Vision 2028 – What stand-out parks plan improvement do you envision in 10 years?

- A fully connected trail system for walking and riding that also connects the upper Hood River Valley to downtown Hood River.
- Westside neighborhood parks and trail system (Westside Elementary to Skate Park) are built.
- Indian Creek Trail through Campbell property southwest of Columbia Gorge Community College along creek is also built.
- Pool redevelopment – larger, more programs; HRVPRD office, and splash pad outside.
- Signature sports complex with a community center.
- Improved west side bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.
- Develop the Westside of Hood River with parks, open spaces and trails.
- Look at the needs for Odell and the mid-Valley community.

How to meet your vision by 2028?

- Sports complex: review other community examples, find additional funding resources, review fee structure/user fees.
- Adopt a parks master plan and fold into Goal 8 City and County comprehensive plans.
- Raise community awareness regards park needs.
- Address critical housing need to allow diversity and avoid pricing citizens out.
- Achieve a high quality of life for families – pool, parks, trails, classes, leagues.
- Funding: Providence gifting; grants; review fee structures (e.g., hold or increase parks systems development charges [SDCs])

Describe local parks opportunities, constraints, big ideas, and examples from other places

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing HRVPRD taxing district; community support, and volunteers. • Expand waterfront footprint to include broader user groups: the Spit, others; Koberg Beach improvements? • Parkdale needs a new park. • Connect river, forest, historic highway and parks. • Westside 3 planned parks: 1) Haners property (orchard off of Belmont/ 22nd); 2) near new planned Westside School; 3) Henderson Creek open space. • New growth = increased SDC funds. • Indoor tennis? • Tie the community together with trails. • New Punchbowl Park. • Trail connection opportunities near the airport. • Advance quality programs/services. • Innovations and trends in recreation (e.g., electric bikes). • Synthetic turf being installed at the high school – more soccer and events, plus longer field scheduling. • Support Gorge Trails to Towns • New inter-community Columbia Area Transit (CAT). • Expand bike/pedestrian facilities and bike lanes on west side. • Acquisition – e.g., Frankton/ Country Club? • Increase park funding – e.g., taxes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low land inventory and high land costs. • Lower voluntarism due to aging community. • Zoning can impact parks (e.g., Waterfront Park may be the last of its kind). • Land availability (but there is a large parcel west of Toll Bridge Park – could it become available?) • Costs – consider higher fees, and taxing visitors (room tax add?) • Farm land encroachment/zoning. • The farmers market is in an awkward location. • Over-crowding, and pressure from users on the waterfront. • No community gathering place in Odell. • Recreation infrastructure is limited. • Road have no shoulders to bike. • Field space is needed. • Event costs (i.e., City fees for Community Ed to put on Families in the Park). • Limited connectivity. • West side lacks parks. • Exclusion of Cascade Locks – can this economically challenged part of the County be included? • High speed, rural roads with ditches, and landowners that don't always support pedestrian/bike. • Possible SDC fee rollback. • Limited ballfield space.

HRVPRD Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan – Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

13 June 2018

Page 4

Big Ideas:

- Sports complex/community center with multiple community functions.
- More areas to access water (e.g. rivers) for general public use.
- Trail system connectivity and an indoor sports complex with pool and day care.
- Hood River Corridor: Columbia Land Trust property along Hood River that resulted from PacifiCorp dam removal settlement. Some owned by County. From Copper Dam to Powerdale/Trestle on Hood River – area needs a management plan. Some train-pedestrian conflicts/concerns.
- Keep the preschool and after care programs at the school district; transfer remaining recreation programs and events to HRVPRD via intergovernmental agreement with school district for facility usage.
- Establish a stewardship committee to enable volunteer efforts and bring the community together (Washougal example).

Examples from other communities (facilities, programs, management approach, etc.):

- Canmore (Alberta, Canada) has a great sports complex.
- Look at university parks and recreation facilities.
- Bend grew the city around a network of greenbelts and trails; they planned for infrastructure for recreation.
- Juniper Park, Bend: Child care, pool, community center, sports, etc.
- Washougal Trail Town Plan and Connect Cascade Locks Plan, both led by PSU Masters in Urban Planning students.
- Boise has a wonderful, long riverfront trail. We should connect our waterfront trail to Mosier.
- Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (Beaverton, OR) did great job joint planning and co-locating recreation facility with community college.

Neighborhood Parks/Use/What's Missing?

- Pool, Waterfront Park, and Jackson Park are heavily used.
- Demand for core parks and County hike and bike trails.
- Parkdale parks are well used – some current updates happening at Toll Bridge Park.
- Need more trails and upper valley pump track for youth cyclists.
- Parking is an issue at all of our parks.
- Restrooms needed for Post Canyon trailhead.
- More common uses: sports complex and general water access.
- Residents say there is a need for more parks. Observation is they are underused. Most parks are on the east side and the need/growth is on the west side. Planned new minor arterial from Frankton to Belmont (in transportation system plan), and splits/abuts

urban growth boundary. Community parks needed – one 30-40 acre park is planned off Fairview that will be suited for ballfields.

- There needs to be improved connectivity to the trail system on both sides of Hood River (east, west) to tie it together.

Specific User Group Needs

- Safe place for kids to jump into water (Port dolphins and Koberg Beach rock jumping are unsafe).
- Program expansion: example: connect with CAT for recreational transport:
 - Educate and advertise – e.g., the aging population and access to flat trails like the waterfront.
- Baseball fields (currently the ballfields are on land courtesy of the Catholic Church).
- Latinos – note PSU MURP students engaged this group.
- Aging – more flat, walkable places.
- Regional sports – increase water and mountain access (goes beyond HRVPRD responsibility).
- Adult recreation.
- Special needs population needs programming.
- Latino community – need staff with Spanish language skills; need support/funds for scholarship programs for recreation.
- The Latino/Hispanic community needs more access to trails and outdoor recreation options, especially with urban trails and community connectivity.
- Generally, people of color have less exposure to outdoor recreation.
 - At St. Mary's, the local Latino community does monthly summertime kermesses (carnival-like get-togethers) that provide social time and a way to get families together.
- Missing general facilities to serve seniors/ cross generations / engage Latino community.
- Need cross-town connections to parks.
- Need a community center/sports complex with longer hours to serve all; partner with schools and Head Start.

How are HRVPRD and Agencies doing?

- Doing very well; good to have a separate taxing district (more solvent than most).
- Multiple agencies are doing a good job. Enhance coordination. Consolidate efforts, share equipment and manpower.
- Park system adequate except that County parks need improvement.
- HRVPRD has done a good job, and has gone above and beyond: from pool to Indian Creek, and Westside Trail.
- Phenomenal job! Gaps to address:
 - Connect and coordinate among agencies.

HRVPRD Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan – Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

13 June 2018

Page 6

- Capacity is an issue – parks are under-developed.

Where Should HRVPRD and Partners Focus Resources?

- Collaboration is needed among agencies to enhance cost efficiencies.
- There are a good number of parks, but need to focus on maintenance.
- Deal with Barrett Park – is this now surplus?
- Land banking ops, anticipate next downturn (wait); review surplus property potential; increase agency cooperation/efficiency.
- Have one agency to coordinate, advocate, and perform the work for the park system.
- HRVPRD should aim high when it asks the community for funding about the pool.
- Agencies in the Hood River Valley are highly functioning and work well together. Others see what the Hood River community has been accomplishing (i.e., waterfront) and want to do the same.
- Collaborate with colleges for programs and field space. There is a lack of soccer fields.
- Coordinate with and talk to Janet Hamada of The Next Door, Inc.; they do a lot with at-risk youth, Big Brother, and programs like traditional food gardening.
- Make facilities handicapped accessible.
- Provide for more picnic area and family gathering spaces.

Additional Thoughts?

- Invest in the Community Education Program, for high value services:
 - Arts
 - Culture
 - Sports
- Need continuous urban bike paths.
- Goal 8 policies from this plan can inform Goal 12 Transportation.
- Creative outreach – consider door to door.
- Latino community/Spanish speaker outreach is key.
- What the community center/sports complex needs:
 - Community classes: cooking; language
 - Art, etc.
 - Be multi-cultural
- Skate Park: repaint and improve to include some smaller ramps for younger skaters.

HRVPRD Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan – Summary of Stakeholder Interviews
13 June 2018
Page 7

Stakeholders Interviewed

Erick Haynie, Hood River Rotary President
John Rust, Community Education Program
Kevin Liburdy, Hood River Senior Planner
Mike Doke, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
Judy Zimmerman and Marianne Durkan, Gorge Ecumenical Ministries
Victoria Hubler, Citizens for Responsible Growth, and son Oliver (10 years old)
Renee Tkach, Friends of the Gorge/Gorge Towns to Trails
Erika Taylor, Parkdale Resident

APPENDIX E: GUIDING DOCUMENTS

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities across Hood River. The development of each involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District Master Plan - 2012

The HRVPRD 2012 Master Plan updated the Park District's 2005 Capital Facilities Master Plan. The 2012 plan provided goals and objectives for the development of projects over the next ten years accompanied by a funding analysis for the costs relating to development, operations, maintenance of existing and proposed facilities and programs. Key findings from the community needs assessment revealed a strong demand for new sports fields, park improvements that included picnic areas, tennis court upgrades and indoor recreation spaces. Community interest was also expressed for trail development and connectivity between key community facilities. The 2012 plan restated the Park District's main ongoing priority to be the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Aquatic Center. The District also maintains an inventory of community and neighborhood parks, a skate park and trail system. The District boundary includes all of Hood River County except Cascade Locks, encompassing 530 square miles. HRVPRD works with partnering agencies to provide parks and recreation services within the District. These partners include the City of Hood River, Hood River County, the Port of Hood River and the Hood River County School District. The District and their partners have over 123,000 acres of parkland, primarily categorized as regional parks (99%) which includes federal, state and county forestland. The District recognizes the importance of collaborative partnerships to help meet community needs for park and recreation facilities and services. Additionally, there are over 600 miles of trails within the Park District, provided by HRVPRD, City of Hood River, the Port, the County, Oregon State and the US Forest Service (provider of majority of trail mileage).

City of Hood River Comprehensive Plan

Updated in 2015, the City's comprehensive plan provides guidance to park and recreation goals and policies.

Under Goal 8 Recreational Needs, the comprehensive plan follows the State requirement to satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the community and visitors to the area. The Plan's policies include:

- Existing park sites will be protected from incompatible uses and future expansion alternatives at some sites will be developed.
- When feasible, recreational opportunities and park sites will be located so as to be accessible to a maximum number of people.
- The development of parks which are accessible by means of walking or bicycling is encouraged.
- Participation by neighboring residents will be encouraged to contribute to park development and maintenance.
- Encourage low—maintenance park and recreation use of floodplains and drainage.
- As parcels of land are annexed from the UGA into the City, some land will be designated Open Space/Public Land for the development of new parks and public facilities, including access ways, to serve the recreational needs of the community.

- Because the growth of the windsurfing industry and other-recreational activities comprise a significant portion of Hood River's recreational and tourist industry, the establishment of recreational facilities may be allowed in appropriate locations in the City.

The Plan also encourages the active cooperation and coordination of both the City and County Public Works Departments to work towards the development of recreation programs and facilities.

Hood River Westside Area Concept Plan Report – 2017

The Westside Area Concept Plan Report, published in 2017, included recommendations for an integrated land use and transportation plan featuring three neighborhood parks, open space, and trails in a study area bound by Cascade Avenue, Rand Road, Belmont Drive, and Frankton Road. Elements of the Concept Plan Report's Parks and Open Space Framework and Bicycle & Pedestrian Framework were incorporated into this Multi-Jurisdictional Parks Master Plan.

University of Portland - City of Hood River Housing - 2017

Through its Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT) program, the University of Portland partnered with the City of Hood River to outreach and survey the community about housing affordability and availability in the City. Through on-line surveys, listening sessions, interviews and written comments, approximately 1,000 people participated in the engagement process. The report released in December 2017 shared key findings:

- The majority of participants expressed their concerns about housing limitations and the future housing choices.
- Participants wanted the City to ensure that public infrastructure (transportation including traffic, parking, transit, etc.; sewer & water; parks and green spaces and schools) kept up with population growth.
- There was a strong desire to see the City coordinate and plan for more housing in collaboration with the County and other communities in the region.

The OKT report concluded that the majority of people want to see different types of housing for different income levels and for people at different stages of life in the City of Hood River.

Hood River County Comprehensive Plan (rev. 2011)

The County's comprehensive plan, first adopted in 1984, sets out the direction and policies for land use and development activities. The Plan's purpose includes preserving open spaces and protecting natural, scenic and historical resources as well as satisfying the recreational needs of its residents. The Hood River County Comprehensive Plan also includes a map graphically indicating land use designations, intended to align with the county zoning map.

Hood River County Bicycle Plan 2011

The Bicycle Plan is an update of the bicycle element of the County's 2003 Transportation System Plan (TSP). The plan recommends 20 bicycle projects including one multi-use path, 10 county road projects, five State highway projects, three State highway intersection projects and one Historic Columbia River Highway project with four segments. The projects and the plan were intended to be adopted into the County TSP and as amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in compliance with the Transportation Planning Rule and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 660-012-0020(2)(d).

Hood River County Forestry Department Recreation Trail System Master Plan- 2010

With the guidance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Community Assistance program, Hood River County Forestry Department developed a trail system master plan to guide the design and management of trails throughout the county-owned lands. The plan's vision seeks to provide a sustainable system of recreation trails within the HRC Forest Lands that is managed cooperatively by the Forestry Department and its user groups and trail partners. The master plan recognized that the county code mandates the primary purpose for their forest lands is the production and sale of timber. The management of existing recreation trails, establishment and adoption of new trails, and development of trail standards, signage and mapping is an ongoing coordination effort with timber production. The HRC Forestry Department manages 31,064 acres of land primarily for commercial timber production and, cooperatively, for recreation. Four systems of recreation trails (Northwest, Middle Mountain, East and South Areas) exist in separate county ownership and are designated for multiple-use. An estimated 429 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle routes (open to all users) include 149 miles of trails and 280 miles of forest roads. In 2016, funded by the Oregon parks and Recreation Department ATV grant program, a Northwest Area recreation trails OHV map guide was developed.

Hood River County School District Athletic Facilities Master Plan - 2017

The HRC School District Athletic Facilities Master Plan assesses existing conditions, needed improvements, costs and priorities for implementation for athletic facilities at the seven existing schools within the District. Emphasis of the study was placed on the four sites with organized sports that include the high school, two middle schools, and Westside Elementary. The master plan developed a prioritized list of improvement projects with four phases totaling \$16 million. Only the first phase was currently funded. Proposed improvements included playgrounds, youth baseball, softball, soccer, track, lacrosse and football. Synthetic turf, bleachers, paved paths, parking, lighting and visitor restrooms were among the proposed improvements. The Hood River Valley High School proposed improvements also included suggested improvement projects, including tennis courts, and connected pathway within the adjacent Golden Eagle Park.

Port of Hood River 2014-2018 Strategic Business Plan

The Port of Hood River owns and maintains several waterfront recreation sites along the Columbia River. Approximately 45 acres of waterfront land has been dedicated to parks, water access sites, trails and other open space that supports outdoor recreation. Port-owned recreation amenities include a marina and docks for boating, watersports recreation sites, park facilities, restrooms, and trails. The Marina Basin (22 acres) provides boat slips and boathouses that generate annual moorage fees. Of the various recreationalists at the Port, marina visitors have been found to generate the largest spending impact in the community. Overnight marina slip users spend three to eight times more than day visitors. The Port's recreational facilities contribute to tourism and quality of life by offering watersports, classes, boating activities, and sports fields. The strategic plan recognizes the opportunity to promote/support bicycle tourism associated with the Scenic Highway. The plan lists future capital projects intended to continue to improve and enhance its existing recreation facilities in addition to its other properties and infrastructure. And the Port has identified the need to develop a pedestrian/bicycle trail along the edge of the adjacent Nichols Basin as the Port infrastructure continues to expand and develop existing industrial lands. As part of the Port's mission "to promote and maintain a healthy economy and strong quality of life in the Port District and throughout the Columbia Gorge", the Strategic Business Plan recognizes the demand for additional waterfront recreation and scenic amenities on Port property but also notes that increasing operating costs will encourage the need to develop creative partnerships with other public agencies or private business to help offset recreational operating costs.

APPENDIX F: IMPLEMENTATION TACTICS



The District, City and County possess a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining the parks and recreation system. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with community leaders are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing revenue sources in favor of parks and recreation programs.

LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

General Obligation Bond

These are voter-approved bonds with the authority to levy an assessment on real and personal property. The money can only be used for capital construction and improvements, but not for maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a simple majority in November and May elections, unless during a special election, in which case a double majority (a majority of registered voters must vote and a majority of those voting must approve the measure) is required.

Park Utility Fee

A park utility fee provides dedicated funds to help offset the cost of park maintenance and could free up general fund dollars for other capital project uses. Most city residents pay water and sewer utility fees. Park utility fees apply the same concepts to parks, and a fee is assessed to all businesses and households. The monthly fee would be paid upon connection to the water and sewer system.

System Development Charges

HRVPRD currently assesses a parks system development charge (SDC). SDCs are charged for new residential development to help finance the demand for park facilities created by the new growth.

Fuel Tax

Oregon gas taxes are collected as a fixed amount per gallon of gasoline purchased. The Oregon Highway Trust Fund collects fuel taxes, and a portion is paid to cities annually on a per-capita basis. By statute, revenues can be used for any road-related purpose, which may include sidewalk repairs, ADA upgrades, bike routes and other transportation-oriented park and trail enhancements.

FEDERAL / STATE GRANTS & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service

www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a community resource administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grant

U.S. Forest Service

www.treelink.org/nucfac/

The National Urban and Community Advisory Council has overhauled their criteria for the US Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry challenge cost share grant program for 2009. Grants will be solicited in two categories: innovation grants and best practices grants. As with the previous grant program, a 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

Urban & Community Forestry Small Projects & Scholarship Fund

Oregon Department of Forestry

The purpose of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program's Small Projects and Scholarship Fund (UCF-SPSF) is to cover the small, yet sometimes prohibitive, administrative and material expenses directly related to community forestry projects encountered by smaller volunteer groups and cities across Oregon. Applications must be received by the end of each quarter for consideration.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

US Fish & Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtml

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Both are Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners

may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Local Government Grant

Oregon Parks and Recreation

www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/pages/local.aspx

Local government agencies who are obligated by state law to provide public recreation facilities are eligible for OPR's Local Government Grants, and these are limited to public outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible projects involve land acquisition, development and major rehabilitation projects that are consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant

Oregon Parks and Recreation

www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/pages/lwcf.aspx

LWCF grants are available through OPR to either acquire land for public outdoor recreation or to develop basic outdoor recreation facilities. Projects must be consistent with the outdoor recreation goals and objectives stated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and elements of local comprehensive land use plans and park master plans. A 50% match is required from all successful applicants of non-federal funds, in-kind services and/or materials.

Recreational Trails Program Grant

Oregon Parks and Recreation

www.oregon.gov/OPRD/GRANTS/pages/trails.aspx

Recreational Trails Grants are national grants administered by OPRD for recreational trail-related projects, such as hiking, running, bicycling, off-road motorcycling, and all-terrain vehicle riding. Yearly grants are awarded based on available federal funding. RTP funding is primarily for recreational trail projects, rather than utilitarian transportation-based projects. Funding is divided into 30% motorized trail use, 30% non-motorized trail use and 40% diverse trail use. A 20% minimum project match is required.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Grants

Oregon Department of Transportation

www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED/pages/grants1.aspx

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Grant Program is a competitive grant program that provides approximately \$5 million dollars every two years to Oregon cities, counties and ODOT regional and district offices for design and construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Proposed facilities must be within public rights-of-way. Grants are awarded by

the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Project types include sidewalk infill, ADA upgrades, street crossings, intersection improvements, minor widening for bike lanes.

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)

Oregon Department of Transportation

<https://www.transportation.gov/fastact>

The FAST Act, which replaced Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) in 2015, provides long-term funding certainty for surface transportation projects, meaning states and local governments can move forward with critical transportation projects with the confidence that they will have a Federal partner over the long term (at least five years). The law makes changes and reforms to many Federal transportation programs, including streamlining the approval processes for new transportation projects and providing new safety tools.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/pages/index.aspx

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board focuses on projects that approach natural resources management from a whole-watershed perspective. OWEB encourages projects that foster interagency cooperation, include other sources of funding, provide for local stakeholder involvement, include youth and volunteers and promote learning about watershed concepts. There are five general categories of projects eligible for OWEB funding: watershed management (restoration and acquisition), resource monitoring and assessment, watershed education and outreach, Watershed council support and technical assistance.

OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fund raising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Meyer Memorial Trust

The Meyer Memorial Trust seeks opportunities to make program-related investments in Oregon and Clark County, WA. General Purpose Grants support projects related to arts and humanities, education, health, social welfare, and a variety of other activities. Proposals may be submitted at any time under this program, and there is no limitation on the size or duration of these grants.

Wells Fargo: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): Environmental Grant Program

<https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/community-giving/environmental-grant-program/>

This program builds partnerships with local environmental nonprofits that have projects that focus on strengthening the resiliency of our communities. This includes efforts focused on climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable agriculture and forestry, water quality, land conservation, and support for building healthy urban ecosystems. The programs operate as a closed RFP, invitation-only process where Wells Fargo engages specific organizations whose work aligns with our giving priorities.

REI in the Community - Non-Profit Partnerships and Grants

<https://www.rei.com/stewardship/community/non-profit-partnerships-and-grants.html>

Partnerships begin with store teams who may connect with nonprofits by promoting or partnering for events and service projects, raising visibility with REI customers, offering product donations, and inviting and selecting organizations for an REI grant.

Kaiser Permanente Healthy Environments - Community Benefit Programs

<https://share.kaiserpermanente.org/category/about-community-benefit/Community Health Initiatives factsheet>

These programs work with community-based organizations, public agencies, businesses and residents to translate their vision for healthy communities into visible, concrete changes — and ultimately healthier neighborhoods. Kaiser has several assistance programs that encompass support for Environmental Stewardship, Community Health Initiatives, Every Body Walk!, and Physical Activity Guiding Principles.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between parks, school districts, other municipalities and utility providers.

ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the park agency purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property – often the right to subdivide or develop – and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city/county (or private organization) that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection.

Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. The preservation and protection of habitat or resources lands may best be coordinated with the local land trust or conservancy, since that organization will likely have staff resources, a systematic planning approach and access to non-governmental funds to facilitate aggressive or large scale transactions.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details).

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. The Columbia Land Trust is the local land trust serving the Hood River area. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

APPENDIX G: RECREATIONAL TRENDS



NATIONAL TRENDS

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local trends that may reflect potential recreational activities and facilities for future consideration in North Plains' park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

NRPA Agency Performance Review

The 2018 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review summarizes the key findings from NRPA Park Metrics, their benchmarking tool for park and recreation professional to assist in planning for operations and capital facilities. The 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,069 park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2015 and 2017. Park and recreation agencies take on many responsibilities for their communities beyond their “traditional” roles of operating parks and related facilities (95%) and providing recreation programming and services (92%). In addition to those two functions, the top responsibilities for park and recreation agencies are:

- Have budgetary responsibility for their administrative staff (89 percent of agencies)
- Operate and maintain indoor facilities (88 percent)
- Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways (75 percent)
- Conduct major jurisdiction-wide special events (73 percent)
- Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces (66 percent)
- Operate and maintain non-park sites (63 percent)
- Administer or manage tournament/event-quality outdoor sports complexes (55 percent)
- Operate, maintain or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks (48 percent)
- Operate, maintain or contract tennis center facilities (46 percent)
- Administer community gardens (41 percent)

Staffing at the typical park and recreation agency includes 36 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) that include a mix of both full-time and part-time staff. The size of the staff, typically, expands as the size of the jurisdiction served by the agency expands. FTEs on staff also positively correlate with the number of parks and acres maintained, the amount of operating expenditures and how many residents an agency serves. The typical park and recreation agency has 7.9 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in the jurisdiction served by the agency. The typical park and recreation agency has annual operating expenses of \$78.26 on a per capita basis. At the typical park and recreation agency, personnel services account for 55 percent of the operations budget. Agencies, on average, dedicate 43 percent of their annual operating budget to the management and maintenance of parks and open space. NRPA qualifies their agency performance review report with the assertion that no two agencies are alike and the “typical” benchmarks should be used a comparatives on conjunction with other trends and data not as national standards. Just as each community is unique, their park and recreation agencies should be customized to provide the essential level of service for that community.

Beyond the benchmarks that can assist in gauging agency performance, the 2018 NRPA report offers a look at trends and uncertainties that may affect the future of parks and recreation provision. While strong public support for parks has been comparable to public safety, education and transportation, public officials still exhibit only moderate support for public parks, leaving their budgetary funding susceptible to targeted cuts during lean economic times. Unfunded pension costs continue to plague many local governments who may have granted greater pension benefits than what was funded, leaving deep pension debts that are financially constraining. This economic impact may limit or reduce staff levels and constrain future hiring to meet the needs of growing park systems.

Public-private partnerships have been on the rise to create new high-quality urban parks. Often paired with non-profits to manage and operate these parks the question may arise about pay-to-play and how equity is assured across the public realm.

The importance of parks in making communities more resilient as part of a network of green infrastructure is increasing. From the provision of valued urban tree canopies to reduce the urban heat island effect to increasing floodable sites to mitigate for weather changes and flooding responses, park systems have the ability to reduce property damage costs and provide a critical role increasing resilience to climate change impacts.

Park and recreation agencies are expanding their health and wellness offerings that emphasize greater social and health equity in underserved and disadvantaged communities. Agencies can make the case for park and trail infrastructure as providing healthy opportunities for promoting physical activity.

Emerging technologies continue to provide both challenges and opportunities. Cell phone technology from geogaming to class registrations and increasing financial transactions, the use of drones in public spaces, the intensity of public exposure through social media are changing the way some agencies administer their programming and operations.

NRPA Field Report

The 2016 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Field Report gathered data from 950 park and recreation agencies across the country. The report offers insights into the prevalence of recreational opportunities and offerings across the country, provides comparison information about the agency performance, and highlights the following opportunities and challenges for park and recreation providers:

Social Equity / Environmental Justice

Agencies should work to ensure they provide equitable access to parks and recreation services that are of similar quality; seek and listen to customer complaints about unfair treatment; and openly address issues that arise.

Capital and Operating Finance

Park and recreation agencies must continue to communicate the value of parks and recreation services to the community and pursue diverse funding strategies.

Global Warming and Natural Disasters

Agencies should anticipate and plan for the early impacts of climate change, such as rising maintenance costs for beaches and other areas subject to flooding and the potential need to replace facilities destroyed in natural events.

Operating Budgets

The report acknowledges that tight budgets, at all agency levels, are likely to continue into the future. It encourages agencies to understand the cost of providing services, define their core services and need for subsidies, report on success in meeting budget goals; and pursue partnerships with private and nonprofit agencies to help support operations.

Safe Play

Agencies should consider the safety implications (e.g. concussion potential) of team sports, identify knowledgeable resources, engage the community, and explore whether alternative sports offerings (such as flag football) might be a good fit for their community.

Community Engagement

The report encourages agencies to explore ways to engage teens in community projects.

2016 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2016 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. Overall there was a slight increase in measures of activity from 2014 to 2015 with fluctuations in sports showing an increase in team, water, winter, and fitness sports while individual sports declined slightly. A slight decrease in inactivity in the last year from 28.3% of Americans (age six and older) in 2014 to 27.7%. Inactivity rates remained higher in low income households: 28.4% of households with combined incomes under \$25,000 and 28.1% of households in the \$25,000-\$49,999 income range. These levels of inactivity have been increasing slightly over the last five years.

In terms of interest, all age groups continue to look at swimming as a means for future fitness followed heavily by outdoor activities (such as camping and biking). The trend shows that more Americans are interested in getting outside and being in natural settings. Most adult age groups focus on fitness activities while team sports are more attractive to youths. Participants in the surveys conducted for this report shared that having someone else participating in any fitness activity was a strong motivator. A shortage of available time and current health issues were cited as the biggest obstacles to more participation in active lifestyles.

Another revealing trend was the effect of PE during school years on physical activities during school and post-school years. Participation in physical exercise during grade and high school influenced degree of engagement in team sports, outdoor recreation and fitness activities both during school years and after age 18. Those who did not have PE, only 15% also participated in team sports and outdoor recreation. 80% of adults ages 18+ who had PE in school were active compared to 61% of adults who didn't have PE in school.

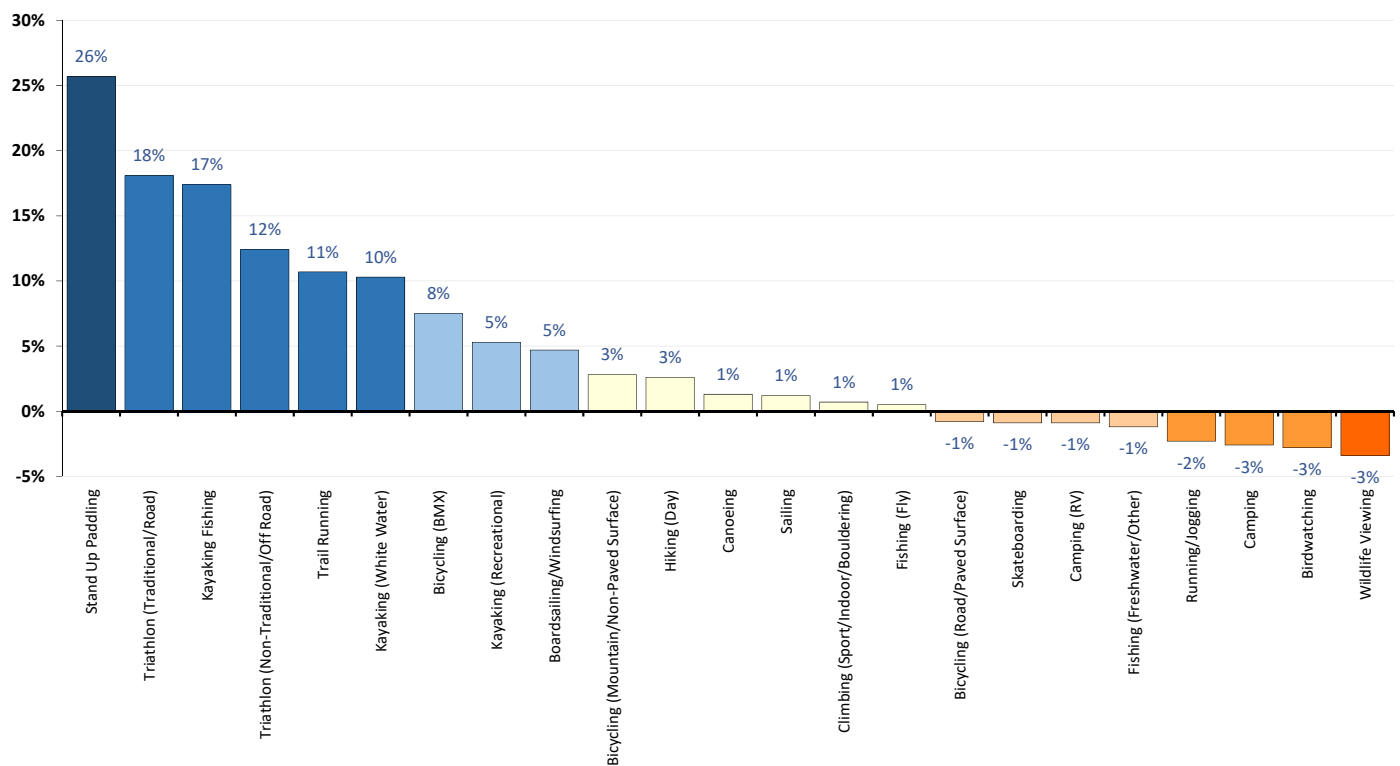
The report surveyed spending on wearable devices for fitness tracking. Fitness trackers that sync with smartphones/tablets/computers increased from 8.4% of participants in 2014 to 12.9% in 2015. The interest in purchasing and using wearable technology in the future increased by 3.2% over the last year among active individuals.

2016 Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2016 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual’s age. Gender also plays a role in determining behaviors and participation trends. Recent trend highlights include the following:

- Participation rates drop for both males and females from ages 16 to 20. These rates climb back up slightly for females into their early 20’s and males late 20’s before gradually declining throughout life.
- Indoor fitness becomes the preferred activity among young women ages 16 to 20 and remains the most popular form of activity. Males, however, favor outdoor activities until they are age 66 and older.
- Almost one-quarter of all outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.

Figure G1. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24) (2016 Outdoor Foundation)



2015 Special Report on Paddlesports

In 2015, the Outdoor Foundation produced a report focused on paddle sports data based on a participation survey (over 10,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals and households). In 2014, 21.7 million Americans (approximately 7.4% of the population) participated in paddle sports. This represents an increase of more than 3 million participants since the study began in 2010. Over the last five years, there continues to be an increase in paddle sports popularity among outdoor enthusiasts.

In 2014, paddling participants made 215.8 million annual outings — in kayaks, rafts, canoes and stand up paddle boards. Paddlers made an average of 7 outings each, with kayakers making the most outings and stand up paddlers making the least. Kayaking is the most popular form of paddling, increasing from 3 percent of Americans participating in 2010 to 4.4 percent in 2014. Kayakers are the most avid paddlers, averaging 8.1 outings. Overall, kayaking is most popular among young adults, ages 18 to 24.

Beyond paddling, kayakers, rafters, canoers and stand up paddlers enjoy many of the same “crossover” activities. As seen in past years, fitness walking is the most popular activity, with more than half of paddlers also walking. The outdoor activities of hiking, running and bicycling follow.

A majority of paddlers get outside to get exercise. Being with family and friends is the second most popular answer among paddlers. Adult paddlers, ages 25 to 44, are the most likely participants to describe themselves as paddling fanatics. That age group is also the most likely to say they are “hooked” on paddle sports.

2015 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine’s 2015 State of the Industry Report listed the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years, along with the frequency (in parentheses) noted by survey participants:

- Mind body / balance programs (25.2%)
- Fitness programs (24.9%)
- Educational programs (24.3%)
- Day camps & summer camps (22.8%)
- Environmental education (21.5%)
- Teen programming (20.4%)
- Adult sports teams (19.4%)
- Active older adult programs (19.4%)
- Holidays & other special events (19.1%)
- Nutrition & diet counseling (17.4%)

For most programming types, community centers are the ones most likely to be planning to add such programs. There are a few exceptions. Parks are most likely to be planning to add environmental education, sports tournaments or races, individual sports activities and water sports. The same report indicated park systems that are planning to add features to their facilities in the next three years list their top five planned amenities as:

- Playgrounds
- Shelters such as picnic areas and gazebos
- Park restroom structures
- Outdoor sports courts for basketball, tennis, etc.
- Bike trails

2012 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent 2012 NSRE reports the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25 percent. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. American's participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

Parks as Green Infrastructure

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) released their *City Parks, Clean Water* 2016 report citing the intersection of parks and stormwater management and the role of green infrastructure in creating healthier environments. While the TPL report focused primarily on urban parks and their value in promoting best stormwater management practices, the larger concept of parks as green infrastructure can provide valuable ecosystem services as well as outdoor recreation functions. Green infrastructure (GI) is the network of green spaces that protects natural ecosystems and provides associated benefits, such as clean water and air, to communities. For these reasons, its protection should be a high priority for local governments.

The American Planning Association's 2010 PAS QuickNotes on Green Infrastructure assert the need to protect existing green infrastructure, particularly forests and wetlands to preserve their ecosystem functions and values for environmental health. Local, regional and statewide parks and open spaces are important elements of a green infrastructure network and can contribute to the connections and corridors that are vital for biodiversity, flood reduction, air and water quality, wildlife habitat, coastal resilience and the ability for communities to adapt for climate changes. Planning a green infrastructure network is best accomplished in direct correlation with planning for a park, trail and open space network.

STATE AND REGIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Oregon State Outdoor Recreation Trends

The 2019-2022 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is Oregon's five-year policy plan for outdoor recreation and provides guidance for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program and for other Oregon Parks and Recreation (OPRD)-administered grant programs. The future Plan is currently underway having completed its statewide survey of outdoor recreation participation in 2017. The SCORP survey identified fifty six (56) recreation activities as important recreation activity types. These activities were grouped into eight (8) categories including Non-motorized Trail or Related Activities, Motorized Activities, Non-motorized Snow Activities, Outdoor Leisure and Sporting Activities, Nature Study Activities, Vehicle-based Camping Activities, Hunting and Fishing Activities, and Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities.

Overall, 95% of Oregonians participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity in Oregon during the year of the study. Close-to-home activities occur more often for Oregon residents since these activities can occur on a daily basis with limited travel time. For Oregonians, local/ municipal parks experienced the highest percentage of respondents reporting that they had visited that type of area over the past 12 months, followed by State parks, forests, or game lands. National parks, forests, and recreation areas were third, followed by county parks, private parks, and other areas.

Besides walking, bicycling and jogging on local streets/sidewalks; top outdoor activities include walking on local trails/paths, relaxing/hanging out/escaping heat/noise/etc., dog walking, and taking children to a playground. It should be noted that a high degree of consistency exists between local interests and statewide results.

Figure G2. Participation Rates of Top Activities for Oregon Residents (SCORP)

Activity	Percent Pop. Participating
Walking on local streets/sidewalks	83%
Walking on local trails/paths	74%
Sightseeing/driving or motorcycling for pleasure	59%
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat.noise, etc.	59%
Beach activities - ocean	57%

The participation rates confirm that outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Oregon’s communities and a pervasive value in the Pacific Northwest. Research indicates that nature and outdoor recreation have a significant positive impact on human health, both physical and mental health. Oregon’s economy also benefits directly and indirectly from outdoor recreation through consumer spending, tax revenue, and jobs.

In addition to the extent that outdoor recreation is an integral part of daily life for a large portion of the state population, the measure of frequency that outdoor recreation participants engage in their activity (shown in user occasions) indicates how close-to-home activities can occur on nearly a daily basis. The top activities based on total user occasions for Oregonians were led by walking on local streets/sidewalks with 313 million user occasions and walking on local trails/paths (113 million user occasions).

Figure G3. Top Ten Activities for Oregon Residents, 2017, User Occasions

Activity	User Occasions (Millions)
Walking on local streets/sidewalks	313
Walking on local trails/paths	113
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat.noise, etc.	93
Dog walking/going to dog parks/off-leash areas	78
Taking children or grandchildren to a playground	57

For the 2013-2017 SCORP, the surveys were conducted by region and county across the state with results reported for each region and individual county. This 2011 Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis was summarized with key findings for Region 2 and for Hood River County. The user occasions (number of times people engage in an activity) and percent of the population that participates in an activity are presented in Figure G3.

Figure G4. Top Ten Activities in Region 2, 2011

Activity	User Occassions	Activity	% Pop. Participation
Walking on local streets/sidewalks	240,882,655	Walking on local streets/sidewalks	68.9%
Dog walking/going to dog parks/off-leash areas	70,713,378	Walking on local trails/paths	62.1%
Walking on local trails/paths	66,942,906	Beach activities - ocean	56.3%
Bicycling on roads, streets/sidewalks	50,967,296	Sightseeing/driving or motorcycling for pleasure	55.2%
General play at a neighborhood park/playground	46,719,843	Relaxing, hanging, out, escaping heat/noise, etc.	52.6%
Jogging/running on streets/sidewalks	46,095,688	Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	52.3%
Relaxing, hanging, out, escaping heat/noise, etc.	33,592,007	General play at a neighborhood park/playground	50.2%
Sightseeing/driving or motorcycling for pleasure	20,092,505	Walking/day hiking on non-local trails/paths	50.2%
Jogging/running on trails/paths	19,015,209	Picnicking	47.6%
Walking/day hiking on non-local trails/paths	17,643,990	Visiting historic sites/history-themed parks	43.3%

Survey participants were also asked about their opinions on priorities for the future in and near their community by rating several items for investment by park agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1=lowest priority need to 5= highest priority need). Figure G4 lists those priority items in descending order by mean priority. The top priority for Region 2 residents are dirt/other soft surface walking trails, public access to waterways, playgrounds with natural materials (nature play areas), off-street bicycle pathways and nature/wildlife viewing areas.

Figure G5. Priorities for Future Investment by Park Agencies, Region 2

Item	Mean
Dirt/other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Children's playgrounds / play areas made with natural materials	3.4
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.4
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
Paved/hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
Community gardens	3.1
Off-leash dog areas	3.1
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.9
Children's playgrounds/play areas built with manufactured materials	2.8
Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	2.8
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.8
Baseball/softball fields	2.5
Basketball courts	2.4
Outdoor tennis courts	2.3
Off-highway vehicle trails/areas	2.3

Region 2 residents that participated in outdoor recreation activities were asked their opinions related to the benefits provided by park and recreation agencies. When asked to rate each benefit type, participants indicated that improving physical health, preserving open space and community desirability were the most valued benefits of parks and recreation services.

Figure G6. Value for Benefits of Park and Recreation Services, Region 2

Benefit	Value*
Improve physical health and fitness	4.4
Preserve open space and the environment	4.4
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.3
Improve mental health and reduce stress	4.1
Help reduce crime	3.9
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.9
Preserve historical features in your community	3.7
Increase property values in your community	3.7
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.4
Help attract new residents and businesses	3
Promote tourism	2.9

*Mean value for 5-point Likert

The 2013-2017 SCORP also outlined the most significant issues effecting the provision of outdoor recreation across the state. As part of the planning process, public recreation providers in the state were queried about the importance of a range of park system issues. The top statewide issues included the following:

- Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities.
- Fund major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.
- Add more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities
- Recognize and strengthen park and recreation’s role in increasing physical activity in Oregon’s population
- Recommend a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers
- A set of strategic actions addressing each issue was noted in the SCORP.



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