

REPORT

Chuckanut Bay Marsh Restoration Project: Community Survey

April, 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellingham contracted with Applied Research Northwest to conduct a survey about the Chuckanut Bay park area. The area is in the final planning stages to restore natural flow and function to one of Bellingham's few remaining salt marshes. Salt marshes provide robust and diverse habitat for plants and animals, and serve an important function in maintaining a healthy nearshore coastal environment.

The City has engaged residents and users of the existing park in several public meetings and focus group research discussions. The purpose of the meetings was to help the City raise people's awareness about the marsh, identify their needs and concerns about the restoration, and to plan for a education and outreach to a broader set of stakeholders in the park over the course of the restoration. Needs and concerns have been discussed with the restoration team, which is balancing them with the engineering needs of the project and the several state and local laws that govern the area.

The survey contained questions about park area usage and current issues such as parking, pet clean up, and litter. Respondents were asked to identify which issues were the most problematic, what they thought contributed to the issues, and which potential solutions would be the most helpful. Respondents were also asked to evaluate overall goals for the park area as well as statements that might be used in communications about the goals. Participants who know about the plans for salt marsh restoration were asked to tell how they believe the area will change as a result. Participants identified their preferences for potential environmental education programming and recommended sources of information.

The survey was conducted both online and in paper format during February and March of 2010. There were approximately 55 survey questions and multiple opportunities for open-ended input. A total of 65 surveys were completed from among the 85 mailed and 32 emailed invitations to participate. Residents who were mailed the survey were also invited to have other members of their household respond online if they wanted to provide input and feedback.

The frequency report, which includes the actual survey questions and the distribution of respondent answers, can be found in Appendix A. The verbatim responses given to the open-ended questions can be found in Appendix B, under separate cover.

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.

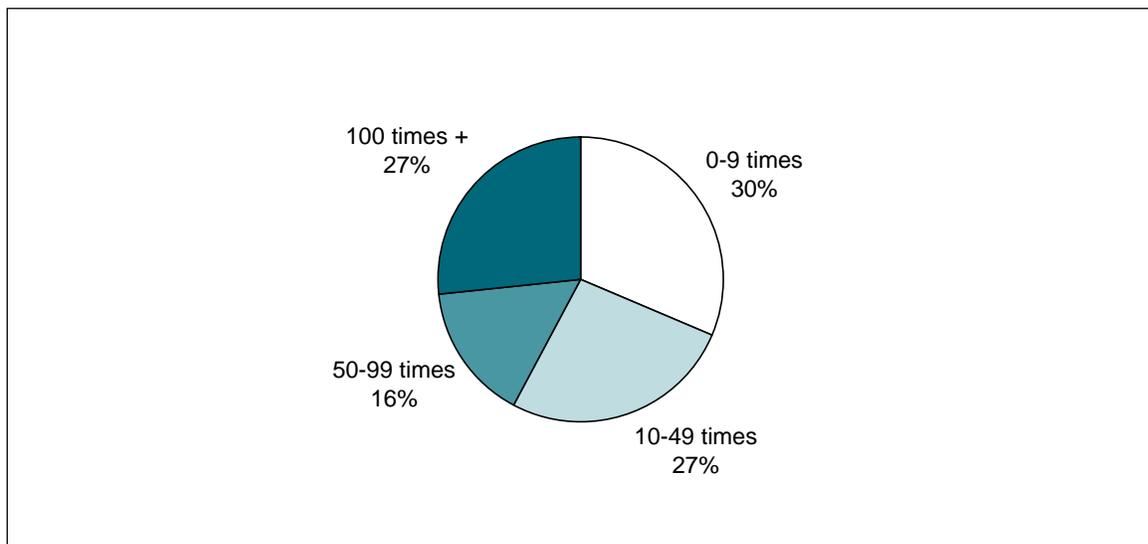
FINDINGS

This section describes the findings for each of the questions provided on the survey. Findings are presented in written and graphic format.

PARK USAGE

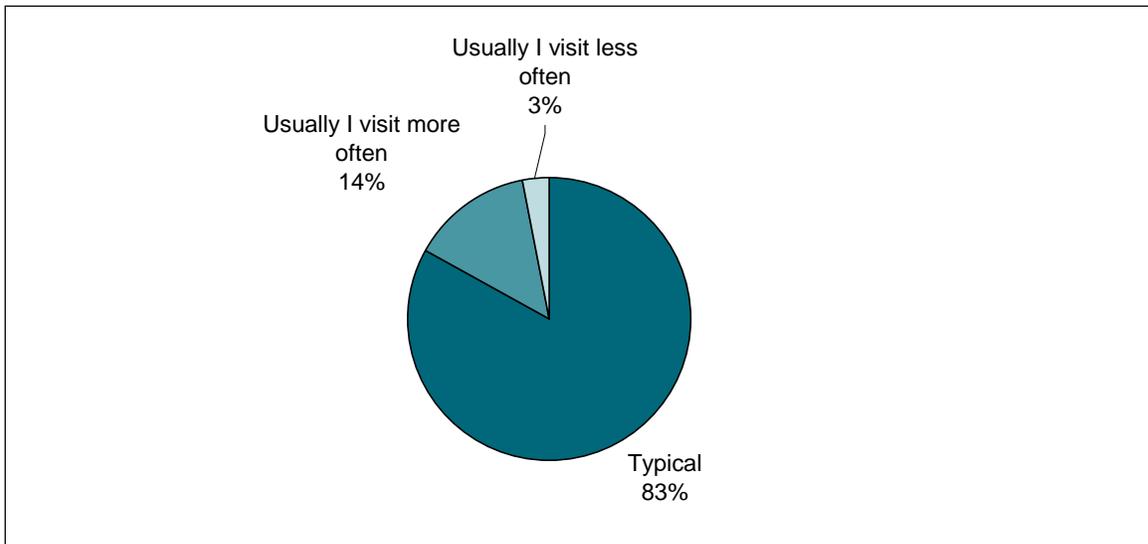
Respondents were asked how many times they visited the park area in 2009. Twenty-seven percent said they visited at least 100 times, which translates roughly to twice a week or more. Most (70%) had visited at least ten times during the year. The average was 90 visits, with the median being much lower at 32.5.

Figure 1. During all of last year (2009), how many times did you visit the park at Chuckanut Bay? (n=64)



Most respondents said that this was a typical year for them, though 14% said they usually visit more often (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Was last year typical for you, or do you usually visit more or less often in a year? (n=65)



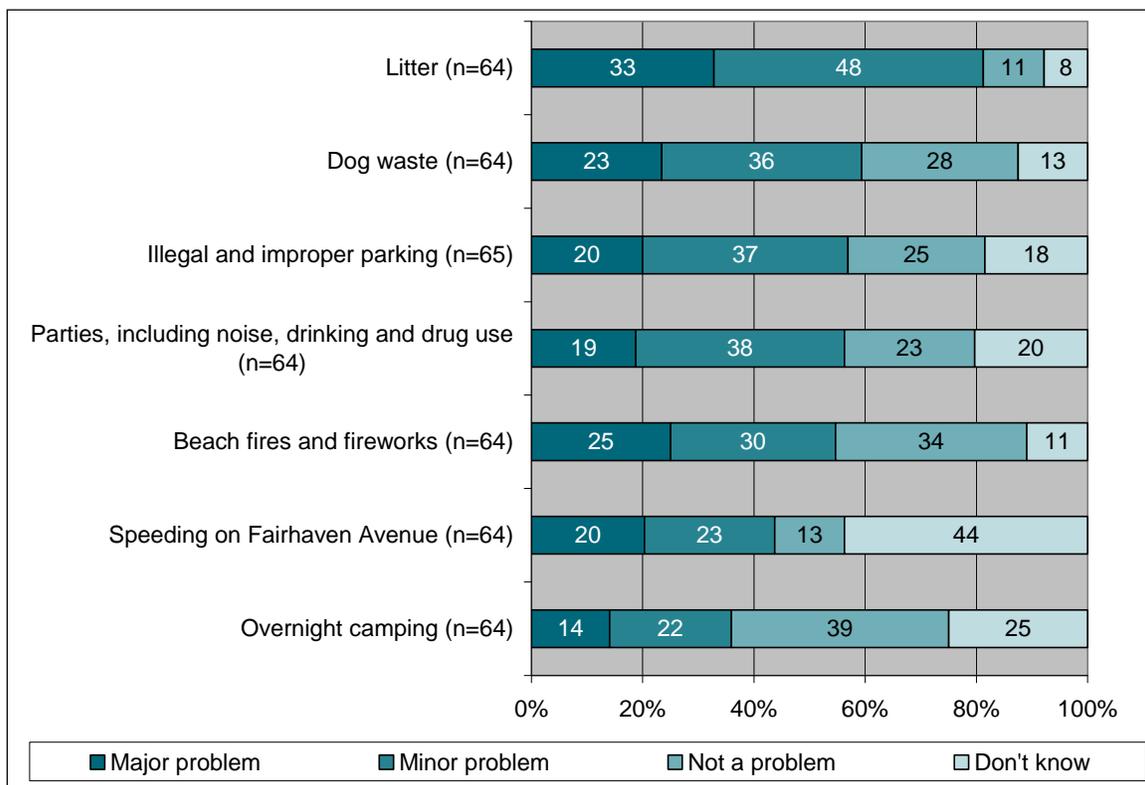
Respondents were also asked whether they live within 10-minutes walking distance of the beach area at Chuckanut Bay. Seventy-two percent said it was.

PARK PROBLEMS

Respondents were asked to review a list of issues that have been identified by people familiar with the park. They were asked to identify if the issue is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem in the area. They were instructed that an issue would be more of a problem if it happens often or if it has a very negative impact when it happens, even if it's not often.

Figure 3 shows the issues sorted by the proportion who called the issue a problem (*major* or *minor*). Litter tops the list with one-third (33%) calling it a *major problem* and 81% recognizing it as a problem (*major* or *minor*). Dog waste was ranked second with 59% calling it a problem. Other issues that were considered to be a problem (*major* or *minor*) by over half of the respondents also included illegal parking, parties (including noise, drinking and drug use), and beach fires and fireworks. Fireworks showed the biggest split in opinion, with 34% saying it is *not a problem*, while 25% called it a *major problem*. Don't know responses are included in this graph and illustrates the relative awareness visitors felt they had about the given issues. Although 44% said they *don't know* about speeding on Fairhaven Avenue, about three out of four remaining respondents felt it is a problem.

Figure 3. Please let us know if you think the issue is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem in the area.

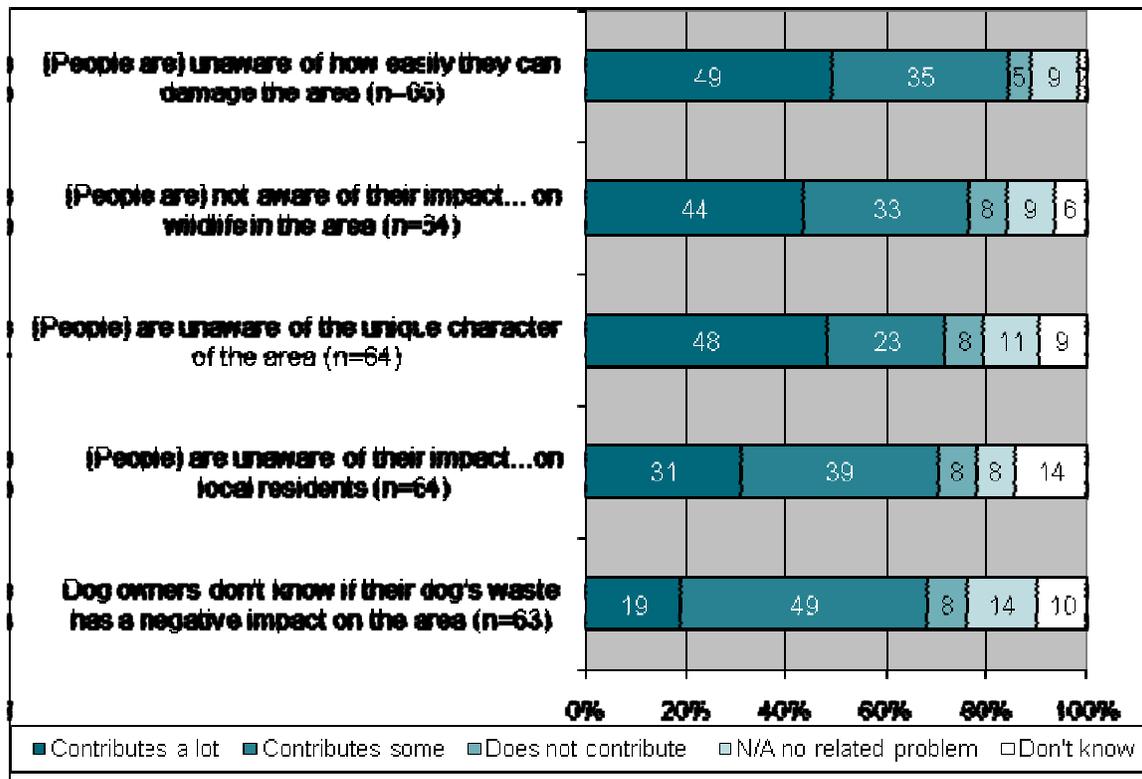


The more often people went to the park in the past year, the less likely they were to answer *don't know* to any of these questions. Six respondents felt that none of the items were a problem at the park (or didn't know if they were problems). Those who visited most often were more likely to say litter is a *major problem* than those who visited less often. All other issues were marked equally problematic by frequent and infrequent visitors.

Following this line of questions, respondents were asked if there were any other problems they had noticed at the park. Many reiterated the issues from the list or elaborated on them, providing recommendations for solutions such as speed bumps and more law enforcement presence. Two added to the list mentioning illegal shellfish harvesting, another two mentioned silt filling in the bay and two more mentioned the lack of restroom facilities. Other problems mentioned were poor street lighting, road conditions and the lack of access to the park when the parking lot is full. Additional issues can be seen in Appendix B of this report.

Respondents were then asked to consider ten different sources of the problems and evaluate which contribute to the issues. These were ranked by which sources contribute to the problems (*somewhat* or *a lot*). Figure 4 shows the top five contributors to identified problems at the park area.

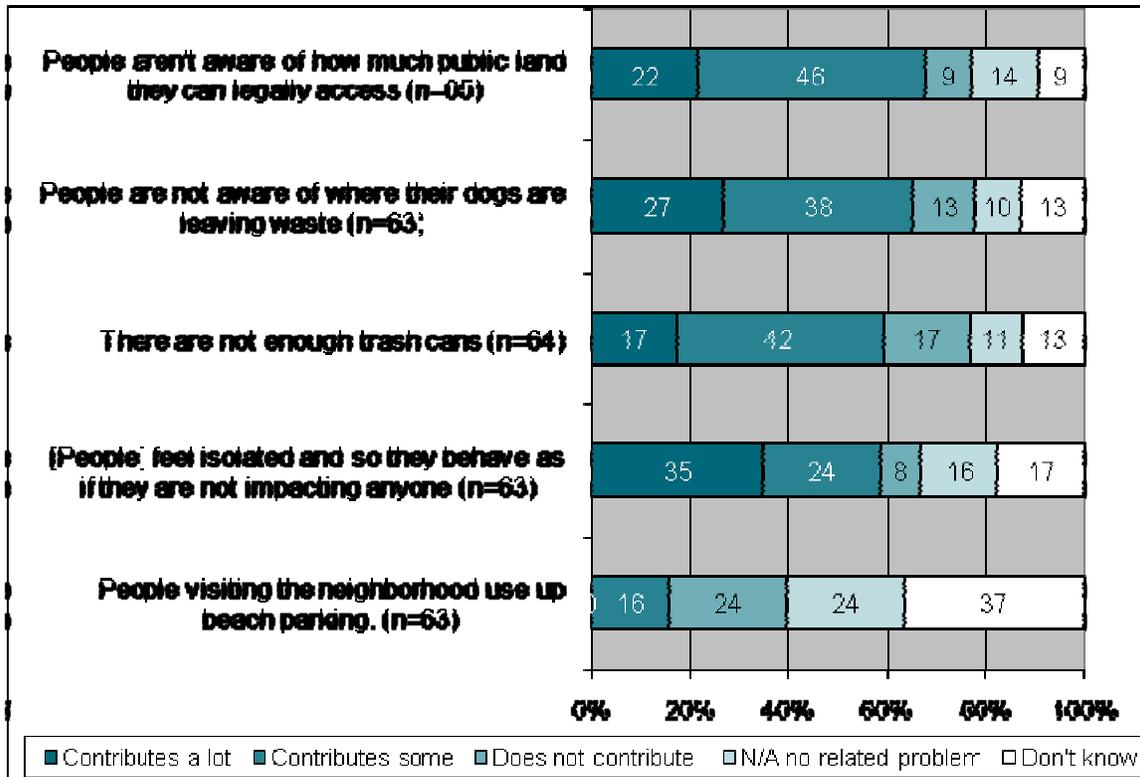
Figure 4. How much, if at all, do you think each of the following contributes to litter, poor parking, fires, camping, dog waste, parties and speeding at the park? (Part 1)



The top ranked contributors all involve a general lack of awareness of the visitors. Eighty-four percent agreed that visitors lack of awareness about how easily they can damage the area *contributes some* or *a lot* to the problems. Another top concern is that “some visitors are not aware of the impact of their noise, litter, etc on wildlife in the area”.

Figure 5 shows the issues that were rated as contributing less to the park problems. Limited parking in the neighborhood was not seen as a major contributor to the problem. Lack of trash cans and a sense of isolation at the beach were also ranked fairly low in terms of contributing to the problems.

Figure 5. How much, if at all, do you think each of the following contributes to litter, poor parking, fires, camping, dog waste, parties and speeding at the park? (Part 2)



Following this line of questions, respondents were invited to describe anything else they think might contribute to the problems and nine responded with their thoughts. Lack of motivation (to pick up waste or use the trash can) and generally disrespectful behavior were expressed by some. One also mentioned the potential impact of many more visitors.

SOLUTIONS

Respondents rated potential solutions in regards to how helpful they would be in addressing park problems. These solutions were sorted by the proportion that rated them as *very helpful* and presented in Figures 6 and 7.

Figure 6 shows the solutions with the highest proportion of *very helpful* ratings. The top rated solution had to do with trash can placement and servicing (75% said this would be *very helpful*). Also rated highly was the idea of an educational display about the ecology of the area (65%) and provision of a pet waste bag station close to the beach (64%).

Figure 6. Please let us know how helpful you think it [potential solution] would be in addressing problems in the Chuckanut Bay park area. (Part 1)

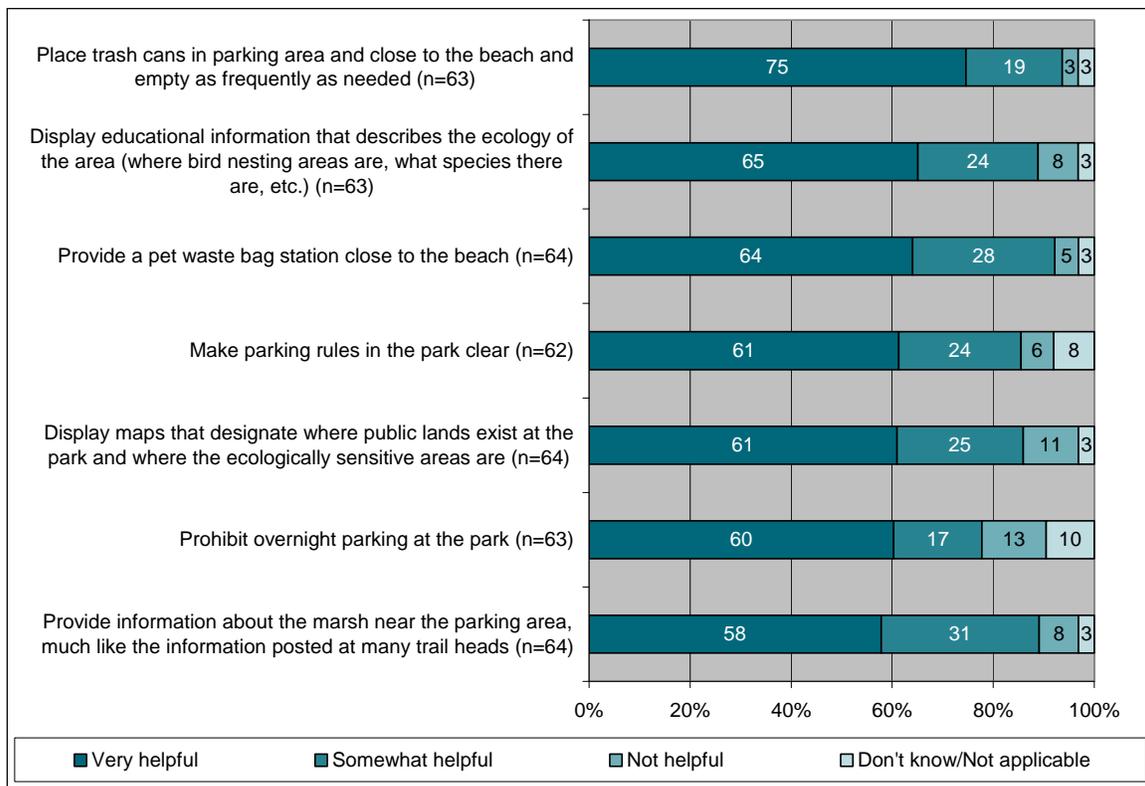
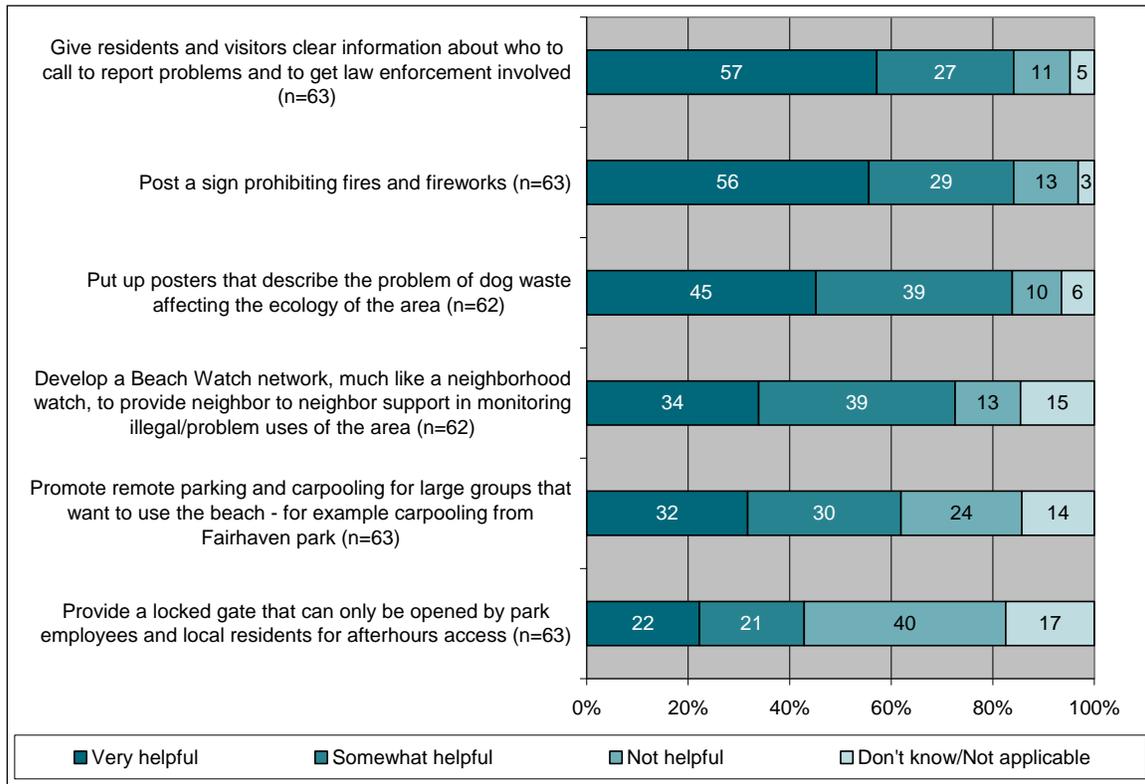


Figure 7 shows the solutions with less support, though a majority thought all would be helpful with one exception; provision of a locked gate to prohibit afterhours access was considered to be *not helpful* by 40% of respondents and helpful by 43%..

Figure 7. Please let us know how helpful you think it [potential solution] would be in addressing problems in the Chuckanut Bay park area. (Part 2)

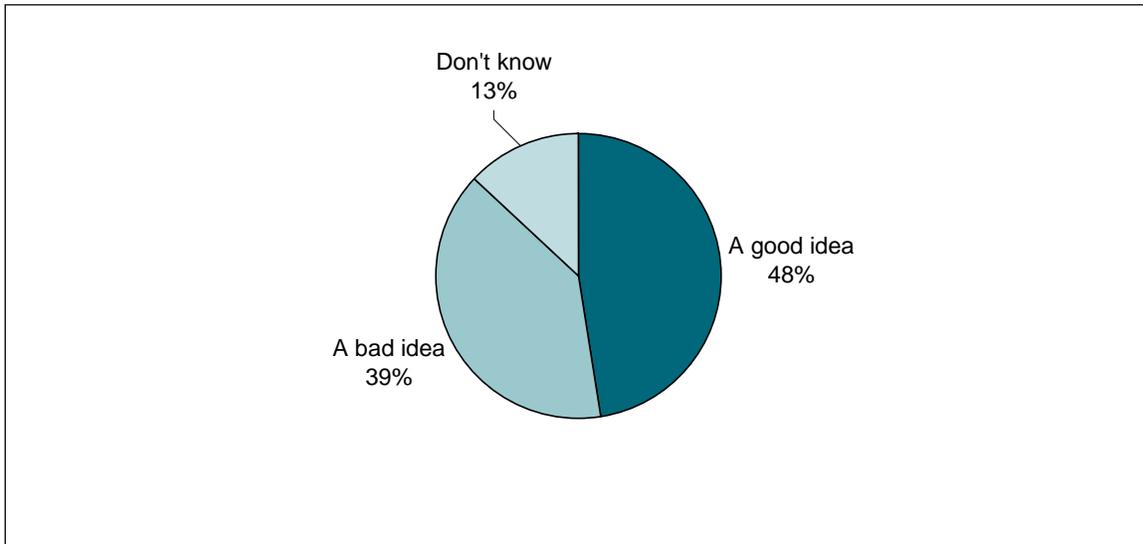


Promoting remote parking was seen as especially helpful by those who visit the park frequently. Judging by comments, infrequent visitors may be unlikely to encounter the occasions when parking is full and so may see the need for remote parking as unhelpful or too inconvenient.

Respondents were invited to comment on their responses throughout the survey. Many responded negatively to the idea of a locked gate. Two suggest a solution of a wildlife viewing area – platform or tower. Another noted the impact of cars on the beach, and another suggested that the railroad trestle needed to be changed to allow for better wash of water in and out of the bay. There are also several mentions of a need to preserve parking for kayakers and visitors, to provide restrooms and facilities for dog waste and litter along with stronger law enforcement to focus on the rare, problem visitors. Several wrote comments against prohibiting appropriate nighttime use of the park.

Because the park does not have restroom facilities, respondents were asked their opinion about the city providing an outhouse as a solution to problems with human waste. Figure 8 shows that just under half think this would be a good idea (48%), while a slightly smaller proportion think it is a bad idea (39%).

Figure 8. The park currently lacks restroom facilities. Some people leave human waste at the beach as a result. The city could provide and maintain an outhouse at the site. Do you think this is... (n=61)

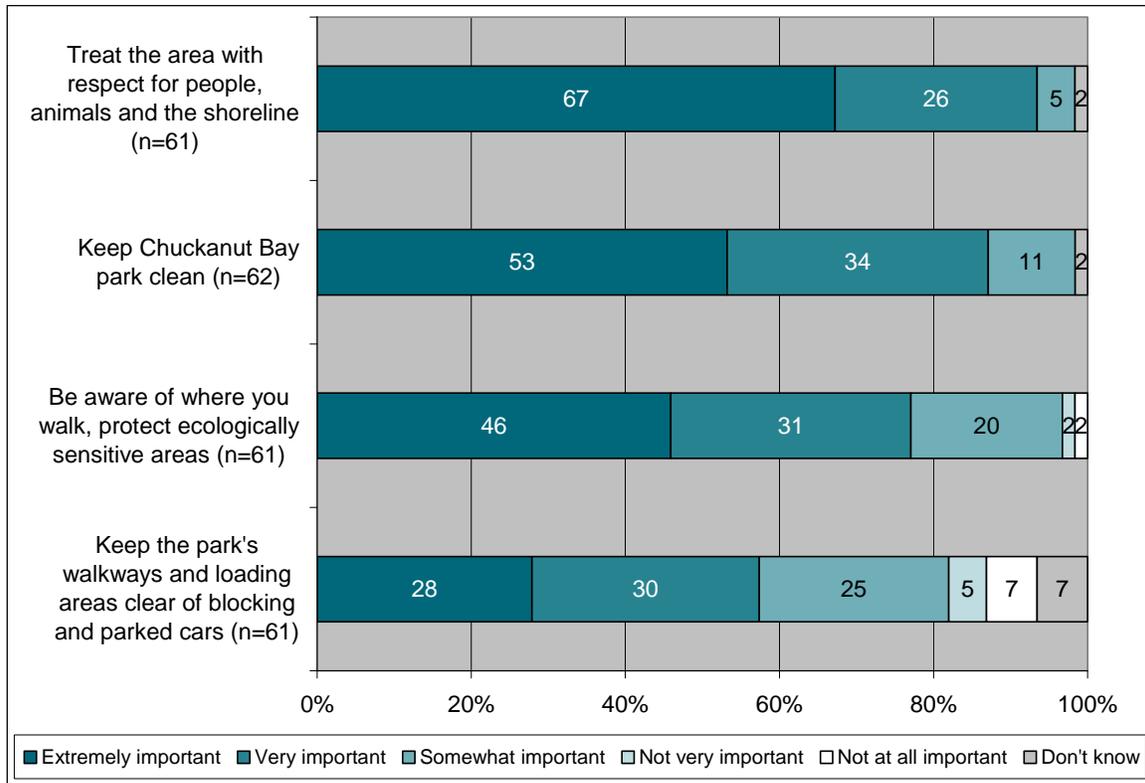


Respondents who visited the park less often were much more likely to see the addition of restroom facilities as a good idea, while frequent visitors were less likely to like it. The key concerns expressed included cost, visual impact, and potential for vandalism. Those interested in seeing facilities provided preferred a proper restroom rather than an outhouse, particularly one located near the parking and away from the beach.

GOALS

Respondents were presented with four goals that could address all the issues and concerns. They were asked to rate the importance of each of the goals. The top rated goal was to “treat the area with respect for people, animals and the shoreline” (93% call this *very* or *extremely important*).

Figure 9. Please let us know how important you think each of the goals are.



When asked to narrow their choice to just one goal, over half (52%) of respondents selected that same goal of treating the area with respect (see Table 1).

Table 1. You rated the importance of four different goals. Which one goal is the most important. (n=63)	
Treat the area with respect for people, animals and the shoreline	52
Keep Chuckanut Bay park clean	16
Keep the park's walkways and loading areas clear of blocked and parked cars	3
Be aware of where you walk, protect ecologically sensitive areas	3
Don't know	2
Prefer not to prioritize one goal	24

Respondents were asked to review statements that could be used in communicating goals to the park visitors. They were asked to rate which statements were the most compelling. Table 2 shows that there were two statements that resonated with respondents, both with about half of the respondents identifying it as most compelling.

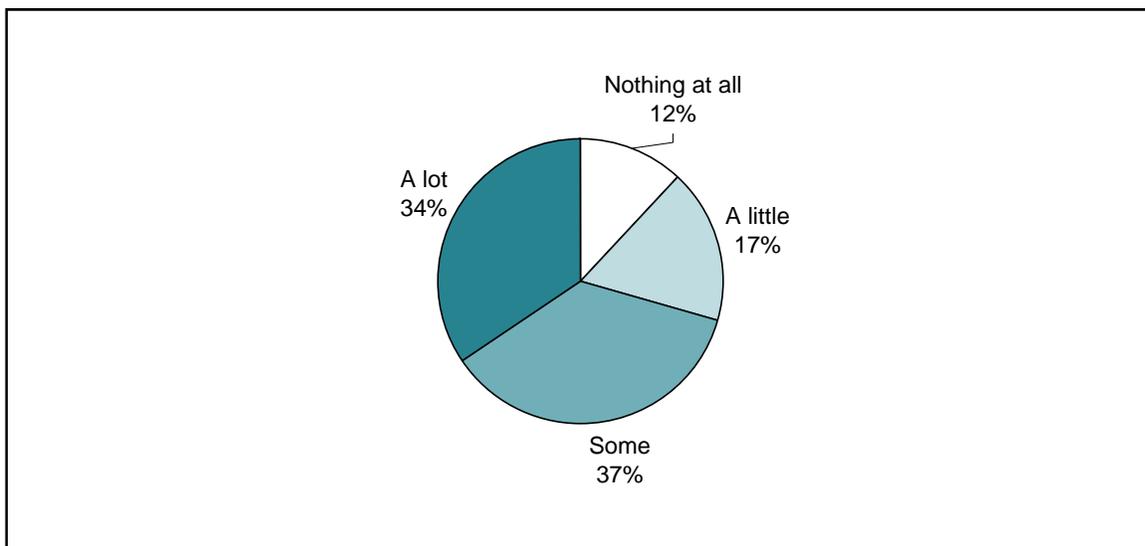
Table 2. Which of the following statements do you find the most compelling when describing the Chuckanut Bay park area? (n=84)	
	%
This is a sanctuary. It is beautiful and has a unique character	53
By respecting the area people are protecting a nursery of wildlife where nesting, spawning and birthing takes place.	49
It is a magical spot, a wild space in the midst of a city.	16
It has been a socially transforming area for more than 100 years. It connects us to our history.	16
Save it.	12
The Golden Rule applies.	2

*Respondents were allowed to select up to two options, so percentages will total more than 100%

SALT MARSH RESTORATION

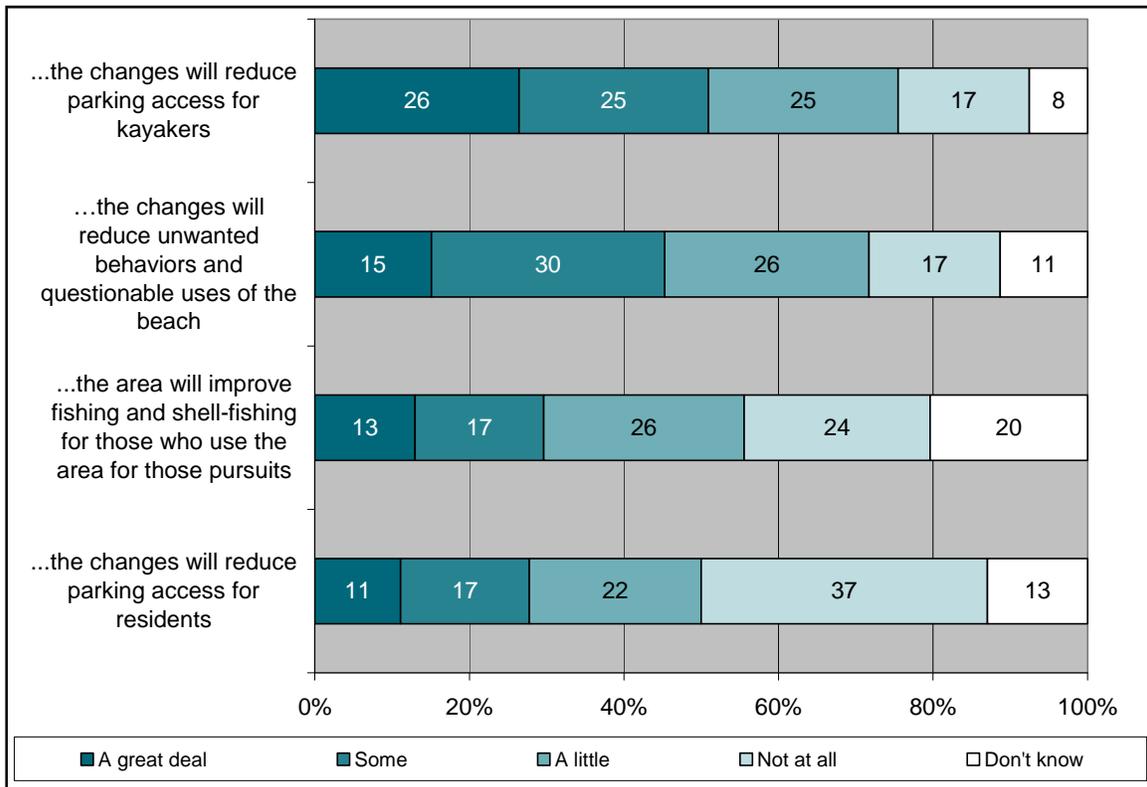
Respondents were asked how much they know about the planned restoration of the salt marsh in the Chuckanut Bay park area. Most new at least *a little* (88%) with about one-third (34%) saying they know *a lot* about the plans.

Figure 10. How much would you say you know about the planned restoration of the salt marsh in the Chuckanut Bay park area? (n=59)



Respondents who knew something about the restoration plans were asked how much they think the area will change as a result of the restoration. Half of respondents (51%) anticipate that the changes will reduce parking access for kayakers, either *some* or *a great deal*. A slightly smaller proportion (45%) believes that the changes will reduce unwanted behaviors and questionable uses of the beach, either *some* or *a great deal*. A smaller segment (28%) thinks that the changes will reduce parking for residents.

Figure 11. Please let us know how much you think the area will change as a result of the restoration. How much, if at all... (n=53)



The more people knew about the restoration, the more divided they were in their opinions of the changes in parking access. Those who knew *a lot* about the planned restoration were split about 50-50 between those who felt parking would be reduced and those who thought it wouldn't be reduced.

METHODS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Respondents were informed that the city has a grant to provide environmental education to local residents and visitors to the park. They were asked to identify which methods they would recommend the city pursue. Nearly half of respondents (46%) said they would recommend a webpage describing seasonal highlights, birds and other species seen in the area, project updates and other information. The second most popular recommendation was on-site interpretive tours (38%).

Table 3. The city has a grant to provide environmental education to local residents and visitors to the park. Which of the following would you recommend for those programs? (n=82)

	<u>%</u>
A web page describing seasonal highlights, birds and other species seen in the area, project updates and other information	46
On-site interpretive tours for local residents and beach visitors	38
On-site workshop specially designed for local residents and visitors to show them the ecology of the area and how people can protect it.	29
Newsletters mailed to residents and visitors describing seasonal highlights, birds and other species seen in the area, project updates, and other information	29
Presentation on the social, cultural, economic and ecological history of the Chuckanut Bay area	15

*Respondents were allowed to select up to two options, so percentages will total more than 100%

When asked which organizations would be trustworthy for providing accurate information about the Chuckanut Bay area, the most frequent response was Bellingham Parks and Recreation (34%) followed by Shore Stewards (32%). Only fifteen percent selected City of Bellingham, though among those who visit the park frequently, the City was ranked at the top, second only to ReSources.

Table 4. Which of the following organizations do you trust most to provide you with accurate information about the Chuckanut Bay area? (n=76)

	<u>%</u>
Bellingham Parks and Recreation	34
Shore Stewards	32
ReSources	25
WSU Extension	19
Another organization	19
City of Bellingham	15

*Respondents were allowed to select up to two options, so percentages will total more than 100%

CONCLUSION

This survey showed that Chuckanut Bay Park users are very proud of and protective of this Park. They do not want it impacted by heavy use, and they would like to see its care improved. The primary cause of most problems at the park are believed to be based in awareness, which most feel could be improved with some thoughtful signage and appropriate facilities, such as trash cans. Also a stronger law enforcement presence may help with the illegal shellfish harvesting and other dangerous or inappropriate uses of the beach.

A few hot topics also showed up in the survey. As for problems, fireworks are a bit of a divided issue. A fairly recent and serious fire may have some people feeling that fireworks are a particular hazard, while others see their use as highly limited and relatively harmless (based on comments made in the survey). With the focus on nesting and nurturing the diverse birds and animals in the area, it would be reasonable for the city to ban fireworks at this beach if they are known to be disruptive. Consideration of litter from fireworks, pollution, and fire hazards from them could also inform the decision. In any case, the basis of the City's decision will need to be clearly articulated for the users of the park.

Installing a gate to prevent driving onto the beach or late-night use of the beach was soundly criticized by many respondents. Limiting access for late night and pre-dawn use is not popular – in fact, even camping was not seen as a prevalent problem (only camping that includes partying and littering). Some respondents saw it as a violation of citizen rights.

A restroom facility is also somewhat controversial. Those who use the park frequently are most opposed to an outhouse and concerned about maintenance and vandalism. A more permanent, plumbed structure was mentioned by some, but only if located away from the beach to maintain the sanctuary-like character of the area. This could be considered a low-priority item for the City. Issues of human waste being left may not require specific interventions if appropriate awareness-raising support is provided.

Key messaging in awareness should focus around the concept of treating the area with respect for people, animals and the shoreline. Two phrases resonated with respondents “This is a sanctuary. It is beautiful and has a unique character,” and “By respecting the area people are protecting a nursery of wildlife where nesting, spawning and birthing takes place.” Characterizing the area as a fragile sanctuary, as rare and unique, may evoke more responsible behavior on the part of visitors. However, it is important to users

that the park remains accessible and useable for appropriate pursuits, especially kayaking.

It is also clear from respondents that publicizing the park would be counter-productive. For those who know of it and find it easily, providing insights as to its nature and character and facilities to help people behave respectfully are important. But drawing more visitors to the park is believed by some respondents to be more impactful than some of the problems identified in the survey.

While a few people believe the park is best left alone, the restoration work at the park does not appear to be very controversial. Nevertheless, respondents were skeptical that the changes would produce significant benefits for the area. The railroad trestle's impact on the bay, the strength of winter storms, the amount of debris those storms bring to the beach and the potential for logs and other debris to damage the new culvert were mentioned. Case studies showing how similar restoration has improved marshlands for parks in other locations may be helpful in creating stronger support for the work.

A website and occasional onsite interpretive tours are favored methods for providing education and outreach, with Bellingham Parks and Shore Stewards favored sources of information.

APPENDIX A: SURVEY QUESTIONS AND FREQUENCIES

Version Online or Paper

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Online	21	32.3	32.3
	Paper (Data Entry)	44	67.7	67.7
	Total	65	100.0	100.0

Q1 During all of last year (2009), how many times did you visit the park at Chuckanut Bay?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	0	5	7.7	7.8
	2	2	3.1	3.1
	3	4	6.2	6.3
	4	2	3.1	3.1
	5	3	4.6	4.7
	6	2	3.1	3.1
	8	1	1.5	1.6
	9	1	1.5	1.6
	12	1	1.5	1.6
	15	2	3.1	3.1
	16	1	1.5	1.6
	20	3	4.6	4.7
	25	3	4.6	4.7
	30	2	3.1	3.1
	35	1	1.5	1.6
	36	1	1.5	1.6
	40	3	4.6	4.7
	50	6	9.2	9.4
	52	1	1.5	1.6
	75	2	3.1	3.1
	99	1	1.5	1.6
	100	4	6.2	6.3
	105	1	1.5	1.6
	150	1	1.5	1.6
	200	2	3.1	3.1
	250	1	1.5	1.6
	300	3	4.6	4.7
325	1	1.5	1.6	
360	1	1.5	1.6	
365	1	1.5	1.6	
644	1	1.5	1.6	
720	1	1.5	1.6	
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q2 Was last year typical for you, or do you usually visit more or less often in a year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Typical	54	83.1	83.1
	Usually I visit more often	9	13.8	13.8
	Usually I visit less often	2	3.1	3.1
	Total	65	100.0	100.0

Q3 Do you live within 10-minutes walking distance of the beach area at Chuckanut Bay?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	47	72.3	72.3
	No	18	27.7	27.7
	Total	65	100.0	100.0

Q4 Litter

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	21	32.3	32.8
	Minor problem	31	47.7	48.4
	Not a problem	7	10.8	10.9
	Don't know	5	7.7	7.8
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q5 Illegal and improper parking

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	13	20.0	20.0
	Minor problem	24	36.9	36.9
	Not a problem	16	24.6	24.6
	Don't know	12	18.5	18.5
	Total	65	100.0	100.0

Q6 Beach fires and fireworks

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	16	24.6	25.0
	Minor problem	19	29.2	29.7
	Not a problem	22	33.8	34.4
	Don't know	7	10.8	10.9
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q7 Overnight camping

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	9	13.8	14.1
	Minor problem	14	21.5	21.9
	Not a problem	25	38.5	39.1
	Don't know	16	24.6	25.0
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q8 Dog waste

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	15	23.1	23.4
	Minor problem	23	35.4	35.9
	Not a problem	18	27.7	28.1
	Don't know	8	12.3	12.5
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q9 Parties, including noise, drinking and drug use

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	12	18.5	18.8
	Minor problem	24	36.9	37.5
	Not a problem	15	23.1	23.4
	Don't know	13	20.0	20.3
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q10 Speeding on Fairhaven Avenue

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Major problem	13	20.0	20.3
	Minor problem	15	23.1	23.4
	Not a problem	8	12.3	12.5
	Don't know	28	43.1	43.8
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q12 Dog owners don't know if their dog's waste has a negative impact on the area, so they don't bother to pick it up.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	12	18.5	19.0
	Contributes some	31	47.7	49.2
	Does not contribute to the problem	5	7.7	7.9
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	9	13.8	14.3
	Don't know	6	9.2	9.5
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q13 People have their dogs off leash and are not aware of where their dogs are leaving waste

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	17	26.2	27.0
	Contributes some	24	36.9	38.1
	Does not contribute to the problem	8	12.3	12.7
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	6	9.2	9.5
	Don't know	8	12.3	12.7
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q14 There is limited parking for people who are visiting friends who live in the neighborhood, so they use parking near the beach even though they aren't using the beach.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes some	10	15.4	15.9
	Does not contribute to the problem	15	23.1	23.8
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	15	23.1	23.8
	Don't know	23	35.4	36.5
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q15 There are not enough trash cans

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	11	16.9	17.2
	Contributes some	27	41.5	42.2
	Does not contribute to the problem	11	16.9	17.2
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	7	10.8	10.9
	Don't know	8	12.3	12.5
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q16 Some visitors to the beach are not aware of the impact of their noise, litter, etc. on wildlife in the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	28	43.1	43.8
	Contributes some	21	32.3	32.8
	Does not contribute to the problem	5	7.7	7.8
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	6	9.2	9.4
	Don't know	4	6.2	6.3
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q17 Some visitors to the beach are not aware of the impact of their noise, litter, etc., on local residents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	20	30.8	31.3
	Contributes some	25	38.5	39.1
	Does not contribute to the problem	5	7.7	7.8
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	5	7.7	7.8
	Don't know	9	13.8	14.1
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q18 Some visitors to the beach are unaware of the unique character of the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	31	47.7	48.4
	Contributes some	15	23.1	23.4
	Does not contribute to the problem	5	7.7	7.8
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	7	10.8	10.9
	Don't know	6	9.2	9.4
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q19 Some visitors to the beach are unaware of how easily they can damage the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	32	49.2	49.2
	Contributes some	23	35.4	35.4
	Does not contribute to the problem	3	4.6	4.6
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	6	9.2	9.2
	Don't know	1	1.5	1.5
	Total	65	100.0	100.0

Q20 Some visitors to the beach feel isolated and so they behave as if they are not impacting anyone

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	22	33.8	34.9
	Contributes some	15	23.1	23.8
	Does not contribute to the problem	5	7.7	7.9
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	10	15.4	15.9
	Don't know	11	16.9	17.5
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q21 Public land is not designated clearly, so people aren't aware of how much they can legally access

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Contributes a lot	14	21.5	21.5
	Contributes some	30	46.2	46.2
	Does not contribute to the problem	6	9.2	9.2
	Not applicable - I don't see a related problem	9	13.8	13.8
	Don't know	6	9.2	9.2
	Total	65	100.0	100.0

Q23 Provide a pet waste bag station close to the beach

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	41	63.1	64.1
	Somewhat helpful	18	27.7	28.1
	Not helpful	3	4.6	4.7
	Don't know/Not applicable	2	3.1	3.1
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q24 Put up posters that describe the problem of dog waste affecting the ecology of the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	28	43.1	45.2
	Somewhat helpful	24	36.9	38.7
	Not helpful	6	9.2	9.7
	Don't know/Not applicable	4	6.2	6.5
	Total	62	95.4	100.0
Missing	System	3	4.6	
Total		65	100.0	

Q25 Place trash cans in parking area and close to the beach and empty as frequently as needed

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	47	72.3	74.6
	Somewhat helpful	12	18.5	19.0
	Not helpful	2	3.1	3.2
	Don't know/Not applicable	2	3.1	3.2
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q26 Provide a locked gate that can only be opened by park employees and local residents for after hours access

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	14	21.5	22.2
	Somewhat helpful	13	20.0	20.6
	Not helpful	25	38.5	39.7
	Don't know/Not applicable	11	16.9	17.5
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q27 Promote remote parking and carpooling for large groups that want to use the beach - for example carpooling from Fairhaven park (some kayakers already are doing this)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	20	30.8	31.7
	Somewhat helpful	19	29.2	30.2
	Not helpful	15	23.1	23.8
	Don't know/Not applicable	9	13.8	14.3
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q28 Provide information about the marsh near the parking area, much like the information posted at many trail heads

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	37	56.9	57.8
	Somewhat helpful	20	30.8	31.3
	Not helpful	5	7.7	7.8
	Don't know/Not applicable	2	3.1	3.1
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q29 Display maps that designate where public lands exist at the park and where the ecologically sensitive areas are

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	39	60.0	60.9
	Somewhat helpful	16	24.6	25.0
	Not helpful	7	10.8	10.9
	Don't know/Not applicable	2	3.1	3.1
	Total	64	98.5	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q30 Display educational information that describes the ecology of the area (where bird nesting areas are, what species there are, etc.)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	41	63.1	65.1
	Somewhat helpful	15	23.1	23.8
	Not helpful	5	7.7	7.9
	Don't know/Not applicable	2	3.1	3.2
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q31 Post a sign prohibiting fires and fireworks

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	35	53.8	55.6
	Somewhat helpful	18	27.7	28.6
	Not helpful	8	12.3	12.7
	Don't know/Not applicable	2	3.1	3.2
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q32 Make parking rules in the park clear

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	38	58.5	61.3
	Somewhat helpful	15	23.1	24.2
	Not helpful	4	6.2	6.5
	Don't know/Not applicable	5	7.7	8.1
	Total	62	95.4	100.0
Missing	System	3	4.6	
Total		65	100.0	

Q33 Prohibit overnight parking at the park

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	38	58.5	60.3
	Somewhat helpful	11	16.9	17.5
	Not helpful	8	12.3	12.7
	Don't know/Not applicable	6	9.2	9.5
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q34 Give residents and visitors clear information about who to call to report problems and to get law enforcement involved

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	36	55.4	57.1
	Somewhat helpful	17	26.2	27.0
	Not helpful	7	10.8	11.1
	Don't know/Not applicable	3	4.6	4.8
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q35 Develop a Beach Watch network, much like a neighborhood watch, to provide neighbor to neighbor support in monitoring illegal/problem uses of the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very helpful	21	32.3	33.9
	Somewhat helpful	24	36.9	38.7
	Not helpful	8	12.3	12.9
	Don't know/Not applicable	9	13.8	14.5
	Total	62	95.4	100.0
Missing	System	3	4.6	
Total		65	100.0	

Q36 The park currently lacks restroom facilities. Some people leave human waste at the beach as a result. The city could provide and maintain an outhouse at the site. Do you think this is:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	A good idea	29	44.6	47.5
	A bad idea	24	36.9	39.3
	Don't know	8	12.3	13.1
	Total	61	93.8	100.0
Missing	System	4	6.2	
Total		65	100.0	

Q37 Keep Chuckanut Bay park clean

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Extremely important	33	50.8	53.2
	Very important	21	32.3	33.9
	Somewhat important	7	10.8	11.3
	Don't know	1	1.5	1.6
	Total	62	95.4	100.0
Missing	System	3	4.6	
Total		65	100.0	

Q38 Keep the park's walkways and loading areas clear of blocking and parked cars

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Extremely important	17	26.2	27.9
	Very important	18	27.7	29.5
	Somewhat important	15	23.1	24.6
	Not very important	3	4.6	4.9
	Not at all important	4	6.2	6.6
	Don't know	4	6.2	6.6
	Total	61	93.8	100.0
Missing	System	4	6.2	
Total		65	100.0	

Q39 Treat the area with respect for people, animals and the shoreline

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Extremely important	41	63.1	67.2
	Very important	16	24.6	26.2
	Somewhat important	3	4.6	4.9
	Don't know	1	1.5	1.6
	Total	61	93.8	100.0
Missing	System	4	6.2	
Total		65	100.0	

Q40 Be aware of where you walk, protect ecologically sensitive areas

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Extremely important	28	43.1	45.9
	Very important	19	29.2	31.1
	Somewhat important	12	18.5	19.7
	Not very important	1	1.5	1.6
	Not at all important	1	1.5	1.6
	Total	61	93.8	100.0
Missing	System	4	6.2	
Total		65	100.0	

Q40b You rated the importance of four different goals. Which one goal is the most important.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Keep Chuckanut Bay park clean	10	15.4	15.9
	Keep the park's walkways and loading areas clear of blocked and parked cars	2	3.1	3.2
	Treat the area with respect for people, animals and the shoreline	33	50.8	52.4
	Be aware of where you walk, protect ecologically sensitive areas	2	3.1	3.2
	Prefer not to prioritize one goal	15	23.1	23.8
	Don't know	1	1.5	1.6
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q41_1 This is a sanctuary. It is beautiful and has a unique character

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	33	50.8	52.4
	Checked	30	46.2	47.6
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q41_2 By respecting the area people are protecting a nursery of wildlife where nesting, spawning and birthing takes place.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	35	53.8	55.6
	Checked	28	43.1	44.4
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q41_3 It is a magical spot, a wild space in the midst of a city.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	54	83.1	85.7
	Checked	9	13.8	14.3
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q41_4 Save it.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	56	86.2	88.9
	Checked	7	10.8	11.1
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q41_5 The Golden Rule applies.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	62	95.4	98.4
	Checked	1	1.5	1.6
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q41_6 It has been a socially transforming area for more than 100 years. It connects us to our history.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	54	83.1	85.7
	Checked	9	13.8	14.3
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q42 How much would you say you know about the planned restoration of the salt marsh in the Chuckanut Bay park area?.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Nothing at all	7	10.8	11.9
	A little	10	15.4	16.9
	Some	21	32.3	35.6
	A lot	20	30.8	33.9
	Don't know	1	1.5	1.7
	Total	59	90.8	100.0
Missing	System	6	9.2	
Total		65	100.0	

Q43 How much, if at all, the area will improve fishing and shell-fishing for those who use the area for those pursuits

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	A great deal	7	10.8	13.0
	Some	9	13.8	16.7
	A little	14	21.5	25.9
	Not at all	13	20.0	24.1
	Don't know	11	16.9	20.4
	Total	54	83.1	100.0
Missing	System	11	16.9	
Total		65	100.0	

Q44 How much, if at all, the changes will reduce parking access for kayakers.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	A great deal	14	21.5	26.4
	Some	13	20.0	24.5
	A little	13	20.0	24.5
	Not at all	9	13.8	17.0
	Don't know	4	6.2	7.5
	Total	53	81.5	100.0
Missing	System	12	18.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q45 How much, if at all, the changes will reduce parking access for residents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	A great deal	6	9.2	11.1
	Some	9	13.8	16.7
	A little	12	18.5	22.2
	Not at all	20	30.8	37.0
	Don't know	7	10.8	13.0
	Total	54	83.1	100.0
Missing	System	11	16.9	
Total		65	100.0	

Q46 How much, if at all, the changes will reduce unwanted behaviors and Questionable uses of the beach.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	A great deal	8	12.3	15.1
	Some	16	24.6	30.2
	A little	14	21.5	26.4
	Not at all	9	13.8	17.0
	Don't know	6	9.2	11.3
	Total	53	81.5	100.0
Missing	System	12	18.5	
Total		65	100.0	

Q47_1 On-site workshop specially designed for local residents and visitors to show them the ecology of the area and how people can protect it.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	48	73.8	76.2
	Checked	15	23.1	23.8
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q47_2 Newsletters mailed to residents and visitors describing seasonal highlights, birds and other species seen in the area, project updates, and other information

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	48	73.8	76.2
	Checked	15	23.1	23.8
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q47_3 A web page describing seasonal highlights, birds and other species seen in the area, project updates and other information

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	39	60.0	61.9
	Checked	24	36.9	38.1
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q47_4 Presentation on the social, cultural, economic and ecological history of the Chuckanut Bay area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	55	84.6	87.3
	Checked	8	12.3	12.7
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q47_5 On-site interpretive tours for local residents and beach visitors

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	43	66.2	68.3
	Checked	20	30.8	31.7
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q48_1 ReSources

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	50	76.9	79.4
	Checked	13	20.0	20.6
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q48_2 Shore Stewards

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	46	70.8	73.0
	Checked	17	26.2	27.0
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q48_3 WSU Extension

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	53	81.5	84.1
	Checked	10	15.4	15.9
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q48_4 City of Bellingham

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	55	84.6	87.3
	Checked	8	12.3	12.7
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q48_5 Bellingham Parks and Recreation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	45	69.2	71.4
	Checked	18	27.7	28.6
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

Q48_6 Another organization

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	UnChecked	53	81.5	84.1
	Checked	10	15.4	15.9
	Total	63	96.9	100.0
Missing	System	2	3.1	
Total		65	100.0	

REPORT APPENDIX B

Chuckanut Bay Marsh Restoration Project: Community Survey

April, 2010

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APPENDIX B: OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

q11 If there are any other issues you think are a major problem in the area, please describe them below:

- 4 Lack of parking-Lack of Toilet & Lack of Garbage Receptacles
- 8 Introducing many "outsiders" into the neighborhood can potentially increase crime rates.
- 16 Street lighting
- 19 Lack of bathroom facilities. It forces people to "go" outdoors. That's part of litter problem.
- 20 The biggest issue is that the inner bay is filling with silt. We need more openings in the train crossing.
- 30 Keep trash cans in the parking area and empty them every couple of days.
- 32 Protect the integrity of the neighborhood!
- 33 Illegal shellfish harvesting (litter is mostly a waterborne problem)
- 36 Lack of a sign explaining where/what sensitive areas are and what you shouldn't do, if it's ok to walk in the marsh. Litter regularly is left both behind and washed ashore. People leave beer cans behind, needs to be kept cleaner. It's the major problem.
- 37 When cars were common there some of them (the pickups or campers) would back into the brush and destroy habitat. I prefer to have all autos out of the area.
- 38 no bus stop need connecting trails to interurban post point & the farm and fire pit/bbq area or areas the real problem is runoff from lawns & houses up on the hill above beach (Ridgmont) and further more city of Bellingham tries and does spray (pesticides) all along the side of Chuckanut creek sometimes within 8' of the creek where salmon spawn. I have tried to stop them.
- 39 We are unaware of any problems, but we just moved here in December
- 40 Please put a speed bump on the downhill on Fairhaven & 18th. people have nearly missed being hit by speeders, not to mention animals that have been hit and killed.
- 41 Problem? Are you looking for justification for your actions?
- 45 Streets in the area have not been updated for years, with the exception of one bridge over the creek.
- A9 Usually walk to the beach during the day. Have never found dog waste to be a problem. Rarely do we find litter. Have never seen a problem with parking. Don't find beach use at night really a problem from our home, although occasionally we hear people there. Not usually a problem. Please DO NOT stir up problems where there are none (such as parking issues).
- A11 I think litter is not a problem (I see very little) because the residents here pick it up. My family and I have always found it easy to pick up litter. I never allowed my children to ride bicycles here because drivers of cars sped carelessly down Fairhaven Avenue passed the Chuckanut Avenue junction. I've never seen dog waste on the beach. The days surrounding July 4th are full of firework explosions. I believe that is legal in Bellingham. I've seen one accidental fire on the beach in 30 years.
- A14 We live adjacent to the parking at Chuckanut Bay, the parking area is planned to be in our front yard. Speed bumps on Fairhaven Ave. might be a good idea, we have children and there are lots of pets in the neighborhood that some outside visitors do not take into account when coming to visit the bay. It should be closed at dark, and someone patrolling occasionally would be good to decrease

amount of illegal activities. Items were stolen out of my husband's vehicle one night while we were home and it was parked in our driveway.

- A17 Compared to a lot of other parks near residential areas, this one is not a "problem park" that I can see, and a few preventive measures could go a long way to reducing even those issues. I go there often, and I haven't seen real "problem cases" of things from this list.
- A19 Illegal activities, like drinking and smoking pot
- A22 if full can't get to beach
- A23 if parking is full
- A24 shellfish overharvesting
- A25 Would appreciate more law enforcement presence (Bellingham PD) to prevent drinking parties
- A26 The fact that "Mud Bay" is filling in and no action is being taken to reverse that inevitable result.
- A29 1. Beach encroachment from a few of the houses in Briza. 2. Use of motor boats by the house next to the launch area. 3. Parking of a motor boat (on a trailer) and a kayak on the tidelands adjacent to the south tunnel entrance.
- A37 There is a group of people who seem to be related; who seem to be Asian who harvest every living thing animal and vegetable during the lowest tides of the year. They work together with wheel barrow like devices to remove their takings. Even the sea weed is gone when they are finished. I have heard other stories about this group from people in other areas including the Canadian Islands. I can relate those tales for you, too. I only report here what I have seen with my own eyes.

q22 If there are any other issues you think contribute to problems in the area, please describe them below:

- 3 have lived on Rainier Ave. For all my life 66 yrs and I don't see the damage or harm done to the area except by blocking access on the beach. I think this project will do a lot more harm than good.
- 4 lack of parking lack of toilet lack of garbage cans
- 9 Some visitors are unaware of the delicate, unique, and complex ecosystems in the area (wetland + bay).
- 22 Saw 2 groups yesterday with buckets to collect shellfish apparently, one Hispanic & one Asian
- 24 impacts of cars on beach to plants, shellfish, water quality.
- 32 Please protect the integrity of the neighborhood!
- 35 The railroad causeway completely alters Mud Bay ecology & should be retrofitted to improve tidal exchange
- 36 Drug dealing is still going on at the park.
- 37 I want to emphasize IF. I want to ensure minimum impact. call me at my home Dave Tuclcerz 671-1787 I have been unable to attend meetings.
- 38 Lack of access to other coastal areas postpoint, teddy bear cove. Open up more spots at least with trails to distribute impact.
- 44 I think you covered them well in your questions. Starting fires on the beach is very dangerous. Late night parties are distressing.

- 45 A wildlife viewing area would help people from causing damage. A view platform or tower would help.
- A4 Some visitors are lazy (can't walk 5-10 feet to the garbage can at the beach) and disrespectful when it comes to disposing of their litter. Some fling their bottles and cans into the marsh where it's difficult to reach for those of us who do pick up litter.
- A9 1) Have NEVER seen a problem with visitors using parking 2) Again, we have never seen dog waste at the beach - so it must not be a big problem. If the City is concerned - then supply dog waste bags and trash cans 3) Sometimes in the summer, we hear people on the beach at night - but this is not the norm.
- A11 It is the number of visitors which impact the area. Although being sensitive to the area and all the life in it is helpful, the area is small. If the number of visitors goes from twenty a day to forty then to fifty, no matter how conscientious, the impact will be negative. Creatures require solitude to reproduce and to nurture their young. A few days of Independence Day celebration is nothing compared to continuous daily traffic. Most people are appreciative of nature or they wouldn't visit. There are always a few disturbingly destructive individuals who can do a great deal of damage who must be dealt with. The question is, how.
- A15 There is the one trash can that is adequate most of the time and receives regular pick-up. Unfortunately, people ignore the trash can and leave their garbage, cigarette butts and beer cans where they toss them. They don't care.
- A19 I have talked to people from Toma and Whatcom County coming here to clam and they do not know anything about the area but leave dog waste and debris behind, especially empty beer bottles.
- A25 It is not an AWARENESS issue. It is a seemingly remote, unobserved and unsupervised area that attracts selfish, misdemeanor behavior. If police rolled through twice an evening, the parties would drink elsewhere. Post Point on the water side of the railroad tracks is a similar "at risk" area.
- A26 People are lazy.
- A29 At least one house on the Briza side has a bright light shining down towards the bay (at least sometimes) which is quite annoyingly visible when in a boat out on the bay (shining in my eyes).
- A33 Wildlife are being chased by dogs off leash at the bay area

C1 (Follows potential solutions) If you would like to add any comments about your responses to the questions above, please do so here:

- 3 If you think dog waste is a problem, put a waste bag station there so it can be used
- 4 #26 Local residents have no more right of access to a public area than anyone else.
- 8 Provide adequate parking for the beach; outhouse(s). Fines for pet owners not picking up after their dogs & actually enforcing it.
- 9 I strongly disagree with installing a locked gate to be opened "afterhours" by local residents and park employees. this is a public park-not a neighborhood association's park. I should have the same equal access to this park as one who lives within walking distance. Just because I live several miles from the park does not mean I treat it with disrespect. This proposal is personally insulting and upsets me greatly.
- 14 I just don't like the idea of a locked gate and the time and expense to maintain it. It seems like a lot of resources to prevent an infrequent problem.
- 16 a gate is 1. ugly and takes away from the natural beauty of the beach. 2. Create more animosity between non-village folks % the locals 3. cause more illegal? parking situations encroaching on concerned parties-more angst

- Can see the benefits of having a locked gate... Unfortunately it is also an invitation to vandalize for some young people.
- 22 Need suitable access & parking for kayakers. This is a precious & safe launch site
- 30 What do you consider "Local Residents"?
- 32 Please protect the integrity of the neighborhood!
- 33 This is a public area. Don't lock it for residents only.
- 36 We need a speed bump at bottom of hill to slow down both residents and non residents. Also a sign that beach is patrolled by b'ham police and dept of wildlife officials!
- 38 Weakness in previous planning has created unsustainable situations for everyone.
- 41 More trash comes in with the tide that is left by visitors. A gate only takes access away without just cause. Are you looking for more money?
- 44 Who do we call? One big fire on the beach, we called 911 and the FIRE DEPARTMENT. They responded quickly.
- 45 26. This is a law enforcement problem and the wrong use of park funds.
- 46 Signs, bags, & garbage key! Thanks.
- A3 There is already a trash can there, it does overflow in the summer at times, maybe pick up could be daily during those months or at least on the weekends? I assume that the beach will not be accessible to vehicles once the restoration is completed, so I don't see how a locked gate would restrict access.
- A8 why do residents need keys to the park gate?
- A9 Again, we walk to the beach regularly and have NEVER seen dog waste. But... if residents request it, the City could put up posters about dog waste and provide waste bags. Do NOT prohibit pets from visiting the beach. In reality, it was old septic tanks that contributed more of a problem with waste than the few dogs who go down there.
- A11 I personally haven't encountered these problems, but if others have, it seems these measures wouldn't hurt.
- A17 Locked gate for "Afterhours" access? Unacceptable. Public land should be public use whether you live next to it or in Blaine.
- A19 I believe a city ordinance requires dog owners to carry a bag for the pick up of dog waste. The ordinance also provides violators be fined for not picking up the dog poop.
- A26 Trash can available seems sufficient. Locked gate will not help because beach can be accessed by walkway from Briza neighborhood.
- A29 If I come in after dark in my kayak and the gate is locked, what can I do? Kayaking in the evening can be a great pleasure.
- A33 I believe city ordinance requires that all dog owners carry a bag for waste pick up and can be fined if not having a bag with them. How will a sign

C2 Comments on potential solutions.

- 3 I don't kayak so i have neer seen over crowding at the launch point
- 4 People come down here to kayak, walk the beach, or dig clams-not many are aware of or care much about the "marsh"-it used to be a cow pasture, that's why there are old fence posts in the middle of it.
- 8 Display info/maps on where private lands are and where people may or may not go.
- 9 The more formal education available, the more visitors will understand and respect the natural beauty of this area. The more education, the better!
- 14 Rather than spend the money for a gate to prevent after-hour noise & litter, etc. -Educating the public about the unique & sensitive ecology of the area seems a much better use of resources & provides a better use of resources to all of the parks visitors!
- 24 It might be helpful to build a wood trail and wildlife viewing platform in the marsh behind the beach. have seen these throughout Canada, Lopez Island, etc. another education opportunity!
- 30 If you draw attention to the area if will bring more visitors. This will have a negative impact on the area. Leave it alone! neighbors will always keep an eye out and report illegal activities. Post some signs and keep the garbage cans assesime (sic).
- 32 Please protect the integrity of the neighborhood!
- 35 Mud Bay is special & unique let's make sure that those who utilize it understand & respects it.
- 36 I have never seen the parking lot full and see no problem with parking at II. I don't remember seeing any animal or human feces in the park.
- 37 We hope some of these suggestions will help. The salt marsh are has provided us with unbelievable joy in watching the birds come down into our area. For example, the red and yellow winged blackbirds and pikeated woodpeckers
- 39 #28,39,30- Information is a very good thing to raise awareness and general knowledge.
- 44 What about Rest Rooms? Please people should not use the beach as a bathroom
- 45 This should be a park for small groups and the chuckanut village neighborhood certainly not a place for large groups or parties.
- A3 While information that could be provided may help educate folks to use the area more wisely and respectfully, I would discourage the use of a lot of signage. Maybe one concise sign near the parking area with a map and some text describing the ecology of the area. If further information is considered important, perhaps it could refer the reader to a website with more details about the Chuckanut bay marsh.
- A9 Instead of promoting "remote" parking, simply provide adequate parking for the park. Obviously, large groups should carpool. But, please -- do NOT take away parking for kayakers. This is one of the main wholesome uses of the beach.
- A11 I believe those who are interested in the wildlife of the area will put effort into learning about it. Many creatures have developed methods of hiding their young and the habits which sustain them because that is necessary for their survival. Why would you expose them to the ever present tiny percentage of human vandals who would damage them? Let them be hidden. All the areas here, the public lands and the legally designated ecologically sensitive lands are sensitive for the entire life cycle of most of the area's plants and animals.
- A17 A map of the public lands invites the creation of a network of social trails. Perhaps continued obscurity is the best protection?

- A19 Some of us have beach frontage and sometimes visitors are starting small camp fires at the beach that could be very dangerous and cause a fire hazard to our properties.
- A25 It's NOT an INFORMATION issue; it is a LAW ENFORCEMENT issue. Protecting sensitive ecological areas from young drunks is a challenge that cannot be solved without law enforcement cooperation.
- A26 Education information would be welcome. In addition to providing interest, it would encourage people to care. I think encouraging large groups is a bad idea for the sensitive area.
- A29 Please keep signage off the beach area. It disrupts the natural feel of the place.

C3 (following additional solutions) If you would like to add any comments about your responses to the questions above, please do so here:

- 9 Please do not prohibit overnight parking. as a paddler, I often plan overnight trips; prohibiting overnight parking eliminates this bay as a launching spot. Fisherman often use this bay in the late hours & early hours. This needs to be considered also.
- 23 There are no need for parking rules. Parking has been fine for the last 30 years. Quit making issues where there are none!
- 32 Protect the neighborhood!
- 38 STOP pesticide and herbicide use
- 39 #31. I hate to see too many signs. Perhaps a mention on the information displays
- 41 Are you looking for problems in my neighborhood? People know how to phone 911 if there is an emergency.
- 45 REMOTE PARKING IS A BAD IDEA. IT BRINGS TO AMNY PEOPLE TO A SMALL AREA.
- 46 a bi-annual beach cleanup would be great for neighbors to help.
- A4 We already have neighborhood watch going on in Chuckanut Village. It was because of calls I made to the police (overnight campers; abandoned vehicles) and to parks staff (illegal dumping) that signs were posted about "No Dumping" and "No parking dusk to 6 am. Police will impound vehicles". I hope these signs are left in place.
- A5 We already have & have had a Village watch since many of us locals walk the streets, beach, etc for exercise, cleanup (there's also a lot of garbage thrown out of car windows along the streets as they leave. Also, I'm a bit confused by the statement in this statement "if funding allows" Isn't this under the grant?
- A8 sings for parking only help if there is enough parking to begin with
- A9 We do not see a problem with parking at the park. Even on busy summer Saturdays, folks are considerate. The city should continue to offer parking down by the beach. We've never noted problems with parking; although sometimes the beach area is busy.
- A11 We already have a functioning neighborhood network and we have the business cards and phone numbers of those to call. Those in authority are small in number and have many, many calls. Our law enforcement ranks are too few. This is part of our current infrastructure collapse. There are not enough employees of the Fish and Game Department or the Highway Patrol to take care of the issues here. Further, I have been advised by the Fish and Game people not to confront those who rob or are destructive because some are very serious criminals. So, we are left in limbo to watch illegal activities. We need authorities who are available to respond and deal with our calls. The Bellingham Fire Dept. was the best responder.

- A14 The neighbors should not be involved in policing the neighborhood, a number to report is good, but local law enforcement should make intermittent passes thru to dissuade illegal activities.
- A15 Some signs already posted about "no dumping" and "park closed from dusk to 6 am; police will impound vehicles" which is good.
- A17 I paddle at night. I paddle early morning. I do day-long trips. I do things at odd hours. I'm quiet as a church mouse. Banning "overnight" parking sounds like a way that I will get tickets for no other reason than being there.
- A19 If a neighborhood watch is established, we would then need a good response to our complains.
- A25 Restricting access to kayakers and dog walkers will NOT solve the idiot drunk problems. Multiple Use can be sustained if the bad guys are cited and/or arrested.
- A26 People don't care. If rules are posted they will be ignored. I think the neighborhood would already report problems.
- A33 We have people coming from faraway places like Tacoma, WA and from Whatcom County to our bay area to do clamming, not caring how they leave the area and not caring at all when it comes to wildlife habitat.

Q36b Please explain your answer regarding adding an outhouse to the park.

- 3 IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR GENERAL USE OF POEOPLE USING THE BEACH AREA. IT IS BOUND TO HELP.
- 5 Cost \$ too much
- 8 I don't want to walk into human waste on my beach walks!
- 10 Plastic honey buckets are an eyesore. They are usually not maintained property, which adds a bad odor to the rest of the aesthetic concerns. I have my doubts. However, something like the pine and cedar lakes facility might be doable if located in the present ad hoc parking area at the end of Fairhaven avenue.
- 16 An outhouse would encourage visitors to stay even longer, create more traffic & pose as greater threat to sensitive areas.
- 18 But probably a luxury in this economy and not the most important step.
- 19 A LOT OF THE LITTER FOUND IN THAT AREA IS CAUSED BY HUMAN WASTE.
- 23 I have Never seen human waste on the beach.. If you put an outhouse there people will poop in it and kids will knock the outhouse over and you will have poop on the beach.
- 27 I LIVE HERE.
- 32 See above!
- 33 Functionally useful Aesthetically bad.
- 35 Installation of a restroom will be a complicated process to connect to sewer lines, there is already enough human waste seeping from existing septic systems
- 38 maybe in the summer for a few months only would be helpful
- 42 Keep changes minimal
- 45 RESTROOMS ARE COSTLY TO UPKEEP, HOWEVER IT SOLVES THE PROBLEM OF JUST GOING TO THE RESTROOM YOURSELF, BEHIND A BUSH, TREE, OR ON THE BEACH.

- 46 Bathroom placement is key-so it doesn't affect the aesthetics of The Park.
- A3 Hopefully once parking is restricted, folks won't be partying on the beach or sleeping there which will make it much less likely that they will leave feces there. Occasional urination is not as much of a problem I assume...
- A4 I don't think this is as much a problem as other litter and dog waste. I think this may be more than the city can take on and maintain. I'd also be concerned about people trashing it.
- A5 This will promote vandalism & after the beach renovations of this project, if you put it on the beach, how do you pump it? Where else would you put it? Also, if the other traffic (human & vehicle) are addressed, this small problem will solve itself.
- A9 In all the years we have been visiting the beach (multiple times a week), we have NEVER seen human waste. If this truly is a problem (we doubt it), then provide an outhouse
- A11 I think parking and restroom facilities should be remote. Visitors might be attracted to the area for its isolation and comfort facilities not its natural beauties. I don't think that is a good idea.
- A14 the area should stay as natural as possible
- A15 I would be concerned about it being disrespected and vandalized. Concerned that the city doesn't have funds to provide and maintain it.
- A17 The community should take care of this. People need to speak out when they see someone leaving waste like this, and I think a regularly emptied trash can and some signs talking about how cool this spot is will give people a bit more respect. (We can only hope, right?) Outhouses are more cost, mess, and maintenance than they are worth, and they always stink like people.
- A19 Fairhaven park has excellent restroom facilities.
- A22 in parking area
- A23 in the parking area (less visual impact on beach)
- A25 Can't Hurt. I'd use a port-a potty if it were available and clean.
- A26 Outhouse only is a good idea if it is attractive and well maintained(not a portapotty)
- A29 Ok if not just porta john

C4 (following goals section) If you would like to add any comments about your responses to the questions above, please do so here:

- 3 THERE SHOULD BE SOME COMMON SENCE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO, AND WHERE YOU WALK, BUT SOMETIMES SOMMON SENCE JUST ISN'E THERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER FOR THAT IS.
- 5 Don't spend Any Tax \$\$
- 9 All are extremely important and intertwined-treating the area with respect by not blocking access, keeping it clean, respecting the whole ecosystem (shoreline, wetlands, animals, wildlife, etc.) & protecting sensitive issues. One is not more important than the other, as they are all part of the whole picture.
- 10 The ongoing and serious pollution of Puget sound is getting a lot of press. It should. WE all need help to understand how our local efforts (related to the beach, the saltwater marsh and the proposed park) contribute to this longer concern.

- 21 TOO MANY CLAM DIGGERS DO NOT COVER UP THEIR HOLES WHEN DIGGING. CLAMS ARE LEFT UNCOVERED AND VULNERABLE. DIGGERS NEED TO BE EDUCATED AS TO HOW TO PROTECT THIS RESOURCE.
- 23 Who comes up with these inane questions?
- 27 I'VE WALKED THE BEACH SINCE 1980.
- 32 Protect the neighborhood!
- 44 Set some penalties. Sweden has done that and their parks and shorelines remain pristine. The \$\$\$ stiff fines reflect the extreme importance of all these issue for health welfare for all
- 45 THERE IS A NEED FOR SHORT TERM PARKING FOR PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE AREA. FAIRHAVEN STREET COULD IF UPGRADED ACCOMODATE 12 CARS OR SO IF UPGRADED. IT WOULD NEED A TIME LIMIT FOR PARKING.
- A9 During our walks at the park, we have yet to observe anyone abusing the park area.
- A11 The area is extremely clean. Cars and large numbers of people will not preserve the area.
- A14 The park has been in a similar condition which has been referred to as "very healthy biologically" by scientists. I don't see the necessity for additional protection for the area. The people should be able to enjoy the area as is. If a few signs need to be placed to label sensitive areas the public will respect that.
- A17 This is a great set of principles. Well done.
- A25 In my opinion, any analysis of multiple use of Mud Bay MUST admit to the existence of TWO DISTINCT USER GROUPS - daylight users who care, and nighttime miscreants who do not.

C5 (following impacts of restoration project) If you would like to add any comments about your responses to the questions above, please do so here:

- 6 WE NEVER QUITE KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES! DEPENDS ON HOW MANY FACTORS, HOW IT IS IMPLEMENTED.
- 9 Regarding question #46. It will improve the area to have parking off the district beach, yet still close for visitors, kayakers, etc.
- 22 Protect natural habitat allow kayak launching & parking at or nearby
- 26 Keep access for kayakers-a great way to experience the special beauty of the area
- 30 LEAVE THE AREA ALONE!
- 31 44-I'm guessing the changes will have an impact, but I don't know what the actual changes will be until they are done.
- 32 ect
- 35 Major restoration can only be achieved by increasing tidal exchange presently reduced by railroad causeway
- 38 People need natural places to visit day & night every neighborhood should have a community garden/fire pit/eating and gathering area
- 41 Many things are better left alone. This is one of those. The more we mankind gets involved the more we mess nature up.

- 45 THERE IS ONLY MONEY FOR SOME CHANGE IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO DO IT IN A BIG WAY. THE CITY NEEDS TO LOOK AT CHUCKANUT VILLAGE AS A BIGGER VILLAGE PLAN & SEPERATED NEIGHBORHOOD AND NOT AS PART OF SOUTH OR FAIRHAVEN.
- A9 Shellfish and fishing may improve over a long time. The main way to improve shellfish and fishing is to improve water quality by allowing more water in and out of the bay. This must be done by allowing more water through the train trestle. Right now, not enough water moves in and out.
- A11 The issue for me is law enforcement. We have to share a few law enforcement employees with many others over a very large area. It is not very effective. I like the ancient idea of a park manager living on the spot. Once again, a great number of well meaning, informed visitors is still a great number of humans intruding into a sensitive area. When the numbers of wildlife, fish, birds, etc. are dwindling, why would you add further challenge to nesting and feeding areas? Estuaries are not wise hunting and fishing grounds for human beings.
- A14 I believe the changes will create more of a hardship for the people in the neighborhood as the public parking is pushed to so close to private homes. I see no reason for the city not to use its own land (opposed to the PROW which is closer to the beach) for parking.
- A25 Multiple Public Use must trump the privacy concerns of the local residents.
- A26 My answers reflect my lack of faith in human character. Most will continue to behave as they want. Education will help for some of them.

q47b Please tell us any other suggestions for environmental education about Chuckanut Bay:

- 3 FOR YOUR INFORMATION THERE HASN'T BEEN A COHO RUN IN CHUCKANUT CREEK IN DECADES ASK BURT BAXTER ABOUT THE HATERY BOXES IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE SALMON RUNS
- 5 Don't Spend Tax \$\$
- 9 A kiosk at the bay area with environmental education with information about history, native plants, sea life, birds, and information regarding how to get involved with work parties for the bay
- 10 Many of my neighbors go back several generations have in Chuckanut village. These folks-the baxters, bauters, gerner, fodhunters, ect.-have strong opinions and extensive local knowledge. They are a valuable resource for any interpretive effort. They should be included and consulted from the outset.
- 30 LEAVE IT ALONE! NEIGHBORS WILL CONTINUE TO PICKUP GARBAGE AND POLICE THE AREA. THE MORE ATTENTION YOU BRING TO THE AREA, THE MORE PEOPLE YOU WILL DRAW TO THE AREA.
- 31 I like onsite education material-the silent 24/7 educators-and further details on-line-info on demand.
- 32 Protect our neighborhood!
- 46 An educational sign w/ pictures at entrance-showing visits the plants & animals and how to use the park with care.
- A9 Start a meager website... and give much of the money BACK!
- 17 As long as these tours are few and far between, go for it. They will also need a webpage.
- A25 Quality Informative educational signage will do.

- A26 I think a better idea would be educational signboards with information on the social, cultural, economic and ecological history of the Chuckanut Bay area. My interpretation of #1 was that you meant a talk, not a permanent feature. Do not mail Newsletters (kills trees)

Q48_6_other Who do you trust to provide accurate information?

- 3 NONE OF THE ABOVE
- 4 none of the above
- 13 W.A.V.E.
- 16 dept of natural resources
- 29 Local Residents
- 30 NEIGHBORS
- 36 department of ecology
- 45 WWU
- A10 Marine Resources Committee
- A25 Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts