



Parks and Recreation Department City of Bellingham

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Staff Feedback

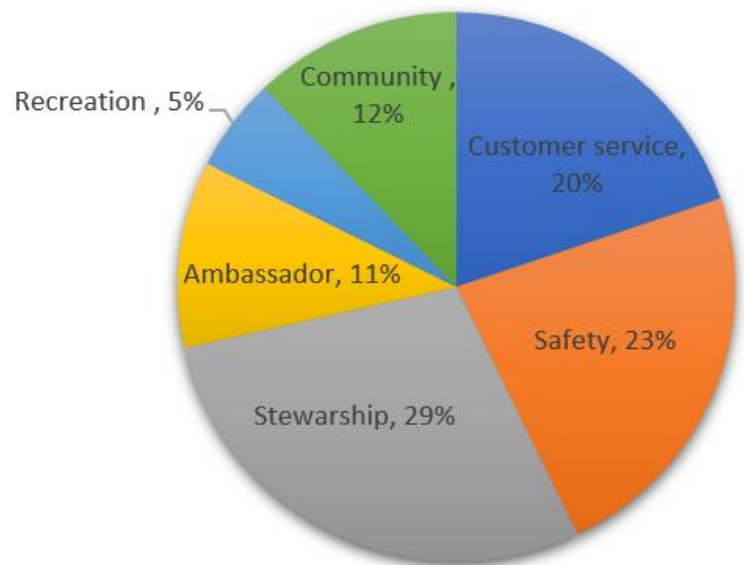
June 6, 2019

On June 6, 2019 staff gathered at the summer all staff meeting to discuss the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update. They were given a brief overview of the plan, how it impacts the department and the public, and the current project status. Staff were asked 5 questions about the work they do, how it impacts the public and to list 3 priorities for maintenance, recreation and development. 58 individual responses were collected.

Question 1: The most important service I provide to the public at work is:

Staff had a variety of input about the most valuable service they provided which were categorized into the top 5 general areas:

- **Customer Service**
- **Safety**
- **Stewardship:** keeping the parks clean, safe, maintained, effectively using public resources, etc.
- **Ambassador:** being an advocate for parks, providing education and enforcement
- **Recreation**
- **Community:** fostering an environment that promotes a sense of community



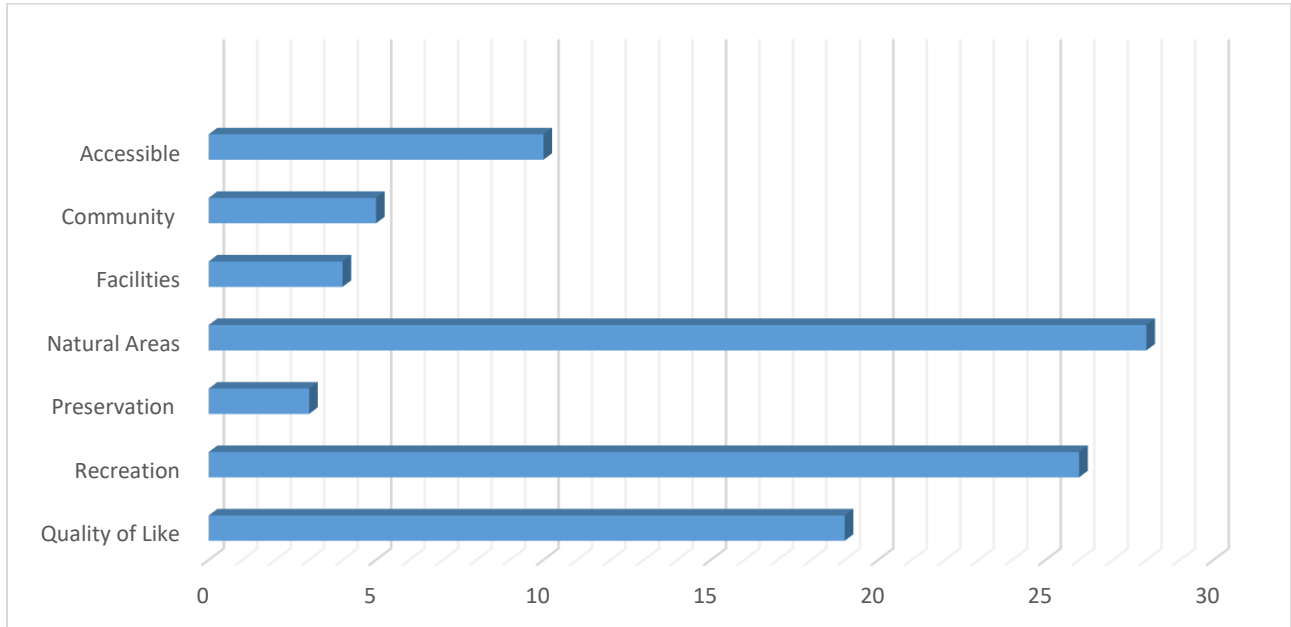
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Question 2: The most important service that Parks and Recreation offers to the public:
Staff highly value recreational opportunities, the availability of parks, natural areas and green space. The services provided by the department are felt to increase the quality of life. Staff are focused on providing clean and safe areas for the public to enjoy.

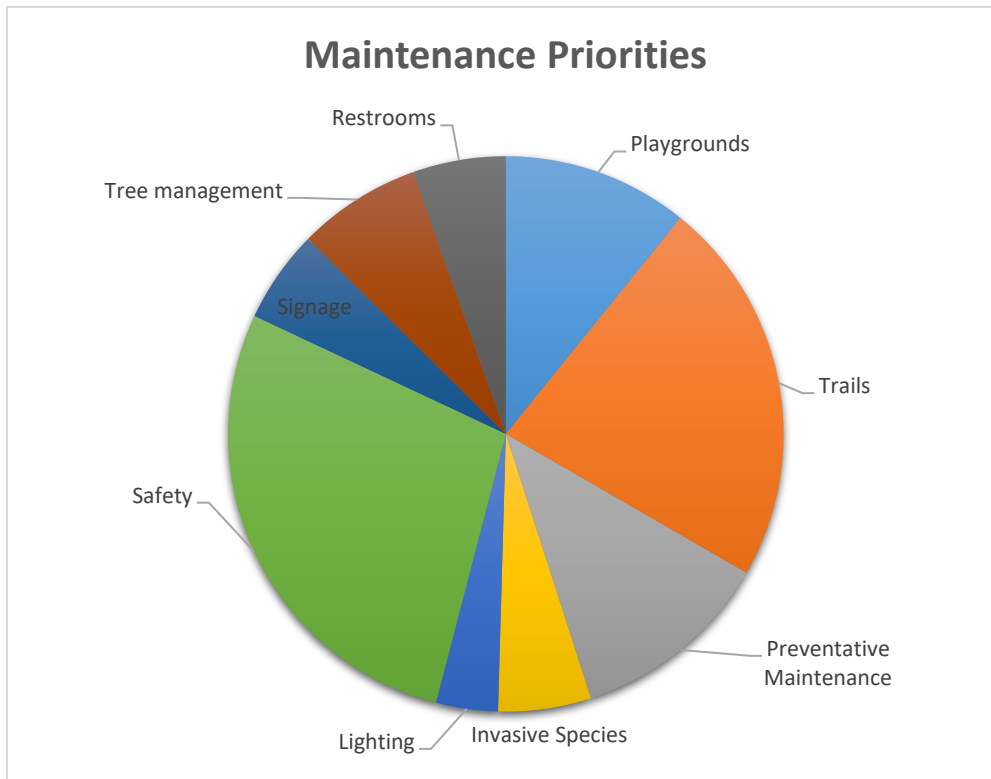


Prioritizing Maintenance, Recreation and Development

Throughout all 3 categories staff are focused on meeting safety needs, having staff to adequately support resources, including Park Rangers, and maintaining current facilities. The top results include:

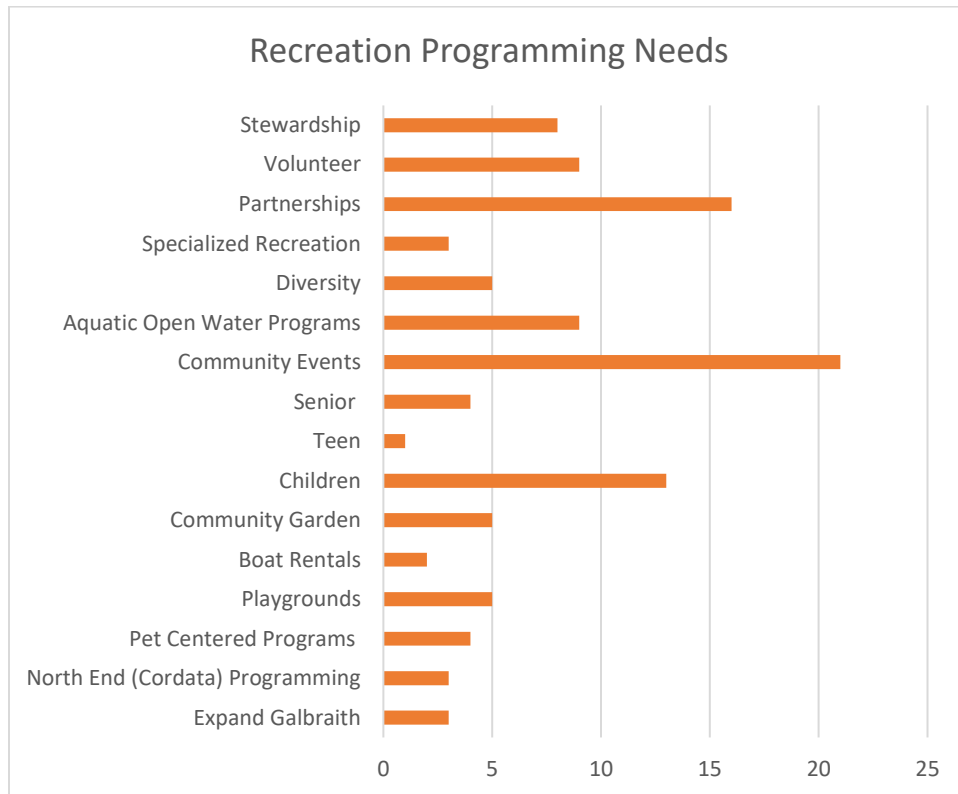
Maintenance Priorities

Staff focused on maintaining current facilities, implementing preventative maintenance program and value clean, safe and maintained parks and open space.



Recreation Priorities

In general, staff want to see more programming opportunities for all ages and abilities. They value community events and believe it has a positive impact on the community. Comments were made about increasing awareness of programs offered, having more partnerships and trying to make facility registration easier.



Development Priorities

Staff placed focus on maintaining and upgrading current facilities focusing on sustainable practices. It was felt that the North End (Cordata area) is underserved. A large focus on trail development and improvement was noted including connecting trail systems to provide both better transportation options and wildlife habitat and corridors. Staff identified the need for a community center, improving the aquatic center and expanding parking.

