Appendix F
Survey Results

Developed by Parks & Recreation staff and publicly released on Survey Monkey from June through July of 2019, attached is a summary of the public survey results.
2463

Total Responses

Date Created: Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Complete Responses: 2463
Q1: Do you live in the City of Bellingham?

Answered: 2,454    Skipped: 9

- Yes: 84%
- No: 15%
- Don't know: 0.49%
Q2: What is your age

Answered: 2,455  Skipped: 8

- 18 and under: 0.4%
- 19-25: 6%
- 26-39: 31%
- 30-55: 33%
- 55 and older: 30%
Q3: In the past month, how many times have you visited a park, trail or other park facility (pool, golf course, cemetery, athletic field) in Bellingham?

Answered: 2,457  Skipped: 6

- Never: 2%
- At least once a week: 57%
- At least once a month: 14%
- Daily: 27%
Q4: For each of the following Park budget priorities, rate their importance to you

Answered: 2,459   Skipped: 4

Public Input on Park Budget Priorities

- Building new parks and facilities
- Maintaining and improving existing parks, trails and facilities
- Building new trails
- Protecting open space and habitat
- Offering recreational programming (races, swim lessons, concerts, etc.)
Q4: For each of the following Park budget priorities, rate their importance to you

Answered: 2,459   Skipped: 4

PUBLIC OPINION ON MOST ESSENTIAL PRIORITIZATION OF P&R BUDGET

- Building new parks and facilities: 35%
- Maintaining and improving existing parks, trails and facilities: 33%
- Protecting open space and habitat: 13%
- Offering recreational programming (races, swim lessons, concerts, etc.): 10%
- Building new trails: 9%
Q5: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham’s overall park system?

Answered: 2,447  Skipped: 16

- Unsatisfied: 4%
- Satisfied: 49%
- Very Satisfied: 47%
Q6: Which of the following features have you used in a City-managed park, trail or open space in the last year?

Answered: 2,454  Skipped: 9
Q7: Which features do we need more of in Bellingham’s parks, trails and open spaces?

Answered: 2,306 Skipped: 157
Q8: Which of the following City-sponsored programs have you participated in last year?

Answered: 2,408 Skipped: 55

- Programs for kids: 21%
- Programs for teens: 4%
- Programs for adults: 18%
- Programs for seniors: 4%
- Programs for special needs: 2%
- Volunteer program: 8%
- I have not participated in any programs: 43%
Q9: Which of the following City-sponsored programs do we need more of in Bellingham?

Answered: 1781 Skipped: 682

- Programs for kids: 23%
- Programs for teens: 21%
- Programs for adults: 17%
- Programs for seniors: 15%
- Programs for special needs: 14%
- Volunteer program: 10%
Q10: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham's recreational programming?

Answered: 2,328 Skipped: 135

- Unsatisfied: 8%
- Satisfied: 75%
- Very Satisfied: 17%
Q11: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham’s trail system?

Answered: 2,400 Skipped: 63

- Unsatisfied: 4%
- Satisfied: 54%
- Very Satisfied: 42%
Q12: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham’s natural open space and habitat areas?

Answered: 2,408 Skipped: 55
Q13: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham’s special use areas, such as the golf course, cemetery, Big Rock Garden, Depot Market Square, and Woodstock Farm?

Answered: 2,375 Skipped: 88

- Unsatisfied: 5%
- Satisfied: 67%
- Very Satisfied: 28%
Q14: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham's neighborhood parks (generally smaller parks serving immediate neighborhood)?

Answered: 2,399 Skipped: 64
Q15: On a scale of 1-3, how satisfied are you with Bellingham’s larger community parks (such as Civic Stadium, Lake Padden, Boulevard and Squalicum Creek Parks?)

Answered: 2,420 Skipped: 43

- Unsatisfied: 4%
- Satisfied: 46%
- Very Satisfied: 50%
Common Free Response Comments

Topic (# of times mentioned)

**Trail/Trails/Trailhead (1432)**
- Additional street/mountain biking trails
- Connectivity between trails and parks
- More garbage cans at trailheads
- Reduce the amount of social trails

**Bike/bikes (494)**
- Separate mountain bike lanes from hiking lanes
- Speed limit signage for bikers
- More bike trails outside of Galbraith
- Additional bike racks be added to parks
- Arguments about whether e-bikes should be allowed on trails

**Safe/Safety/Safer (425)**
- Homelessness
- Safe bike trails to get to parks/around city
- Safety awareness between bikers and pedestrians

**Dog/dogs (362)**
- More frequent re-stocking of dog poop bags
- Trash cans along trails for dog poop
- Arguments for and against off-leash dog location, need more areas for off-leash activity

**Pool/pools (325)**
- Arne Aquatic Center is inadequate for the needs of the community
  - Need a larger pool/more than one pool
  - More swim lanes
- People want better access to clean and warm water to swim in
Common Free Response Comments

Topic (# of times mentioned)

Sign/signs/signage (240)
- Educational signage on habitat and natural open space preservation
- Educational signage on dog (poop etiquette, off-leash areas)
- Way finders between parks and trails
- Signs to remind bikers to slow down on trails
- Whatcom Falls needs more signs/maps

Programs (241)
- Many have no information on available programs and wish they could know more
- Those who do know about available programs are very satisfied with them
- More street/mountain bike race events
- More concerts
- More volunteer programs

Bathroom/restroom (239)
- Add restrooms to parks with no restrooms
- Year-round restroom access
- Maintain existing bathrooms

Pickleball (184)
- More pickleball courts throughout the city
- A lot of comments on creating pickleball facilities but pickleball is not even in the top 10 most wanted added features (Q7)

Galbraith (140)
- Better/more signage. Maps and signs are out of date in places
- Need a parking lot and restrooms