

REPORT

**City of Bellingham
Department of Parks and Recreation
Park, Recreation, Planning Survey**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Bellingham Department of Parks and Recreation contracted with Applied Research Northwest (ARN) to conduct a survey of Bellingham residents. This survey was conducted as a part of the planning process for updating the Department's six-year Park Recreation and Open Space Plan.. The purpose of the survey was to help identify people's priorities and preferences for parks and open space in Bellingham.

Included in the survey were questions about current park usage, satisfaction with park facilities, and attitudes towards potential park projects and funding.

The survey was administered by phone to random sample of households in Bellingham and was also made available on the web for those who wanted to contribute their feedback. Three hundred (300) residents responded to the phone survey. Their responses are summarized here and compared to findings from the last survey in 2008. Many more also contributed to the online survey. Their feedback has been summarized in a separate report.

Frequency of park visits

Just over half of respondents said that they have used park facilities more than 40 times in the past year, with a sizable portion (45%) saying that they have visited parks more than 60 times. The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008. Younger respondents (under 55) and those with children in the house were more likely to be high frequency visitors to the parks.

Participation in recreational programming

Just over one-third of respondents (34%) said that they had participated in some sort of programming (sponsored by the city or otherwise) in the past year. This is essentially unchanged from 2008

Just over one-quarter (27%) of respondents indicated that there were other types of recreational programs (in addition to the ones they already know are available) they would like to see offered. The most common opportunity mentioned involved water activities; primarily kayaking or, to a lesser extent, general boating or stand up paddle-boarding.

Facilities use

When asked what types of park facilities they and other members of their household have used in the past year, top mentions included walking and biking trails (75%), playgrounds (50%) and both indoor (36%) and outdoor (35%) swimming areas. The facilities used by the smallest proportion of respondents were disc golf courses and boat launches for motorized boats (both 18%).

Three types of facilities showed significant change in usage since 2008. Findings indicated decreased usage of walking/biking trails and mountain biking trails but showed an increase in usage of disc golf courses

Just over one-fifth (21%) said there are types of park facilities that they would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham. The most frequently mentioned types of facilities were walkways and trails, waterfront or beach access, and swimming facilities (primarily swimming pools).

Specialty facilities: Pickleball, off leash dog areas, non-motorized boat launch

New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played and 11% said that they would like to see additional pickleball provided in the city

Two-thirds said they would support the Parks department in designating certain trails for off leash dog walking (48% indicated *strong support*) Twenty-three percent (23%) said they would object to this type of effort and ten percent (10%) said they didn't have an opinion.

Respondents were asked about the possibility of the city adding non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways. Half of respondents (52%) said it was at least *somewhat important*. Respondents with children living in the household were especially likely to say this is *extremely important* (27% vs. 15% of all respondents).

Park facilities satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with each of the facilities that they had used in the past year. Top rated facilities (highest proportion of *completely satisfied* ratings) included walking and biking trails, playgrounds, and non-motorized boat launches. Greatest dissatisfaction went to boat launches for motorized boats, off-leash dog areas and swimming pools, but even those lowest rated areas garnered relatively high ratings (82%+ *satisfied*).

Satisfaction ratings were compared to 2008 findings and a couple of changes are worth noting:

- Satisfaction with playgrounds went up (62% *completely satisfied*, up from 50% in 2008)
- Ratings of indoor pools slipped overall with 16% *dissatisfied* (9% in 2008)

Respondents less than *completely satisfied* with athletic fields were asked to comment on their rating. Top reasons for dissatisfaction included the condition of fields (over half the comments), field availability and lighting.

Respondents who were *dissatisfied* with the off-leash dog areas were asked to comment on their rating. Top reasons for dissatisfaction included maintenance issues, other dogs and their owners, and a lack of off-leash areas.

Thirteen percent of respondents said there were types of facilities that they did not use in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. The most frequent response referred to indoor swimming pool facilities (18%). A slightly smaller proportion mentioned walking and biking trails (15%) and off-leash dog areas (13%)

Open space for wildlife habitat

Respondents were asked about the amount of natural open space available for wildlife habitat in the city. Less than half (41%) said they were *completely satisfied*, though a much smaller proportion (15%) said they were *dissatisfied*, either *somewhat* or *completely*.

Possible parks project ratings

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of eight different possible park projects. Improving trail connectivity led the list with 62% calling this *extremely* or *very important*. Other top ranked projects were improving water access, adding a park downtown, and providing community gardens (all three with roughly 45% *extremely* or *very important*). Disc golf trailed at the bottom of the list with only 12% calling it *very* or *extremely important*.

Of the eight potential park projects tested in 2013, three were also rated in 2008. Analysis found some indication of decreased importance ratings of the top two ranked projects: improving water access and trail connectivity

Respondents who said that improving water access would be an important project were asked to choose how they would like to see this happen. The most popular type of water access was more places to wade or swim in the water (38%). This was followed by views of the water (27%) and more access for small boats (26%). This was slightly different than 2008 when the top priority was parks and trails with views of the water, followed by places to wade or swim.

Respondents who said that developing existing parks would be an important project were asked to specify one or two ways they would like to see the current parks improved. Most common mentions had to do with maintenance (like landscaping or issues with trash and recycling) or amenities (such as parking and very specific park facilities). Other themes included trail connectivity, updated playgrounds and safety.

When asked to prioritize three areas of importance that the public identified through meetings and discussions, forty-one percent preferred developing new trails and trail connections throughout the city. A slightly smaller proportion (35%) identified the priority of new parks and trails in areas where there aren't any. Just under a quarter (24%) preferred adding activities, playgrounds and athletic facilities to existing parks.

Funding: Likelihood of support for new bond; support for replacement levy

Respondents were asked how likely they would be to support a bond or levy to cover the costs of high priority projects that are not already included in current funding. Very similar to the 2008 findings, three-quarters (75%) said they would be *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support such funding

- Frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy
- Women and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) gave slightly more favorable ratings than their counterparts
- There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

Respondents were also asked about the current Greenways levy that will expire in 2017. Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) said that they would *approve* a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level. Twelve percent said they would *reject* a levy like this while 10% did not know how they would vote.

- Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they would approve

- Young respondents (under 35) were also especially likely to approve the levy (84% vs. 76% of those 35 and older).
- Families with children and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) were also more likely than their counterparts to say they would approve a replacement levy.

Conclusion

Five years have passed since the last Bellingham Parks Planning survey. The broad strokes of these survey findings have not changed: Bellingham loves their trails and their water. These two elements of parks continue to dominate the feedback

Some of the most striking findings this year:

- The usage of walking trails (while still very high) decreased since 2008. Along with this finding, the proportion who said trail connectivity is *not important* increased. There may be a bit of a backlash against the extreme popularity of trails in Bellingham.
- Swimming pools are ranked relatively high in terms of usage (third most used type of facility) but lowest in terms of satisfaction ratings. Indoor pools were also the number one mentioned type of facility that was avoided because of prior dissatisfaction.
- Respondents indicated especially strong support for designating off leash trails for dogs
- Even after a low period in the economy, Bellingham residents want to support their parks. Respondents, especially frequent park users, showed that they are likely to support a bond or levy to cover costs for park projects such as those mentioned in the survey. When asked specifically about replacement of the Greenways levy in 2017, over three-quarters of respondents said that they would approve a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level

Bellingham residents are actively engaged with parks. They visit the parks with high frequency, are generally satisfied with the facilities, have strong feelings about the future of the parks and are willing to support the parks into the future.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellingham Department of Parks and Recreation contracted with Applied Research Northwest (ARN) to conduct a survey of Bellingham residents. This survey was conducted as a part of the planning process for updating the City's six-year Park Recreation and Open Space Plan. The purpose of the survey was to help identify people's priorities and preferences for parks and open space in Bellingham. It followed several public discussions and meetings to gather initial input from city residents.

The survey consisted of fifty items, including ten open ended questions. The questions were about current park usage, satisfaction with park facilities, and attitudes towards potential park projects and funding.

The telephone survey of randomly selected listed-phone households in Bellingham resulted in 300 completed surveys. There were 929 valid phone contacts, yielding a response rate of 32%. The margin of error for this research is 5.7%, meaning that the response frequencies should resemble that of the population, plus or minus 5.7%.

In addition to the random sample of listed households, the survey was made available online to any other members of the public who wanted to provide input to the Parks Department. The survey was made accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website and was publicized in a press release by the city. A total of 542 residents responded. Their feedback has been summarized in a separate report.

A complete description of the methods used in for the telephone survey research is included in Appendix A. The frequency report, which includes the survey questions and the distribution of respondent answers, can be found in Appendix B. The verbatim responses given to the open-ended questions can be found in Appendix C.

This report uses the convention of *italicizing* any verbatim response option from the survey in an effort to fully convey the voice of the residents' survey responses.

FINDINGS

This section of the report summarizes the responses for each survey item using text and graphics. The data are compared to 2008 findings where possible. Additionally, subgroup differences are presented where relevant. Subgroup analysis involved comparing smaller groups of interest to see if their responses differed significantly from one another. The primary groups of interest were defined by these survey items:

- Frequency of park use (frequent/moderate/infrequent users)
- Age (Under 35/Ages 35-54/55+)
- Children in the household (yes/no)
- Gender (male/female)

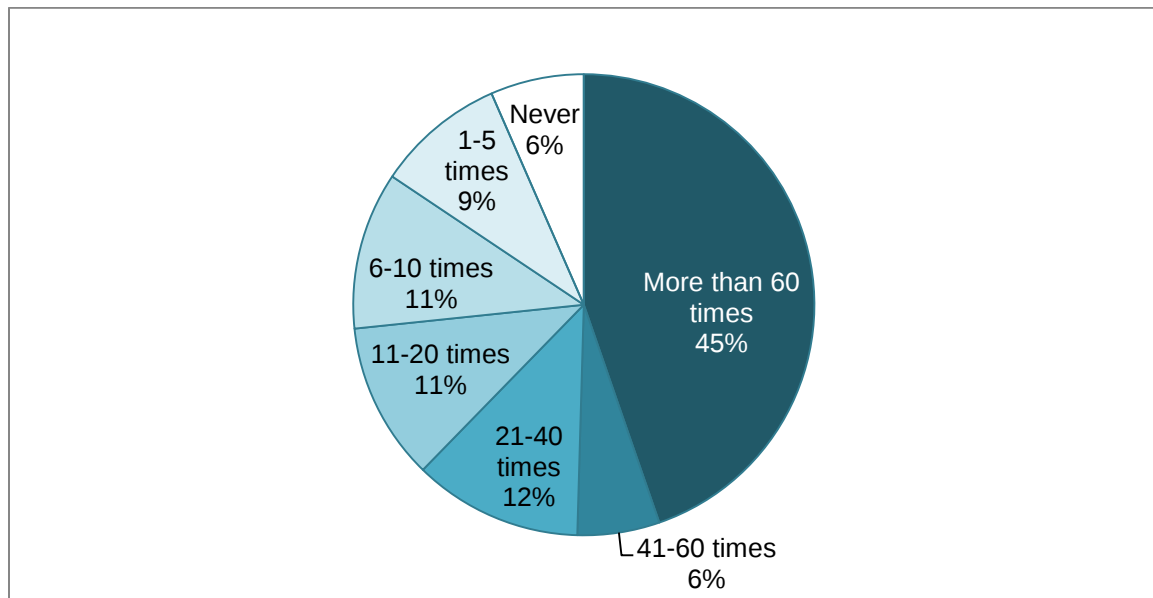
PARK USE

The first set of questions had to do with park use. Respondents were asked how frequently they have visited the parks, how close they live to parks and trails, and how often they have used parks programming and facilities.

Frequency of parks use

Respondents were first asked how many times they visited any of the park facilities in Bellingham in the past year. Just over half of respondents (51%) said that they have used park facilities more than 40 times in the past year, with a sizable portion (45%) saying that they have visited parks more than 60 times. Figure 1 shows that 6% of respondents surveyed have not used any park facilities in the past year.

Figure 1. How many times have you visited any of the parks, trails, or other park facilities in Bellingham in the past year?



(n=299)

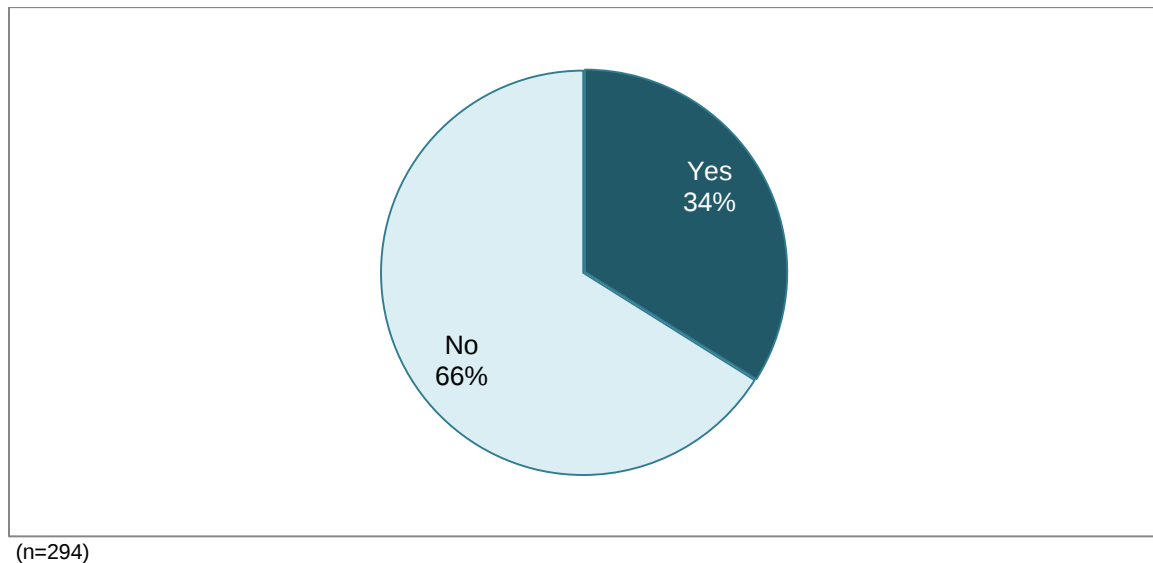
The frequency of park visits was similar to that in 2008.

Younger respondents (under 55) and those with children in the house were more likely to be high frequency visitors to the parks.

Participation in recreational programming

Respondents were asked if they have participated in any recreational programs available in Bellingham. Figure 2 shows that just over one-third of respondents (34%) said that they had participated in some sort of programming (sponsored by the city or otherwise) in the past year.

Figure 2. Have you (or has anyone in your household) participated in any recreational programs sponsored by the City Parks Department or any other local agency in the last year?



This is essentially unchanged from 2008 (31% participation in recreational programs).

The following segments had particularly high rates of participation in recreational programs:

- Frequent park visitors (visited more than 60 times)
- Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54
- Respondents with children in the household

Respondents were also asked if there were other types of recreational programs (in addition to the ones they already know are available) that they would like to see offered. Twenty-seven percent (27%) said yes. More frequent park visitors and respondents with children in the house were significantly more likely to say this.

When asked to specify what types of recreational opportunities they would like to see, sixty-one respondents offered responses that were varied and specific. The most common recreational opportunity mentioned involved water activities; approximately

20% of the comments mentioning kayaking or, to a lesser extent, general boating or stand up paddle-boarding.

Another frequent theme involved serving particular age groups, most notably children (16% of the comments mentioned children).

Other suggestions that arose multiple times (approximately 5-8% of comments) centered around:

- Organized walks and hikes
- Programming or facilities for handicapped or disabled residents
- Snow activities (like snowshoeing and cross-country skiing)
- Programming for older adults or seniors
- Tennis
- Facilities (like park locations and amenities)
- Biking opportunities and safety
- Fishing

Facilities use

Respondents were asked what types of park facilities they and other members of their household have used in the past year. Table 1 shows that the most popular park facilities were walking and biking trails, with 75% of respondents saying they have used them. Playgrounds were used by half of the respondents. The facilities used by the smallest proportion of respondents were disc golf courses and boat launches for motorized boats (both 18%).

Table 1. Facilities used in the past year

	n	%
Walking/biking trails (not mountain biking)	226	75
Playgrounds	149	50
Indoor swimming pools	108	36
Outdoor swimming areas	105	35
Athletic fields	100	33
Off-leash dog areas	99	33
Mountain biking trails/facilities	83	28
Boat launches for non- motorized boats*	69	23
Disc golf courses	55	18
Boat launches for motorized boats	53	18

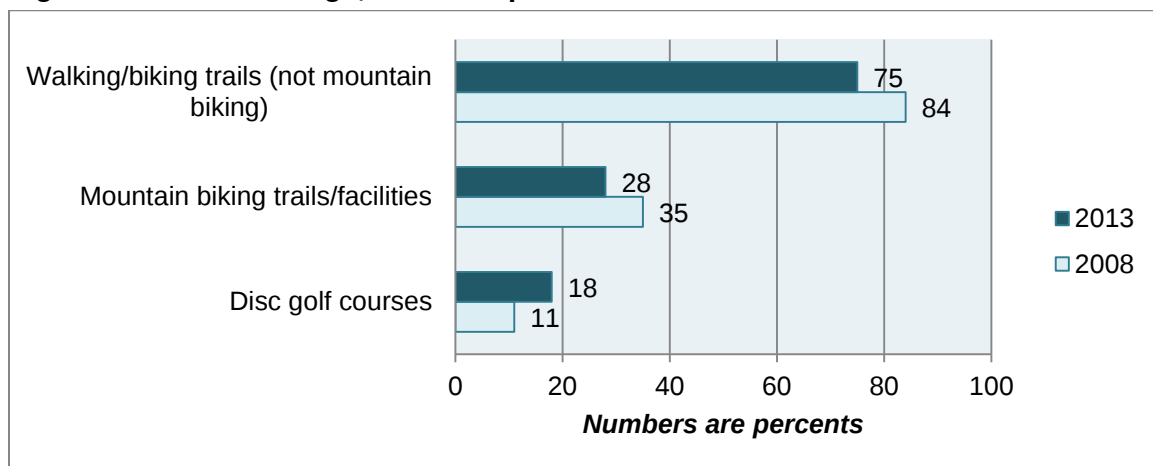
(n=300)

Respondents were allowed to select all that apply; numbers will total more than 100%

*New in 2013, no comparison to 2008 is available

Survey results were compared to the 2008 findings and three types of facilities showed significant change in usage: decreased use in walking trails as well as mountain biking trails, and increased use of disc golf courses. Figure 3 shows these three facilities with their usage in 2013 compared to 2008. The proportion of respondents who report using walking and biking trails decreased (75%, down from 84% in 2008). The proportion that used mountain biking trails also decreased. Usage of disc golf increased with 18% of respondents saying they have used disc golf courses in the past year, up from 11% in 2008.

Figure 3. Facilities usage, 2013 compared to 2008



(n=296 to 300)

Other facility needs

Respondents were asked if there are any types of park facilities that they would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham. Twenty-one percent (21%) said yes. Families with children in the house and respondents who use parks with the highest frequency were especially likely to say this.

When asked to specify what types of facilities they would like to see, 49 people provided responses. The most frequent theme among the responses centered on walkways, trails and trail connectivity (27% of responses). Some of these mentioned specific locations or improvements such as leveling the blacktop on pathways at Bloedel Donovan or creating a connection between Boulevard and Marine Park. Others were more general, such as adding benches along trails or creating paved bike paths with no location specified.

A second common theme had to do with waterfront or beach access (16% of mentions). Most of these either implied or explicitly mentioned the bay, with several references to the old GP site.

A third prevalent theme was swimming (14% of mentions). Most of these specified swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor.

Other suggestions that came up more than once included:

- A downtown/city center park
- Athletic fields
- Indoor facilities
- Roller skating

Pickleball

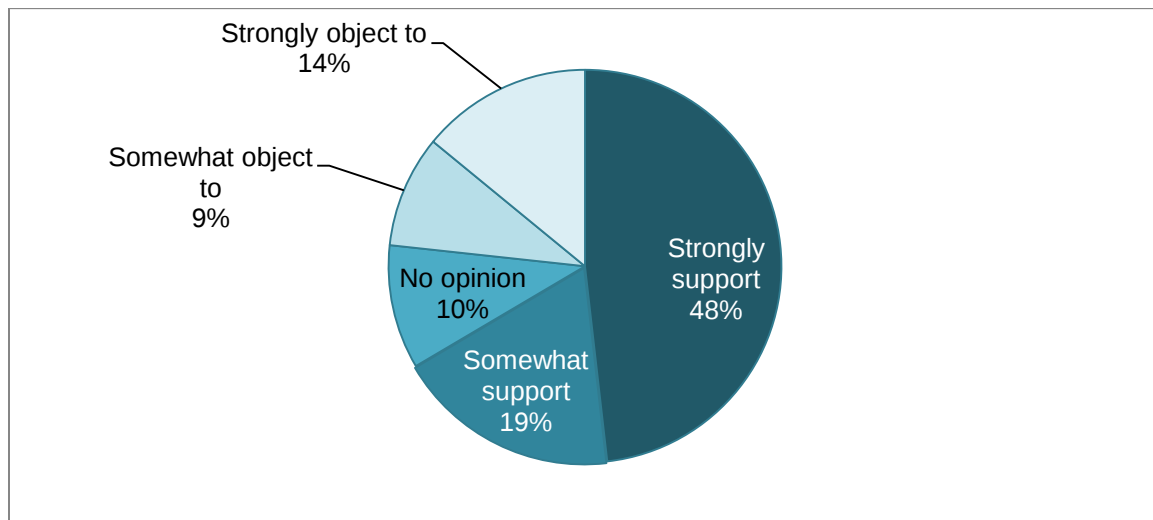
New this year, the survey explored familiarity with pickleball and demand for pickleball courts. Just over one-quarter of respondents (27%) said that they have played a game of pickleball or seen it played. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely age group to have played or seen pickleball.

Among those who were familiar with pickleball about a quarter (26%, 7% overall) said they knew that the tennis courts at Cornwall Park are striped for pickleball play with a tennis net. Just under half of those familiar with pickleball (45%, 11% overall) said that they would like to see additional pickleball provided in the city. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were the most likely to say this.

Off leash dog areas

The survey included a few questions about unleashed dog areas. When presented with the idea of designating additional trails for off-leash dog walking, two-thirds (67%) said they would support it with nearly half (48%) showing strong support. Twenty-three percent (23%) said they would object to this type of effort and ten percent (10%) said they didn't have an opinion.

Figure 4. Would you support or object to the Parks department designating certain trails for off leash dog walking?



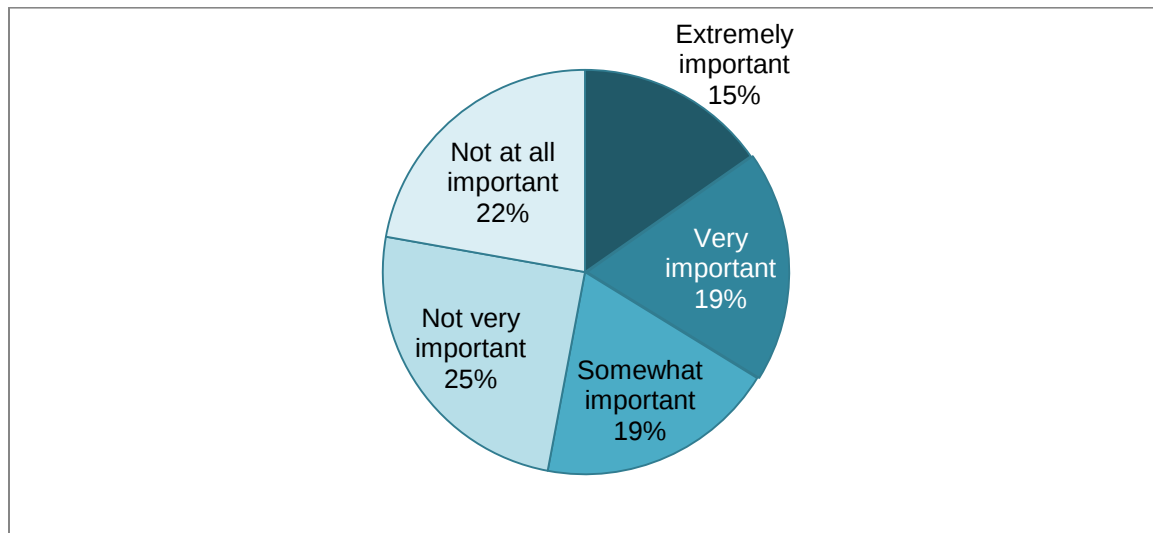
(n=293)

Respondents who visit parks most frequently, young respondents (under age 35), respondents with children in the household and people who use off-leash dog areas were all especially likely to *strongly support* this suggestion.

Non-motorized boat launch

Respondents were asked how important it is that the city adds non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways. Figure 5 shows that roughly half (52%) said it was at least *somewhat important* with 15% calling it *extremely important*.

Figure 5. How important is it to you (and others in your household) that the city add non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways?



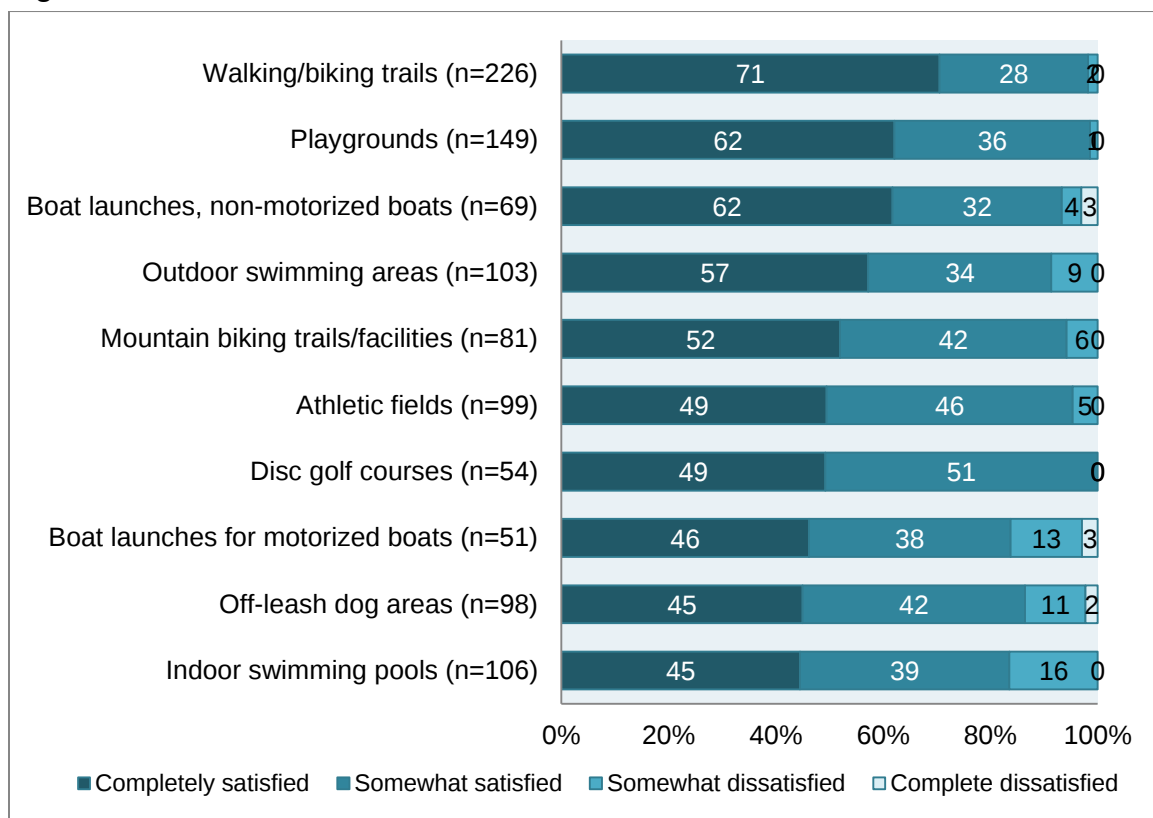
(n=291)

Respondents with children living in the household were especially likely to say this is *extremely important* (27% vs. 15% of all respondents).

PARK FACILITIES SATISFACTION

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with each of the facilities that they had used in the past year. Five of the ten facilities that were rated were given top marks by a majority of respondents (more than 50% were *completely satisfied*). The type of facility garnering the highest proportion of *completely satisfied* ratings (and also the most use) was walking and biking trails (71%). Playgrounds and non-motorized boat launches were tied for second (62% of users were *completely satisfied*) though playgrounds had higher use. When combining *completely satisfied* and *somewhat satisfied*, it is noted that disc golf courses received 100% satisfaction ratings. The vast majority of users of mountain biking trails (94%) and athletic fields (95%) were also at least *somewhat satisfied*.

Figure 6. Satisfaction with facilities



Responses are sorted by *completely satisfied*

Satisfaction ratings were compared to 2008 findings and a couple of changes are worth noting. Respondents who used playgrounds in 2013 were more likely to be *completely satisfied* (62%, up from 50% in 2008). Playgrounds were ranked in the middle of facilities in 2008 but now appear among the highest ranked facilities. On the other end of the spectrum, ratings of indoor swimming pools decreased. In 2008 indoor swimming pools were ranked approximately at the mid-point of all rated facilities, just above playgrounds

with 51% completely satisfied. The ratings slipped overall with 16% *slightly dissatisfied*—one of the highest proportion of dissatisfied ratings (tied with motorized boat launches).

Elaboration on satisfaction with athletic fields

Respondents who had used athletic fields in the past year but were *dissatisfied* or only *somewhat satisfied* were asked to describe what kept them from being *completely satisfied*. Over half made a comment about the condition of the fields (55%) and 18% mentioned field availability. Lighting also came up (10% of mentions). About one-third (12 cases) offered another specific and unique reason, for example problems with the bathrooms, lack of handicap access or parking issues.

Table 2. What is it about the athletic fields that keeps you from being completely satisfied?

	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Condition of the fields	28	55
Availability of the fields	9	18
Lighting	5	10
Some other reason	12	24

(n=51)

Elaboration on satisfaction with off-leash dog areas.

Respondents who were *dissatisfied* with the off-leash dog areas were asked to elaborate on why they were dissatisfied. Thirteen respondents offered comments; half of them mentioned maintenance. The remainder was split between other dogs and their owners and the city not providing enough off-leash areas.

Facilities not used due to dissatisfaction

Respondents were asked if there were any types of facilities that they did not use in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Thirteen percent said yes. Table 3 shows that when asked to tell what kind of facilities they had not used because of prior experience, the most frequent response referred to indoor swimming pool facilities (18%). A slightly smaller proportion mentioned walking and biking trails (15%) and off-leash dog areas (13%). One-third mentioned a specific park and/or reason, for example “Boulevard Park” or frustration with water quality along the water front near the end of Roeder Street.

Table 3. Are there any facilities that you would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied... Which facilities?

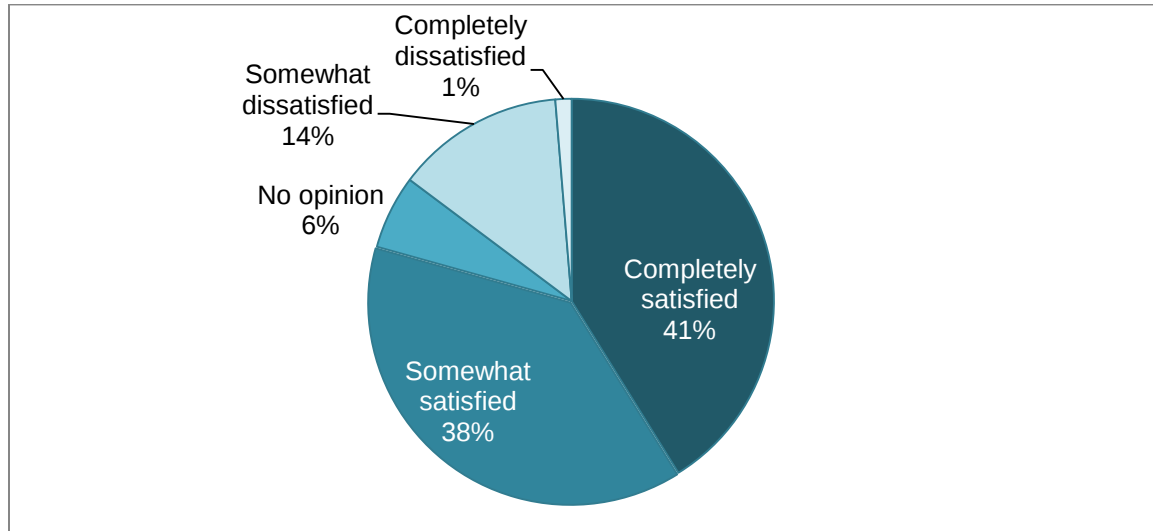
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Indoor swimming pools	7	18
Off road walking and biking trails (not mountain biking)	6	15
Off-leash dog areas	5	13
Safety	3	8
Playgrounds	2	6
Handicap access	2	5
Other specific park or reason	13	33

(n=39)

Open space for wildlife habitat

Respondents were asked about the amount of natural open space available for wildlife habitat in the city. Less than half (41%) said they were *completely satisfied*, though a much smaller proportion (15%) said they were *dissatisfied*, either *somewhat* or *completely*.

Figure 7. How satisfied are you with the amount of natural open space there is for wildlife habitat in the city?



(n=296)

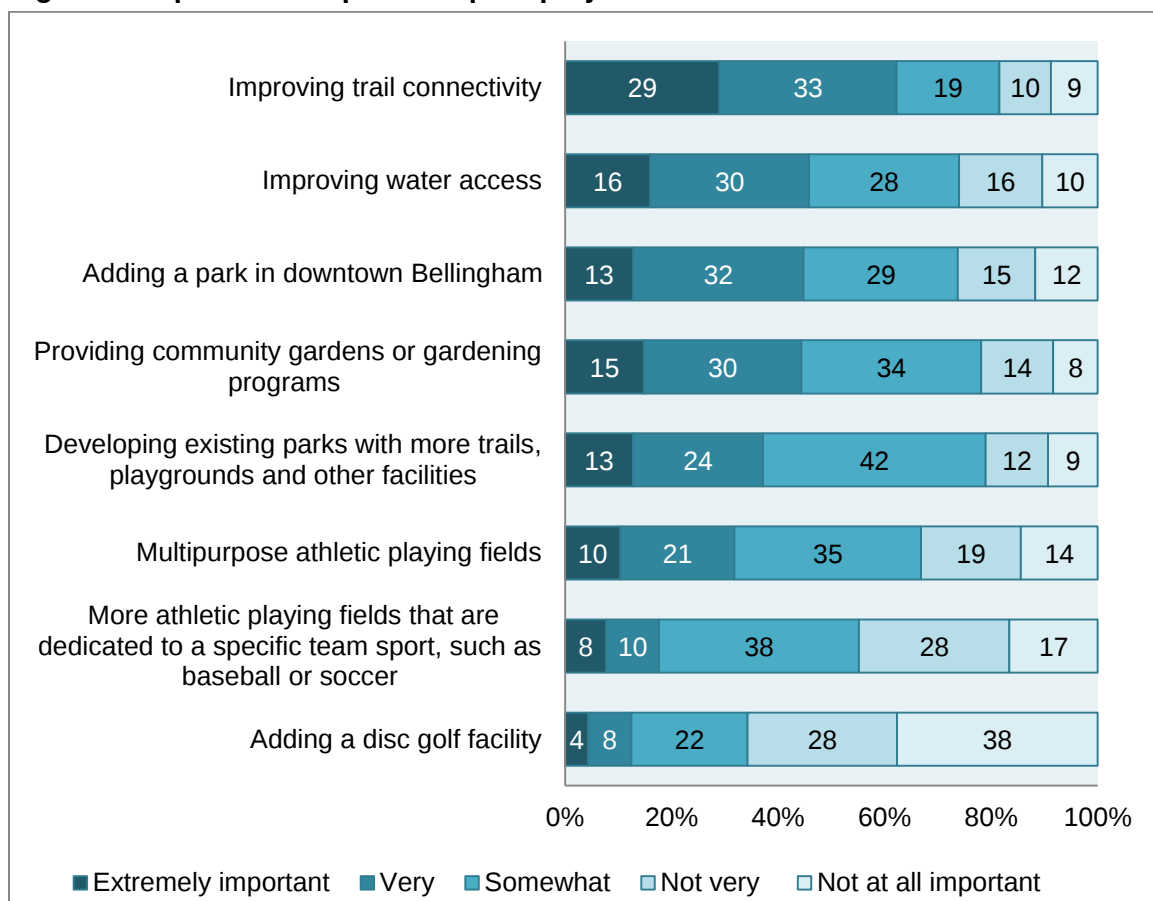
PARKS PRIORITIES

Respondents were presented with some possible park projects and asked to evaluate their importance. They were also asked to give some specific feedback about how some of the projects should be implemented.

Possible parks project ratings

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of eight different possible park projects. Figure 8 shows that just over one-quarter (29%) of respondents said that improving trail connectivity is *extremely important*. Other top rated projects included improving water access, adding a park downtown and providing community gardens, all with approximately 45% calling the projects *very* or *extremely important*. Nearly two thirds of respondents (64%) thought that adding a disc golf facility was *not very* or *not at all important*.

Figure 8. Importance of possible park projects



(n ranges from 289 to 300)

Sorted by *extremely important* and *very important*

Of the eight potential park projects tested in 2013, three were also rated in 2008. Analysis found significant changes in the ratings of two of these possible efforts.

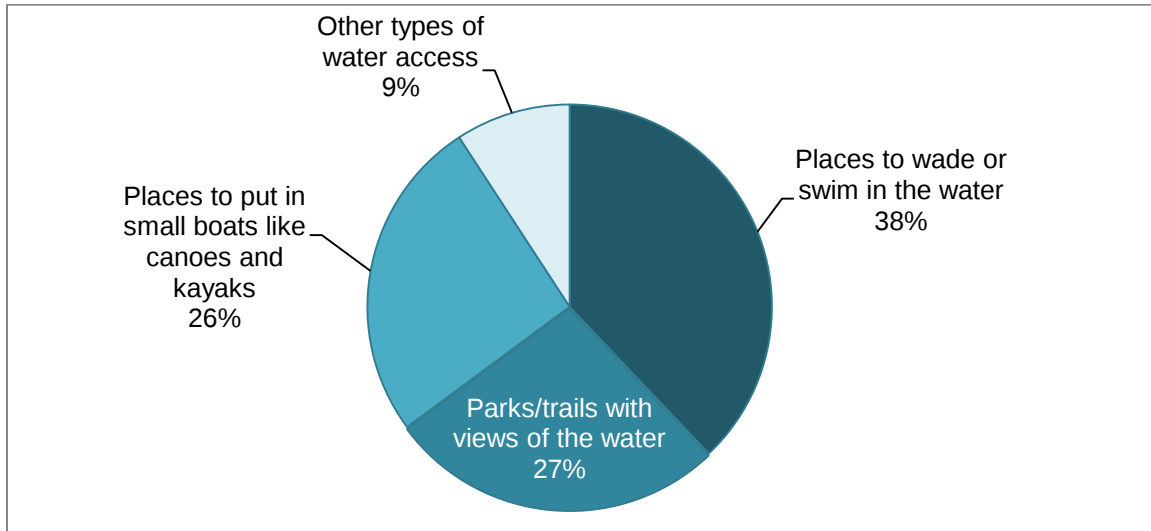
- The proportion who think improving water access is *extremely important* decreased (16%, down from 24% in 2008)
- The proportion who said that trail connectivity is *not very or not at all important* increased from 12% in 2008 up to 19% in 2013

The importance ratings regarding multipurpose athletic fields remained essentially unchanged.

Prioritizing ways of improving water access

Respondents who said that improving water access would be an important project were asked to choose how they would like to see this happen. Figure 9 shows that the many people wanted to see more places to wade or swim in the water (38%). About a quarter thought trails with views of the water was most important (27%) and a similar proportion wanted more access for small boats (26%). Open ended comments indicated that most of the respondents who identified “other types” of access wanted all types of access and were unable to commit to one priority.

Figure 9. Importance of possible park efforts



(=214)

Respondents who used the parks with the highest frequency (41+ times a year) were especially likely to prioritize places to wade or swim (48%).

In 2008 respondents were allowed to identify more than one priority so the results are not directly comparable. However, in 2008 the top priority was parks and trails with views of the water, followed by places to wade or swim.

Prioritizing improvements to existing parks

Respondents who said that developing existing parks would be an important project were asked to specify one or two ways they would like to see the current parks improved. The item was open-ended, allowing respondents to come up with their own answer instead of selecting from pre-set response categories. The responses were reviewed and grouped by theme into categories. Responses were then tabulated within the response categories as illustrated in Table 3.

Table 4. Most important ways to improve existing parks		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Maintenance overall	49	31
Maintenance: general/other	14	9
Maintenance: landscaping	11	7
Maintenance: trash/garbage/recycle	10	6
Maintenance: trails	9	6
Maintenance: drainage/mud	5	3
Park amenities overall	42	27
Amenities: parking	8	5
Amenities: new/improved specific park facilities	6	4
Amenities: handicap access	5	3
Amenities: seating/benches	4	3
Amenities: lighting	4	3
Amenities: other amenities	15	10
Trail connectivity/extending trail	24	15
More/updated/diverse/maintained playgrounds	18	12
Safety (crime/unsafe facilities)	14	9
Satisfied with parks currently	13	8
Restrooms (maintenance, additions, access)	11	7
Dog control & clean up; enforcement of leash laws	11	7
Bike paths/trails	9	6
More/improved/maintained dog areas	9	6
Improvements and additions to picnic areas	8	5
More parks/bigger parks	7	4
Water access	4	3
Other	16	10

(n=156)

The most frequently mentioned suggestion for improving existing parks was overall park maintenance (31%). These responses were further broken down for specific types of maintenance. The most common specific type of maintenance suggestion related to landscaping (7%). Six percent commented about trash or recycling.

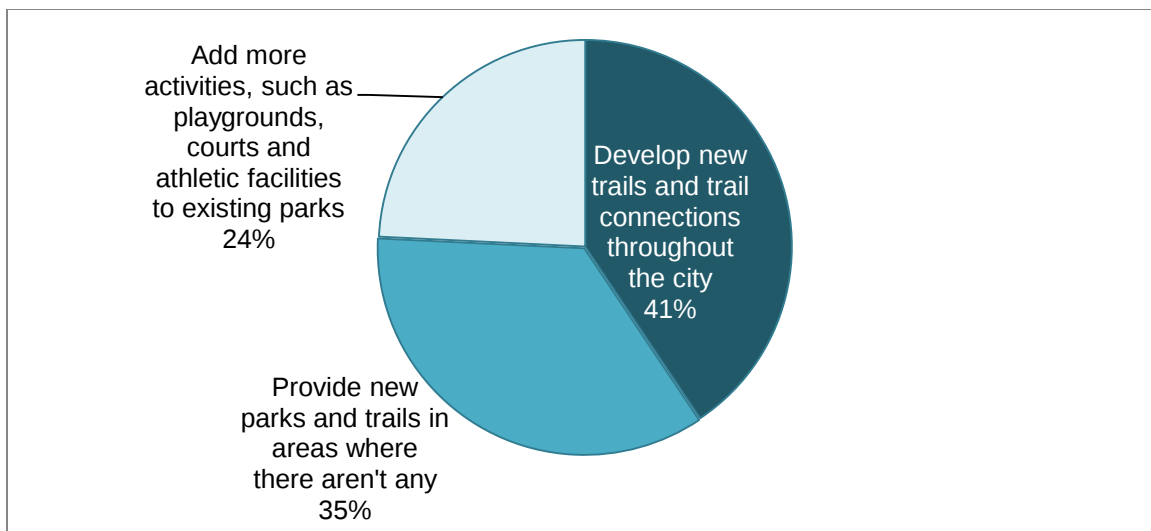
A second common theme was overall park amenities. This category was also broken down into specific types of amenities that respondents would like to see developed or enhanced at the parks. The most frequent specific examples were requests for improved parking (5%) and specific park facilities, typically sport related (4%).

Other frequent themes were trail connectivity (15%), playground maintenance and updates (12%) and safety issues like crime and transients, as well as traffic and playground safety (9%).

Top priorities

Respondents were asked to review three areas of importance that the public identified through meetings and discussions: developing trail connectivity, providing new parks or trails where none exist, or adding more activity-based facilities to existing parks. They were asked to select the one that is the most important to them. Forty-one percent preferred developing new trails and trail connections throughout the city. A slightly smaller proportion (35%) identified the priority of new parks and trails in areas where there aren't any. Just under a quarter (24%) preferred adding activities, playgrounds and athletic facilities to existing parks.

Figure 10. Which of these three is the most important priority for you?



(n=283)

Respondents who used the parks with the highest frequency (41+ times a year) were especially likely to prioritize development of new trails and trail connections (51%). These respondents were much less likely to recommend adding more activities such as playgrounds and athletic facilities (16%).

Younger respondents (under age 35) were especially likely to say that adding activities like playgrounds and athletic facilities should be a priority (43%).

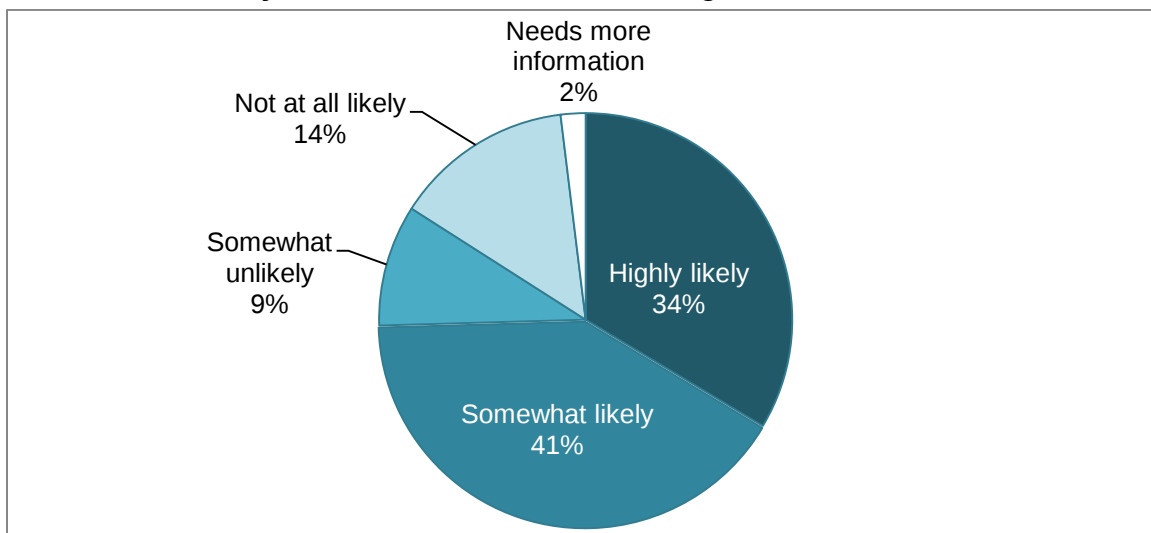
FUNDING

Respondents were asked two questions about possible bonds or levies that could be used to cover the costs of potential future parks projects.

Likelihood of support for a new bond or levy

Respondents were first asked to consider how the highest priority park projects (like those mentioned in the survey) would be funded. They were asked how likely they would be to support a bond or levy to cover the costs that are not already included in current funding. Three-quarters (75%) said they would be *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support such funding.

Figure 11. How likely would you be to support a bond or levy to cover the costs that are not already included in the current funding?



(n=297)

Note: *Needs more information* was not presented as an option but was permitted if the respondent indicated they would need more information to answer the question.

These findings were very similar to 2008.

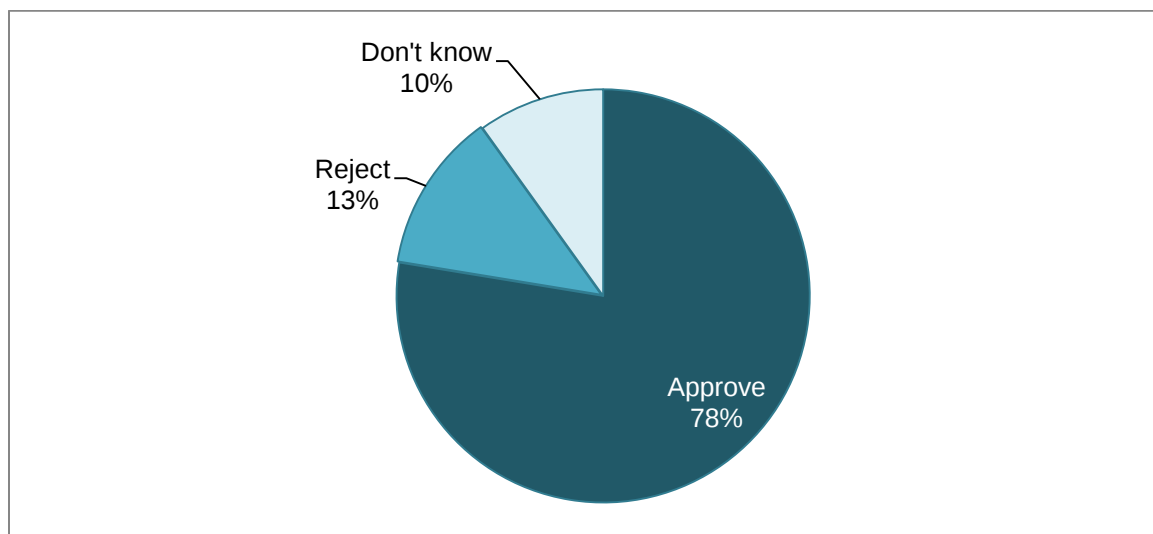
Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they were *highly likely* to support a bond or levy (47% vs. 19% of less frequent visitors). There were no differences detected between age groups or between those who have children in the household and those who do not.

Women and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) were slightly more favorable than their counterparts; they were more likely to say they were *somewhat* or *highly likely* to support a future bond or levy.

Approval of replacement levy

Respondents were also asked about the current Greenways levy that will expire in 2017. Respondents were given basic information about the levy—that it equates to 57 cents for every \$1000 of assessed property value or about \$142 a year for a \$250,000 home. Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) said that they would *approve* a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level. Twelve percent said they would *reject* a levy like this while 10% did not know how they would vote.

Figure 12. Would you approve or reject a new levy that replaces the existing one at the same level?



(n=295)

Highly frequent visitors of the parks were significantly more likely to say they would *approve* the replacement of the Greenways levy (86% vs. 69% of less frequent visitors). Young respondents (under 35) were also especially likely to approve the levy (84% vs. 76% of those 35 and older). In addition, families with children and off-leash dog walkers (as a proxy for dog owners) were also more likely than their counterparts to say they would approve a replacement levy.

CONCLUSION

Five years have passed since the last Bellingham Parks Planning survey. The broad strokes of these survey findings have not changed: Bellingham loves their trails and their water. These two elements of parks continue to dominate the feedback

Some of the most striking findings this year:

- The usage of walking trails (while still very high) decreased since 2008. Along with this finding, the proportion who said trail connectivity is *not important* increased. There may be a bit of a backlash against the extreme popularity of trails in Bellingham.
- Swimming pools are ranked relatively high in terms of usage (third most used type of facility) but lowest in terms of satisfaction ratings. Indoor pools were also the number one mentioned type of facility that was avoided because of prior dissatisfaction.
- Respondents indicated especially strong support for designating off leash trails for dogs
- Even after a low period in the economy, Bellingham residents want to support their parks. Respondents, especially frequent park users, showed that they are likely to support a bond or levy to cover costs for park projects such as those mentioned in the survey. When asked specifically about replacement of the Greenways levy in 2017, over three-quarters of respondents said that they would approve a new levy that replaced the existing one at the same level

Bellingham residents are actively engaged with parks. They visit the parks with high frequency, are generally satisfied with the facilities, have strong feelings about the future of the parks and are willing to support the parks into the future.

APPENDIX A: RESEARCH METHODS

The survey was administered by telephone during the period from August 21st through August 30th, 2013 to residents of Bellingham, Washington. Only respondents that live within the city limits were eligible to participate in the survey. Phone numbers for the service area were supplied by a reputable survey sampling organization. More than five attempts were made to contact eligible respondents within each household, including at least one attempt on a weekend day and at least one attempt during business hours.

A web survey was administered during this same period (from August 21st through September 10th, 2013). The survey was accessible through a link on the City of Bellingham website. During this period 542 cases were collected and summarized in a separate response frequency report.

Call Disposition Tables

The following table details the final calling dispositions of the City of Bellingham Parks telephone survey:

Table A1. Call dispositions (forthcoming)	
	TOTAL
TOTAL RECORDS	
TOTAL COMPLETES	
TOTAL TERMINATES	
NO SUCH PERSON	
CONTACTED CELL PHONE	
CLAIMS PREVIOUS INTERVIEW	
BREAK OFF - SCREENER	
QUALIFIED REFUSAL	
DO NOT LIVE IN CITY OF BELLINGHAM	
Total valid contacts	
INCIDENCE	70.90%
AVERAGE LENGTH OF INTERVIEW (TOTAL)	13.85

Data Quality

While random digit dialing was employed in 2008, efficiency needs required that listed phone numbers be contacted in 2013. Table A2 compares the characteristics of respondents to the 2013 survey to those in the 2008 survey and the city of Bellingham residents.

The respondents in the 2013 survey were significantly older than those surveyed in 2008. Initial analysis showed that this would likely impact the findings and potentially inflate or mask changes in the data from year to year. To compensate for this, weights were computed to give appropriately more value to younger respondents and less to older ones.

Future research may want to consider adding a quota around age to guarantee a minimum number of younger respondents.

2013 sample compared to estimates in the population

In telephone survey research, two populations tend to be under represented: young adults and low income households. Females are more likely to answer home telephones, and are also more likely to agree to participate in survey research. Any bias due to interviewing a smaller portion of males is

lessened by the fact that most questions related to the household rather than the individual. Analysis found no differences between males and females.

Readers should note that this survey likely under represents the views of people ages 18 to 24 and slightly over represents the views and experiences of people ages 45 and up.

Table A2. Comparison of 2013 Sample, 2008 Sample, and Population			
Age/Sex	2013 %	2010 %	*Estimate of Adults in Bellingham %
18 to 24	1	3	25
25 to 34	4	14	19
35 to 44	12	16	13
45 to 54	14	22	13
55 to 64	25	22	14
Older than 65	44	21	16
Male	38	37	49
Female	62	63	51

*Estimate based on 2010 census data estimates. Census data age groupings are similar but not identical to those used in the survey

APPENDIX B: FREQUENCIES

Q1) How many times have you visited any of the parks, trails, or other park facilities in Bellingham in the past year? Would you say...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Never	20	6.5	6.6
	1-5 times	27	9.0	9.1
	6-10 times	33	11.0	11.0
	11-20 times	33	11.0	11.1
	21-40 times	35	11.8	11.8
	41-60 times, or	17	5.8	5.8
	More than 60 times	134	44.6	44.7
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

Q2) Are there other people living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	226	75.2	75.3
	No	74	24.7	24.7
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

Q5) Have you or anyone in your household participated in any recreational programs sponsored by the City Parks Department or any other local agency in the last year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	100	33.2	33.9
	No	194	64.7	66.1
	Total	294	97.9	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	6	2.1	
Total		300	100.0	

Q6) In addition to the opportunities that you know are already available in Bellingham, are there other types of recreational programs that you or anyone in your household would like to see offered?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes (please specify)	75	25.2	26.6
	No	208	69.3	73.4
	Total	283	94.4	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	16	5.3	
	(Not applicable)	1	.3	
	Total	17	5.6	
Total		300	100.0	

Q8) Mountain biking trails or facilities, such as the course near Civic Stadium (IF NEEDED:) Have you or anyone in your household used Mountain biking trails or facilities, such as the course near Civic Stadium?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	83	27.7	27.9
	No	215	71.8	72.1
	Total	299	99.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
	(Not applicable)	1	.3	
	Total	1	.4	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Mountain biking trails or facilities, such as the course near Civic Stadium? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	5	1.6	5.8
	Somewhat Satisfied	34	11.4	42.3
	Completely Satisfied	42	14.0	52.0
	Total	81	26.9	100.0
Missing	No opinion	2	.8	
	System	217	72.3	
	Total	219	73.1	
Total		300	100.0	

Q9) And have you or anyone in your household used Other off road walking and biking trails?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	226	75.4	75.7
	No	72	24.1	24.3
	Total	299	99.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.4	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Other off road walking and biking trails? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	4	1.4	1.8
	Somewhat Satisfied	62	20.8	27.7
	Completely Satisfied	159	53.1	70.5
	Total	226	75.3	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.2	
	System	74	24.6	
	Total	74	24.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q10) And have you or anyone in your household used Athletic fields for softball, baseball, soccer and other sports?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	100	33.4	33.4
	No	200	66.6	66.6
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Athletic fields for softball, baseball, soccer and other sports? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	5	1.5	4.7
	Somewhat Satisfied	46	15.2	45.9
	Completely Satisfied	49	16.3	49.4
	Total	99	33.1	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.4	
	System	200	66.6	
	Total	201	66.9	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW1) What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being Completely Satisfied? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Condition of fields	23	7.6	50.0
	Availability of fields	6	2.0	13.3
	Other (specify)	17	5.6	36.7
	Total	46	15.3	100.0
Missing	System	254	84.7	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW1) What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being Completely Satisfied? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Condition of fields	3	1.0	37.5
	Availability of fields	3	1.0	37.5
	Other (specify)	2	.6	25.1
	Total	8	2.6	100.0
Missing	System	292	97.4	
Total		300	100.0	

Q15) Have you or anyone in your household used Playgrounds?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	149	49.7	49.7
	No	151	50.3	50.3
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Playgrounds? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	2	.7	1.4
	Somewhat Satisfied	54	18.1	36.4
	Completely Satisfied	92	30.8	62.1
	Total	149	49.5	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.2	
	System	151	50.3	
	Total	151	50.5	
Total		300	100.0	

Q16) And have you or anyone in your household used Off-leash dog areas?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	99	32.9	32.9
	No	201	67.1	67.1
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Off-leash dog areas? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Completely Dissatisfied	2	.7	2.3
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	11	3.7	11.2
	Somewhat Satisfied	41	13.5	41.5
	Completely Satisfied	44	14.7	45.0
	Total	98	32.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.3	
	System	201	67.1	
	Total	202	67.4	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW3) You said you were dissatisfied with the off leash dog areas. Can you describe what's dissatisfying to you? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not enough areas	4	1.2	27.7
	Not maintained	4	1.3	29.7
	Dogs and owners	3	1.0	22.1
	Other (please describe)	3	.9	20.5
	Total	13	4.4	100.0
Missing	System	287	95.6	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW3) You said you were dissatisfied with the off leash dog areas. Can you describe what's dissatisfying to you? (do not prompt, code responses - allow multiple)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not maintained	2	.6	28.1
	Dogs and owners	1	.5	23.8
	Other (please describe)	3	1.0	48.0
	Total	6	2.0	100.0
Missing	System	294	98.0	
Total		300	100.0	

Q17) Have you or anyone in your household used Disc golf courses?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	55	18.4	18.4
	No	245	81.6	81.6
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Disc golf courses? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Satisfied	28	9.2	50.8
	Completely Satisfied	27	8.9	49.2
	Total	54	18.1	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.3	
	System	245	81.6	
	Total	246	81.9	
Total		300	100.0	

Q20) And have you or anyone in your household used Boat launches for motorized boats?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	53	17.6	17.7
	No	247	82.2	82.3
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Boat launches for motorized boats? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Completely Dissatisfied	1	.5	2.9
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	7	2.3	13.3
	Somewhat Satisfied	19	6.3	37.6
	Completely Satisfied	23	7.8	46.2
	Total	51	16.9	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.3	
	(Don't know)	1	.5	
	System	247	82.4	
	Total	249	83.1	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW4) And have you or anyone in your household used Boat launches for non-motorized boats?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	69	23.1	23.1
	No	231	76.9	76.9
	Total	300	100.0	100.0

How satisfied are you with Boat launches for non-motorized boats?? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Completely Dissatisfied	2	.8	3.3
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	3	.8	3.6
	Somewhat Satisfied	22	7.3	31.5
	Completely Satisfied	43	14.2	61.6
	Total	69	23.1	100.0
Missing	System	231	76.9	
Total		300	100.0	

Q24) And have you or anyone in your household used Indoor Swimming Pools?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	108	36.0	36.1
	No	191	63.8	63.9
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Indoor Swimming Pools? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	18	5.8	16.5
	Somewhat Satisfied	42	13.8	39.0
	Completely Satisfied	47	15.8	44.5
	Total	106	35.5	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	2	.6	
	System	192	64.0	
	Total	194	64.5	
Total		300	100.0	

Q23) And have you or anyone in your household used Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	105	34.9	35.0
	No	195	64.9	65.0
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

How satisfied are you with Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks? (Note: the use does not have to be in a city-owned facility)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Somewhat Dissatisfied	9	3.0	8.6
	Somewhat Satisfied	35	11.8	34.1
	Completely Satisfied	59	19.7	57.2
	Total	103	34.5	100.0
Missing	No opinion	1	.3	
	(Don't know)	1	.2	
	System	195	65.1	
Total		197	65.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW6) How satisfied are you with the amount of natural open space there is for wildlife habitat in the city?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No Opinion	17	5.8	5.9
	Completely Dissatisfied	4	1.3	1.3
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	40	13.3	13.5
	Somewhat Satisfied	113	37.7	38.2
	Completely Satisfied	122	40.6	41.1
	Total	296	98.6	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	4	1.2	
	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
	Total	4	1.4	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW7) Some people may not have used one or more of the recreation facilities in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Are there any facilities that you or anyone in your household would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	39	13.1	13.1
	No	260	86.6	86.9
	Total	299	99.7	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.3	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW8) What facilities? (check all that apply - read as needed)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Indoor Swimming Pools	5	1.6	12.1
	Other off road walking and biking trails	5	1.6	12.1
	Off-leash dog areas	4	1.5	11.4
	Outdoor swimming areas or spray parks	1	.4	3.3
	Playgrounds	2	.8	5.8
	Other (please specify - open ended)	22	7.2	55.4
	Total	39	13.1	100.0
Missing	System	261	86.9	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW8) What facilities? (check all that apply - read as needed)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Indoor Swimming Pools	1	.3	33.2
	Off-leash dog areas	1	.2	20.5
	Other (please specify - open ended)	1	.4	46.3
	Total	2	.8	100.0
Missing	System	298	99.2	
Total		300	100.0	

Q25) Are there any types of park facilities that you or anyone in your household would like to use that don't currently exist in Bellingham?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes (please specify)	59	19.7	20.7
	No	226	75.2	79.3
	Total	285	94.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	15	4.9	
	(Not applicable)	1	.3	
	Total	16	5.2	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW12) How important is it to you or anyone in your household that the city add non-motorized boat launch sites to shorelines and waterways?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	65	21.6	22.2
	Not very important	72	24.1	24.8
	Somewhat important	56	18.6	19.2
	Very important	54	18.0	18.5
	Extremely important	45	14.8	15.3
	Total	291	97.1	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	9	2.9	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW13) Have you ever played a game of Pickleball, or seen it played?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	81	26.8	26.9
	No	219	73.0	73.1
	Total	300	99.8	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW14) Did you know that the tennis courts at Cornwall Park are striped for Pickleball play with a tennis net?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	21	6.9	26.1
	No	59	19.6	73.9
	Total	79	26.5	100.0
Missing	(Not applicable)	1	.4	
	System	219	73.2	
	Total	221	73.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW14B) Would you or anyone in your household like to see additional Pickleball provided in the city?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	31	10.5	44.8
	No	39	12.9	55.2
	Total	70	23.4	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	4	1.4	
	(Not applicable)	6	1.9	
	(Missing/refused)	1	.2	
	System	219	73.2	
	Total	230	76.6	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW15) Some people would like to have more places to walk their dogs off leash. But other people don't like being around unleashed dogs. The Parks department could designate additional trails in the Bellingham area for off leash dog walking. Thes...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Support	195	64.9	66.5
	Object	68	22.7	23.3
	No opinion	30	10.0	10.2
	Total	293	97.5	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	7	2.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW16) Would you strongly support that decision, or would you just somewhat support it?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly support	141	47.0	53.7
	Somewhat support	54	17.9	20.4
	Somewhat object to	27	9.0	10.3
	Strongly object to	41	13.7	15.7
	Total	263	87.6	100.0
Missing	System	37	12.4	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW17) Providing community gardens or gardening programs[Definition: A community garden is a public space that people can register to use during the summer to grow food and flowers.] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projec...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	25	8.2	8.3
	Not very important	40	13.4	13.5
	Somewhat important	100	33.4	33.8
	Very important	88	29.3	29.6
	Extremely important	44	14.7	14.8
	Total	297	99.0	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	3	1.0	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW18) Adding a disc golf facility. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	105	35.1	37.7
	Not very important	79	26.2	28.1
	Somewhat important	61	20.3	21.8
	Very important	23	7.6	8.1
	Extremely important	12	4.0	4.3
	Total	280	93.2	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	18	6.0	
	(Not applicable)	2	.7	
	Total	20	6.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q26) Improving water access. [Definition: Access to water such as the bay, lakes, creeks or other waterways] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	31	10.3	10.4
	Not very important	46	15.5	15.7
	Somewhat important	84	27.9	28.2
	Very important	88	29.5	29.8
	Extremely important	48	15.8	16.0
	Total	297	98.9	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	3	1.1	
Total		300	100.0	

Q27) Improving trail connectivity. [Definition: This means more walking and biking trails that connect existing parks and trail systems to each other, to neighborhoods or to other areas of interest, like downtown.] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how imp...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	26	8.8	8.8
	Not very important	29	9.6	9.7
	Somewhat important	58	19.3	19.3
	Very important	99	33.1	33.2
	Extremely important	87	28.9	29.0
	Total	299	99.7	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	1	.3	
Total		300	100.0	

Q28) Multipurpose athletic playing fields[Definition: This means fields which can be used for several different things like softball, soccer, football or ultimate Frisbee.] (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	43	14.2	14.4
	Not very important	56	18.5	18.8
	Somewhat important	103	34.5	35.0
	Very important	63	21.1	21.4
	Extremely important	31	10.2	10.4
	Total	295	98.5	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	3	.9	
	(Not applicable)	2	.6	
	Total	5	1.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW19) More athletic playing fields that are dedicated to a specific team sport, such as baseball or soccer. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	48	16.0	16.5
	Not very important	82	27.4	28.3
	Somewhat important	109	36.4	37.5
	Very important	29	9.6	9.9
	Extremely important	22	7.5	7.7
	Total	291	96.9	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	8	2.6	
	(Not applicable)	2	.6	
	Total	9	3.1	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW20) Adding a park in downtown Bellingham [similar to the Village Green in Fairhaven]. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	34	11.3	11.7
	Not very important	42	14.0	14.5
	Somewhat important	84	27.9	29.0
	Very important	93	30.9	32.0
	Extremely important	37	12.3	12.8
	Total	289	96.5	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	11	3.5	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW21) Developing existing parks with more trails, playgrounds and other facilities. (IF NEEDED:) Please tell me how important each of these projects would be to (TEXT1).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all important	27	9.1	9.3
	Not very important	35	11.5	11.7
	Somewhat important	123	41.1	41.8
	Very important	72	24.0	24.4
	Extremely important	38	12.5	12.8
	Total	295	98.3	100.0
Missing	(No opinion / Don't know)	5	1.7	
Total		300	100.0	

Q31) You said that water access would be important. I'm going to read a list of various types of water access. Please tell me which one is the most important to (TEXT1):

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Parks or trails with views of the water	57	18.9	26.5
	Places to wade or swim in the water	81	27.0	37.9
	Places to put in small boats like canoes and kayaks	56	18.8	26.4
	Other types of water access (please specify)	20	6.6	9.2
	Total	214	71.3	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	1	.2	
	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
	System	85	28.4	
	Total	86	28.7	
Total		300	100.0	

Q32) You said that improvements to existing parks would be important. Can you tell me one or two ways that you would like to see the current parks improved. (if yes, when they specify, interviewer please probe: 'Is that at a specific park or the city'...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes (please specify)	167	55.7	76.0
	No	53	17.6	24.0
	Total	220	73.2	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	13	4.5	
	System	67	22.3	
	Total	80	26.8	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW23) I'm going to read you three things which have been identified by the public as important. Which of these three is the most important priority for you?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	0	2	.5	.6
	Provide new parks and trails in areas where there aren't ...	99	32.9	34.9
	Develop new trails and trail connections throughout the city	114	38.1	40.4
	Add more activities, such as playgrounds, courts and athl...	68	22.7	24.1
	Total	283	94.2	100.0
Missing	(Don't know)	10	3.3	
	(Not applicable)	7	2.5	
	Total	17	5.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q34) Today I have mentioned several possible park projects that the city could execute. If additional funding were needed for Bellingham's highest priority projects, how likely would you be to support a future bond or levy to cover the costs that are ...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Not at all likely	42	13.9	14.3
	Somewhat unlikely	28	9.4	9.7
	Somewhat likely	122	40.6	41.8
	Highly likely	100	33.3	34.3
	Total	292	97.2	100.0
Missing	(Needs more information)	6	1.9	
	(Don't know)	3	.9	
	Total	8	2.8	
Total		300	100.0	

QNEW24) The current Greenways levy for parks is 57-cents for every \$1000 of assessed property value or about \$142 a year for a \$250,000 home. It is used for the maintenance of existing parks and trails as well as the development of new parks and trail...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Approve	229	76.2	77.6
	Reject	37	12.3	12.5
	(Don't know)	29	9.7	9.9
	Total	295	98.2	100.0
Missing	(Not applicable)	1	.2	
	(Missing/refused)	5	1.6	
	Total	5	1.8	
Total		300	100.0	

Q38) What age group are you in? Would you say...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	18 to 24	10	3.3	3.4
	25 to 34	42	14.0	14.1
	35 to 44	49	16.3	16.4
	45 to 54	66	22.0	22.2
	55 to 64	67	22.4	22.6
	65 or older	64	21.3	21.4
	Total	298	99.3	100.0
Missing	(Missing/refused)	2	.7	
Total		300	100.0	

Q39) Are there children under the age of 18 living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	98	32.7	32.8
	No	201	66.9	67.2
	Total	299	99.7	100.0
Missing	(Missing/refused)	1	.3	
Total		300	100.0	

Q40) (INTERVIEWER: Record Sex)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Male	116	38.7	39.0
	Female	182	60.6	61.0
	Total	298	99.3	100.0
Missing	(Missing/refused)	2	.7	
Total		300	100.0	

APPENDIX C: VERBATIM OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

q6a: What types of recreational opportunities would you like to see offered?

- Being able to rent kayak or canoe at Lake Whatcom or Padden would be a nice addition to the parks.
- Boat tours, cruises
- Boating and more specialized programs for the handicapped like biking. Opportunities for handicapped kids in the park. More exercise for handicapped adults.
- Boulevard Park, I liked it when it had a lot of space. It was public space for circus acts and concerts and now they are taking up a lot of it for beaches.
- Cooking and making recipes.
- Educational opportunities for the kids.
- Encourage people to meet older people, some kind of attraction to draw people together.
- Fishing classes
- Fishing for people with disabilities at Padden, Whatcom Falls. Fishing and parking accessible for person with disabilities.
- Group walks, classes on things like kayaking or cross country skiing.
- I believe recreational for kids to go. Kids played in the streets. If they want to go take a bus and go Cornwall Park which is the closest. Sometimes the parents aren't available and they're stuck. There's a church, Birchwood, they have built a park for the children. It's in the heart of the city but we need more parks in the north end of the city. So they can play and practice soccer, rolling skating. There's a need for community parks. I can't wait for the waterfront in Cornwall Park that's being built and we can be accommodated. It takes years before it pass.
- I belong to the Lions Club and we would like to see wheel chair, wellness park for the elderly. So sports court for wheel chair and exercise equipment that can be used for people on wheel chairs.
- I don't know, I can't think of anything.
- I have no children, I definitely support more programs for children.
- I hope there are recreational programs for children in the summertime.
- I like the pools and the trails that are located in Fairhaven.
- I like to have birthday parties at Lake Padden. More family events.
- I like to see another pool that uses a water system that illuminates chloride and that maybe can overlook the waters and can be used for indoors and outdoors.
- I want a great big water park beach at the waterfront. Maybe something for kids that have participate in beach activities, like identifying little low tide creatures. I love those hikes in the Stimpson Woods and I would like that to happen more frequently. I think it would be interesting to have try walks around Bellingham, to identify different trees, walks identify or appreciating the variety of different trees. Kayaking would be nice, some kind of kayaking lesson for young people.
- I would like to see a park developed in the north side of town. I have been advocating and working with the parks department about adding a trail in the Cordata area.
- I would like to see a soccer program developed and a very good tennis program.
- I would like to see football.
- I would like to see lawn bowling. I would like to see different kind of games like chess and scrabble to more sports like games. Soccer
- I would like to see more bike routes and bike safety. When we drive to the y in the morning, we need bike safety stressed.
- I would like to see more facilities geared for new and nursing moms. It would be nice if there were more toddler parks.
- I would like to see some junior tennis.
- I'm still working, they do have senior programs that I'd like to attend, but they don't have the time slot open for me. I wish they can have more time availabilities for me and the swimming classes are also not available for me. The affordability would be nice on my part.
- Kayaking trips.
- Life guards back on the beaches and water areas.
- Live music

- Lots of open space. More trails. Whole city and county should be connected by trails. Lots of undeveloped space.
- More activities for disabled people.
- More good and natural space. The town parks I like and if you make more that would be great. The neighborhood city parks are great.
- More kayaking activities. Snow shoeing.
- More kid younger child oriented activities would be good.
- More mountain biking, more trails or more access to trails. (access) no trails are allowed in city parks.
- More pole vaulting in the indoor gyms. More indoor park activities, not enough indoor track and field and a better equipped indoor swimming pool.
- More summer camps than they do now, like kayaking camp. More variety in summer camps and I'd really like a roller rink.
- More tennis.
- More things for children. (specific) I think there should be patrols for park safety, Cornwall Park for example. Anything that increases benefits to children. Better public relations information. I know a long time ago someone told me the parks department has some information. So I guess more information on what the city parks do have to offer.
- More trail walking.
- Outdoor recreation program that organized outings for citizens for things like hikes. A sailing program.
- Probably sailing and kayaking. Bicycling events, I like those and cross country, skiing and snow shoeing. Bocce ball. Educational trips around the community like to view native plants and also at shorelines and explain sea life. Astronomy something to do with the stars.
- Seamanship class for boating
- Skiing trips in winter.
- Skydiving
- Some fly fishing classes.
- Some kayaking boats and more exercise equipment in the parks, like pull up bars, barbells, etc.
- Some organized trip for preteen girls in southern Bellingham where they would walk or do some light hiking. Also some training of some light water sports.
- Something for over fifty, like yoga and not too intense for that physical exercise. Snowshoeing and other group activities for exercise to also enjoy the area. Hiking and bird watching ne
- Sometimes you get people from different states and different countries. They need a big sign at the dog park that say no fire arms allowed in the park.
- Take away the parking fees for some of the parks. Add a lifeguard to Lake Padden.
- Tennis lessons
- There is no bus service to Mt. Baker from Fairhaven or Bellingham.
- There should be more activities for boys and girls to keep them busy and out of trouble, like on a boys and girls club model, especially during the winter.
- They used to have disable kayak, equestrian, archery and I wonder if they still, the programs still exist.
- To see recreational runs every weekend even in the winter time. Not just once a month such as the 5k and the bike to work. I would like to see more incentives for biking like routes and place to put the bikes. Make it so that certain roads on certain days are closed down for biking. You could shut down Commercial Street or Cornwall or Railroad. I want to see the Baker Trail done.
- Water type things like paddle boards at lakes, like Lake Padden. Water type sports that can be done in the lake.
- We are seniors and like to bicycle and walk.
- We would like to see the music in the park back at the Boulevard Park. It was not there this summer. We would like to see the restrooms open at Boulevard Park all year long. City parks. We think maybe they're spending a lot of money on the boat inspections and a lot of people sit down there when we walk there every day. If they were to run out of money and not be able to keep parks open I would be okay with pay toilets that would cost a quarter like in Europe instead of closing them. I do not like the dogs running at the Bloedel Park. We do not want them to buy anymore parks.

- We'd love to see baseball and football for little kids. With the spray parks you turn them off at 7 in the summer when it doesn't get dark until 10, so maybe keep them open another hour or so. I'd like to see them open longer in the heat of the summer.

qnew1ot: What is it about the athletic fields in Bellingham that keeps you from being Completely Satisfied?

- Can't use my wheelchair or walker and the parking handicap places are limited.
- Drainage problems and lighting problems
- Field upkeep could be better and the restrooms could be better.
- Hard seats.
- I am disabled and have a difficult time finding parking. The baseball field handicap parking is non-existent.
- Lack of restroom and drinking fountains
- Layout and the bathroom availability.
- Lights went out in the middle of the games and we had to stop the softball games.
- Multi use facility
- Need more all-weather playing fields for winter use. Updated softball facilities.
- Sometimes soccer fields are kind of eaten up and not smooth.
- The lights are not on in a timely manner and leaves me feeling vulnerable. A bit frustrated that the teams have to pay such a high dues fees and the condition of the fields is not improved. I have to charge my players more and the work is not done. The money could be solicited through other means besides my players.
- There are not enough fields and there is only one stadium that has a score board and lights.
- Water drainage. There is a lot of standing water.
- We would like some lights at night. Make it so we can use the field at night.

qnew3ot: You said you were dissatisfied with the off leash dog areas. Can you describe what's dissatisfying to you?

- No grass and the construction.
- Not enough areas that are maintained, they are often too muddy especially the fenced areas. So more trail systems for dogs, off leash would be better.
- Overrun
- The access is not available because the water treatment plant is doing construction. So the trail is to be closed.
- The lack shade. They need to put up trees and dress up the small dog park. It's a social setting. They need to make it more pleasant for people to be in there, and they need chairs. You have senior citizens, they need picnic tables and benches. Benches that people can't take. People really love it.

qnew8ot: (Some people may not have used one or more of the recreation facilities in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Are there any facilities that you (or others in your household) would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied with them?) If yes, What facilities?

- At Padden Lake I've gone there and didn't feel safe because windows were broken.
- Bloedel Donovan at Lake Whatcom.
- Boulevard Park
- Boulevard Park
- Cornwall Park and indoor pools.

- Handicapped fishing area, non-handicapped people used it. There wasn't an handicapped bathroom in there. The other problem the sign doesn't specify, never specify if you use a manual wheel chair. I think that's important that the term handicapped varies.
- I used the motorized boat launch for a non-motorized boat at Padden and it was not appropriate for a canoe or kayak, we needed a beach to launch.
- I'm not happy with Maritime Heritage Park because I want to walk through it and it's creepy at night. I also won't go there by myself during the day.
- Lake Padden Park and Whatcom Falls Park, I feel we are stretching ourselves to try and keep them clean.
- Lake Whatcom
- Larrabee State Park and Birch Bay Park
- Maritime Heritage Park
- Maritime Heritage Park is sketchy with the homeless population that hangs out down there.
- The only thing that concerns me is Whatcom Falls, that they don't really have enough parking area and playground. Even the spray park needs more handicap parking, they do have it on the other side which is away from the spray park.
- The trails on the Alabama Hill.
- There are other grassy areas with lots of goose droppings.
- Unhappy with Boulevard Park, it's too crowded. They didn't need to put in a beach.
- Water front, the water is polluted you can't dig clams nor swim. It's at the end of Roeder Street.

qnew9: (Some people may not have used one or more of the recreation facilities in the past year because they were previously dissatisfied with them. Are there any facilities that you (or others in your household) would like to have used, but didn't because you are dissatisfied with them? If yes, What facilities?)What dissatisfies you?

- Cornwall Park is too dark and it makes me feel unsafe. The indoor pools use too much chlorine.
- Goose droppings
- I don't feel safe walking by myself anymore.
- If I go there with my manual chair I can get to the park, if there's a big hill I won't be able to get back up.
- It is dirty and there is a lot of litter and garbage so we do not go down there.
- It's not safe. (safe) the fact that there are a lot of people there that do nefarious things. Crime, drugs.
- It's polluted and you can't do anything but walk around it.
- It's too crowded. The construction they are doing to place a beach in has made it too crowded and unattractive and it discourages us from going to Boulevard Park. They definitely shouldn't be doing this is the summer when people want to go there.
- None
- Not appropriate for my boat.
- Overcrowding and the hours. This specific intersection at 22nd and Fairhaven Parkway where you turn off 22nd to go south. The interchange there is not clearly marked and very dangerous.
- Padden, I think we need to cut back the shrubs and trees, it is getting overgrown. We have lost the arrangements with them over growing. Money spent on maintenance.
- People were leaving their dog's poop on the trails.
- Sometimes it's so full I can't find parking, but otherwise I love it.
- The access.
- The chlorine is so strong that it burns your eyes and I would hesitate if I had a small baby to go in there at all. The chlorine isn't good for you.
- The facility and the amount of people they book there for one time. It's hard to get a whole recreational experience, it's too crowded being the only indoor swimming facility that the city has.
- The indoor swimming pool at Arne Hanna we gave up on because there were not enough lanes available for slow swimmers early in the day. At the Y pool we found that the level of chemicals is too high and harsh on my skin.
- The off leash area is a complete mud bath for the dogs, occasionally.

- The place is not well kept. It is very unclean and there is poop all over the place. From people's dogs, wild animals and I will not take my children there.
- The restrictions against letting kids in the hot tub. Life is too picky about rules not family friendly. The change rooms are not that clean and a lot of theft.
- There wasn't a lot to do. You can walk around but no swing sets, it's Fairhaven Park, they need to add more things.
- They are changing it and tearing it up. Right now they are in the construction process so you have to walk on a wood chip trail, which we don't like. Otherwise it's a fabulous park.
- They are not up kept. The fact that they do not mow them or keep them well maintained so you know where the actual trail is. If a tree falls they take a week to come and all they do is cut it and move it to the side. Their reasoning is that it is new habitat for animals. They need to be more diligent and I realize we have been in a drought and the grass does not grow as fast but the grass does not get cut at park areas.
- They need canopies so we can use them when it's cold and wet.
- They need more maintenance. Clean branches, tree trimming, bush trimming on the pathways. Better gravel on the trail.
- They're not safe, they're too secluded and there are homeless people that live in the woods. I don't feel safe and I don't use that trail. If you're attacked, no one would see you. There have been attacks of women on the trail in the secluded area. That's the reason I don't feel safe.
- Too crowded.
- Too many seagulls.
- Walking trails aren't safe for families or children.
- What I had just explained on the previous question.
- With the dog park, they started doing construction so it is a smaller area, the trail isn't as long. Then the Maritime Heritage Park, I wouldn't use that because of the people who hangs out there. (people) well there are transits and there's a reputation where it's less safe.
- You could have the dogs go off leash, but now they cannot run as much. In Lake Whatcom or Cornwall by the cemetery you can go off leash but not up near the Lake Whatcom Park area, this is a problem because my dog does not get enough exercise.
- You have to have a discovery pass to go there and it makes it difficult for low income families.

q25a: What additional types of facilities would you like to see in Bellingham?

- 50 meter pool
- A paved biking trail not on the road. Like the Centennial Trail.
- A spot other than the skate park that is safe for kids to go to. Many kids go without supervision and safety.
- Additional park and commercial down in the waterfront area where the paper mill used to be.
- Additional turf fields for lacrosse.
- An obstacle course like the military with signs saying do pushups and sit ups and a balance bar 4 inches off the ground, monkey bars, tires like football players and it can be circular or through a park. It would be running between events. Leaping events also. Also the events should be low in being prone to injury.
- Boulevard Park, they have blacktop pathways that needs to be leveled so you can go straight on the path without gearing at an angle.
- Canyon Creek Road hiking trails or Glacier Creek - please open them up again.
- Extending the dock from Boulevard Park into Cornwall. I want more over the water bridges or walkways.
- I like to see more access to the bay. I disapprove of motorized transportation in Lake Whatcom because it's the city's drinking water.
- I would like more beach access. (access) the beaches are not accessible.
- I would like more benches on the trails.
- I would like there to be more beach access on the waterfront. I like what they have done with Boulevard Park with reclaiming the beach. Just keep the areas groomed safe and clean.
- I would like to see a better land connection between Boulevard Park and Marine Park.
- I would like to see more outdoor swimming areas on Lake Padden.

- I would like to see some tennis courts, but don't know what is available. Also, non-motorized boat launches.
- I would like to see the city get something in the city center. There is no parks downtown where you can sit and have a picnic lunch. The greenways should have more connective trails.
- I would like town square I would like a speakers corner, maybe chess
- I would want a bocce court.
- If there was something along the waterfront that was not blocked by a tree or building.
- Indoor track facilities and a community center for athletic classes that re inexpensive.
- Like a pool that I mentioned earlier. I like the pool in Canada, like they have an indoor wave pool. Next to it is a roller skating ring and ice skating ring and a theatre. It's also be nice to see an indoor facility that caters to indoor mountain biking and can ride a scooter indoor. We don't have roller skating in Bellingham and would like to have one. Some indoor courts to play basketball or volleyball and an indoor track and ping pong tables and such.
- Maybe more wild life or more animal facilities like petting zoos and stuff like that.
- More access to Lake Whatcom. (access) most of Lake Whatcom is private.
- More bike trail and sidewalks.
- More fields for playing sports, more hiking trails. Playgrounds for young children.
- More green space downtown and walk ways around the water downtown, the shore downtown. I just like as much green space as possible. (green) parks and trails.
- More pickle ball courts.
- My father dedicated the Bloedel Donovan. There was a building for refreshments and they changed it to a party kitchen room. I wish they would turn it back into a refreshment place. I think there is enough park and recreation for everybody.
- Outdoor lap pool, a really nice one that is filled with salt water. Either indoor or outdoor, like a sliding roof so you can use it all year long. Not too lavish, bigger size lap pool.
- Outdoor swimming pool.
- Parks to take over Galbraith and the mountain biking trails. I would like for the mountain biking trails to be preserved on Galbraith.
- Paved bike trails.
- Playgrounds with rubberized mats.
- Pools for adults that's not crowded.
- Public climbing.
- Roller skating rink.
- Rowing
- Sandy beaches to walk on versus concrete slabs with big pebbles
- Scuba park
- Someone would have to tell me what's available and I would check it out.
- Something on par with Bellwether Park. The hike to Boulevard Park could be improved. It would be nice to construct new hike within the park. (improved) the railroad tracks could be dangerous and paths not bordering the tracks would be an improvement especially when children are involved. Hiking trails could circle Lake Whatcom also.
- The old GP site
- The softball field, better taken care of.
- Walkway that goes from the other side of the Boulevard to GP. Swimming area and dock back at Lake Padden and life guards back in places like Lake Samish and Lake Padden. Kayaking trips that they used to have from the county. Parks in the GP site.
- We live near the Whatcom creek by the school bus parking area and we really don't think that should be an industrial area, we think it should be a park. Whatcom Park is not really safe, maybe more lighting. It doesn't really get used by kids I would say. I would say the same thing about the Whatcom creek trail but some parts of it don't feel safe to be on with children. I think there should be more lighting or it's too enclosed. Walking under the under pass to get to the Whatcom creek trail is not the greatest, it's really close to traffic and doesn't feel safe.
- We need more instructions for the different places in the Vietnamese language. (instructions) like when we go to the park like at Bloedel, the signs need to have Vietnamese and also the pamphlets.
- We would like to see an indoor track and field facility.

q31ot: You said that water access would be important. I'm going to read a list of various types of water access. Please tell me which one is the most important to you (and your household):

- A parking area on the north side of Bellingham Bay especially stairway area needs more parking.
- Access for non-motorized sports activities like wind surfing.
- All of the above, not everyone lives near the water and we should all take advantage of the water accessibility.
- All those are important.
- All three, seeing the water, swimming and kayaks.
- Better boat ramps for watching powered and unpowered vessels. Anything that you have to use a trailer to watch.
- Boardwalks and such, that's important to senior citizens. I understand that they make the plantation beautiful.
- Canoe paddling.
- Drinking water available to the park visitors.
- Drinking water.
- General shoreline access, wading and swimming.
- I like all options.
- I would like all of them.
- I would like to have beach access for walking and launching my kayak.
- Just being able to walk down to the water and walk along the water. It would be nice to actually walk longer distances by the water.
- Places to fish, for fishing.
- Salt water access
- Trails with access to the water.

q32ot: You said that improvements to existing parks would be important. Can you tell me one or two ways that you would like to see the current parks improved.

- A change in what substance they use in the infant and toddler and child play areas. Put more private benches and access to shade for nursing the baby. A spot to cool off.
- A few more benches for bird watching my dad, who is 90, needs some easier parking. Ne
- A few more benches for sitting. I am a senior and I walk with other seniors and it is nice to have benches. In the town I am from they have benches people can purchase with their names on it or for in memory of someone and it might be a good way for the community to get money.
- Additional turf fields for lacrosse and other sports.
- Again just more handicap access.
- All playgrounds to have canopies and rubberized mats.
- Ample parking. Water fountains. Clean restrooms. (where) all parks in general.
- An improvement in the restroom facilities would be a high priority.
- At Elizabeth Park there are sometimes homeless people hanging around there so maybe add more security. Squalicum Beach, I think might have a little pollution problem so I don't know get it cleaned up so things don't get so polluted in the future.
- At Lake Padden it would be nice to drive by and supervise the parks for the animals. Have trails and make sure there are no homeless camps.
- Better access for the handicapped citizens.
- Better drainage for the field. Lake Padden clogs.
- Better drainage.
- Better facilities for picnics (better) improved or modernized
- Better if they kept them cleaner.
- Better maintenance.
- Better parking and more restrooms.
- Better parking in some cases. I would like to see more parking spaces.
- Better swimming area. (better) cleaner water, all parks in general.
- Better volunteers to maintain the trail; or better volunteer programs to help clean up the trails. More recyclable bins out so when we are walking we have something to throw our water bottles into.

- Connecting the parks is a big thing. I think when you have a park where there are summer activities, that helps the sense of community. Judicious improvements are needed to enhance further community involvement. More programs.
- Connecting trails, more of them. More off leash areas added to the system.
- Connectivity of the trails. Would like to have a park space to designate for people to drink on a picnic.
- Continued recycling for garbage, not just trash cans
- Coordinate with wild life experts that bird life and nesting is considered in the preservation. Open park land as much as possible. More information available to the public about park and trails.
- Cornwall Park needs a better basketball area. We have taken our grandchildren to the one on Birchwood and you would think the Cornwall Park would have one.
- Disability access. I'd like to see disability friendly website that tells me where those accessible facilities are.
- Dog poop is a problem. Also the trail around the sewage plant could be restored. Boulevard Park has pushed the edge of the water back to put in a beach which has erosion.
- Easier to bike and walk to.
- Extra parking. Boulevard Park is a nightmare but I don't know where to put it.
- Finances for maintaining them is limited so make sure that they are properly maintained.
- For me, I would like to see the authorities get after the people that let their dogs run loose. They are not supposed to be running around the park without a leash. Some parks, they have the off leash areas, I am not talking about that. Specifically, I am talking about Boulevard Park. They're putting in a beach at Boulevard Park and they have been taking the trees. At 88 of age I use the park every day. It ruined it for me because all I hear the trucks. I live right above Boulevard Park so it bothers me.
- For safety and playgrounds for little kids.
- General maintenance. Hire people that need work and I think that is a good use of people and people need work. Maintenance for all the parks.
- Have bathroom facilities, especially by the Broadway Park playground. Keeping all the shrubs groomed and back so they don't get overgrown. A nice thing would be if they would have the dog waste pick up bags like they do at the port.
- Have more playground equipment for kids like swings and swings for toddlers.
- Have water available to the walkers and all people.
- Having bathrooms at Lake Padden and having them open in winter and having hand soap.
- I am not really very happy with what they're doing at Boulevard Park. I think they're changing it to a non-natural state. (suggestions) taking away some of the grassy areas was not a good idea. Bringing in unnatural sand.
- I am so in support of the trails and I think it is critical. We have parks connected with trails for the kids but they close them up at night. I would like to see more places for children especially for kids who live in apartments. Add more play areas.
- I find running in Lake Padden trails a lot of people having their dogs off leash and I think there is a rebellious quality. I would like to see a very clear sign that said on leash dog area so that fewer people would violate the rules. I would also like to see smoke free and gun free parks.
- I haven't used them for a long time, I really can't say.
- I like connectivities of one trail from one park to another.
- I like the carvings at the top of Cornwall Park. They could share this in other parks, using local artists and not letting the trees getting overgrown.
- I like the walking trails, so I would like to connect more parks together so I could have longer walks. I would like geese control, like Bloedel Donovan that has all the goose's poop.
- I like the way Boulevard Park has progressed so I think that type of improvement is what Bellingham parks should be. I would like to have the Whatcom Creek area to be more developed into a nice walking area from Lake Whatcom to the sea.
- I like to see more hiking trails.
- I like to see more parks on the north side. I would like to see the basic amenities like park benches and clean bathrooms.
- I like undeveloped park land. I like off leash dog trails and connecting trails throughout the city and county.

- I think that I need information of park locations and what the various amendments that are available to the public.
- I think that the connecting various parks with trails, walking and biking is a good idea. More facilities, more parks, more sports and more playgrounds for children to play.
- I think there should be a little more oversight in the park to be there to handle property or to handle situations or have some authority to deflate the situation.
- I think they should be more accessible to handicapped people on wheel chairs.
- I think trails that are accessible to older people like less bumps and such.
- I was thinking more of maintaining the parks.
- I would like dog owners to clean up after their dog. I would like bike riders be separated from walkers. That would include skate boards and any wheeled vehicle.
- I would like them to provide more access to Lake Whatcom.
- I would like to have access to the creek. I would like to have more off leash dog parks and trails.
- I would like to see a good healthy budget to maintain what we already have.
- I would like to see an indoor facility for track and field, not just competition but being able to run indoors in bad weather.
- I would like to see bocce courts put in for all the citizens.
- I would like to see drainage improved. Some of the parks get too wet and have puddles too large to make use of the park in the winter.
- I would like to see more off lease trails and actually if the use of a training collar was used and considered instead of a leash. More enforcement for the people to clean up after their dogs.
- I would like to see some of the parks improved with their facilities and upgrade their facilities. When renting out a facility there should be less rules involved.
- I would like to see the entrance to Fairhaven Park refurbished, it has deteriorated over the years. Make Maritime Heritage Park more family friendly and less accommodating to transits. I would like graffiti to be taken down on signs etc. I think that Bellingham parks does a great job.
- I would like to see the Whatcom Creek Trail better managed.
- I would like to see them more accessible and better maintained trails.
- I would to see use more of the soft paving materials like they've used in some of the new roads that are quiet and they are easier to walk on. (where) where there is now there is sidewalks and asphalt.
- I'd like signage to be more clear about where off leash areas are or are not or some sort of enforcement. I feel like we've had it a lot and I'm very uncomfortable with people's off leash dogs coming up to me when I'm swimming or around my picnic. I think cleaning up areas, especially downtown where a lot of homeless people who leave their garbage around.
- I'd like to see the parks more attached to our commercial area in downtown. I believe our city could benefit from having an environment downtown where there are more people that want to visit the area and enjoy walking around and spend their money. Not just a park that is specifically for walking dogs or for kids to play in. Like a park that is connected to our swap meets. Areas for people to gather and enjoy how beautiful our city is.
- I'd like to see the small parks have bathrooms like they do in Cornwall Park. I would like to see more park officials present because I almost had my son taken from a park.
- If it was just a little bit cleaner. So maybe more trash cans, and I see they come to empty the trash bags, so maybe they should come a little more often.
- If they could separate off-leash dog areas from playgrounds. They could develop a way to get citizens to help clean up the parks.
- Interconnectivity of the trails and access to the water, whether it's lake, bay, or creek.
- It doesn't look like something's going on there, not a lot of people do stuff there. More upgrades (upgrades) kids like to play sports like basketball, it would be nice if they had a basketball court, tennis courts, softball fields. If they upgraded the softball fields on Cornwall.
- It would be nice to see the dog parks improved. (improved) better grass, keep up the facilities.
- Just a little bigger, add an acre to the park area. My kids and I spent a lot of time at the parks. My mom and step dad celebrated their 25th anniversary at fair haven and my kids had a ball. They like the wading pool. It's not too deep and they can get wet, it's absolutely fantastic.
- Just connect the trails. Make it so there is no vehicle interruption or make it so there is limited street crossing.
- Just expanded (expanded) to see more area devoted to parks

- Just keep them on top of necessary maintenance. Maintain the structures and playgrounds that are in use. All parks.
- Just maintaining the trails, some of them got overgrown. I walk and I like having a clear trail.
- Just make sure they are clean and kept up.
- Just more clean up and pick up of little things. (things) like small maintenance issues with people not throwing away garbage.
- Keeping things in good repair and maintained with good maintenance.
- Leave the parks. Don't take real estate away from that and cut down trees like they do at Boulevard Park. Keep the fish moving. The fish used to be able to move through streams there and now they can't anymore.
- Lifeguards in the swimming areas.
- Lights at some of the parks and trail ways, there's no lights from the Interurban Trail through the town's Boulevard. Connecting the trails to the parks, so there is more that you can hit. Many of the big parks using trails. (specific trail) I know Interurban goes to Whatcom Falls and it sort of disband. You have the Interurban and the beach but they don't connect together.
- Linking the parks through green park like through green ways would be great.
- Maintenance area. Make sure the bathrooms work. We need to pick up after ourselves and not everyone does. If you bring dogs then owners should clean up after them. The little plastic things for dogs should be everywhere because people take their dogs where they aren't supposed to.
- Making them larger.
- Maybe more bathroom facilities. (which) Whatcom Park and Cornwall Park, Boulevard Park.
- Maybe more playground equipment.
- Maybe updated building exteriors as well as energy efficiency or water conservation characteristics. I was a painter for the parks department and I know that so many structures are concrete block buildings so new structures or something more attractive or more efficient building construction.
- Monitoring and making them feel safe at all times. All parks in general.
- More access to get into the park. Boulevard Park, there is not that much parking and not good access. Fairhaven Park doesn't have enough parking and they have to park on the road, that is unsafe. It's also crowded. More of a separation of walking and biking paths. Have some kind of designation on the trail like a sign that says the right hand is for biking.
- More activities. In some parks more places to barbeque or have picnics.
- More bike paths.
- More bike trails.
- More lighting in the parks, Whatcom Falls and Lake Padden.
- More lighting so people can do things at night and more picnic tables.
- More lights. At night it would be nice to have more light because not everyone gets to enjoy the park during the day. There's a lot of parks and some have lights, some don't.
- More parking at Boulevard Park.
- More parking facilities.
- More parks, I think they do a pretty good job.
- More picnic areas and life guards at the swimming areas.
- More picnic tables. All parks in general. Maybe non-motorized access.
- More playground area for the kids. More walking trails to downtown.
- More playground equipment and paddle boats.
- More playgrounds and better equipment, it's getting old.
- More playgrounds for the children. More picnic areas. I'd like to see spray parks in any of the parks. An additional spray park. There should be kayak launch area. Trail connectivity, there are trails that stopped or streets in between so we need more connectivity of the trails.
- More sand volleyball courts and lighting for night time. Then the city could do sand volleyball leagues. At Boulevard or Bloedel.
- More space with covered areas for picnics and group gatherings. It might be nice to have a little carnival downtown on the beach with rides for the kids. Some areas specially designed for families with small kids. I would like to see forestry areas.
- More trail access to the parks and safer play equipment. (reference) all parks in general. (equipment) what they put in at Boulevard Park is very well, just some of the parks is outdated.
- More trash cans and doggy poles for dog pick up bags. Better litter patrols.

- More unleashed dog walking trails.
- Nothing over the phone.
- One of the parks is Broadway Park and they took out the playground equipment and to replace it with something would be great. Most of the parks are pretty good. No suggestions for replacement equipment. I feel well served by the parks.
- Places like the park near the harbor with the memorial to those lost at sea.
- Playgrounds have improved.
- Provide more trails
- Put parks and trails in the north part of the city.
- Recreational activities for kids like a wave pool.
- Referring to the swimming or wading areas. (improvements) having more water access for swimming not necessarily for boating because they already have several spots. (specific) all parks.
- Restroom areas need to be more sanitary.
- Security in a few of the parks could be improved.
- Some sort of clean-up program in all the parks. Things do not seem to be up kept. The parks that are accessible to my wheelchair need to have maintenance come every week. Get the Boy Scout and Girl Scouts to have a clean-up once a week.
- Sunset pond now has a big lawn and I would like to see the natural habitat or wild flowers.
- Swing sets for the playground that works for teens, not just smaller kids.
- Taking care of the landscaping ne
- The Bellingham Bay near Boulevard Park has been improving a lot more, add crossing walks at the corner of State and Boulevard.
- The cleanliness of the bathroom. I would also like to see the hours of extended for the use of the bathroom. It closes early and if you go walking you have nowhere to use the restroom.
- The connectivities between different parks. There is the shoreline park and you go into Fairhaven along the Bay Trail and the Taylor Dock and that trail goes in and heads towards the GP site and then it goes to downtown. It would be nice if they were all connected.
- The connectivity between Bellingham and north and south of Bellingham. Marine Drive is the only way to get in and out of here. An alternative access for the bikers would be needed.
- The maintenance of the park.
- The one I go to is Bloedel in the winter time; we have to go across the street which isn't convenient because nobody uses Bloedel in the winter. They make us go across the street in the soccer field and it's all muddy and the dogs get all muddy and the possibility of the dogs getting hit. So if they can just let us go down by the water from 8 until 10 then that would be okay. There's going to be a new ramp for boats underneath the bridge for kayakers and there's only 20 kayakers. Why do they have to disturb the swimming area. Now with the ramp being there the kids won't be able to jump and they'll get hurt.
- The parks I go to are well maintained, but bikers are intruding on the walking space in Boulevard Park.
- The pathways need to cleared more. They need dog litter bags and more garbage cans. Weeds are overgrown.
- The surface areas of the parks where games are played like soccer need to be leveled with better drainage and remove pot holes in soccer fields. We need more indoor facilities for winter months.
- There are a lot of trail heads that go around in circles so I would like to see more trails that leads to the water.
- There is a new crosswalk in Bloedel last year that crosses to Whatcom Falls park that crosses Electric Avenue. They need to cut down the bushes around there because the crosswalk is at a blind side and I almost ran someone over there a few times.
- They do a good job with what they have, I would like to see more parks.
- They have to something the Canada geese. They need to deter, because the geese poop in the water and they pollute the water and people can't go in the water. They need to Lake Padden and deter the geese.
- They have too many sick trees and shrubs types that have no view. It might be dangerous for people and they can be attacked. I worry more about the children. We live above and I see from time to time, people entering the park that shouldn't. I see homeless going through the park. Sometimes the live in the bushes. That's a worry and the trails.

- They need to have more maintenance more of the time. (maintenance) grass mowing and hedge trimming and update playground equipment.
- They need to make sure the facilities are clean at all times.
- They recently had on a ballot that the Edgemoor people would buy land in Chuckanut Ridge and turn it into a park, and it passed so the Edgemoor people are paying to make it a park. So i'm going to be putting my money to make it into a park. There are people saying don't make it into a park, a movement or a ballot, I don't remember. The movement or ballot says to make it into city owned held land or something like that, I don't remember, but I would like to see it turned into a park.
- They should be monitored so people don't leave their garbage behind. It's not nice to do.
- To have more parks in all parts of town so that all people have access in their neighborhoods.
- Trail and garbage pickup
- Trails for walking and biking, no specific park.
- Upkeep the jungle gym, and the parks grounds.
- We have a park across the street from our house and I would like to see it kept up better by keeping the grass mowed. I like going there and the park not being long grass there.
- We like playgrounds any improvements would be fine.
- What might be available for addition plots for the public to grow their own fresh produce. Expand as many area for off leash dog parks.
- What they are doing is a good idea, constructing a better beach area. (better) wider beach and easier to get to.
- You mentioned the trails connecting more and I think that would be nice. All parks in general.

cmtbxot: The Bellingham Department of Parks and Recreation really values your feedback. Do you have any other comments or suggestions that you would like to offer?

- Bellingham should work to protect Galbraith trails.
- Bellingham's quality of life is high compared to other areas it's size. We need to keep the heritage going.
- Biking, I would love to see more biking and I did comment to that earlier. I think it's a huge deal especially on the east side of I-5, the need to put more bike lanes out and setting up biking that makes us older people and kids safe.
- Bloedel has always looked the same and the idea of changing it infuriates me just because one person wants to change it. I mean there's boat ramps if you want to kayak go off the boat ramps, you don't have to have a special one that interrupts the swimming. (infuriates) just because it always have looked the same and it's a beautiful park. To just change the looks of it. Here's another thing, there's times when first aid is called to the park, a first aid car is going to take a while of a time to get through. Right now there's a gate, that gate will be closed off or used for something else. I am not the only one that feels this way. Bellinghamdogpark.com
- Charge the Canadians for use using facilities and golf courses.
- Doing a fine job, excellent trail system.
- Enforce dog leashed areas. They need people, security patrol of sorts, to monitor and enforce the leash law in areas that people are supposed to have leashes on their dogs.
- First spending more money starting a new project when they don't have enough to finance the project they already have. They should work with their existing finance just like you do at home. You don't spend more than you have. All these things are wonderful but if you can't afford them, you just can't afford. They are spending more beyond their means. The walking trail between Boulevard Park and downtown is not safe for single woman to walk on. It is too secluded. There are homeless people living in that area of the woods.
- For a city of our size we have some nice parks. I appreciate that they keep them maintained.
- Get moving on parks put down in GP site.
- Great park system
- Having available numbers to call when you do need information sports ne
- Homeless camping around in parks and the trails is a detriment to the people using them.

- I am leaning towards making this more of an attractive town that people want to come to. (suggestions) like an amusement park, little shops, and cafes right on the waterfront. Enjoy the view and walk around.
- I applaud the city of Bellingham for all that they have done for the parks in the area.
- I didn't hear you ask about some of the facilities that they offer that you can rent that we have used and enjoyed. I just that I would bring that up because I didn't hear any questions regarding the facility just like the building at Fairhaven Park. They have a big hall and have used that for family gatherings. (improvements) I know they improved Fairhaven but as far as the ones that I have used seemed to be fine.
- I do have grandchildren that visit the parks and that's when we use parks more.
- I have a handicapped child that uses the parks. More programs he like bocce balls. Keep maintaining the parks. Great job.
- I have always been more concerned with the city keeping motorized things off of Lake Whatcom.
- I have lived in other places in the country, I am very pleased to be living here and having better parks and facilities offered to me and have experienced living in other countries and Bellingham is the best.
- I have noticed that they have cut back on their activities and to their best abilities it would be nice to have back.
- I just appreciate that they are doing this survey and getting our feedback.
- I just want to reiterate about where the school buses park, Meador Street and making that area into a park.
- I just would like to see the hours that the bathrooms are open.
- I know vandalism and graffiti is a big issue for the parks department and it would be nice to have more public awareness or education to curb the problem.
- I like the parks and the idea of more connections.
- I live downtown; I would like to have a nice safe place for seniors to walk.
- I live on Cherrywood and there is a trail that goes from Cherrywood to McLeod. What are their plans about improving it? I would like them to fence it off to delineate the property line.
- I love the scholarships.
- I really appreciate the parks we do have and the accessibility.
- I see so many people out of work, some want to work and some don't. The parks program could give them a little wage or minimum wage to help maintain the parks. They might be able to do it cheaper than they are but not sure what they pay. There could be something arranged that could save money, possibly with federal funds.
- I think our kids need lots of contacts with nature and need to know about it.
- I think that Bellingham parks have done an excellent job in maintaining and growing facilities. Integrating with the bike master plan is important to me.
- I think that both are equally important, trail connectivity and the bridge that caught on fire in the Whatcom Creek Park, just outside downtown. Needs to be replaced and fix up that section of the park.
- I think that the parks that they have should stay industrial like it is right now. I don't want there to be any condominiums built over there that will be blocking people's view of the water.
- I think the staff at Silver Lake is really good and kind and fun. Make things easy and good staff makes us feel welcomed as well.
- I think there needs to be more things like the skate park and bike park. Some place for kids to ride their bikes freely, with jumps and ramps.
- I think they are doing a good job with what they are doing right now.
- I think they're doing a good job.
- I think we have enough parks in a city our size. We don't need to be expanding and adding new parks. They should take what they have and improve on the parks we have and not waste money on trying to add more parks that we don't need.
- I think we have enough parks.
- I use the parks all the time and like them.
- I want all the chlorine out of the lap pools and replace it with salt. Not as unhealthy as chlorine.
- I was amazed that they did a roundabout in Boulevard Park which prevented access to the beach. They are now fixing the beach but it ruined the summer, why not do it off season.

- I would like for them to partner with Bellingham Bay boating center in offering classes for non-motorized activities.
- I would like more investment in trail connectivity to business areas because my husband and I both use our bikes to commute to work.
- I would like to congratulate for having the best parks in any city in the country that I've seen.
- I would like to say that I hope they never get rid of the compost area.
- I would like to see more memorial benches with water views.
- I would like to see more restroom facility use more air filtration systems rather than the fragrance dispenser. Many people have chemical sensitivity and have adverse health reactions to the toxins in the fragrance dispensers. The chemicals used in these dispensers have been proven and are known to be toxic. In general, not just to people with chemical sensitivities.
- I would like to see some more indoor facilities that are city owned and managed as opposed to YMCA or Western.
- I would like to see Sunset Pond area develop.
- I would like to suggest that the parks budget to include additional acquisitions for the maintenance of the Civic Park like astro-turf should be included in the budget.
- I would love to have a butterfly pavilion. Seattle is too far to go. Something to do with insects and education.
- I'd like to thank the workers.
- I'd rather see money going to maintain existing parks than new parks.
- I'm a disabled veteran so it would be nice to have level walking paths. I use a cane and sometimes a walker so it would be helpful.
- I'm very pleased with what they've been doing. Elizabeth Park was very popular near Episcopal Church. I like the small parks where children can play. I don't expect any expansion other than the Boulevard Park. I hope it would be successful, but it would take some time.
- I'm very satisfied with what is currently available.
- Increasing safety at the parks. More lighting, some security, and having the feeling of being safe by having police visibility to all.
- It relates to the fall time when all the leaves drops off the leaves and what happens where I live. The gutter gets choked and goes on the road and no one goes and cleans out the gutter. I think that should be looked into especially because of all the rain. Just generally get rid of the leaves, it makes the access for people to get in and out of the property a little more dangerous.
- It would be good if they thought about the elderly and incorporated them into the parks system especially those over 65. For example, trails that aren't too difficult to walk. Getting out to the public what is available. I don't know about the pools mentioned and would like to know about discounts and what they offer.
- It would be nice to improve certain things and add more parks. (improve) connecting existing trails and adding more if possible.
- Just keep up the good work.
- Just to say live within your means, find money from programs that are not working and stop asking for money from taxpayers.
- Keep the streams connected to the wetlands up where they have been washed away and where they are not functioning anymore for wildlife and fish.
- Looking for the Boulevard Park work to be done and the northern expansion bridge to be completed asap.
- Make trail and discovery passes count for camping.
- More access to the waterfront than what is currently on the table for the old GP site.
- More classes, such as pottery, yoga, ballet, calligraphy and gardening.
- No comment
- Not take on more than they can handle. Keep the quality high. Around Bellwether Park good community center, Lake Padden buildings are nice wash rooms. Whatcom Falls has nice facilities but needs security watch. Trails around Barkley Square are nice and I like to see high standards.
- Open community gardens and cleanliness for the nature to use. Clean it up and keep it cleaned.
- Please have rentals of canoes and kayaks at Lake Bloedel for rental, more off leash dog areas and trails. The parks are the best thing that Bellingham has to offer the community.
- Please put my bench back at Sunset Pond Park. It will elevate me from y doggies shaking off their water and I can read.

- Please restore the trail around the sewage plant that connected the off leash area to the lagoon. This was cut off by the sewage treatment plant, I would like it restored for use.
- Somehow developing our existing park system so there are facilities for those who want to congregate and enjoy parks. So areas that are natural and accommodate people and trails that are not overused so people can enjoy some solitude.
- Thanks for the good job. A few gripes but overall you are awesome.
- The 100 Acre Wood is inappropriate use of park funds. A park in the northern section of the city is far more important than increasing because I rather see parks in the northern part of the city than the southern part.
- The bridge over Whatcom Creek that got burned down, I would really like to see that repaired.
- The only other things I don't hear about are bicycles paths and you don't know if it's cover under the parks and recreation.
- The swings are getting really squeaky at Elizabeth and Cornwall Park. Also the really old spring toys, the shark and the whale, don't move and I'd love to see them fixed. It would be cool if we could restore them.
- The whole thing that you guys made for the Discover Pass, make it more legible.
- There are several spots along the creek that would be nice to have access to. The trails goes away from the creek by Diehl Ford and comes back towards it by the Sears building. It would be nice to have the walkway extended from the Diehl Ford parking lot down to the creek.
- They are doing a great job. It's inappropriate; they're developing lots on the south but not in the north.
- They are trying to create a park in the south end and they do not have the money to support that. They want to create new parks and who is going to pay for them? We cannot support the parks but they want to create new parks.
- They do a great job.
- They have this project on Boulevard Park and a nice sign explaining the project and they have that sign 15 feet behind the chain link construction fence. You can see through the fence but it's so far back that you can't read the sign. Why put up a sign when you can't read it?
- They need to put more people on during the summer time to clean things up.
- They should ask the question as to where the parks go. They should have more parks in the area of poor areas.
- They totally wasted their money on Little Squalicum Park. They peeled off the two whole bark layer that my dad laid down.
- Very proud of the quality of the parks and their staff.
- We don't need any more parks, we have enough. We are fine right now. You're just spending recklessly. We need to slow down now.
- We need more park bike lanes in Bellingham. I do enjoy Bellingham parks and I admire them and am happy with them.
- We would like to see bicycles have fees and licenses so we can report if they commit infractions. Maybe the parks departments can teach the lessons that allow them to be licensed. There a lot of people that ride them here, not kids under 10 but adults that cut us off. I have had 2 friends killed on bikes so the drivers could also be more careful.
- We're just very pleased with our trails and green way projects.
- You guys are awesome.