SMALL-TOWN CHARM ON THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

FEBRUARY 2022

Sequim

2022 CITYWIDE PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN



PLANNING A PATH FORWARD FOR CITY PARKS & OPEN SPACE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

In 2021, the City of Sequim began developing a comprehensive and visionary Parks and Open Space Master Plan to guide the development and acquisition of parks, open spaces, and recreational amenities, as well as the renovation of existing amenities over the next ten years.

Community input is important to make sure the goals and priorities identified in the Plan are consistent with community interests. The City conducted a range of public outreach efforts that included a random-sample mail-in survey, an online survey, focus group discussions, an online open house and other outreach. In addition, the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board (PARB) was heavily engaged in the preparation of the Plan. The PARB shared their thoughts at several sessions during 2021 on the current state of parks and recreation in Sequim and provided guidance and direction on ideas for key projects and policy considerations.

To develop the recommendations in this Plan, the City completed an inventory of existing parks and amenities, reviewed their condition, and identified needed maintenance and capital repair projects. The City then assessed current community needs, as well as projected future demand, accounting for population growth and shifting demographics. The needs assessment was then compared to the existing park system to identify desired park and recreation improvements for the next six to ten years. The Plan's capital project section and accompanying implementation strategies were developed to guide the City toward the community's park and recreation priorities, while recognizing operational realities.



PLANNING PROCESS

This 2021 Park and Recreation Master Plan reflects the community's vision for a park and recreation system that can sustain a vibrant and healthy community over the coming decades. It is grounded in the community's park and recreation needs and preferences, gathered through a range of engagement efforts. The plan forwards residents' interest in close-to-home recreation opportunities, natural stewardship, community involvement, volunteerism and wellness. Based on this foundation, the Plan provides a blueprint for the growth, development and management of Sequim's park and recreation system through 2027 and beyond.

The 2021 Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan is designed to:

- Provide an opportunity for the community of Sequim to express their recreational needs and their vision for the City's park and recreation system.
- Provide updated inventories, demographic conditions, and needs analysis that reflect the current state of the City and its park and recreation system.
- Establish specific goals, objectives, recommendations and actions for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality recreation facilities, parks, and open spaces across the City.
- Guide City elected officials, the Park, Arbor and Recreation Board, staff, and residents when making decisions or taking actions regarding planning, acquiring, developing or implementing park, recreation and open space facilities and programs.

This plan updates and builds on Sequim's 2015 Park and Recreation Master Plan. In the past six years, Sequim has grown by nearly 1,200 residents and is now home to a slightly younger and wealthier community. The city has also become an increasingly popular tourist destination. This 2021 plan update has been revised to reflect current community interests and opportunities.

The Master Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by Washington's Growth Management Act. This Plan must be updated every six years for the City to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers a variety of outdoor recreation and conservation grant programs.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The City of Sequim owns and manages eight parks, totaling 114 acres, as well as three public plazas and several trail segments. Together, these places provide a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities for community members and visitors. The City's Parks and Facilities Manager, in the Public Works Department, partners with the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board, community organizations, and general public to plan, develop, and manage the city's park and recreation system. The City's Public Works Department is responsible for construction and maintenance of the city's parks. The City also partners with local non-profit groups and organizations, including the Sequim Prairie Garden Club, Sequim Dog Park Pals, the Sequim Little League, and the Sequim School District.

Parks, Arbor & Recreation Board

The Park, Arbor and Recreation Board is a seven-member citizen panel responsible for advising the City Council on matters related to the acquisition, control, improvement, beautification, and planning of all public squares and parks of the city and all city recreational facilities. The Board's vision for the future of Sequim's Parks and Recreation system is:

> "Sequim is a city that values the health of its citizens and provides cost-effective parks, recreation and leisure opportunities which will continue to make Sequim a great place to live and play."

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks and recreation opportunities in Sequim. The development of each plan or study involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body. The following list of plans was reviewed.

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Sequim Comprehensive Plan
- Transportation Master Plan
- Parks & Rec Facilities Impact Fee Rate Study
- Carrie Blake Community Park Master Plan
- Clallam County Parks Master Plan

PLAN CONTENTS

The remainder of this Parks and Open Space Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of Sequim and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Listening – highlights the methods used to engage the Sequim community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Inventory & Classifications – describes the existing park system.
- Chapters 5: Parks & Open Space Needs Assessment – describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for park and open space properties.
- Chapter 6: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional area.
- Chapter 7: Projects & Implementation– describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 10-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.





An active arts community, vibrant downtown, and diverse culinary options make Sequim the cultural and commercial heart of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley on the magnificent Olympic Peninsula.

- Sequim Tourist Information Center

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location

Sequim is a small city of just under 7,900 residents located along Highway 101 in Clallam County, Washington. Its location, along the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the northeast portion of the Olympic Peninsula only two hours from Tacoma and just three from Seattle, makes the city a popular tourist and retirement destination. Sequim sits in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley, between the unincorporated communities of Carlsborg and Blyn and is bordered by Sequim Bay to the east and unincorporated Clallam County to the north, south, and west.

The city lies in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains resulting in a dry, Mediterranean climate, and is surrounded by natural beauty and pastoral landscapes. The city features a mix of single family neighborhoods and subdivisions with a vibrant downtown commercial core. Additional businesses, including 'big box' retail and light industrial development, are located along Highway 101.

History

The region including and surrounding the City of Sequim was originally inhabited by the S'Klallam people, who built villages along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and hunted, fished, and gathered in inland forests. In the early 1800s, the S'Kallam people, along with other nearby tribes, ceded much of their lands to the U.S. government in the Treaty of Point No Point in January 1855.

The first permanent white settlers claimed homesteads in the Sequim area in the 1850s and 60s, and the town's first school and post office were established soon after. Construction of irrigation canals in the late 1890s allowed greater agricultural development in the dry prairie of the Sequim area and attracted new settlers. The Town of Sequim incorporated in 1913. The town grew as a logging and agricultural center after the development of the Seattle, Port Angeles and Western Railway (1914) and State Route 9 (1923) provided easier connections to the nearby communities of Port Townsend and Port Angeles as well as the greater region.

New residents and visitors continued to come to Sequim and surrounding Clallam County following the establishment of Olympic National Park in 1938 and the development of military establishments in Port Angeles during World War II. In the late 1940s, community members and the local Garden Club established the city's first park, Pioneer Park, on the site of the former Sequim View Cemetery. The completion of the Hood Canal Floating Bridge in 1961 significantly reduced car travel times from the greater Seattle area. Due to its continued growth, the

Town of Sequim became the City of Sequim in 1973.

In the 1970s, the City purchased land from Edward Blake that would become Carrie Blake Park, in honor of his wife. The park was expanded in 1998 through the purchase and development of a water reuse demonstration site on nearly 30 adjoining acres and has since become a significant community asset. The 1980s brought declines in timber harvesting, impacting Sequim and communities across the Pacific Northwest. In 1981, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe was federally recognized and, in 1986, purchased land in the nearby community of Blyn.

In more recent decades, the city has become a popular tourist and retirement destination, with its dry climate, proximity to major urban areas, wealth of natural beauty and recreational opportunities, and burgeoning art community.

Economy

Sequim's economy was traditionally dependent on natural resource sectors, including timber, fisheries, and agriculture. However, the City's economy has shifted significantly in recent decades. Currently, the majority of Sequim's residents (56%) are not in the workforce, which may be due, in part, to the City's high percentage of retirement age adults (40%). This may be influencing the City's median household income, which at just over $40,000 per year is significantly lower than the average across Clallam County.

Reflecting the City's growing tourist base, more than one in three working residents are employed the arts, entertainment, recreation, and hospitality sector (22%) and in retail trade (15%). Another one in four are employed in education and health care.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Today, Sequim is home to a slowly growing number of families with children who enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by the City's parks and open spaces. More than half of Sequim's population is 55 and over, which is a slight decline from a decade ago (51% versus 53%, respectively). While the city's residents predominately identify as white (70%), 12% identify as Asian and 7% as Black or African American, and 11% as Hispanic or Latino. One in four residents speak a language other than English at home. The City's residents are well educated, though they generally have slightly lower incomes than other county residents. The City's population has been relatively flat in recent years and is expected to grow modestly over the coming decades.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Sequim, Clallam County and Washington

Demographics	Sequim	Clallam County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2020)	7,860	76,770	7,656,200
Population (2010)	6,606	71,404	6,724,540
Population (2000)	4,334	64,264	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-19)	81.4%	19.5%	29.9%
Persons w/ Disabilities under age 65	27.1%	20.0%	12.7%
Household Characteristics (2015-19)			
Households	3,508	32,958	2,848,396
Percent with children	16.8%	21.2%	30.6%
Median Household Income	$40,155	$52,192	$73,775
Average Household Size	1.98	2.25	2.55
Average Family Size	2.72	2.76	3.09
Owner Occupancy Rate	58.1%	70.4%	63.0%
Age Groups (2019)			
Median Age	56.5	50.8	37.7
Population < 5 years of age	4.7%	4.7%	6.1%
Population < 18 years of age	14.4%	17.2%	22.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	49.0%	54.0%	62.7%
Population > 65 years of age	36.6%	28.8%	15.1%

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2020
U.S. Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

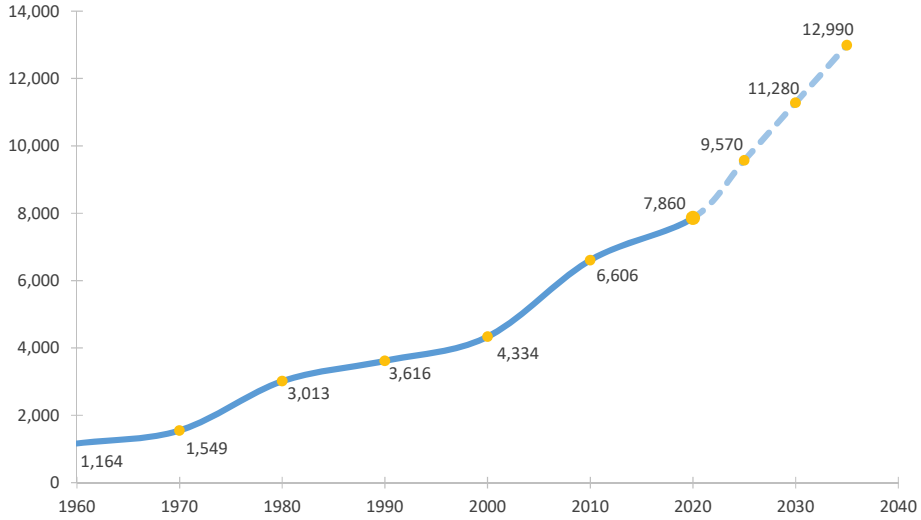
Population

During the 1970s and the time of incorporation as a city, Sequim nearly doubled in population to slightly more than 3,000 residents. The next surge occurred in the first decade of the 2000s when the city grew another 50% to a 2010 population approximately 6,600. Since then, the city's population has expanded to 7,860.

The 2015 Sequim Comprehensive Plan anticipates a 2% annual growth rate for the city and forecasts the 2035 population to 12,990 within city limits.

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, the average household in Sequim was 1.98 people, lower than the state average (2.55). The average family is larger, at 2.72 people. Of the 3,500 households in the city, 17% were families with children under 18, and 44.5% were individuals living alone.

Figure 2. Population Change - Actual and Projected: 1960 - 2035



Age Group Distribution

Sequim's population has a median age of 56.5 (2019), slightly older than Clallam County as a whole (50.8) and significantly higher than statewide averages (37.7). Adults between 55 to 74 years old make up the city's largest 20-year population group, comprising 30.5% of the overall population in 2019. This has important implications for park and recreation needs.

- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up over half (51%) of Sequim's population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 21% of Sequim's population.
- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. About 5.6% of residents are in this age category, see Figure 2. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. More than 33% of households in the city are families with children.

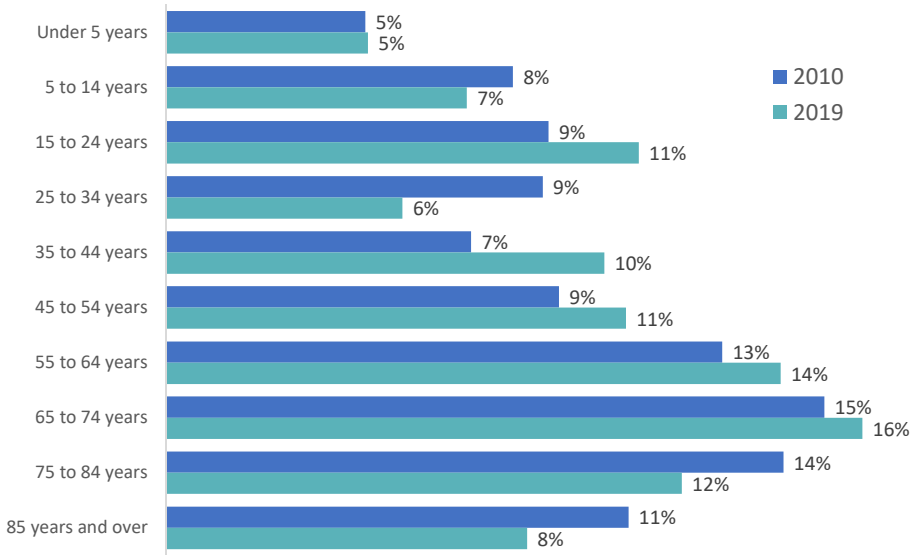
While the majority of Sequim's residents (77%) are adults over 25 years of age, approximately one in four are youth and young adults.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 5% of Sequim's population. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future

participants in youth activities.

- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 7% of the city's population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 11% percent of Sequim's residents are teens and young adults.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2019



Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 86% of the population of Sequim identified as White. Just under 4% of residents identified as Asian, 2% as Black or African American, and few residents as American Indian or Alaskan Native (1%). Approximately 7% of residents identified as two or more races listed in the American Community Survey options. About one in every fifteen residents (6.5%) identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. In 2019, approximately 8% of residents speak a language other than English at home and 3% speak English less than very well.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2019 American Community Survey reported 27% (1,876 persons) of Sequim's population as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is much higher than county and state averages (20% and 13% respectively). Approximately 10% of youth under 18 years of age, 26% of adults 18 to 64, and 36.5% of residents over age 65 live with a disability, signaling a potential need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities, and programs. Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will also help ensure compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Employment

The 2019 work force population (16 years and over) of Sequim is 6,356 (88%). Of this population, forty-four percent is in the labor force, 2.5% is unemployed, and 56% is not in the labor force. In 2018, the City's unemployment rate was 5.8%, lower than the county rate (7.7%) but slightly higher than the statewide rate (5.3%). However, the COVID-19 emergency and related business closures has caused a recession with deep impacts to business earnings and viability, consumer confidence, and unemployment rates – in addition to significant health and social impacts to local residents. The near and long-term economic impacts of this crisis have yet to be fully determined.

Income & Poverty

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. In 2019, the median household income in Sequim was $40,155. This income level was about $12,000 (23%) lower than the median income for Clallam County households. However, forty percent of City residents are 65 or older meaning many residents may be in retirement and have lower annual incomes than during their working years.

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 25 percent of Sequim households have household incomes in the higher income brackets ($100,000 and greater), slightly fewer than the county average (27%).

Lower-income residents can face a number of barriers to physical activity including poor access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Lower-income residents may also be less financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, like childcare, that can make physical activity possible. In Sequim, 12% of households earn less than $25,000 annually and 9% of local families live below the poverty level ($25,750 for a family of four), on par with county rates. Poverty affects 12.5% of youth under 18 and 8% of those 65 and older.

HEALTH STATUS

Information on the health of Sequim's residents is not readily available. According to the 2020 County Health Rankings, Clallam County ranks in the lower-middle range compared to all Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life, as well as for health factors like health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.

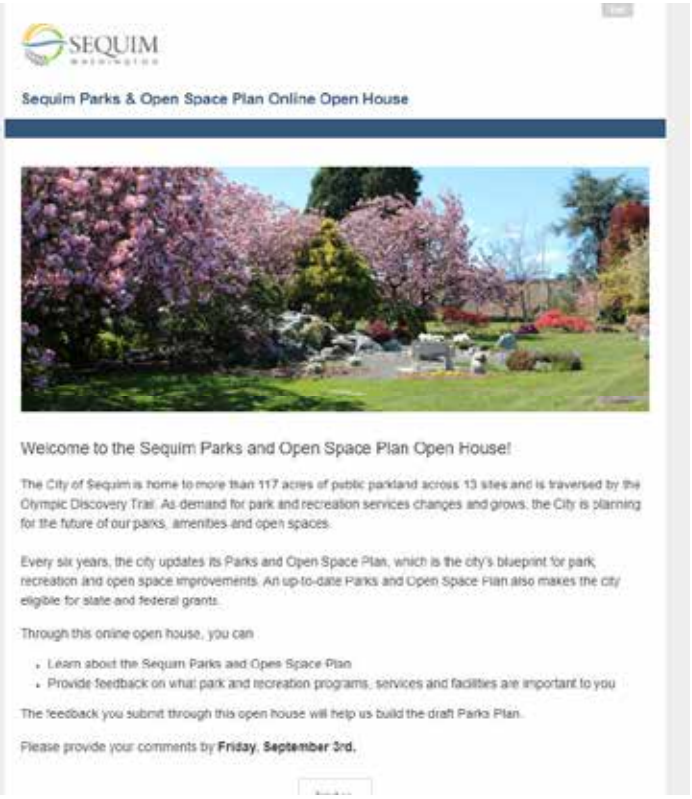
Approximately 20% of Clallam adults age 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – a rate higher than the statewide average of 17%. In Clallam County, 77% of residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, which is lower than the average for all Washington residents (86%). This suggests that the County has a reasonable number of places where residents can participate in physical activity, including parks, trails, and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. Approximately 29% of Clallam County adults are overweight or obese, on par with all Washington adults.

Additional information on the health status of Clallam County residents is also available in the Clallam County Health Status Assessment (2017) prepared by the Kitsap Public Health District.



3. COMMUNITY LISTENING





ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Numerous methods were used to connect with the community, seek their input and provide information about the project in COVID-sensitive formats that heavily relied upon virtual engagement. The approach to public outreach was varied and included:

- Meetings with Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board and City Council
- Three topic-oriented focus group discussions
- Community-wide survey (random-sample mail & online)
- Online open house
- Website and social media postings with plan information and contact opportunities

Community Survey

A community-wide, mail and online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Sequim residents in mid 2021. The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households within the boundaries of the City of Sequim on April 30, 2021. An online version of the same survey was posted to the City website a few later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. Overall, 384 responses were completed from the random sample mail survey (19.2% response rate), and 163 responses were collected via the online survey for a total of 547 responses.

The survey measured current levels of satisfaction and usage of parks and recreation facilities. Community members were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational amenities they would like to see considered for the park system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of City parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the City
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation and trail improvements
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results is provided in the needs assessment chapter covering parks and open space (Chapters 5).

Major Findings

- Livability: Nearly all respondents (98%) feel that public recreation and parks opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Sequim.
- Usage: Visitation is high, with more than half (61%) of respondents visiting at least once a week and another 18% visiting one to three times per month.
- Reasons for Visiting: The most popular activities are walking or running (76%), followed by relaxation (60%), community events/concerts (51%), and fitness (43%). More than three in ten respondents visited for dog walking (37%), bike riding (34%) or family gatherings (33%).
- Park Amenity Priorities: Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked the same items as their top three priorities: expanding trail opportunities, building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland, and adding new amenities in existing parks, such as additional playgrounds or sport courts.
- Programming: Respondents expressed a greater need for adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in adult classes such as arts and crafts, adult fitness and wellness, adult enrichment classes, and outdoor classes.

The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

Online Open House

On August 16, 2021, the City published an online open house that stayed open for three weeks to allow community members to participate at their convenience.

The online open house was prepared to provide residents an opportunity to respond to a series of questions about park and recreation services and solicit input about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them. In all, 110 responses were collected.

Major Findings

- Respondents indicated the top priority as building new parks on undeveloped, city owned parklands, followed by acquiring land for future parks in areas without easy access to parks. The sentiment toward supporting park development aligns with community survey data where respondents indicated an unmet need for picnic areas, developed parks with playgrounds and walking trails.
- Majorities of respondents indicated that Sequim does not have enough parkland for today or the future.
- A majority of respondents (53%) supported as the top priority the acquisition of open space and habitat lands that also can include walking and jogging trails. The second highest ranked priority was for the acquisition of land or corridors to accommodate trail connections.
- A plurality of respondents noted acquiring and developing trail corridors as a top priority. Installing additional restrooms was noted as a second priority, followed by the installation of additional picnic shelters.

A meeting summary of the online open house is provided in Appendix B.

Stakeholder Focus Group Discussions

COVID-sensitive, online focus group discussions with external stakeholder were conducted to more broadly assess local needs and opportunities for partnership and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by city staff based on their past coordination their involvement or interest in the future of recreation, park, athletic or trail facilities. The group-based discussion sessions were conducted via Zoom and occurred between July and August 2021. Summary meeting notes from each focus group session are provided in Appendix C.

Representatives from the following organizations participated.

Local User group

- YMCA
- Clallam County
- Library

Tourism & Economic Development group

- Chamber of Commerce
- Tourism Commission
- Port of Port Angeles
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Olympic National Park
- County Parks
- Trails Coalition

Local Needs group

- Sequim Junior Soccer Club
- Anglers
- Sequim Picklers
- Botanical Garden group
- Skaters
- Little League

Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board Meetings

The Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board provided guidance on the planning process and feedback on Plan components during four regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on March 15th soon after the planning project was started. The Board discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for Sequim's parks and open space, along with comments about specific challenges and opportunities to consider. Subsequent sessions in July,

September and October were used to review public feedback and solicit direction from the Board on priorities and recommendations for the new Parks and Open Space Plan.

Other Outreach

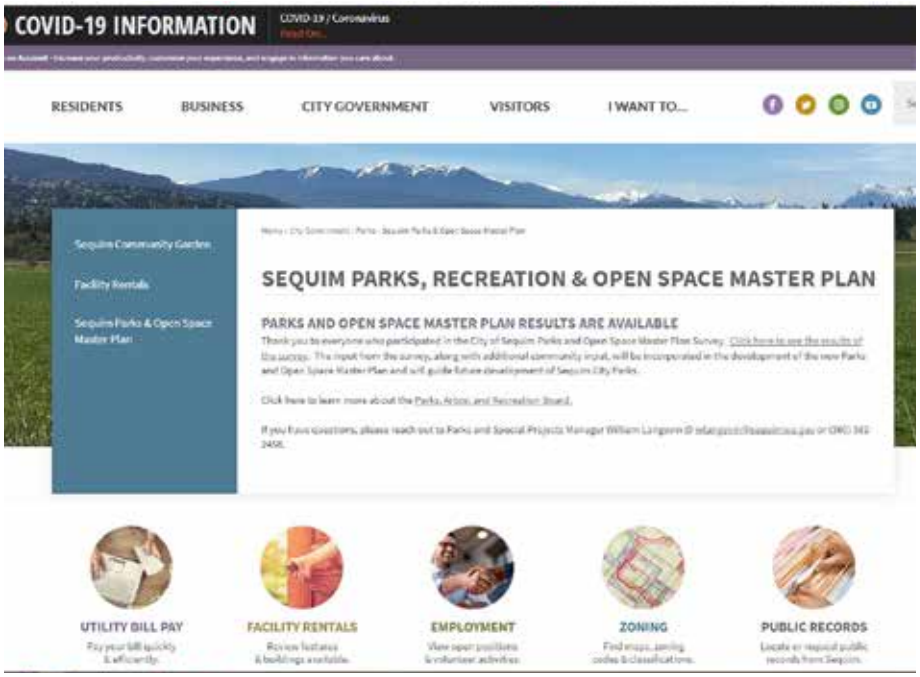
In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Sequim community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer their comments.

- Project webpage – Sequim maintained a project webpage for the Parks and Open Space Plan update project, which provided background information, links to interim studies and opportunities for the community to provide feedback.
- Social media: Facebook – several postings were used to promote the plan and solicit community feedback for the community surveys.
- Community postings – City staff and members of the PARB posted flyers and signage in the business district and in city parks to promote the project and encourage people to participate in the online open house.
- Direct outreach – City staff utilized existing contacts with local organizations, interest groups and individuals to share information about the project, solicit community feedback and solicit participation in the focus group discussions.

Figure 4. Sample Facebook Posting for the Community Survey



Figure 5. Parks and Open Space Master Plan project website



BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Washington, outdoor recreation generates $26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, $7.6 billion in wages and salaries and $2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.

4. INVENTORY & CLASSIFICATIONS



CLASSIFICATIONS

Classifying parkland based on its characteristics and recreational offerings can help ensure the total park system meets a community's recreational needs. The planned Sequim park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses.

As a small but growing city, the classifications are intended to provide a framework regarding the usage and utility of existing and future sites. Six classifications are defined as follows, and the City might not have properties that fall within each classification:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Paths, Bikeways & Trails
- Commercial Parks & Plazas
- Natural Areas

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (generally up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) to the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Neighborhood parks provide informal active and passive recreation, and they are generally 0.5 to 5 acres in size. Developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as paved pathways, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping.

Existing Neighborhood Parks include:

- June Robinson Memorial Park – (0.45 Acre)
- Margaret Kirner Park – (0.43 Acre)
- Gerhardt Park – (7.62 Acres)

Community Parks

Community parks serve broader purposes than neighborhood parks, and they are intended to accommodate community-wide active recreational needs, passive uses and natural areas. Community parks also serve as nodes for the city-wide pathway system. Facilities may include field and court games, softball and baseball diamonds, playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts and other athletic facilities. Passive recreation opportunities (picnicking, benches, walking, etc.) may also be provided if a natural setting also exists. As a result of the amenities provided, community parks require more support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms. Community parks also can serve as local neighborhood parks for their immediate areas, and they may be connected to schools or other community facilities.

Existing Community Parks include:

- Carrie Blake Park – (22.42 Acres)
- Water Reuse Demonstration Site – (28.85 Acres)
- Joseph L. Keeler Memorial Park – (42.81 Acres)



Special Use Areas

Special use areas include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. Special facilities include sport complexes, community recreation centers and/or historic areas. Since special use areas vary widely in function, there are no minimum sizes, but special use areas must be large enough to accommodate the intended use. Support facilities such as parking and restrooms are often included.

Existing Special Use Areas include:

- Dr. James F. Standard Park – (10.1 Acres)

Paths, Bikeways & Trails

Pathways and bikeways provide an opportunity within an urban setting for walking and bicycling. Where possible, they provide links to other recreational areas, scenic vistas, historic points of interest, or public access to a waterfront. These routes are typically designed as a portion of a statewide or local trail system.

Existing Paths and Trails include:

- Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) – (6.5 linear miles (34,320 LF) in the city limits)
- S. Third Avenue Trail – (1,200 linear feet)
- Brackett Road Trail – (800 linear feet)
- Gebhardt Zwicker Trail – (660 linear feet)

Commercial Parks & Plazas

Commercial parks and plazas are small passive areas designed primarily to improve and maintain urban environmental quality. They provide rest and relaxation areas and provide aesthetic improvements in developed areas. No intensive recreation facilities are provided at these sites; however, landscaping, benches, table, etc. are typically provided. In addition, areas of protection from the elements through screening, plantings and covered areas should be provided. These areas sometimes contain small green spaces that serve pedestrians in downtown shopping areas and are typically situated within a ¼-mile of a commercial area. Instead of providing outstretching grassy space or playground equipment for children to play, Commercial parks and plazas provide a place to take a quick breather while walking through downtown, an area to host public events or simply a place to sit and wait for the next bus.

Existing Commercial Parks & Plazas include:

- Seal Street Park – (Public Right-of-Way)
- Heritage Park Transit Stop – (Public Right-of-Way)
- Centennial Place – (0.19 Acre)
- Civic Center Plaza – (0.34 Acre)
- Pioneer Memorial Park – (3.76 Acres)

Natural Areas

Natural areas are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state with only modest improvements for recreation uses. These conserved open spaces are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. Natural areas may provide trail corridors, and offer low-impact or passive activities, such as walking or nature observation, where appropriate.

This Parks and Open Space Plan updates the park system classifications with the addition of the special use area and natural area classifications. Also, the regional park classification from the prior plan has been removed to simplify the system hierarchy and eliminate redundancy between the regional park and community park classifications. Resulting from this adjustment to classifications, Joseph L. Keeler Memorial Park has been classified as a community park (tentative, pending formal park master plan design), and Dr. James F. Standard Park has been classified as a special use area given that site's singular focus as a sport field facility.

PARK & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

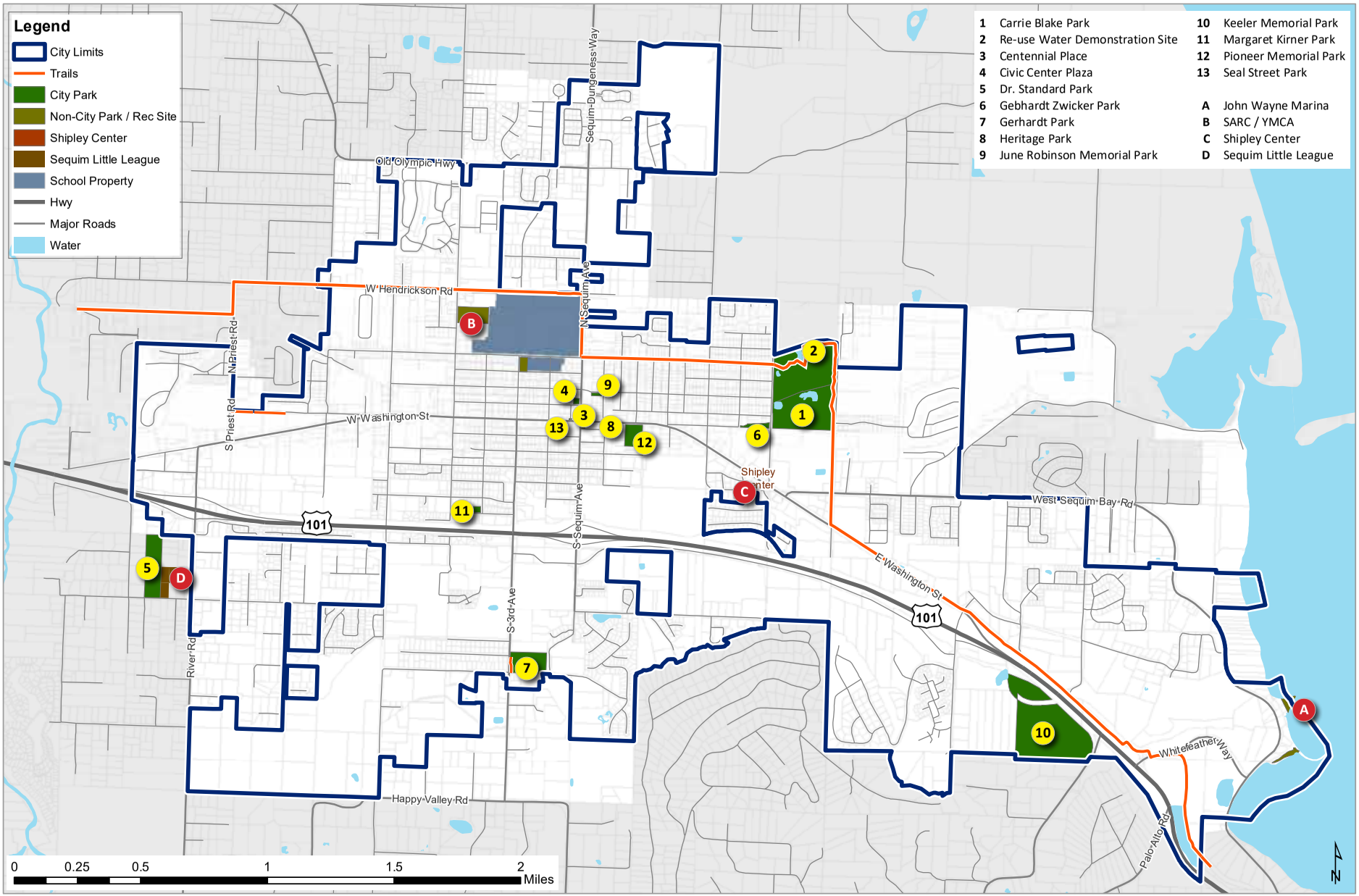
The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Sequim. The City directly provides over 117 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 13 parks, commercial plazas and special use areas.

Figure 6. Existing Inventory: City-owned Parklands by Type

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	ACRES	AMENITIES																	
			RESTROOM	PARKING	AMPHITHEATER / EVENT SPACE	WALKING / HIKING TRAIL	PICNIC SHELTER	PLAYGROUND	PICNIC TABLE	SKATEPARK	PICKLEBALL	BASEBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SOCCER FIELD	DOG PARK	FISHING POND	GARDENS	SPLASH PAD	PUMP TRACK	DISC GOLF
Carrie Blake Park	Community Park	22.43	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●					
Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Community Park	28.59	●	●	●	●	●		●					●		●	●			
Centennial Place	Commercial Park & Plaza	0.19																		
Civic Center Plaza	Commercial Park & Plaza	0.34			●															
Dr. Standard Park	Special Use Area	10.02		●								●								
Gebhardt Zwicker Park	Natural Area	1.08				●														
Gerhardt Park (undeveloped)	Neighborhood Park	7.65				●														
Heritage Park	Commercial Park & Plaza	0.05				●														
June Robinson Memorial Park	Neighborhood Park	0.30		●					●								●			
Keeler Memorial Park (undeveloped)	Community Park	42.98																		
Margaret Kirner Park	Neighborhood Park	0.43		●			●	●												
Pioneer Memorial Park	Commercial Park & Plaza	3.76		●													●			
Seal Street Park	Commercial Park & Plaza	0.03																		
	City-owned parkland acres	**117.9**																		

Note: Portable toilets were not listed as "restrooms"

The following map shows the location of existing parks, trail and recreation areas within the City.



MAP 1: Existing Parks & Open Space

OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation Facilities

Guy Cole Event Center

The Guy Cole Event Center is a 5,000 square foot facility located in Carrie Blake Park. The facility is ideal for meetings, parties, weddings and other large events. There are tables and chairs available, an audio system, a projector and screen. The seated occupancy load with tables is 335, chairs only occupancy is 775 The newly renovated full commercial kitchen is available for rent, with or without the main hall.

James Center for Performing Arts

This bandshell is located within the Water Reuse Demonstration Site and serves as a core venue for many performances by the Sequim City Band and other local and regional performance groups.

Swisher Hall

Swisher Hall is a practice room adjacent to the James Center for Performing Arts and is the primary practice room for the Sequim City Band.

YMCA of Sequim

The Sequim branch of the Olympic Peninsula YMCA is a non-profit organization that oversees Y programs. The YMCA took over operations of the Sequim Aquatic Recreation Center in 2016. The center offers a full service facility complete with a six lane lap pool, shallow family pool, hot tub, dry sauna, gymnasium, racquetball courts, and wellness area. From parent child swimming lessons to active older adult exercise classes, the Sequim YMCA offers land and water activities for all ages and ability levels.

Shipley Center

Founded 50 years ago as Sequim Senior Center, the Shipley Center is the local senior center serving the greater Sequim region. The Center provides classes and trips, along with a wide array of recreational activities.

Sequim Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula is a non-profit organization that operates the membership-based Sequim Boys & Girls Club, known as the Carroll C. Kendall Unit. The Club serves as the site for a Teen Club, which was started in 2007 with the support of the City of Sequim. The Club also has a 3,300 square-foot games room, 800 square-foot library, 900 square-foot art room, 725 square-foot computer lab, a full-size gym, a multipurpose room and a commercial kitchen.

School-Park Sites

School sites provide intensive recreational activities (sports fields, gymnasium, stadium, etc.), which also accommodate some of the organized recreation needs in the city. The Sequim School District site within the Sequim city limits includes the following: stadium, main field, green fields, baseball fields, fast pitch fields, north soccer fields, Haller soccer fields, Greywolf fields, tennis courts, pole vault pit and a track.

Port of Port Angeles

Operated by the Port of Port Angeles, the John Wayne Marina features permanent and guest moorage, a restaurant, showers, laundry and banquet facilities, as well as provides boat launch ramps, fuel facilities, public beach access, and picnic areas.

Clallam County

The County provides a variety of outdoor recreation amenities within the greater Sequim area.

Port Williams, officially named Marlyn Nelson County Park at Port Williams, is a 1-acre tideland property that has a saltwater boat launch, four picnic tables, public beach access, vault toilet and parking. The State owns tidelands to the north that link with 1,000 feet of County tidelands ending at the privately-owned Graysmarsh Farm property.

Robin Hill Farm County Park is located between Port Angeles and Sequim and has 195 acres of forest, meadow and wetland. The park has approximately 3.4 miles of developed foot trails and 2.5 miles of equestrian trails.

The Dungeness Recreation Area & Campground is open year-round on 216-acres, located adjacent to USFW National Wildlife Refuge and provides an access trail to Dungeness Spit. The park includes day-use areas and camp sites.

State & Federal

State and federal agencies own and operate substantial recreational and natural resources in the northern Olympic Peninsula.

Sequim Bay State Park is a year-round, 92-acre marine camping park with 4,909 feet of saltwater coast in the Sequim “rain shadow,” just inside Puget Sound on the Olympic Peninsula.

The Olympic National Forest and the Olympic National Park offer visitors access to millions of acres of wilderness for a range of activities, including camping, hiking, fishing, boating and wildlife viewing, among others.

CARRIE BLAKE PARK

22.4 acres



Amenities

- BBQ grills
- Benches
- Bleachers
- Bocce courts
- Dog parks (for large & small dogs; with shelter, water & benches)
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Drinking fountains
- Electrical outlets
- Exercise stations (LifeTrail)
- Footbridges & boardwalk
- Friendship (Japanese) Garden (with pond & viewing pavilion)
- Guy Cole Event Center
- Horseshoe pits & shuffleboard deck
- Irrigation
- Matt Dryke Memorial
- Memorial stone lantern
- Ornamental plantings, natural areas, park trees & mown grass
- Park host volunteer site (with camper)
- Parking
- Paved pathways
- Pickleball courts (8) (with storage shed)
- Picnic shelters (large & small)
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds
- Ponds & Bell Creek
- Rain gardens
- Restrooms (with drinking fountain)
- Sign kiosks & interpretive signs
- Skate park
- Softball fields
- Totem pole
- Trash receptacles
- Bike racks



Design Opportunities



- Stormwater catchment area for parking lot (southside) could benefit by adding native groundcovers, trees & shrubs to help capture and filter rain runoff, provide wildlife habitat and mitigate for expanse of pavement.
- Some aging play equipment could be replaced with new play items. Play structure in older play area is approaching replacement time due to pealing coating exposing metal & rusting.
- Many benches are isolated in grass lawn areas, resulting in non-compliance with ADA guidelines. Consider adding paved pathways to 50% of benches.
- Basketball would be more functional in its own designated court area and could be accommodated west of the plaground.
- Several open areas offer potential new/additional recreational amenities in the park. Since the previous City Park Plan suggested renovation &/or expansion of the skate park and the (former) BMX park, an additional amenity should consider providing recreational value to the youth/teen age group to provide enhanced active engagement at this community park. The Carrie Blake Master Plan shows the area west of the skate park as a “docent area”. This space might be better utilized for expanded skate/BMX or sport courts opportunities.
- Handicapped parking does not include tactile warning strips or ADA-compliant signs. Handicapped parking at Guy Cole Event Center is not ADA compliant.
- Gate into pickleball courts has difficult latching system. Bottom pins are hard for visitors to discern how to get in. Recommend modifying latch system for safer and more accessible entry and exit.
- Tiered bleachers do not have back and side safety railing. Some bleachers need wood seating replacement.
- Wood decking on footbridge (Moon Bridge) in Japanese Garden starting to become uneven. Needs repair to avoid tripping hazard. Uneven surface (lip) between footbridge & paved path should be smoothed to avoid tripping factor and ADA barrier.



RE-USE WATER DEMONSTRATION SITE

28.6 acre

Amenities

- Benches
- Bike racks
- Bike tool station
- Demonstration garden
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Drinking fountains
- Exercise stations
- Fishing pond (shallow)
- Footbridge
- Grass seating space
- Interpretation Center
- Interpretive signs
- Irrigation with re-used water
- Kiosk sign
- Lighting
- Olympic Discovery Trail & trailhead
- Parking
- Paved pathways
- Performance stage (James Center)
- Pond with water feature
- Public Art (sculpture)
- Restrooms
- Sand garden
- Sequim Botanical Garden
- Soccer fields (Albert Haller Playfields)
- Storage building
- Trash receptacles
- View of Olympic Mountains!

Design Opportunities

- The Water Re-Use Demonstration Site was included in the Carrie Blake Master Plan. Some revisions/amendments may be warranted to adjust the master plan and allow for considering this site's unique purpose and management needs.
- Handicapped parking lacks tactile warning strips. Handicapped spaces for performance center have designated signs posted too low (not ADA-compliant).
- Several areas of landscape beds were underlain with weed fabric. The fabric is restricting healthy plant growth and no longer providing any weed control value. Wherever feasible, it should be removed to allow for healthy soil with better aeration and water infiltration into the root zones.









CENTENNIAL PLACE

0.2 acre



Amenities

- Benches
- Bike rack
- Little library box
- On-street parking
- Paved plaza
- Picnic tables (one with chess board)
- Public art on utility box
- Street trees
- Trash receptacles

Design Opportunities

- Plaza pavement could support a variety of designs, patterns or delineation that could support playful engagement when not supporting special or seasonal events.
- A master plan could help designate the use of this space and maximize its public value and provide highly visible place-making for downtown Sequim.
- Once a master plan determines what permanent trees or other landscaping can be added, the potted trees can be replaced to eliminate the need for regular hand watering.

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

0.3 acre



Amenities

- Benches
- Bollards
- Flagpole
- Lighting
- Paved plaza
- Pavement inlays
- Planter areas
- Public art (historic bell)
- Retaining wall w/ plaza name
- Sister City signs
- Totem pole
- Trash receptacles
- Trees



Design Opportunities

- Former public art or statue location next to flagpole could support a new feature.

DR. STANDARD PARK

10.0 acre



Amenities

- 5 ball fields + 4 T-ball fields
- Adjacent to Sequim Little League site
- Backstops, fencing, dugout, etc.
- Baseball fields (natural grass)
- Batting cages
- Concession & restroom building
- Drinking fountains
- Gravel parking & entry roadway
- Porta-potties
- Scoreboards
- Scoring towers
- Storage container
- Wooden bleachers



Design Opportunities

- Wooden dugouts should be scheduled for replacements in the coming years, before wood becomes too rotted and creates a safety hazard.
- Design/development/improvement plan united with Little League site to create a more cohesive sports facility. Address all needed upgrades, ADA requirements, designated parking, added amenities and future projects, as a complete (and more efficient) site.

GEBHARDT ZWICKER PARK

1.1 acre



Amenities

- Bell Creek waterway
- Dog waste bag dispenser w/ trash can
- Foot bridge
- Kiosk
- Natural landscape
- Park sign
- Walking path (woodchip surfacing)



Design Opportunities

- Riparian corridor and stream conditions could be enhanced with additional native canopy tree plantings, so long as security sight lines remain.

GERHARDT PARK

7.6 acre



Amenities

- 2 houses (vacant)
- Bell Creek
- Dog waste bag dispenser w/ trash can
- Drinking fountain
- Numerous outbuildings
- Open grass lawn
- Paved side path
- Trails
- Wooded natural area

Design Opportunities



- Property needs a master plan to determine what uses it will provide and what structures (if any) should be retained for their historic or recreational value.
- Trail system in natural wooded area should be evaluated to determine if there is any value to providing access to the steep ravine along Bell Creek. If access is not desired, existing steep trails should be removed and decommissioned to discourage access to Creek. Install 'area closed' sign.
- Many of the outbuildings have questionable structural integrity. Before promoting more public access and use, these buildings should be evaluated, and unsafe structures should be demolished.
- Consider installing boundary fencing to clearly define the property borders and avoid (or address) encroachment issues from neighboring properties.
- Park identification sign is needed.

HERITAGE PARK

0.05 acre



Amenities

- Benches
- Bike rack
- Bus stop
- Fence
- Landscape beds
- Lighting
- Paved path (in addition to sidewalk)
- Public art
- Public art (mural & inlaid fish)
- Shelter
- Trash receptacles

Design Opportunities



- Add more groundcover plantings
- Tile mural has missing pieces. Explore replacements.

JUNE ROBINSON MEMORIAL PARK

0.3 acre



Amenities

- Community garden
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Open grass area
- Park bench
- Park ID sign
- Parking
- Picnic table park trees
- Storage shed
- Street lights
- Trash receptacle

Design Opportunities

- No designated handicapped parking.



KEELER MEMORIAL PARK

43 acre



Amenities

- Barbwire fencing
- Cattail marsh
- Undeveloped pasture land

Design Opportunities

- Master plan needed to assess public and community needs/demands and site potential.
- Site has existing role for field-nesting birds and elk crossing

MARGARET KIRNER PARK

0.4 acre



Amenities

- Bike rack
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Drinking fountain
- Open grass area
- Park trees
- Parking (gravel pull-off area)
- Perimeter fencing
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Porta-potty enclosure
- Swing set + tire swing
- Trash receptacles



Design Opportunities

- Property needs a master plan to determine what uses it will provide.
- Pave and stripe parking area to more clearly delineate stalls and to provide maximum spaces with adequate ingress/egress.
- Replace coarse sand in playground area with engineered wood fiber at recommended depth.
- Plan for playground replacement soon since parts are showing wear and rusting metal is being exposed.

PIONEER MEMORIAL PARK

3.8 acre



Amenities

- Benches
- Bus stop
- Cemetery memorial
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Drinking fountains
- Flag pole
- Garden clubhouse
- Historic log cabin
- Interpretive sign
- Parking
- Perennial flower bed
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Pollinator garden
- Porta-potty
- Totem pole
- Trash receptacles
- Veterans memorial
- Water features



Design Opportunities

- Paved perimeter path could facilitate access for all users and provide all-weather walking surface.
- Handicapped parking stalls in unpaved gravel pull-off in front of garden clubhouse should be paved and have designated travel aisle.

SEAL STREET PARK

0.03 acre



Amenities

- Benches
- Bike rack
- Cigarette disposal
- Drinking fountain
- Interpretive sign
- Kiosk w/ Sequim map
- Landscape bed
- Little library
- Park identification sign
- Street light
- Street trees
- Trash receptacle

Design Opportunities

- None noted.



5. PARKS & OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT



There are not enough Pickleball courts in Sequim. This is the fastest growing sport in America and the number of people who use them is constantly increasing. People travel here specifically to play on our courts, because they are so nice!

- Survey respondent

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The park planning process assesses recreation and park activity, facility needs and priorities for Sequim and relies heavily on public input, park inventory conditions and gives consideration to state and national recreation trends. The assessment includes a discussion of specific, local needs and how they might be considered within the City's broader parks, trails and recreation system.

By considering the location, size and number of facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities, the plan evaluates the existing and future demand for park and recreation amenities. The six-year Capital Improvement Plan, which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements and expansions, is based in the needs assessment and the recreational interests expressed by residents.

Macro Recreation Trends

A variety of resources have been assembled and summarized to offer a comprehensive overview of current trends, market demands and agency comparisons in the provision of parks and recreation. This information provides perspectives that are helpful when balancing with local insights and feedback from the community to identify the demands and establish public needs during the planning process.

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Sequim's park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix E.

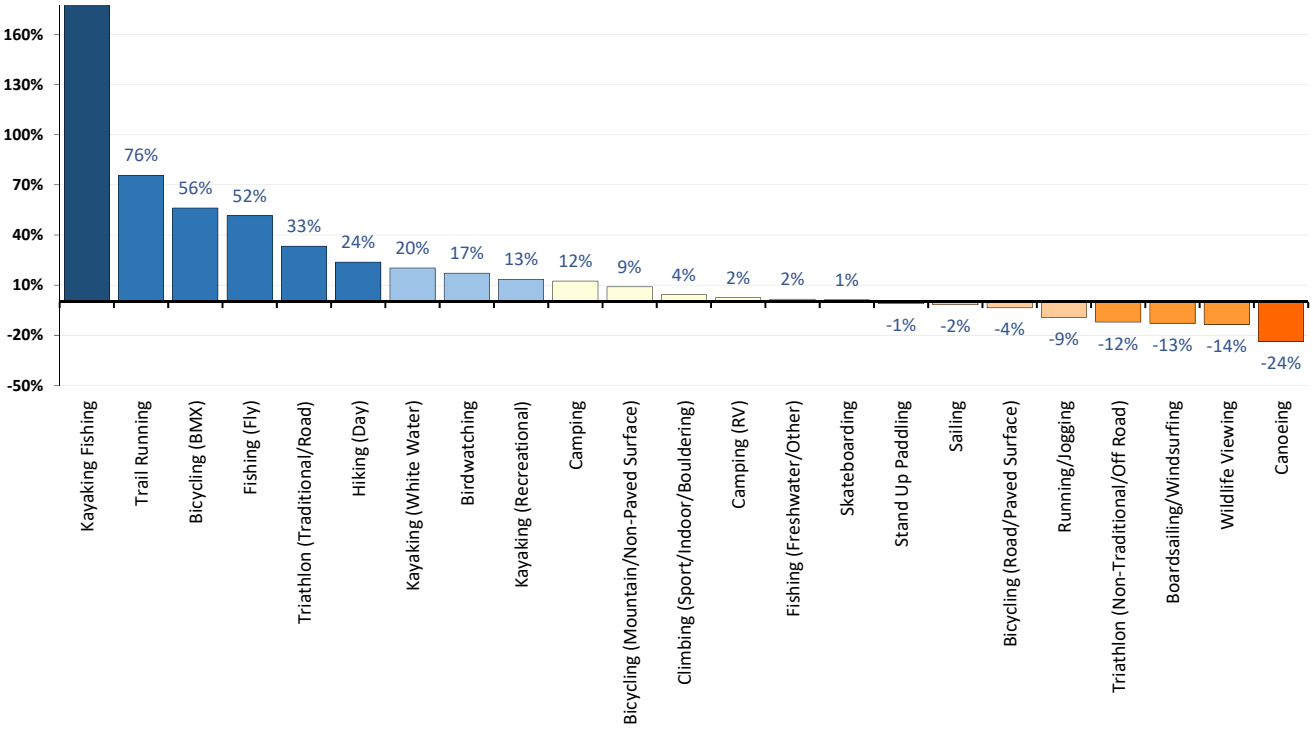
- Nationwide, eighty-two percent of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. (1)
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. (1)
- Just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. However, the number of outings per participant declined – continuing a decade-long trend – resulting in fewer total recreational outings. (2)
- Running, jogging and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by fishing, hiking, biking and camping. (2)
- Trail running, day hiking, recreational kayaking are rapidly increasing in popularity – participation in each increased more than 5% per year between 2014 and 2019. (3)

- Walking, running, hiking, and cycling saw significant increases in participation in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March to June 2020). (2)
- People of all ages and income levels are interested in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger people are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball, while older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird and nature viewing, and canoeing. (3)

According to 2020 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. These outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings – a 12% drop from the 2012 high-water mark of 12.4 billion outings. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age.

Sources:
(1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
(2) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
(3) 2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Figure 7. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation by Major Activity (2020 Outdoor Participation Report)



Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identified near and long-term priorities with specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state. Five priority areas:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

Operational & Service Challenges Due to COVID-19

A statewide survey of park and recreation agencies was conducted in the second half of 2020, with a focus on service demand and operational challenges, both preceding and as a result of COVID-19. City, county and parks and recreation special purpose district leaders were asked to complete the survey, and the survey was sent to 227 agencies,

including 109 cities, 39 counties, 79 Special Purpose Park Districts with 73 responses. The project was a collaboration between the Washington Recreation & Park Association, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

In a question that asked the agency about how stable its outlook in for 2020 pre- and during COVID-19, the percentage of agencies that stated their outlook as very strong and stable decreased by 25 points, with 27.8% indicating as very stable at the beginning of the year to 2.8% indicating as very stable by August 1, 2020. Similarly, agencies that felt moderately or significantly underfunded and unstable rose from 5.5% to 50% by August 1, 2020.

Also, significant majorities of agencies indicated service delivery impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways.

- Reduced ability to manage, maintain, operate and secure passive parks to safety standards and control access (87%).
- Cancellation of special events and tourism campaigns that support local employment and drives the local economy (87%).
- Inability to operate critical community programs, pools, attractions and facilities, including services for vulnerable populations (81%).
- Lack of ability to hire/maintain seasonal employees & offer programs/services allowable under Safe Start (74%).
- Addressing public use and behaviors that put the community at risk, such as tearing down caution tape, using fields (85%).

Local Perspectives

Local recreation demands and needs were explored through a variety of public engagement to gather feedback on strengths and limitations of existing recreational resources and parks available to Sequim residents. Public outreach included community surveys, online open house and group stakeholder discussions to explore project priorities and opportunities to enhance the city's park system.

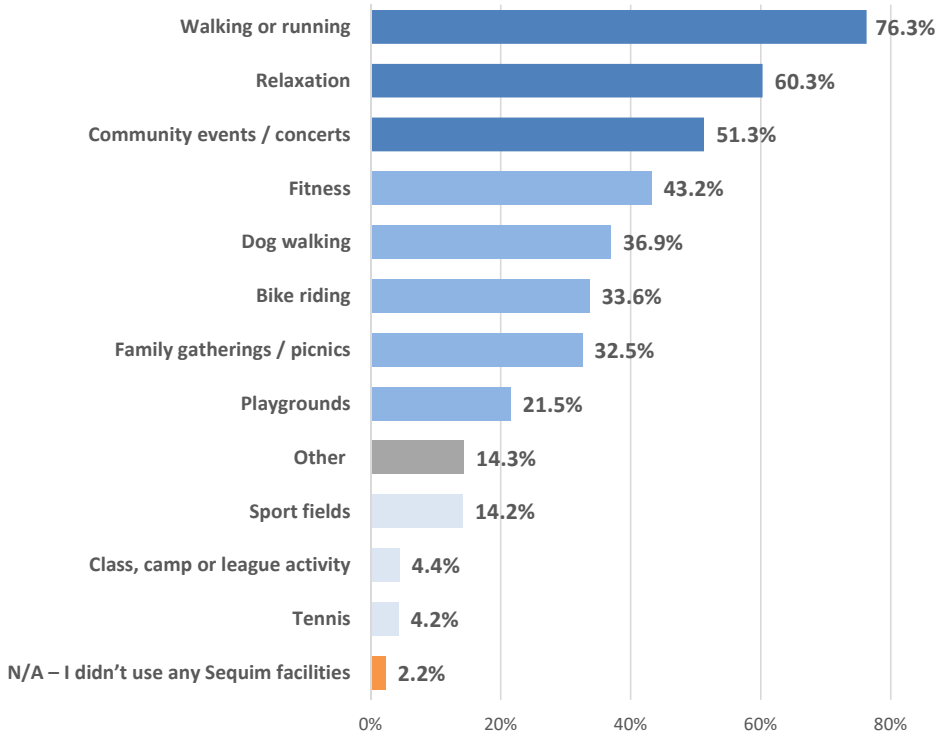
Community Survey

In May 2021, a community survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households within Sequim, followed a few days later by an online survey posted on the City website. In all, 547 responses were completed from the combined mail and online surveys.

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (76%), followed by relaxation (60%), community events/concerts (51%), and fitness (43%). More than three in ten respondents visited for dog walking (37%), bike riding (34%) or family gatherings (33%). Fewer than 5% of respondents visit to use tennis courts or participate in a class, camp or league. Write-in responses captured as 'other' included activities such as pickleball, photography and birdwatching.

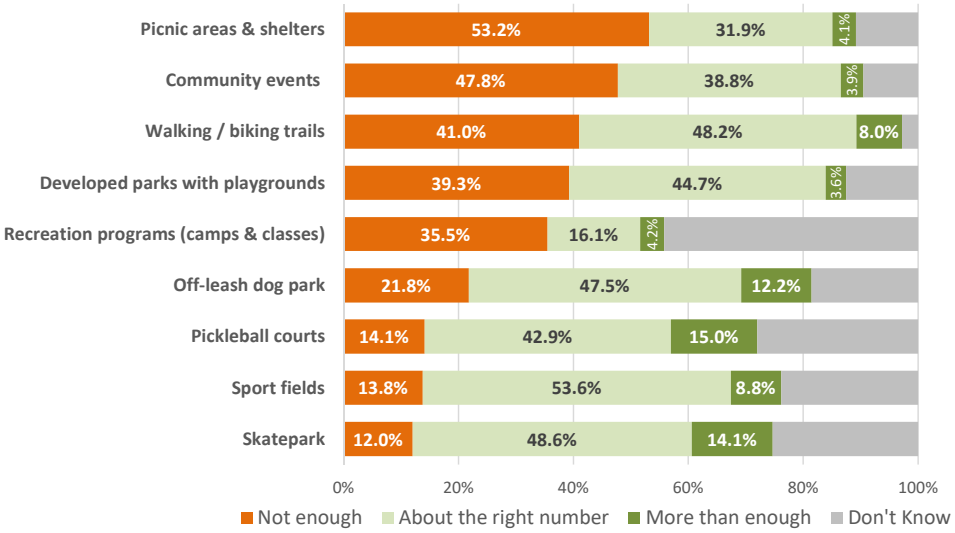
With a few exceptions, respondents who responded to the online-only survey visited recreation facilities and parks for similar reasons as respondents to the mail survey. However, slightly more online respondents visited for playgrounds (30%), sport fields (25%), or dog walking (45%).

Figure 8. Main Reasons For Visiting Local Parks and Recreation Facilities



Majorities of respondents feel that there are enough or more than enough of most types of park and recreation options offered by Sequim. Fewer respondents feel there are enough recreation programs, picnic areas, developed parks and community events – suggesting some latent demand for facilities of these types. These amenities, along with walking and biking trails, had the strongest responses that 'not enough' are being provided.

Figure 9. Sentiment regarding Access to a Variety of Recreational Amenities

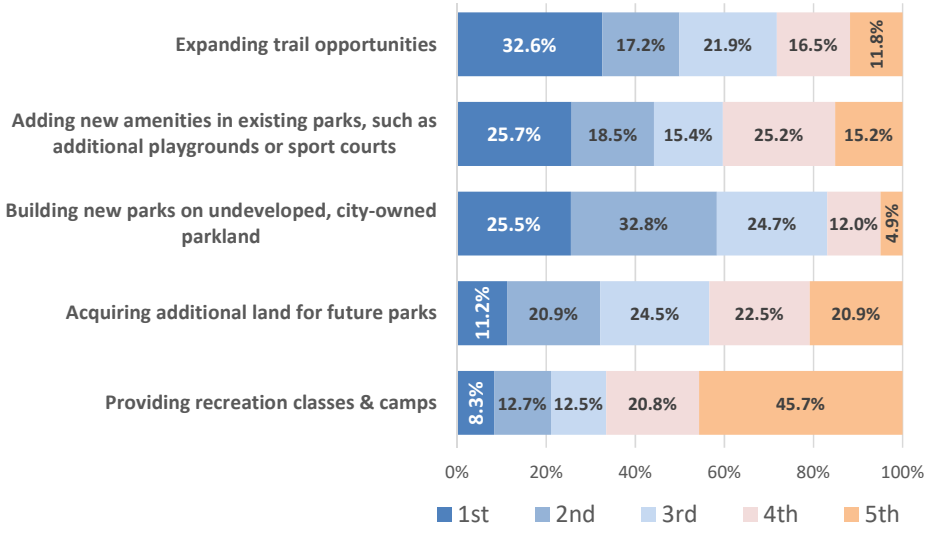


A pair of questions asked which park and recreation facilities and amenities the respondent's household has a need for, and then, whether that need is well met, somewhat met, or unmet locally. Of the specific list of amenities provided, 30% of respondents indicated that the highest unmet need is for an outdoor splash pad or water spray park. Respondents have a limited need for basketball courts, tennis courts and disc golf, but many feel that these needs are met by existing facilities.

Recreation walking and biking trails were identified as most important features to be added to the park system. Strong support was indicated for more picnic shelters and areas with wildlife or nature viewing. Respondents also indicated the need for all-inclusive, accessible playground, commuter trails, outdoor performance spaces, and more off-leash dog areas. The survey showed support for adding outdoor fitness equipment, sports courts and splash pads. The complete list of preferred additions are listed in the figure below.

When asked to prioritize a list of park and recreation facility projects, respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked the same items as their top three priorities: expanding trail opportunities, building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland, and adding new amenities in existing parks, such as additional playgrounds or sport courts. Respondents ranked providing recreational programs and acquiring additional land for the future as their lowest priorities in both the mail and online surveys.

Figure 10. Park Amenities to Consider Adding to Sequim Park System Facilities



Stakeholder Input

The planning process gathered focused input and feedback from identified stakeholders who represented different park and recreation user groups, supporters and advocates. Focus group discussions were conducted with local park and recreation providers, economic development/tourism representatives and local recreation user representatives. These stakeholder discussions reinforced many of the results and preferences indicated in the community survey. Highlights from these discussions (described below) helped inform the priorities for the proposed capital facilities program.

Stakeholders representing recreational user groups highlighted a number of needs to address existing deficiencies in Sequim's park and recreation facilities and future development concepts to better prepare the park system for predicted growth and contribution to community character.

Deficiencies/Service Gaps:

- Lack of specialized parks and recreation expertise & staffing
- Sports fields inadequately maintained for quality of play (both ball fields and soccer fields)
- Limited meeting space to host events & activities
- Aging skate park needs upgrade

Future Projects:

- Indoor multi-sport recreation facility for winter uses
- Upgraded/renovated sports fields
- Covered batting cages
- Skate park replacement/expansion
- Additional pickleball courts / indoor pickleball courts
- Expanded fishing pond
- Added pathways between Carrie Blake & Botanical Garden
- Acquire additional parkland
- Connect youth to engage in Sequim's volunteer activities

Local park and recreation providers, including the YMCA and Clallam County Parks, discussed park system planning issues and explored future partnership and collaboration opportunities. Some collaborative efforts between the City and other service providers were impacted by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The discussions identified existing shortcomings and offered future projects to help address system-wide deficiencies.

Deficiencies/Service Gaps:

- Limited recreational activities/ programming for middle/high school ages
- Limited art programs for elementary/secondary school ages
- Preservation of open spaces/land for future parks and recreational facilities
- Indoor/winter recreational facilities
- Trail connections & integrated walkability
- City could support other recreation providers by pursuing grants & other funding resources
- Few playgrounds & limited restrooms

Future Projects:

- Third disc golf course – to add to existing county courses (to create a 'trifecta' attraction)
- Indoor (covered) space(s) for winter activities and joint uses
- Additional playgrounds & restrooms
- Outdoor covered spaces to support more programming
- More recreational programming and facilities for youth

Representatives from the Sequim Chamber of Commerce, Olympic Peninsula Visitors Bureau and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe explored the relationship between economic development and tourism and the provision of parks and recreation in Sequim. These stakeholders voiced clear acknowledgement about the close relationship between parks and recreation and the promotion of tourism and economic activity.

All three representatives shared that the City is a good collaborative partner and recognized the importance of parks and recreation to the community's quality of life. Highlights from the interviews identified the current gaps or deficiencies and potential future projects.

Deficiencies/Service Gaps:

- Wayfinding to parks, trails & facilities
- Outreach for events & festivals
- Shade trees in parks for user comfort
- ADA accessibility during festivals
- Amenities specifically for youth (avoid displacement when new amenities are added)
- Walking & biking connections to the Olympic Discovery Trail
- Water-based recreation (add splash pad)
- Parkland & recreation amenities needed across Sequim for equity in access.

Future Projects:

- Winter/indoor recreation (multi-use) facility
- Walkability improvements throughout the City
- E-bikes charging stations in parks
- Add recreation amenities for youth and families
- Expand outreach channels & increase collaboration with partnering agencies on outreach
- Add water-based play amenities in parks

All three stakeholder groups addressed the demand for some type of indoor recreational facility that would provide for winter season programming, activities and events. All three groups also identified the need to provide amenities for the community's youth (beyond team sports). Parks and trails should also be provided across the city, not just focused at community parks.

Online Open House

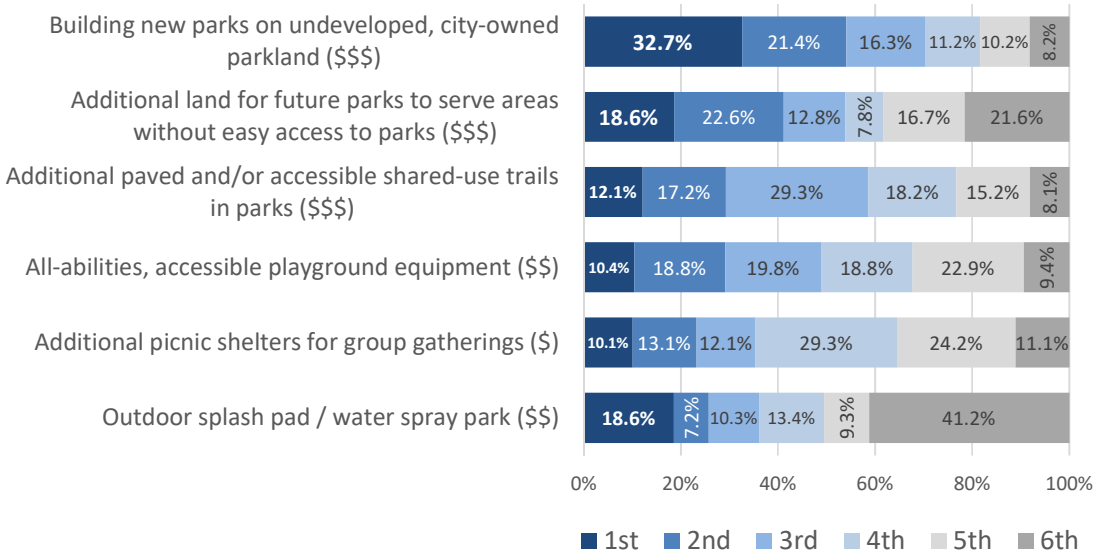
An online open house was prepared to provide residents an opportunity to respond to a series of questions about park and recreation programs, services, and facilities. The City of Sequim conducted outreach with the public between August 16 and September 6, 2021 to share information about the Sequim Parks and Open Space Plan and solicit input about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them. The open house posed a series of questions exploring the uses, preferences, and needs for outdoor recreation and park facilities. The online open house questions also sought out the priorities for future park projects and system-wide recreation resources.

The open house feedback indicated that residents were looking forward to spending time with family and friends in the parks as COVID restrictions are lifted, as well as relaxing at a park or on a trail. Engaging in exercise and more fitness activities were also cited as a future expectation. Not surprisingly, the public input revealed that Carrie Blake Park was the most visited of Sequim's public parks with the Water Reuse Demonstration Site as the second most visited.

As a way to explore some of the community priorities noted in the community survey from May, the online open house asked respondents to consider their priority for a sampling of project types that were favorably noted in the community survey. Also, hypothetical relative costs were indicated by the use of dollar symbols ($) for each system investment.

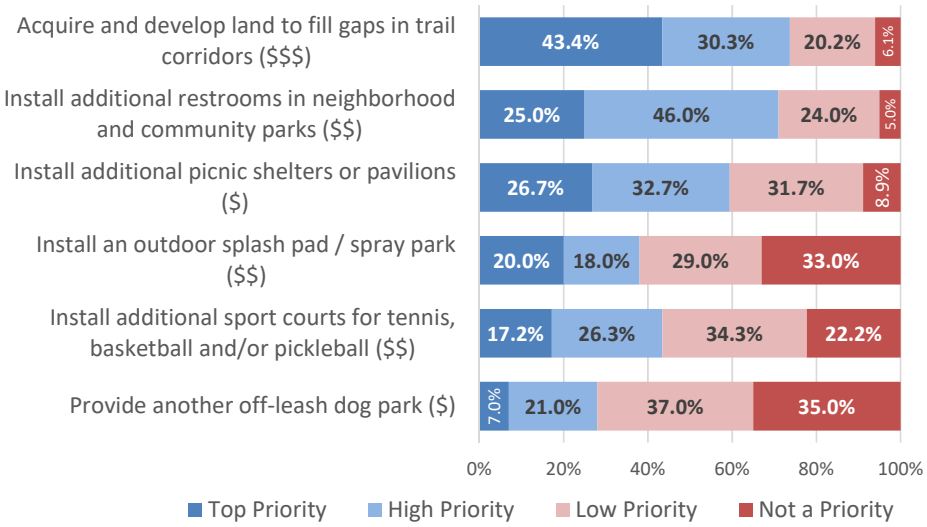
Respondents indicated the top priority as building new parks on undeveloped, city owned parklands, followed by acquiring land for future parks in areas without easy access to parks. The sentiment toward supporting park development aligns with community survey data where respondents indicated an unmet need for picnic areas, developed parks with playgrounds and walking trails.

Figure 11. Priority Park Investments noted in Online Open House



Another prioritization question sought to explore community priorities for a specific selection of potential recreational amenities or improvements to the Sequim park system. Again, relative costs were indicated by the use of dollar symbols ($) for each system investment. Of the choices provided, a plurality of respondents noted acquiring and developing trail corridors as a top priority. Installing additional restrooms was noted as a second priority, followed by the installation of additional picnic shelters. The remaining items listed pertain to specialized facilities that were supported as priorities by fewer respondents.

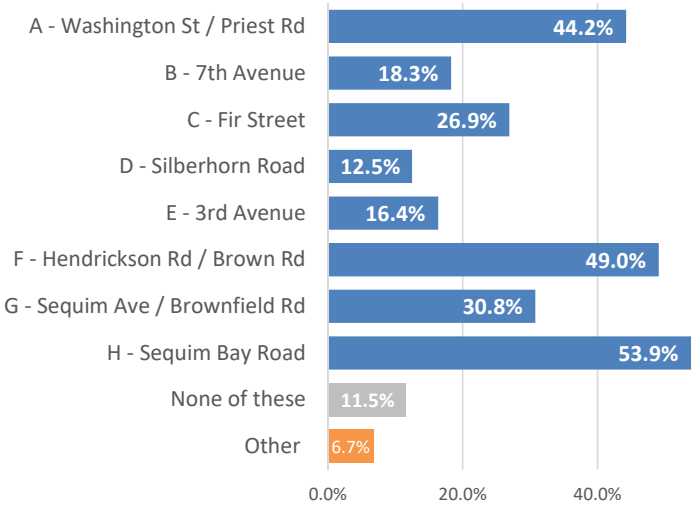
Figure 12. Priority Amenities & Improvements from Online Open House



In an effort to explore trail corridors of interest, the online open house provided a map of conceptual trail corridors for consideration and asked respondents to select up to four alignments they considered priorities. Several of the conceptual alignments follow those noted in the City's Comprehensive Plan and include alternative linkages for the Olympic Discovery Trail.

A slight majority of respondents (54%) favored an alignment along Sequim Bay Road. Pluralities of respondents also prioritized an alignment along Washington Street to Priest Road (44%) through central Sequim and an alignment along Hendrickson Road to Brown Road (49%). None of the other alignments were noted as priorities by more than one-third of respondents.

Figure 13. Priority Trail Corridor Connections from Online Open House



Park Conditions Assessment

The condition of park infrastructure and amenities is a measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Deferred maintenance over a long period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons.

The existing conditions within parks were assessed to identify issues and concerns and opportunities for future improvements. The condition assessment matrix shown on the below summarizes the results of these assessments and can be used to help prioritize needed park improvements. The matrix uses a rating system that ranks the condition of the park element based on the following scale:

- 1 – Good Condition: In general, amenities in good condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects. Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park.
- 2 – Fair: In general, amenities in fair condition are largely functional but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or time periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain important amenities for the neighborhood but may slightly discourage use of the park by residents.
- 3 – Poor: In general, amenities in poor condition are largely or completely unusable. They need major repairs to be functional. Poor facilities are park features that have deteriorated to the point where they are barely usable. Fields are too uneven for ball games, safety features are irreparably broken, buildings need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park.

Generally a feature with a rating of “3” should have higher priority for resolution through maintenance, capital repairs or as a new capital project. Park amenity conditions were also averaged across park elements to indicate which types of elements are in greater need for significant upgrades, renovations or overall improvements. Based on this assessment, the City’s sport courts, restrooms, ADA compliance and waterfront amenities, such as fishing pier, boat ramp and beach, are in the greatest need of attention.

Figure 14. Park Conditions Assessment Matrix

Site Name	Ac.	Park Type	Park Site Average	Recreation Amenities										Site Amenities					Park Structures				Vegetation				ADA
				Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketba	Paved Courts: Tennis	Paved Courts: Pickleball	Soccer Fields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Off-Leash Area	Waterfront/Waterway	Other Rec Element	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Signage	Public Art/Mural/Sculptur	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Boardwalks/Footbridges	Rec/Comm Building	Turf	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas	Compliance
PARKS																											
Carrie Blake Park	22.4	Community	1.4	2	2	-	1	-	2	1	1	2	2	1	Y	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2
Re-use Water Demonstration Site	28.6	Community	1.2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	Y	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Centennial Place	0.2	Commercial/Community Sites	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Civic Center Plaza	0.3	City Hall site	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Dr. Standard Park	10.0	Regional Recreation Facility/Site	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	N	2	-	2	-	-	;-	1	1	2	-	-	3
Gebhardt Zwicker Park	1.1	Neighborhood	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	N	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	2
Gerhardt Park	7.6	Neighborhood	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Heritage Park	0.05	Commercial/Community Sites	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	Y	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1
June Robinson Memorial Park	0.3	Neighborhood	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	N	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Keeler Memorial Park	43.0	Community	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Margaret Kirner Park	0.4	Neighborhood	1.6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	N	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Pioneer Memorial Park	3.8	Commercial/Community Sites	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	2	1	2	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	3
Seal Street Park	0.03	Commercial/Community Sites	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
NON-CITY RECREATIONAL SITES																											
John Wayne Marina	2.1	Marinas	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	Y	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
SARC / YMCA	4.9	Regional Recreation Facility/Site	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
School Site / Community Park	69.5	School-Park/Site	1.8	2	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	N	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Bank of America Park	0.2	Commercial	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	2
Shipley Center		Regional Recreation Facility/Site	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	194.66	Average:		2.00	1.50	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.25	1.00	1.50	2.00	1.17		1.25		1.60	1.00	1.40	1.25	1.00	1.10	1.08	1.25	1.25	1.94

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Overall Considerations

Infrastructure

Park Structures

Community buildings, former residences, performance stage, picnic shelters, storage sheds, historic log cabin, concession building and restrooms comprise an array of park structures stated in Sequim's developed and undeveloped parks. A thorough review of the conditions of these structures is not part of this planning effort; however, it was apparent from visual inspection that many of these buildings were older and may warrant significant renovation in the near future. Park structures should be regularly inspected to evaluate the need for repairs and, eventually, to plan for future replacement.

At Gerhardt Park, currently undeveloped, the two houses are now both vacant. If no future use is proposed for these houses, their demolition should be planned in the near future, in conjunction with or immediately following a master plan for the development of the park.

Parking

Parking areas were generally in good condition. The gravel parking in Dr. Standard Park should eventually be converted to pavement with stalls designated to maximize the number of available spaces with appropriately located handicapped parking spots. Pioneer Memorial Park parking areas should also be converted from crushed rock to pavement to maximize parking capacity. The local garden group could be engaged to design a rain garden planting as a stormwater mitigation for the added impervious pavement. Some parks' parking areas had handicapped stalls, but they lacked painted travel aisles and sign heights as recommended in ADA guidelines. Parking will be needed at the future Gerhardt Park and Keeler Memorial Park once master plans have been prepared to define the extent of future improvements.

For the larger park sites, the vehicular entry offers the first impression for the park visitor. Some consideration should be given to enhancing the visual identity of park entrances. Clearly visible park identification signs should be located at main entrances, as well as side pedestrian entrances into parks.

Pathways/Trails/Pavement

Sequim's parks have a variety of walking opportunities on different types of trail and pathways. Additional opportunities exist to expand pathways through parks to more effectively connect different park amenities and offer users more options for exercise and enjoyment. Carrie Blake Park is sprinkled with benches and picnic tables that do not connect to paved pathways (an ADA compliance issue). Pioneer Memorial Park could be greatly enhanced with a perimeter loop trail that provides universal access to all the features in the park.

In situations where paved pathways meet footbridges, some gaps or uneven bumps exist that create tripping hazards and ADA access barriers. Remedies to repair these uneven surface changes should be implemented.

Footbridges

Carrie Blake Park has several footbridges or boardwalks are aging and need significant repairs or complete replacement in the near term. Uneven decking, aging railing posts and connections to adjacent pathways should be the primary repair targets.

Restrooms/Portable Toilets

Existing restrooms at Carrie Blake Park and the Water Re-use Demonstration Park were in good operating condition. The City should consider shifting from portable toilets to permanent restrooms. Also, the portable toilets at Dr. Standard Park showed evidence of the need for additional capacity and/or more frequent servicing.

Signage & Wayfinding

The Sequim park system contains a wide variety of signs, markers and monuments to identify sites and amenities, mark specific locations and directions and honor memorials and dedications. Most sites have park identification signs at their main entries but not always at side access points or trail entries. Many of these signs are helpful, but the diversity in design is distracting and creates a challenge to presenting a unified "look" for the City's park system. Aging or damaged signs should be replaced with a new standard that helps users know where they are and what to expect from their experience. A coordinated hierarchy of sign types that includes consistent graphics would be a benefit to the park system.

Amenities

Site Furnishings

Benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks and trash receptacles are common site furnishings provided in public parks. In Sequim's park system, a wide variety of furnishings exists, which are visually diverse, not always ADA compliant and may create a challenge for maintenance when the need occurs to repair these furnishings. For future park improvements and prior to implementing new master plans for undeveloped parks, the City should implement a standard design, style and color for furnishings. This could include using the purple style that currently exists in the commercial district as a way to unify and simplify future replacements and additions.

Play Equipment

Existing play equipment was installed over many years, and some components are showing signs of wear. The need for replacements should be based on existing conditions, as well as predicted by charting out past installation dates and planning for complete replacements when the assets have reached their expected lifespan. Play equipment that has exposed metal understructure was noted in the individual site assessments. Those structures should be scheduled for replacement in the near future to avoid potential injury and manage play safety risk.

Access to playground areas was not always barrier-free. Several play areas contained timbers or edging that created ADA accessibility barriers from pathway pavement to the lower safety surfacing of the playground.

Play Safety Surfacing

Some playground areas were surfaced in coarse sand that does meet universal or ADA access guidelines. Transitioning to engineered wood fiber is recommended. An evaluation should be conducted to assess the depth of the play area to ensure adequate depths for the wood fiber. Some excavation may be needed to accommodate the transition to wood fiber.

Sports Fields & Courts

Ballfields always require higher levels of turf management than general-use lawn areas. As the City considers a replacement for the past programming role provided by the Sequim Family Advocates, the responsibilities for needed additional field maintenance should be considered. In some partnerships with youth or adult sports league organizations, a shared role for specialized ballfield care is often delineated. Parks focus on regular basic maintenance with the sports group providing extra outfield mowing, infield raking, baseline marking, etc.

The new pickleball courts at Carrie Blake Park are in excellent conditions and are being well-used. The entrance gate into the courts should be modified to allow for better access and self-closing mechanisms. The current basketball area in the unused, paved parking/driveway section of Carrie Blake Park could be reconfigured to create a more functional sports court (potentially multi-purpose), since the current layout is not conducive to game play. The proposed master plan indicates future tennis courts (4) in this location, but consideration should be given to including a basketball court as an option.

Off-Leash Areas

Carrie Blake Park has three off-leashed areas (OLA) for dogs. A small dog and a large dog area are designated, with a third area for dog training. The OLA is a popular park use and serves as a social space not only for the dogs but also for their owners. The space in front of the dog parks is an open, unused grass area that could be programmed for other park improvements that are compatible with the adjacent OLA uses.

Landscape/Environment

Stream Corridors

Sequim has demonstrated some clear efforts in protecting and restoring the riparian corridor along Bell Creek. Sections of the Creek running through parkland have natural streambanks, where feasible, and naturalized plantings cover much of the creek edges. Good signage conveys the importance of the Creek and helps inform the community about the intention of the riparian plantings. More native, canopy trees are recommended for areas along Bell Creek especially where the stream is near paved surfaces or collects urban runoff.

Forest Canopy & Park Trees

In general, the ornamental and native trees in the park system appeared in very good condition. In a few park locations, additional attention may be warranted for shade or ornamental trees located in mown grass areas. Ensuring that park trees do not have grass growing at the base of their trunks can help to protect their trunks and roots from unintentional mower or string trimmer damage. A number of Japanese cherry trees decorate Sequim's parks and public spaces. Planted in honor of its sister city, these trees are generally not long-lived so a long-term replacement plan should be considered to sustain the cherry tree flowering displays. In other areas of the park system, the predominant use of Pacific Northwest native tree species is recommended to support local wildlife habitat and promote long-term tree canopy environmental benefits.

Gardens & Planting Beds

An active gardening community contributes to several ornamental gardens and landscapes within the Sequim park system. Pioneer Memorial Park has numerous perennial flower beds and landscape features that are tended to by the local garden club. The Water Re-use Demonstration Site contains a hillside planted and tended as the Sequim Botanic Garden. While these ornamental horticultural gardens are no typical within public park systems due to the more intensive maintenance requirements, Sequim is fortunate to have active gardening volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to creating these colorful park spaces.

In the Water Re-Use Demonstration Site there are landscape beds that were initially created using weed fabric. This textile material is not recommended in an actively growing landscape situation since its effectiveness at limiting weed growth is limited to less than two

years and the fabric barrier restricts and limits the potential healthy root system of trees and shrubs intentionally established in the landscape. As much as feasible, this fabric should be removed to allow for better infiltration of rain water and better root growth. In general, these landscape areas should not be mulched with bark mulch. If a layer of mulch is warranted to retain soil moisture or limit weed growth, screen wood chips are an alternative material.

The use of bark mulch is prevalent throughout landscaped planting beds. While this practice is conventional throughout the landscape industry, the exclusive use of bark is not a natural groundcover and can create more challenging soil conditions for healthy plant growth. Mulch should never exceed 3-inch depths. Wood chips can function better that shredded bark mulch since they do not repel water or change the soil pH. For growing healthy perennial plantings, composted leaf mulch is much better than bark and contributes to both nutrient levels and a healthy soil macroinvertebrate and micro-organism environment.

Natural Turfgrass

Turf grass management appears to be managed adequately to maintain sports fields and open mown grass areas within parks. Some broadleaf growth was observed flowering in the outfields on the ballfields in Carrie Blake Park. Any herbicide use on grass areas should be restricted as much as possible for environmental health, however, if clover is present, consideration could be given to limit the amount of clover flowering to reduce the potential for bee-stinging conflicts with ball players.

Grass playing fields for organized sports require a higher level of maintenance and expected quality to ensure safe and continual team play during the baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse seasons. Typically, these athletic fields with natural grass must be fertilized and mown more often than typical open grass areas in public parks. Field areas that have significant clover coverage that can reduce the durability of field play and allow for uneven and eroded surfaces in the field of play. This higher level of required maintenance can be subsidized by reservation and use fees for organizations that regularly schedule those fields for the season.

Park standards can be established that specifically identify the tolerance for weed growth within natural grass sports fields and the approved methods for weed control in the public arena. Timing and notification methods should also be incorporated into adopted park standards to ensure safe application and public use.

Additionally, identifying the intentional irrigated grass areas with their associated higher levels of maintenance and the unirrigated grass zones can help with turf grass management expectations and anticipated schedules for mowing and fertilizing.

ADA Compliance

As with many older parks, some architectural barriers were present in the park system. Updating and providing ADA accessibility and compliance with federal guidelines should be part of a regular capital repair schedule to ensure the reasonable access on older pavements, parking, playgrounds, picnic amenities, restrooms and recreational elements. The Sequim park system has some ADA compliance issues with park access at parking areas, insufficient travel aisles from handicapped parking spaces, missing tactile warning strips, barriers to access into playground areas as well as non-complaint benches and picnic tables lacking accessible routes. Standards for park furnishing such as benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles and other common amenities used throughout the park system can be instrumental in assuring consistent ADA compliance and streamlined maintenance and repairs. The City should develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing all their parks into compliance.

Master Planning/Site Development & Enhancements

Carrie Blake Park went through a master planning process that united the Water Re-Use Demonstration Site with the community park. As time passes and the City grows and develops more park and recreation needs, this master plan should be revisited to recognize the two sites as separate entities with very different purposes. While coordination of public space is valuable, mission and visions for the two parklands should be distinctive.

Gerhardt Park is currently undeveloped and warranted a community-wide public master planning process to determine its future potential and development direction. The steep wooded slopes offer important riparian protection for the Creek. The old structures may provide interesting historic interpretation value. The existing, now vacant, houses should probably be demolished to allow for more functional use of public park space and recreational amenities.

Keeler Memorial Park is also undeveloped. Its rolling pastureland is situated near the eastern entrance into the city limits and could offer significant visual distinction for Sequim. This site should be master planned to determine its potential role in providing preserved/restored habitat or active recreation facilities for the community.

Maintenance & Operations Considerations

Memorials & Donations

The Water Re-Use Demonstration Site contained a plethora of different tree, bench, and planting memorials. Pioneer Memorial Park also contained a wide variety of memorials and improvements that are attributed to different groups, history and dedications. All these various donations, volunteer contributions and park assets are designated with different forms of signs, plaques, stones, etc. These diverse displays can be distracting and lack a cohesive messaging for all the efforts that contribute to the park system. The City should develop a donation/memorial policy that unifies the types and formats for donations, contributions and dedications that are implemented in Sequim's parks and trails.

Recreation/Sports Field Programming

Sports fields are used by local sports organizations, clubs and leagues for softball, baseball and soccer. The park operations must adjust to coordinate maintenance needs for the fields provided by the City within the park system. Recently, the local organization the scheduled the softball fields in Carrie Blake Park pulled out of their involvement in sports programming. For the most part, Sequim has been the provider of the field infrastructure, while local groups provide the programming for the different recreational leagues and activities. As the city grows, a more coordinated effort and an expanded staff commitment may be warranted to ensure adequate provision for planning, operating, scheduling, maintaining and improving these sports fields. A recreation programmer with responsibilities for coordinating additional volunteer groups and community events appears to be an imminent staffing need for the City.

Safety & CPTED Considerations

Much of the park layouts and landscapes seemed to meet the basic CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) principles of good visibility and overall positive perceptions of public safety. Park safety conditions were generally good throughout the park system with a few notable exceptions. At sport fields, most if not all of the bleachers did not have safety railings. The International Building Code (IBC) requires safety rails on any bleacher seating with two or more tiers. These older and outdated bleachers should be replaced with IBC-compliant designs.

A splash park and more things to take children for entertainment. A BMX/ pump track would be fantastic for the older children.

- Survey respondent

There needs to be more focus for tweens and teens... Summer camps and after school programs would provide opportunity for teens to be employed. Lots of cities have this. We aren't just a retirement community! For the record, both my husband and I are retired, but we need to invest in the kids and teens of this community!

- Survey respondent

Park Distribution - Gap Analysis

Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning as a basis for a balanced distribution of parks, trails and recreation amenities in the future.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the city. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, walksheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Walksheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 3-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

Maps 2 through 4 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. The illustrated 'walkshed' for each existing Sequim park highlights that certain areas within the city do not have the desired proximity to a local park.

Striving to provide a neighborhood park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations, improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park, and evaluating the potential use of school sites as proxies for local neighborhood parks. As Sequim develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City should consider taking advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations and as funding allows to fill remaining gaps. In concert with the search for developable park land, the City should continue to coordinate with proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park (or trail connection) could be incorporated into the planning of newly developed residential areas.

Resulting from this assessment, potential acquisition areas are identified for future parks (Map 5) and are noted in the Capital Planning chapter of this Plan. The mapping targeted four sites for future parks for the near- to long-term:

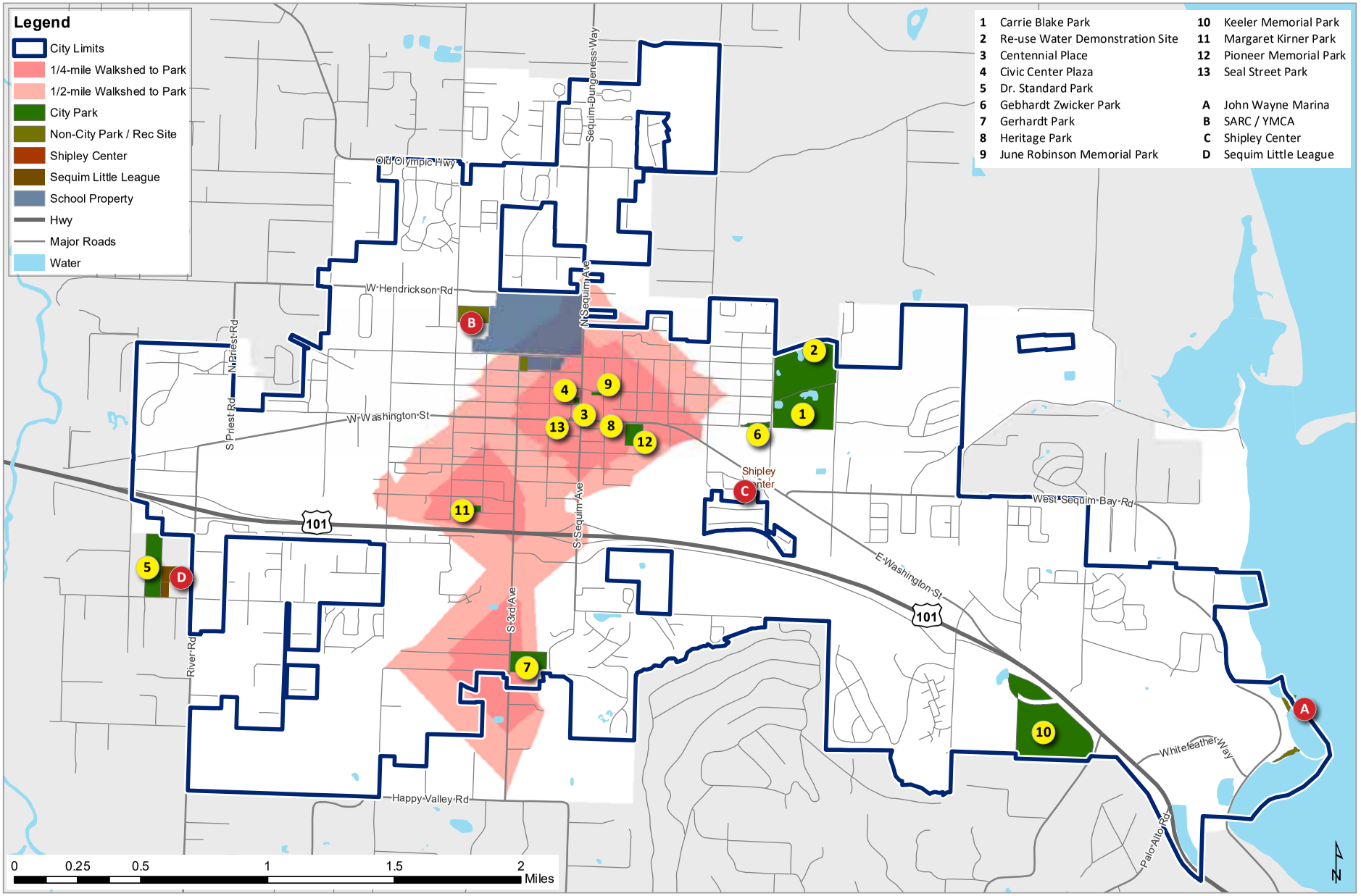
- Acquisition area A (2-3 acres, north Sequim, near N Sequim Road & Port Williams Road)
- Acquisition area B (2-3 acres, west Sequim, near N 9th Avenue & W Fir Street)
- Acquisition area C (3-4 acres, southwest Sequim, near S 7th Avenue & Reservoir Road)
- Acquisition area D (2-3 acres, east Sequim, near Bell Bottom Road)

Offering organized leagues (volleyball, pickleball, etc.) would be excellent. Our city parks are great for the most part - great staff, clean parks, nice amenities.

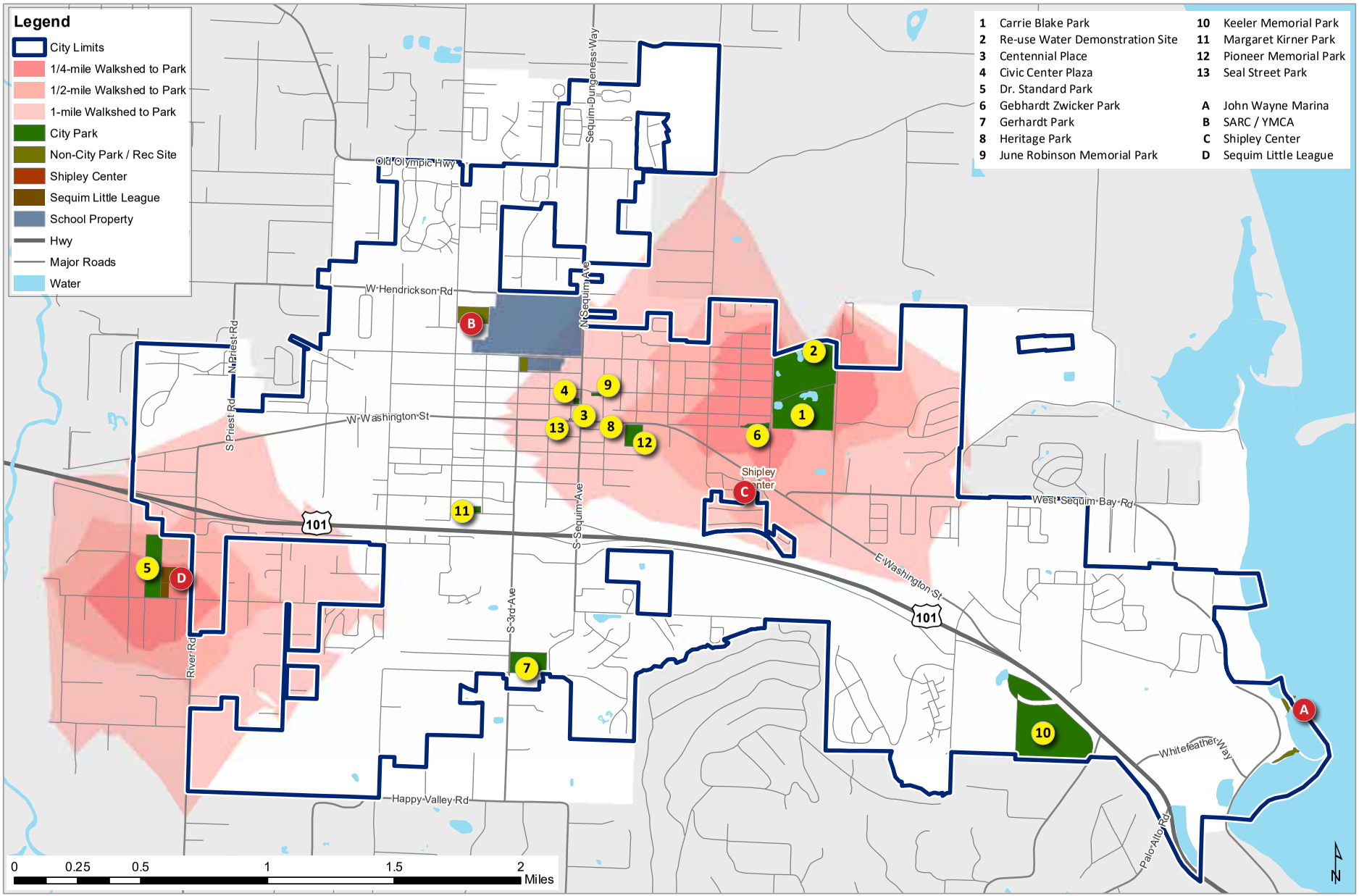
- Survey respondent

Updates to existing sport fields (Dr. Standard baseball fields).

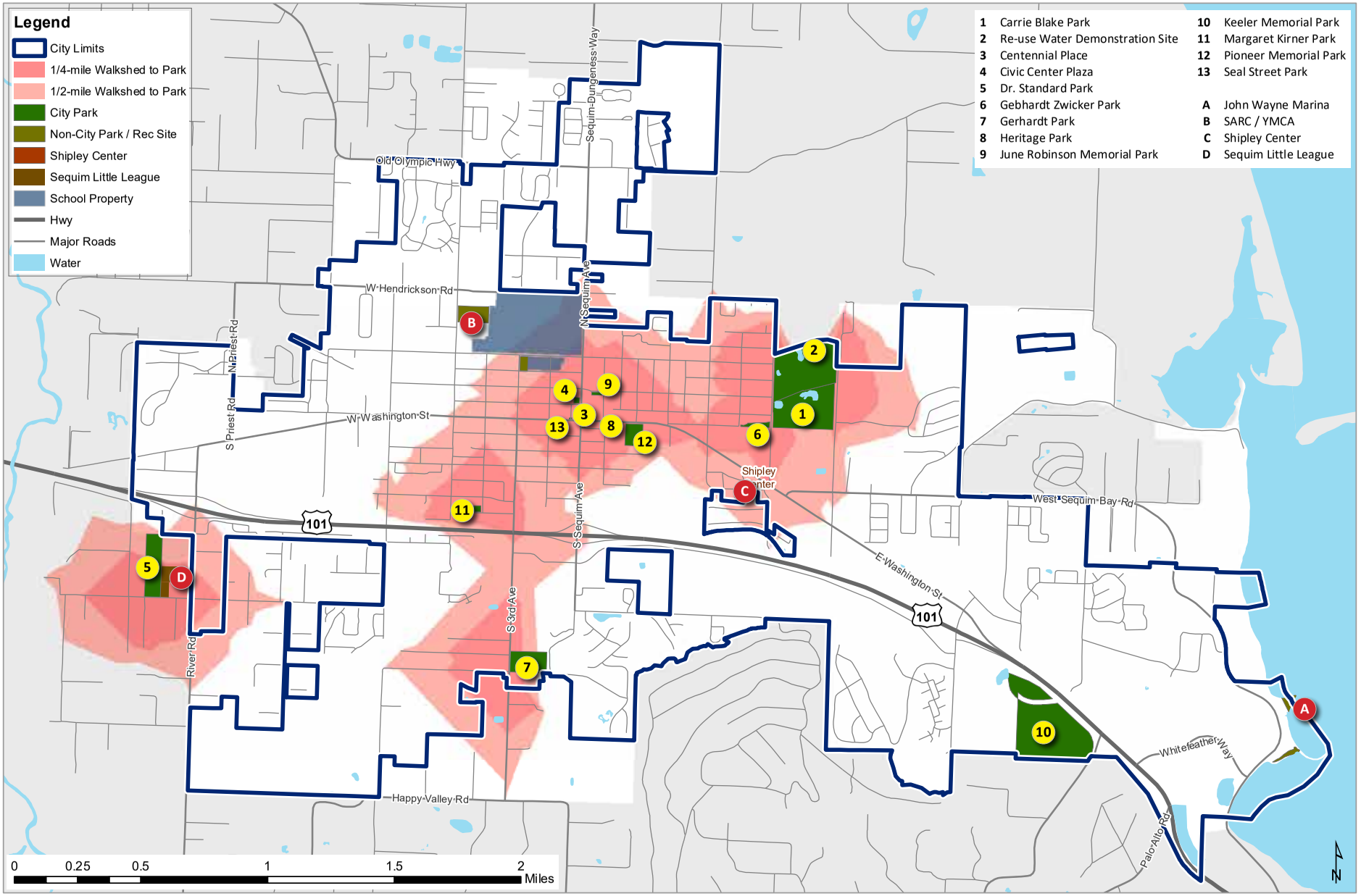
- Survey respondent



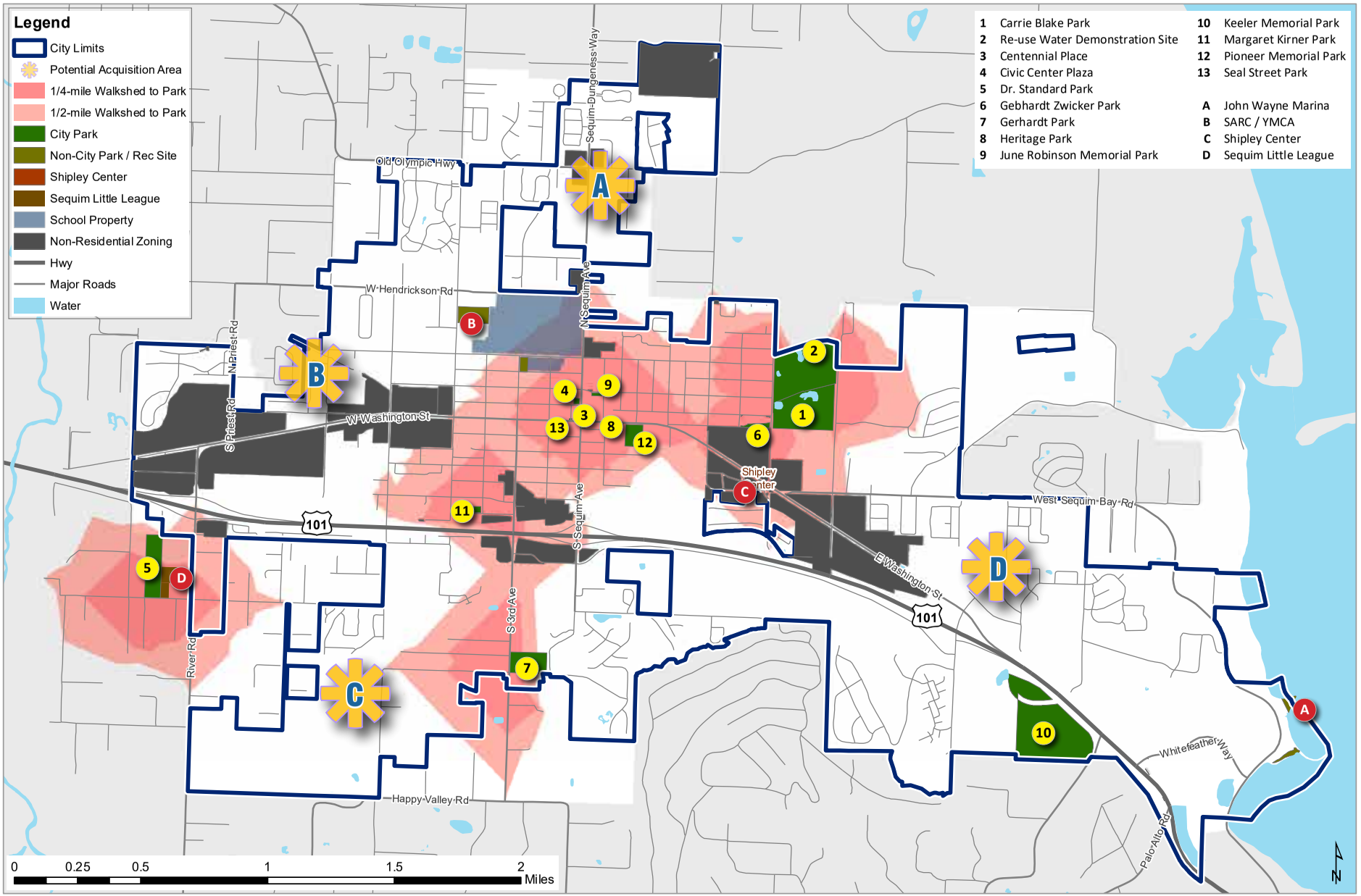
MAP 2: Walkshed Map (Neighborhood Parks & Plazas to 1/2-mile)



MAP 3: Walkshed Map (Community & Regional Parks to 1 mile)



MAP 4: Walkshed Map (All Parks to 1/2-mile Walkshed)



MAP 5: Potential Acquisition Target Areas

Level of Service Assessment

A level of service (LOS) review was conducted in addition to and in support of the gap analysis as a means to understand the distribution of parkland acreage by classification and for a broader measure of how well the City is serving its residents with access to parks, trails and natural areas. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting the adopted standards.

As noted in the inventory chapter, the City owns approximately 118 acres of parks and open space. Utilizing the service standards adopted with the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the following table provide a snapshot of the existing levels of service utilizing the previously adopted service standards. To align with proposed classification adjustments noted in the inventory chapter, the acreage for Joseph L. Keeler Memorial Park has been included in the community park classification. Also, it should be noted that per capita acreage standards do not apply to , and were not previously provided for, special use areas or natural area classifications; these levels of service are provided merely for reference.

Figure 15. Level of Service by Classification Using 2015 Plan Standards

Type	Proposed Standard	Current Inventory	Current Level of Service	Current Surplus / (Deficit)
Community Parks	2.5 ac/1000	94.01	11.84 ac/1000	**74.16**
Neighborhood Parks	1 ac/1000	8.38	1.05 ac/1000	**0.44**
Commercial Park & Plaza	0.25 ac/1000	4.36	0.55 ac/1000	**2.38**
Special Use Areas	-- ac/1000	10.02	1.26 ac/1000	---
Natural Areas	-- ac/1000	1.08	0.13 ac/1000	---
Parkland Service Levels	**3.75 ac/1000**	**117.86**	**14.84 ac/1000**	**76.98**
Trails & Paths	0.25 mi/000	7.00	0.88 mi/000	**5.02**

When examined in total (both developed park acreage and total park acreage), the previous standards have been reached for both acres of parkland and miles of trail. It should be noted that the bulk of the acreage need for neighborhood parks is provided by Gerhardt Park, which is undeveloped. Without its acreage added to the sum of neighborhood parks, the acreage standard has not been met. Developing Gerhardt Park should be a high priority for the City to meet its provision of parkland acreage.

The use of numeric standards is a blunt and limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the city, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails and active use parks (neighborhood and community parks) within a reasonable distance from their homes. To more appropriately measure and target toward that desire, the service standards, and the resulting service snapshot, were re-evaluated and re-aligned during the development of this Plan.

This Plan proposes an increase in the acreage standard for community parks to 7.5 acres per 1,000 people, primarily to emphasize the relative importance of this park classification. Community parks are the 'work horse' parks of the Sequim park system in that they provide the land base to accommodate a range of mixed recreational uses, park infrastructure (i.e., parking, restroom, etc.) and the potential for sport fields.

This Plan also proposes a minor change to the neighborhood park standard to increase it to 1.25 acres per 1,000 people to emphasize the importance of this park classification in relation to public interest in neighborhood parks distributed across the community. No changes to the standards are proposed for commercial plazas.

This Plan also proposes the approach of having not having numeric standards for natural areas and special use areas. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to natural areas or special use areas because of the uniqueness of the land base itself or the specified, specialized park uses provided.

Figure 16. Current Levels of Service by Classification Using Proposed Standards (total parkland)

Type	Proposed Standard	Current Inventory	Current Level of Service	Current Surplus / (Deficit)	Future Surplus / (Deficit)
Community Parks	7.5 ac/1000	94.01	11.84 ac/1000	**34.46**	**30.69**
Neighborhood Parks	1.25 ac/1000	8.38	1.05 ac/1000	**(1.54)**	**(2.17)**
Commercial Park & Plaza	0.25 ac/1000	4.36	0.55 ac/1000	**2.38**	**2.25**
Special Use Areas	-- ac/1000	10.02	1.26 ac/1000	---	---
Natural Areas	-- ac/1000	1.08	0.13 ac/1000	---	---
Parkland Service Levels	**9 ac/1000**	**117.86**	**14.84 ac/1000**	**35.29**	**30.77**
Trails & Paths	0.25 mi/000	7.00	0.88 mi/000	**5.02**	**4.89**

Figure 17. Current Levels of Service by Classification Using Proposed Standards (developed parkland)

Type	Proposed Standard	Developed Park Acreage	Developed Parks LOS	Current Surplus / (Deficit)	Future Surplus / (Deficit)
Community Parks	7.5 ac/1000	51.03	6.43 ac/1000	**(8.52)**	**(12.30)**
Neighborhood Parks	1.25 ac/1000	0.74	0.09 ac/1000	**(9.19)**	**(9.82)**
Commercial Park & Plaza	0.25 ac/1000	4.36	0.55 ac/1000	**2.38**	**2.25**
Special Use Areas	-- ac/1000	10.02	1.26 ac/1000	---	---
Natural Areas	-- ac/1000	NA	NA	---	---
Parkland Service Levels	**9 ac/1000**	**66.14**	**8.33 ac/1000**	**(15.34)**	**(19.87)**

Today, the City is meeting the proposed standards for community parks, commercial plazas and trails. The City has a minor, current deficit for neighborhood parks, and as was previously noted, the future development of Gerhardt Park will substantially reduce the neighborhood park acreage deficit. The recommended acquisition targets identified earlier in this chapter will further reduce current and future parkland deficits.

In reviewing the levels of service regarding parkland distribution, the City is falling short of its target to provide parkland access to residents within a 1/2-mile travel distance. Today, approximately 15% of residentially-zoned areas of the city are within a ½-mile of a neighborhood park or commercial plaza. Approximately 22% of residentially-zoned areas of the city are within a ½-mile of a developed park of any classification.

Figure 18. Current Attainment to Standards for Acreage & Distribution

Metrics	Developed Parkland	Total Parkland
Per Capita LOS		
Neighborhood Parks (1.25 ac/000)	0.09	1.06
Attainment to Standard	7.4%	84.5%
LOS Grade	**F**	**B**
Community Parks (7.5 ac/000)	6.43	11.84
Attainment to Standard	85.7%	157.9%
LOS Grade	**B**	**A**
Commercial Parks & Plazas (0.25 ac/000)	0.55	0.55
Attainment to Standard	219.6%	219.6%
LOS Grade	**A**	**A**
Parkland Access (within 1/2 mile)		
Population within Service Area*		7,940
Percent of Service Area with Access to Neighborhood Parks & Plazas		14.5%
LOS Grade		**F**
Population within Service Area*		7,940
Percent of Service Area with Access to Developed Parks		21.6%
LOS Grade		**F**

* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the city

6. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Youth can benefit from the work of all the groups in Sequim. These parks, fields, gardens and pond could be the safest places some youth see in their entire day. Kids going home with a smile is great, and the city and volunteer groups should work together with that in mind.

- Stakeholder comment



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that Sequim aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff, and the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a new foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state,. The GMA's purpose is to help communities deal efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- "Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks." RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- "Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water." RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- "Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance." RCW 36.70A.020(13)
- "Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act with regards to shorelines and critical areas." RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Furthermore, the Sequim Comprehensive Plan, the previous parks and recreation master plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this Plan.

A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Objectives are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in Needs Assessment and Capital Planning chapters of the Plan.



Community Engagement & Communications

Goal 1: Encourage and support public involvement in park and recreation issues.

Objectives

1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning and design and recreation program development in order to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and engender public support.

1.2 Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and beautification projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, school groups, churches and businesses.

1.3 Support the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues.

1.4 Conduct periodic joint sessions between the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board and other standing City boards, such as the Planning Commission, and with the City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.

1.5 Continue to use a variety of methods and media to publicize and increase resident awareness about recreational opportunities available in local neighborhoods and citywide.

1.6 Prepare, publish and promote a park and trail facilities map and coordinate with local tourism organizations to distribute online and print materials.

1.7 Develop a coordinated sign program which provides a user friendly guide to the location of parks, trails and park amenities.

1.8 Actively coordinate with Olympic Peninsula Tourism Bureau and Sequim Chamber of Commerce with communications about park news, recreation programming, festivals & events.



Parks & Open Spaces

Goal 2: Provide a diversity of park and recreation facilities and a balance of opportunities for both passive and active recreation and that meets the needs of different age groups, abilities, and interests.

Objectives

2.1 Develop recreation facilities that provide sites for special events, sports tournaments and athletic events, which can be major sources of tourism and an economic benefit to the City of Sequim.

2.2 Program, improve and maintain Sequim's community parks and trails to serve the greater Sequim-Dungeness Valley as a regional draw for recreation and park activities.

2.3 Explore options to upgrade and expand athletic fields and park amenities to provide extended year-round use.

2.4 As suitable land and funding becomes available, secure locations for new parks and open spaces, with a focus on underserved areas of the City.

- 2.4A Locate neighborhood parks within walking distance (½-mile) of existing and proposed neighborhoods with passive and informal active open space.
- 2.4B Integrate small, special use parks and plazas that serve residents within a ¼-mile radius and visitors to downtown into the City's urban fabric to meet specific open space needs, such as providing respite, play for children, and specialized activities for all ages.

2.5 Identify and prioritize lands for inclusion in the parks and open space system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.

2.6 Designate and retain wetlands, drainage corridors, floodplains, and other areas that provide essential habitat for priority plant or wildlife species as passive open space. Sites which the City should consider critical corridors which include the Johnson Creek corridor and the Bell Creek corridor.

2.7 Acquire land for open spaces and trails through municipal or state programs, such as stormwater management and wildlife/wetland protection.

2.8 Work with nonprofit groups, such as the North Olympic Land Trust, and local tribes, such as Jamestown S'Klallam, to obtain conservation easements and create incentives for open space and trails system development.

2.9 Partner with internal city departments and outside agencies to identify opportunities to coordinate and accommodate dual use of lands associated with parks, public utilities, green infrastructure, stormwater and active transportation projects.



Trails

Goal 3: Maintain and extend a well-connected system of trails and walkways to link park and recreation facilities and other community destination.

Objectives

3.1 Connect the community to nature and parks and open spaces through a system of regional and local trails and paths for walking and bicycling.

3.2 Continue to coordinate with Clallam County to support a connected trail network that provide continuous walking and biking access between parks and other key destinations.

3.3 Work with local agencies, tribes, utilities and private landholders to secure trail easements and access to open space for trail connections.

3.4 Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.

3.5 Locate trails in areas that are important to preserve as open spaces, such as wooded areas, drainage corridors, shorelines, scenic vistas, and others. Locate trails along drainage corridors when possible to do so without degrading the environmental functions and values of the area.

3.6 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, wayfinding signage, restrooms and other amenities.

3.7 Provide connecting multi-modal access to key trailheads located just outside city limits in coordination with county transportation improvements.



Site Design & Operations

Goal 4: Maintain and operate a modern, efficient park system that provides a high level of user comfort, safety and aesthetic quality, and protects capital investments.

Objectives

4.1 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification. Track and monitor costs of maintaining city-owned facilities by their function including parks, trails and open space.

4.2 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age as appropriate; in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.

4.3 Develop City-owned or maintained park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.

4.4 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities; consider the use of native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve the integrity of native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.

4.5 Design, improve and maintain parks and facilities in a manner that will conserve the use of energy and other resources and minimize maintenance needs (e.g. consistency in furnishings and construction materials, use of native vegetation)

4.6 New parks and upgraded/renovated facilities should consider unique design traits that add to Sequim's sense of place while still meeting the standards for quality amenities and site furnishings that limit maintenance and operations costs.

4.7 Incorporate significant cultural resources in the design and development of new park and recreation facilities, and provide interpretive opportunities where appropriate.

4.8 Provide public art in appropriate locations throughout the city and designated public spaces, to include entry, directional and interpretive signs.

4.9 Provide interpretation and/or public art in parks or along trails that are situated near historically significant archeological (or tribal) sites.



Administration & Management

Goal 5: Responsibly plan and manage the City's physical, human and financial resources to ensure the protection of park and recreation facilities as essential public assets.

Objectives

5.1 Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to high standards.

5.2 Continue to allocate staff time and resources to programs and activities that can leverage existing resources (e.g. managing volunteer programs, and partnerships with local schools and organizations, and grant development and administration).

5.3 Update and adopt a six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) every two years to remain current with local recreational interests and account for the capital needs of the parks and recreation system.

5.4 Periodically review and update the park impact fee rates, and maintain a park impact fee system to help pay for improvements to accommodate growth.

5.5 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.

5.6 Conduct a feasibility study to explore the potential of establishing a metropolitan parks district as a financing tool for service delivery for the greater Sequim region.

5.7 Pursue and maintain public/private agreements to help offset operations and maintenance of park system facilities or the operational cost of providing recreational programs, where appropriate.

5.8 Continue to partner with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects and expand specialized facilities.

5.9 Explore options for ongoing subsidies to provide access to affordable recreation programs for disenfranchised youth through scholarship and other assistance programs.

5.10 Explore revisions to the Sequim Municipal Code (SMC) to replace ten percent open space requirement with an in-lieu fee.

5.11 Explore revisions to the SMC, provide incentives that encourage developers in commercial districts to provide pocket parks, plazas, courtyards, arcades, atriums, pedestrian corridors, and through block corridors.

5.12 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and engender greater commitment from staff, Board members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA).

7. IMPLEMENTATION & CAPITAL PLANNING



Carrie Blake/Water Re-Use Parks are huge, but west side of the city has one small park, Margaret Kirner. I can walk to this park, but we need more walkable facilities at the west end.

- Survey respondent comment

Splash pads are the best. There is no city pool, so splash pads would rock. If we want more families, then we need kid-friendly stuff.

- Survey respondent comment

Improving sidewalk access in some areas of the city to get to the Olympic Discovery Trail.

- Survey respondent comment

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Sequim; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community willingness to offer financial support is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Public Works Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants, volunteer support and other efficiencies will help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix F, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

KEY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City and its residents to continue to support a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability and character of the community.

Wayfinding & Signage

Parks, trails, plazas and other public open spaces are the primary targets for unifying an urban environment into a cohesive, accessible and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. Sequim should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. Colors, sign types, and information can help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City. Signage should be installed at key nodes and connections to the Olympic Discovery Trail and major city parks to include directional and mileage information, along with aerial maps.

Communications

To broaden public awareness, the City's website should be expanded to facilitate quick links to popular destinations and be designed with mobile users in mind, either through a mobile-friendly site or a web-based application. The website should include easy-to-access park system and facility maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user and visitors. The City should consider introducing and utilizing QR codes or comparable technology on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data.

New Park Design & Development

Two undeveloped parks require a public process to guide their future development plans. Gerhardt Park, a neighborhood park with significant natural areas, warrants a site design for serving local recreation needs and decisions about how best to steward and access the steep riparian corridor contained within its acreage. Prior to master planning, the City could move forward with site preparations by demolishing the two houses and their outbuildings to create the foundation for the future neighborhood park. Keeler Memorial Park, currently pasture land, sits at the entrance to the City and should have its future role in the park system determined through the master planning process. Whether as a signature open space or as a partially developed recreational facility, Keeler Memorial Park offers high visibility and the opportunity to define Sequim's visual welcome as travelers enter the city limits coming from the east on Hwy 101.

As the proposed parkland acquisition program successfully secures properties for future parks, these new sites will undergo design and development to provide both basic park amenities and unique places for community use. While park development standards can ensure unified site furnishings across the park system, each park site can be designed and developed to create its own unique character. Master planning for new park facilities should undergo a public engagement process to ensure the identification of any specialized local needs and to solidify support for pursuing development funding.

Land Acquisition To Meet Growing Needs & Fill Gaps

Sequim's park system has been expanding as the City grows and the need for more facilities triggers additions of both parkland and recreational amenities. The City is expected to continue its growth as a desirable place to live and, thus, must press forward to acquire more parkland and develop more amenities within existing parks. The gap analysis mapping illustrated the need for up to four more strategically located park sites to ensure reasonable access to walkable parks for the bulk of the community. Acquiring parkland requires a proactive approach and may need to look beyond undeveloped or partially developed properties. As with Gerhardt Park (currently undeveloped), suitable future parklands may necessitate purchasing existing residential properties and converting them to open space prior to park development. Trail connections also are needed, in addition to future sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, to help link destinations across the community and its park system to offer more walkability and promote healthier outdoor lifestyles. Acquisitions of easements, corridors, and property parcels will be needed to create the comprehensive linkages for Sequim's future trail system.

Sports Field Enhancement

Sport fields, while well-provided at Dr. Standard Park, Haller Playfields and Carrie Blake Park, will continue to be in demand as families continue to locate in Sequim. The existing natural grass fields, especially the baseball fields, are in poor condition and require improved turf management to meet the current needs of community sport programs. Additionally, the T-ball field at the south end of the Little League fields are potentially open for re-use according to the Little League, and this field area could be improved to open it for soccer use, as scheduling allows.

Park Amenity Upgrades & Other Park Enhancements

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment, as appropriate.

The City should also consider adding the following recreation features to expand recreational opportunities beyond named park and trail project targets as funding allows:

- Splash pad
- All-inclusive playgrounds
- Older youth recreational amenities, such as parkour elements, bike skills or mountain biking
- Gathering spaces (picnic shelters, etc.)
- Outdoor fitness areas
- Public art

A general consideration for the public is to create a park system that provided year-round facilities for all ages and all abilities to gather and recreate in diverse range of safe, clean and well-maintained park facilities that also balance fiscal stability.

IMPLEMENTATION TACTICS

Inter-Departmental Coordination

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed recreational trail network, which relies in part on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned trail corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests.

Volunteer & Community-Based Action

Specific areas within some Sequim parks were maintained by volunteers. Volunteers also contribute to some maintenance tasks and park improvements where feasible. The gardens at Pioneer Memorial Park and the Sequim Botanic Garden in the Water Re-use Demonstration Site were noticeably well-maintained, showing a commitment to aesthetically-pleasing garden displays. Also, local sport leagues contribute significant energy and resources for field maintenance and care. While volunteers clearly play a significant role in providing time and talent to Sequim's parks, reliance on volunteer support should not be a replacement for ongoing, consistent maintenance of core recreational infrastructure.

Articulating the roles and responsibilities for volunteers on public property can be very helpful for managing expectations of both staff and the volunteers. Safety should always be the highest priority. Defining the level of mechanical and power tools that are acceptable for use by volunteers in public parks is often the first step in clarifying permissible activities. A written guide backed by an adopted city policy could be developed to articulate what activities, tools, equipment and materials are recommended/accepted for use by volunteers in Sequim's parks.

Sequim should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to the high schools to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Sequim parks and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Enhanced Local Funding

According to the City budget, Sequim maintains reserve debt capacity for councilmanic bonds and voter approved debt. However, councilmanic bonds are unlikely due to a lack of resources for bond repayment. Community conversations regarding specific park improvements and the potential to bundle several projects from the capital facilities plan warrant a review of debt implications for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

Additionally, the City should conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a metropolitan parks district to aid in the financing for the park system and expand the service area to potentially align with the school district boundary to better reflect the users of Sequim's parks and recreation facilities. An MPD could be a viable tool for considerations around expanded recreation programming or an additional indoor/outdoor recreation facility.

Park Impact Fees

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth within city limits. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Sequim currently assesses impact fees, but the City should periodically update its PIF methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth of the community. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

Grants & Appropriations

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, and LWCF. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Sequim should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

Other Implementation Tools

Appendix F identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Potential Projects List.

It is not the number of parks. It is where the parks are and their size. Area B is overloaded with large parks. Areas C and D are forgotten areas of the city. Few parks, no bus service.

- Survey respondent comment

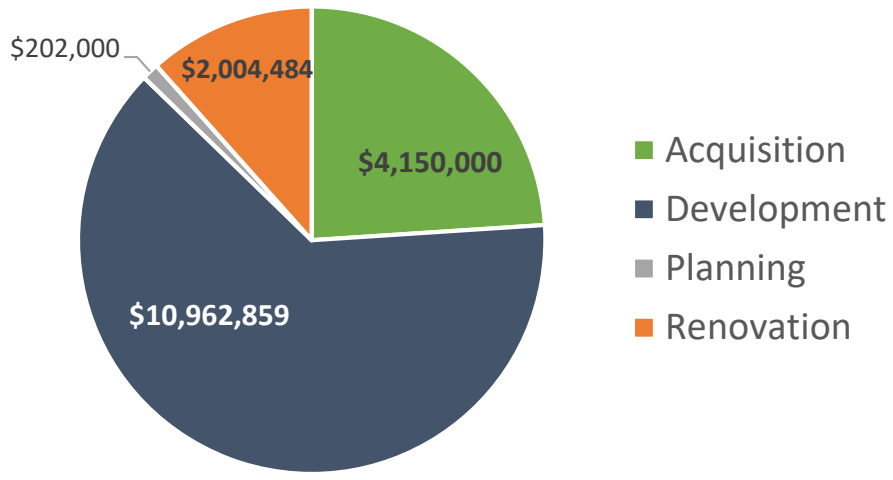
CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) presents the capital investment projects and strategic actions adopted by the City in chronological order to guide the implementation of this Plan. It assigns proposed sequencing and estimated costs for specific projects and groups them by project type. A summary of proposed project categories and scopes is described below.

The CFP on the following pages lists the park and facility projects considered for the next six years. The CFP provides brief project descriptions for those projects with priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

These projects were selected based on the need to address care for existing facilities, implement long-standing plans for improvements, and work toward meeting the goal to better connect, and create access to, park and recreation facilities.

Figure 19. Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary



Costs factored using 3% inflation rate

PIF Eligible	Project Type	Site	Project	Current Cost	% Related to Growth	Cost Related to Growth	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028+
Y	A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap	$750,000	100%	$795,675		$795,675					
Y	A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap	$750,000	100%	$844,132				$844,132			
Y	A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap	$850,000	100%	$1,014,944						$1,014,944	
Y	A	Neighborhood park	Acquisition to address distribution gap	$800,000	100%	$955,242							$955,242
N	D	Carrie Blake Park	Vehicular circulation (MP improvement-South Lane)	$2,308,912	0%	$0		$2,449,525					
Y	D	Carrie Blake Park	Tennis / Basketball sports court	$700,000	50%	$382,454			$764,909				
Y	D	Carrie Blake Park	Playground - new	$834,701	50%	$456,050			$912,100				
N	D	Carrie Blake Park	Stormwater upgrades	$1,072,048	0%	$0				$1,206,599			
N	D	Carrie Blake Park	South parking lot landscape improvements	$60,000	0%	$0	$61,800						
Y	D	Carrie Blake Park	Skate/BMX park upgrades / expansion	$1,544,503	75%	$1,383,163						$1,844,217	
Y	D	Carrie Blake Park	Rock climbing wall	$150,000	100%	$173,891					$173,891		
N	D	Carrie Blake Park	Shade tree plantings	$30,000	0%	$0	$30,900						
N	P	Carrie Blake Park	Improved signage / wayfinding plan	$12,000	0%	$0			$13,113				
N	R	Carrie Blake Park	Wayfinding signs	$35,000	0%	$0				$39,393			
Y	P	Centennial Place	Master planning	$50,000	100%	$53,045		$53,045					
N	R	Dr. Standard Park	Parking lot improvements	$150,000	0%	$0					$173,891		
N	R	Dr. Standard Park	ADA compliance projects	$25,000	0%	$0					$28,982		
N	R	Dr. Standard Park	Field renovations	$250,000	0%	$0	$257,500						
N	R	Dr. Standard Park	Dugout replacements	$100,000	0%	$0					$115,927		
N	D	Gebhardt Zwicker Park	Canopy tree plantings	$45,000	0%	$0		$47,741					
Y	P	Gerhardt Park	Master planning	$50,000	100%	$53,045		$53,045					
N	D	Gerhardt Park	Demolitions: houses & outbuildings	$75,000	0%	$0	$77,250						
Y	P	Keeler Memorial Park	Master planning	$50,000	100%	$54,636			$54,636				
N	D	Margaret Kirner Park	Parking improvements	$50,000	0%	$0	$51,500						
Y	R	Margaret Kirner Park	Play equipment upgrades/replacements	$300,000	50%	$154,500	$309,000						
N	D	Margaret Kirner Park	ADA compliance projects: pathway & amenities	$20,000	0%	$0	$20,600						
Y	D	Pioneer Memorial Park	Perimeter paved loop with amenities	$100,000	50%	$59,703						$119,405	
Y	D	Pioneer Memorial Park	Splash pad	$400,000	100%	$437,091			$437,091				
N	R	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Holding pond improvements	$430,000	0%	$0				$483,969			
N	D	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Canopy tree plantings	$60,000	0%	$0	$61,800						
Y	D	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Pathway pavement at amphitheater	$75,000	100%	$77,250	$77,250						
Y	D	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Playground with Born Learning Trail	$598,854	100%	$694,236					$694,236		
Y	D	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Restroom with Plaza	$889,841	100%	$1,001,524							$1,001,524
N	R	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	North Lane West- MP vehicular improvements	$514,484	0%	$0			$562,191				
N	R	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Soccer field irrigation improvements	$200,000	0%	$0					$231,855		
N	R	Re-use Water Demonstration Site	Swisher Hall Expansion	TBD	0%	$0		-					
Y	D	Bell Creek Trail	Trail development along Bell Creek	$1,544,000	TBD						$1,674,000		
Y	D	Olympic Discovery Trail	Eastern extension	$390,000	TBD						$420,000		
Y	A	System-wide	Acquisitions for trail connections	$500,000	100%	$546,364			$546,364				
N	A	System-wide	Acquisitions for riparian conservation	$500,000	0%	$0						$597,026	
N	D	System-wide	Tree Canopy Program - bi-annual	$10,000	0%	$0	$10,000	-	$10,000	-	$10,000	-	
N	D	System-wide	Integrate public art projects - annual	$5,000	0%	$0	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	
N	P	System-wide	Donation & Memorial Policy	$25,000	0%	$0	$25,000						
N	P	System-wide	Wayfinding program - graphic designs	15,000	0%	$0	$15,000						
			Total Estimated Project Costs	$17,319,343	53%	$9,136,945	$1,002,600	$3,404,030	$3,305,403	$2,579,093	$3,527,782	$3,580,593	$1,956,766

Project Type

A Acquisition
P Master planning
D Development - new
R Replacement/Upgrade

APPENDIX A

Community Survey Summary



To: Matthew Klontz, Public Works Director

From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.

Date: May 31, 2021

Re: **Sequim Parks & Open Space Plan**
Community Survey Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Sequim that assesses residents' recreational needs and priorities.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Sequim staff and the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board, Conservation Technix developed the 15-question survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households within Sequim on April 30, 2021. An online version of the same survey was posted to the City website a few later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,000 households on May 10th. Information about the survey was provided on the City's website home page and on the Plan subpage. It was promoted via social media and in the City website. The survey was closed on May 28th, and preliminary data were compiled and reviewed.

In all, 384 responses were completed from the random sample mail survey (19.2% response rate), and 163 responses were collected via the online survey for a total of 547 responses. Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all City residents, see age demographics below.

	Survey Respondents			Sequim Population	
Age group	Mail	Online-only	Combined	Full	Over 20
Under 20	0%	<1%	<1%	17%	--
20-34	3.4%	10.1%	5.3%	12%	14%
35-44	5.3%	10.8%	6.8%	10%	12%
45-54	5.0%	16.9%	8.3%	11%	13%
55-64	15.0%	22.3%	17.1%	14%	17%
65 to 74	43.5%	32.4%	40.4%	16%	19%
75 and older	27.7%	6.8%	21.8%	20%	24%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

This report includes findings of community opinions based principally on mailed survey responses. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups and among responses to the online-only survey, where applicable.

Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

FULL RESULTS

How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (98%) feel that local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Sequim. More than eight in ten respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 12% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Less than 2% of respondents believe parks are "Useful, but not important".

1. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Sequim, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are…

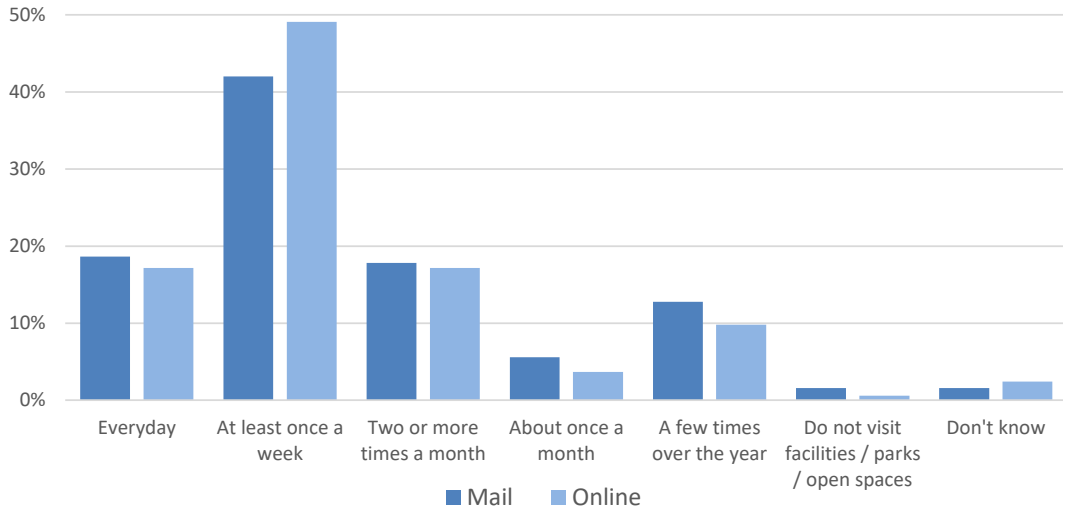
Response options	Mail		Online-only	
Essential to the quality of life here	86%	98%	86%	98%
Important, but not really necessary	12%		12%	
Useful, but not important	2%		1%	
Not important or don't know	<1%		<1%	

Though respondents of all subgroups value parks and recreation, those over 55 years of age and without children under 18 were slightly more likely to deem them as important to quality of life, rather than essential, as compared to other subgroups. Respondents with children at home and in various locations, as well as those who responded to the online survey, valued parks and recreation similarly.

How often do residents use Sequim's recreation facilities, parks, and open spaces?

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited a Sequim park, recreation facility, or open space. Respondents tend to visit frequently, with more than half (61%) of respondents to the mail survey visiting at least once a week and another 18% visiting two or more times per month. Only 13% of respondents visit just a few times per year. Very few (2%) did not visit a park last year.

3. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how often did you visit or use Sequim parks, recreation facilities or open spaces?



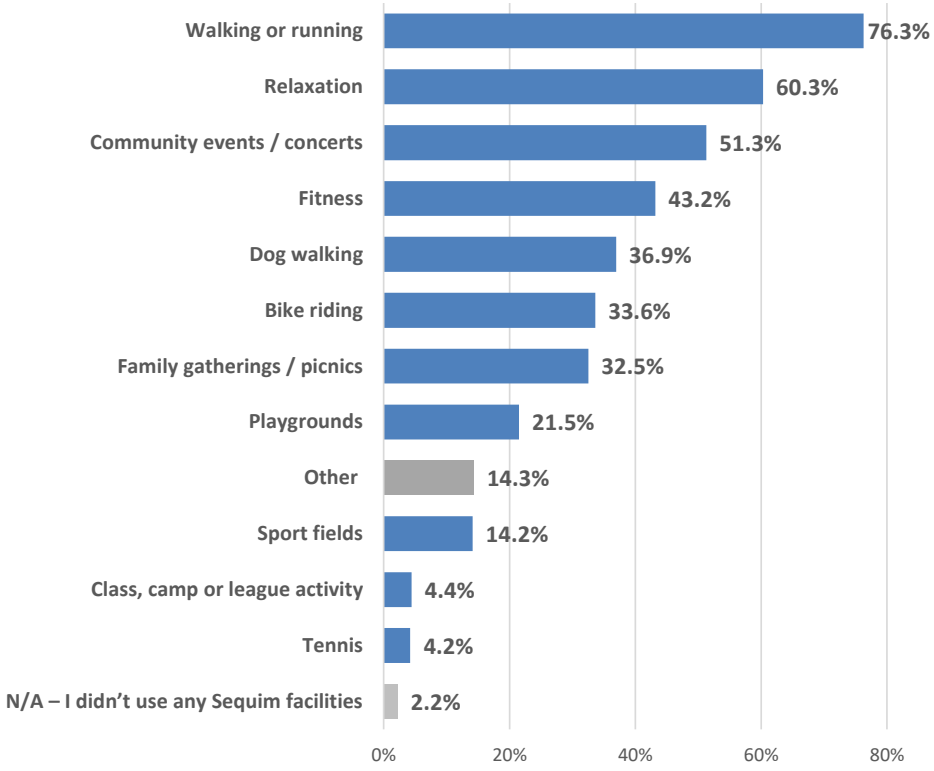
Online-only survey respondents tended to visit slightly more frequently than mail respondents, with 66% visiting at least once a week and 83% visiting at least once per month. As compared to other age groups, adults under 55 years of age are the most frequent users of Sequim's recreation facilities and parks; with more than two-thirds responding that they visit at least once per week. Respondents of households with children also visit significantly more frequently than those without children, with participation increasing in correspondence with the number of children in the home.

Respondents who live in the northeast portion of the city were more likely than respondents elsewhere to use parks and recreation facilities frequently.

Why do residents visit parks?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (76%), followed by relaxation (60%), community events/concerts (51%), and fitness (43%). More than three in ten respondents visited for dog walking (37%), bike riding (34%) or family gatherings (33%). Fewer than 5% of respondents visit to use tennis courts or participate in a class, camp or league. Write-in responses captured as 'other' included activities such as pickleball, photography and birdwatching.

4. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons your household visited Sequim parks, recreation facilities or open spaces in the past year?



With a few exceptions, respondents who responded to the online-only survey visited recreation facilities and parks for similar reasons as respondents to the mail survey. However, slightly more online respondents visited for playgrounds (30%), sport fields (25%), or dog walking (45%).

Respondents between 20 and 34 were more likely than other groups to visit for playgrounds, sports fields, tennis and biking. Some activities, including family gatherings, walking or running, walking dogs, and relaxation were similarly popular with all age groups. Respondents with children in their home were more likely to visit for playgrounds, sport fields, tennis or classes and camps than respondents without children. No significant differences were noted in responses between respondents living in different areas of the city.

Why don't residents visit more often?

Park and recreation facilities

When asked why they do not visit Sequim parks and recreation facilities more often, many respondents responded that they do visit (52%). However, approximately one in five respondents responded that they do not visit more often because of age or physical limitations (19%).

Respondents frequently selected reasons that the City may be able to address, including limited restrooms (11%), lack of information (11%), limited parking (7%), barriers to access (4%), and crowding (4%). In addition, multiple respondents wrote responses citing their age, ability, or the COVID-19 pandemic as reasons they do not visit more. Others mentioned safety concerns and off-leash dogs, or a lack of desired amenities in their response.

Some respondents use parks or facilities provided by other cities or organizations (7%) or are too busy (7%) suggesting that further improvements would not increase their use of parks.

5. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what were ALL the reasons why your household did not use Sequim parks more often?

Reason	Mail	Online
N/A - Does not apply to me; we use them often	**51.7%**	**45.8%**
Age or physical limitations	18.9%	8.4%
Not enough restrooms	10.7%	15.5%
I do not know what is offered	10.7%	12.3%
Other	7.9%	10.3%
Too busy to go to parks or open spaces	7.3%	11.0%
Use parks or open spaces provided by another organization or private club	7.3%	9.0%
Not enough parking	7.1%	8.4%
Barriers related to physical accessibility	4.2%	2.6%
Too crowded	4.2%	11.6%
Do not feel safe in park or open space	2.5%	3.2%
Do not have the right equipment	2.0%	6.5%
Are not well maintained	1.7%	3.2%
Not interested in park or recreation activities	1.7%	0.7%

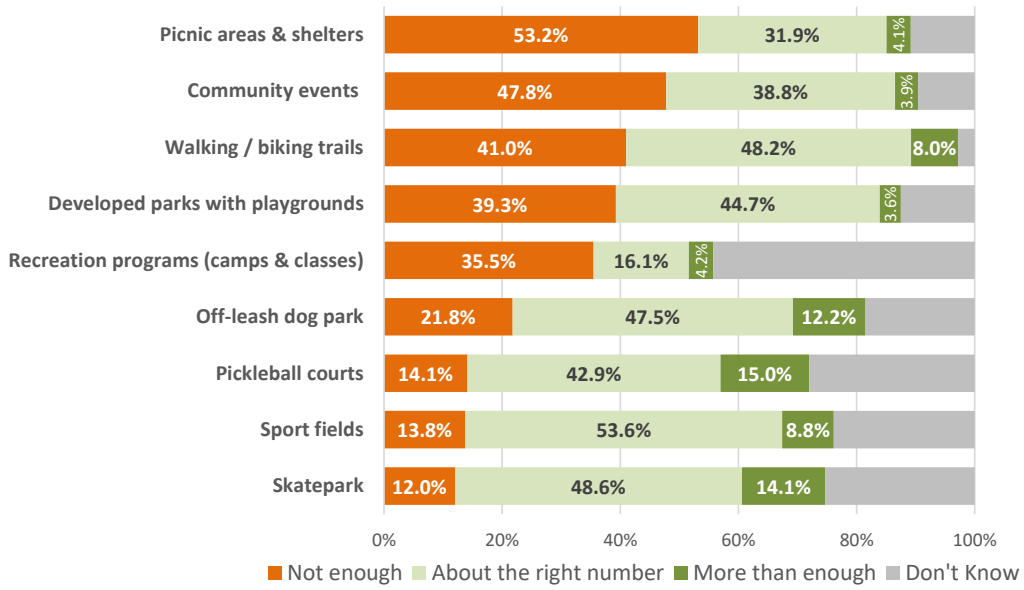
Overall, respondents to both the mail and online-only survey expressed similar reasons for not visiting Sequim parks and facilities more frequently. However, online respondents were more likely than mail respondents to be too busy (11%) or lack information (12%). They were more likely to cite lack of restrooms (16%) and crowding (12%) as reasons they do not visit more often.

Respondents between 35 and 44 were more likely than other groups to cite not knowing what is offered and not having the right equipment as reasons they do not visit more often. Respondents over 65 were the most likely to cite age or physical limitations. Respondents living in the southwest section of the city were more likely to cite a lack of restrooms and not know what is offered as reasons for not visiting often. Safety and maintenance concerns were not noted as concerns in the overall sample or within subgroups.

Are residents satisfied with the number and variety of park and recreation options?

Majorities of respondents feel that there are enough or more than enough of most types of park and recreation options offered by Sequim. Fewer respondents feel there are enough recreation programs, picnic areas, developed parks and community events – suggesting some latent demand for facilities of these types. These amenities, along with walking and biking trails, had the strongest responses that 'not enough' are being provided.

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



In general, younger respondents (those between 20 and 54 years of age) were more likely than respondents over 55 to feel there are not enough of each of the park and recreation options listed, with the exception of walking/biking trails and pickleball courts. Respondents with children under 18 in their home were more likely than adult-only householders to feel the City does not have enough developed parks with playgrounds, picnic areas and shelters, and recreation programs. No significant differences were noted in responses between respondents living in different areas of the city.

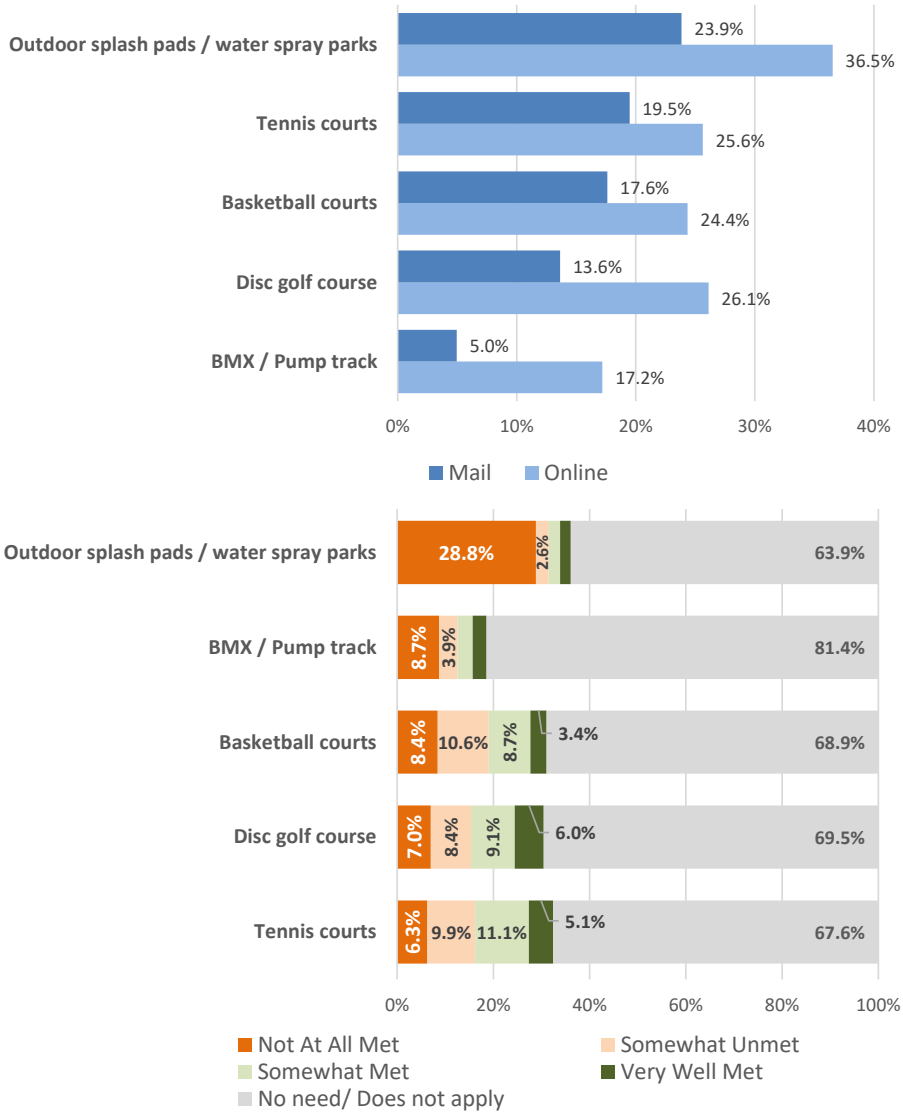
What park and recreation options do residents have a need for? Do they feel their needs are met?

The survey asked a question regarding needs for certain park and recreation facilities. A pair of questions asked which park and recreation facilities and amenities the respondent's household has a need for, and then, whether that need is well met, somewhat met, or unmet locally.

Of the specific list of amenities provided, 30% of respondents indicated that the highest unmet need is for an outdoor splash pad or water spray park. Respondents have a limited need for basketball courts, tennis courts and disc golf, but many feel that these needs are met by existing facilities.

Younger respondents, especially those between 35 and 54 and with children in the household, expressed a greater need for tennis courts, basketball courts and outdoor splash pads than residents over 55 years of age. Respondents without children under 18 indicated a slightly higher need for a disc golf course. Respondents living in the northwestern portion of the city indicated a higher need for tennis courts. Those living in the northeast indicated a higher need for basketball and tennis courts. Respondents to the online-only survey expressed higher levels of need for park amenities and facilities as respondents to the mail survey, especially for a splash pad.

6/7. Does your household have a need for each of the park and recreation amenities or facilities listed below? Using the same list of items from above, how well are your household's needs met locally for each of the park or recreation facilities?

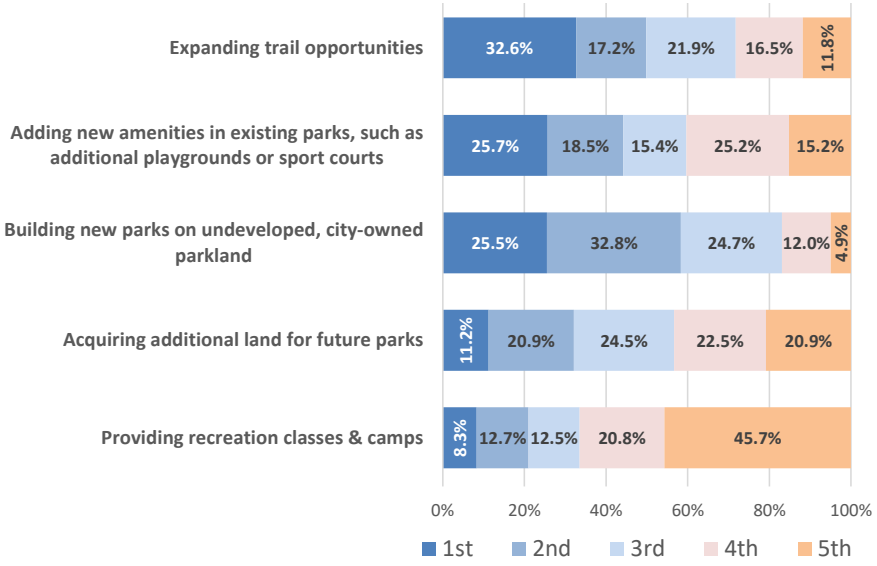


What recreation and park investments would residents prioritize?

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park and open space investments. Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked the same items as their top three priorities: expanding trail opportunities, building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland, and adding new amenities in existing parks, such as additional playgrounds or sport courts. Respondents ranked providing recreational programs and acquiring additional land for the future as their lowest priorities in both the mail and online surveys.

8. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest). Reorder the list by dragging each line into your preferred order of preference.

	Mail	Online
Highest	Expanding trail opportunities	Adding new amenities in existing parks, such as additional playgrounds or sport courts
	Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland	Expanding trail opportunities
	Adding new amenities in existing parks, such as additional playgrounds or sport courts	Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland
	Acquiring additional land for future parks	Acquiring additional land for future parks
Lowest	Providing more recreation classes & camps	Providing more recreation classes & camps



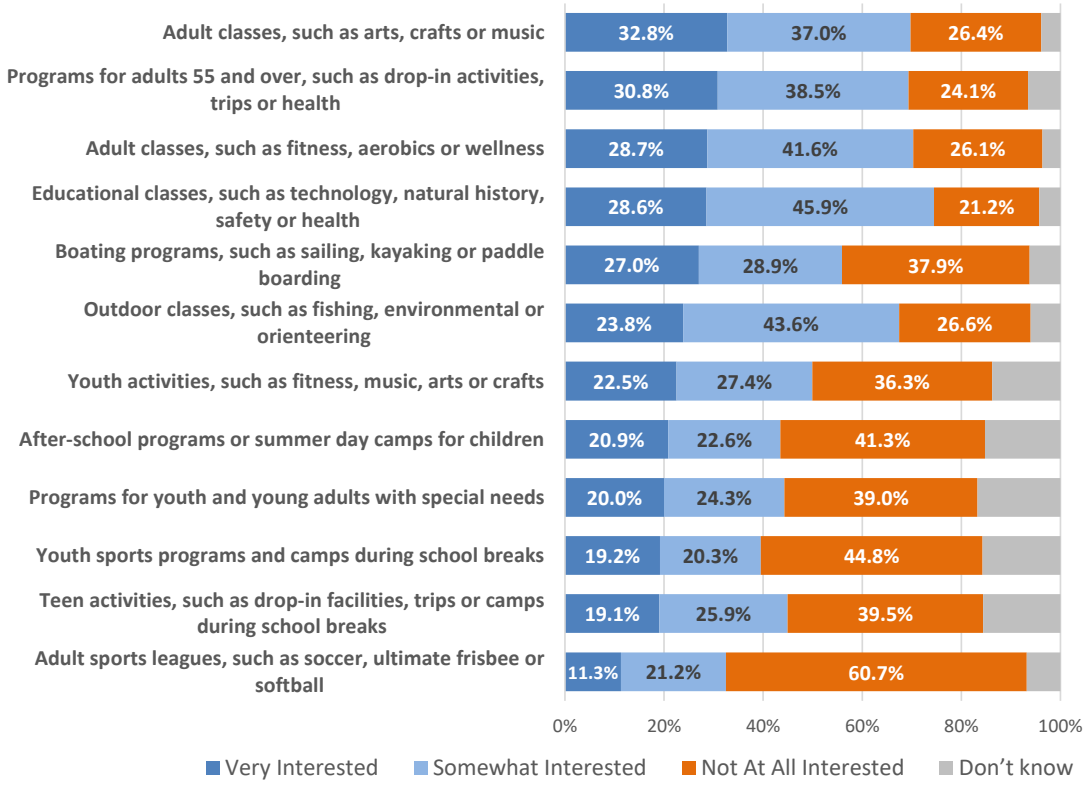
There were no significant differences in priorities between subgroups. Respondents with children in their home tended to rate providing recreation classes as a higher priority than those without children in the home. Respondents did not vary significant in their priorities depending on which part of the city they live in.

City of Sequim
Parks & Open Space Plan

What recreation options do residents have a need for?

When it comes to recreational programs and activities, respondents expressed a greater need for adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in adult classes such as arts and crafts, adult fitness and wellness, adult enrichment classes, and outdoor classes.

9. Today, the City of Sequim does not directly provide recreation programs or classes. The City does partner with the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and Shipley Center for programs. Also, local schools provide some athletics and activities for youth. Please indicate your household's level of interest in the City of Sequim directly offering any of the following programs or activities.

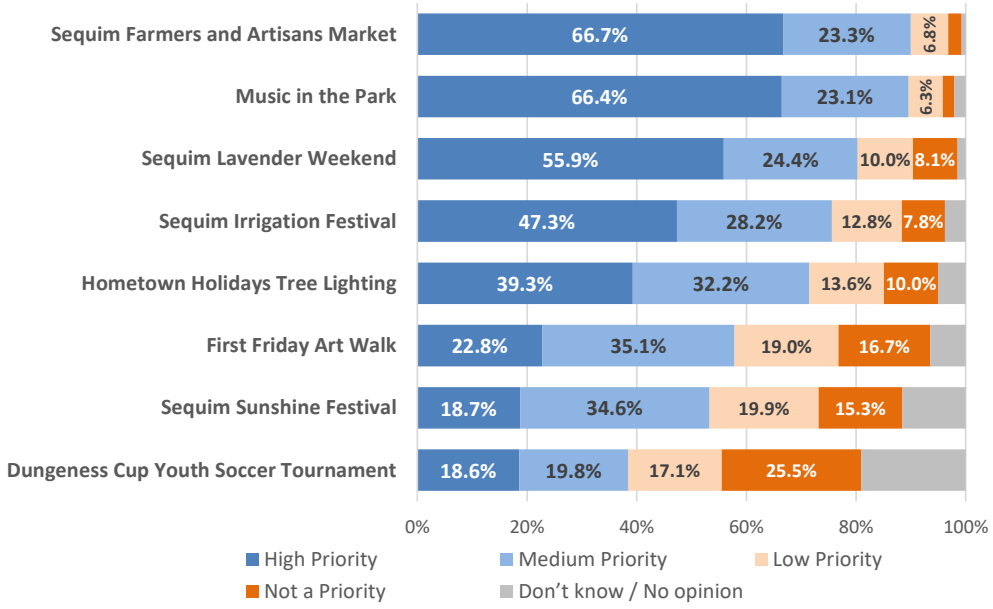


Respondents between 20 and 44 and those with children in the household were more likely to state a strong interest for adult sport leagues, youth sports, teen and youth activities and afterschool programs. Overall, respondents with children were slightly more interested in all of the program types listed, except for programs for adults 55 and over. Respondents living in the southwest portion of the city were slightly more interested in adult classes, such as art, crafts and music. Respondents in the northeast were slightly more interested in adult leagues sports.

Which special events do residents prioritize?

The City of Sequim offers or supports a variety of community special events each year. When asked which of these events they felt the City should prioritize, respondents strongly supported the Farmers and Artisans Market (67% as a high priority) and Music in the Park (66% as high priority). Other priority events included Lavender Weekend, Irrigation Festival and the Hometown Holidays Tree Lighting. Respondents listed the Friday Art Walk, Sunshine Festival and youth soccer tournament as lower priorities. However, the Dungeness Cup Youth Soccer Tournament was a higher priority for respondents between 20 and 34 and those with children, while Friday Art Walk was a higher priority for households without children and those over 55 years of age. Respondents between 20 and 44 also prioritized the Irrigation Festival slightly higher than other age groups. Respondents to the online-only survey had mostly similar priorities as those who responded to the mail survey.

12. The City of Sequim offers or supports many community events throughout the year that are free to the public. Below is a list of Sequim community events that are currently offered. For each event, indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, a Medium Priority, a Low Priority, or Not a Priority for your household.

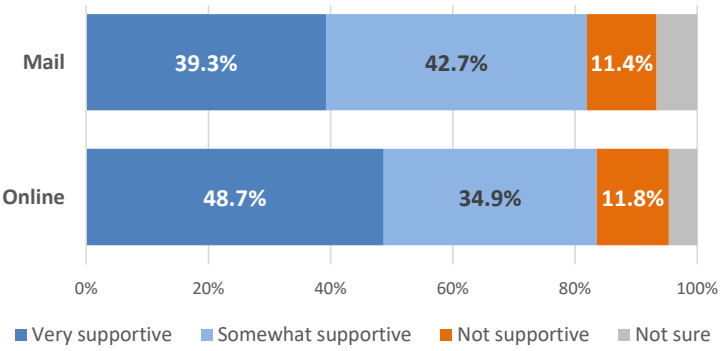


Should a special parks and recreation district be considered?

The survey included a question to explore the level of support for the creation of a parks and recreation district to help fund programs and park maintenance to be supported by the greater Sequim area. Over 80% of respondents in both the mail survey and the online survey were either very supportive (39% and 49%, respectively) or somewhat supportive (43% and 35%, respectively) of exploring the creation of a parks and recreation district. There were no significant differences in priorities between subgroups.

City of Sequim
Parks & Open Space Plan

10. Maintaining the park improvements and recreation programs requested by residents might require an increase the budget for these services, and additional revenues might be required to meet these expenses. Creating a special parks and recreation district might allow for tax revenues to be paid by residents of the greater Sequim area to support these services. How supportive would you be of exploring the creation of a special parks and recreation district to include the greater Sequim area for the purposes of funding park maintenance and recreation programs of interest to local residents?

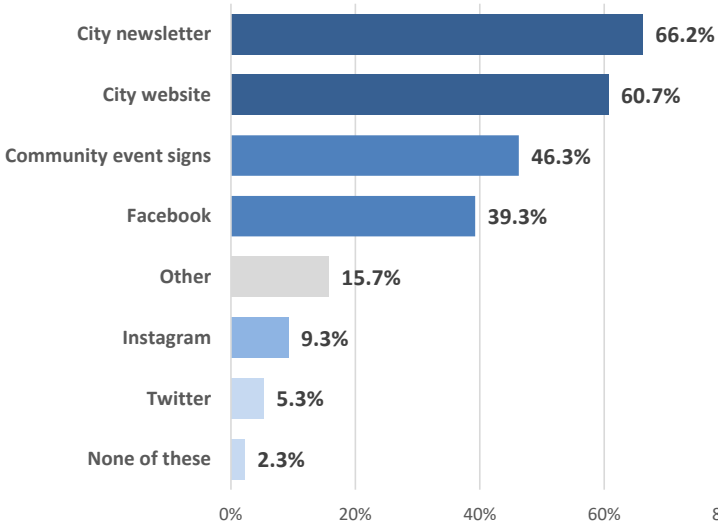


How do residents want to hear about Sequim's parks, facilities, programs and events?

The majority of respondents prefer to hear about Sequim's parks, facilities, and programs through the City newsletter (66%) and the City's website (61%). Community event signs and Facebook are also popular sources of information, preferred by a plurality of respondents. These sources were popular with respondents to both the mail and online-only surveys.

Fewer than two in five respondents would like to hear about park and recreation opportunities through social media (Facebook (39%), Instagram (9%), and Twitter (5%)). However, social media, including Facebook and Instagram, is a significantly more popular source of information for respondents under 44 and for families with children. The city newsletter, city website and community event signs are preferred at higher rates by older respondents. There were no significant differences in communication preferences among those living in different areas of the city.

11. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Sequim's parks, programs and events.



Write-in responses included the newspaper (Gazette & Peninsula Daily), direct email and KSQM radio.

Other Comments

The survey provided respondents with an opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions via open-ended responses. Over 215 respondents (39%) provided written comments. Common themes from these comments include:

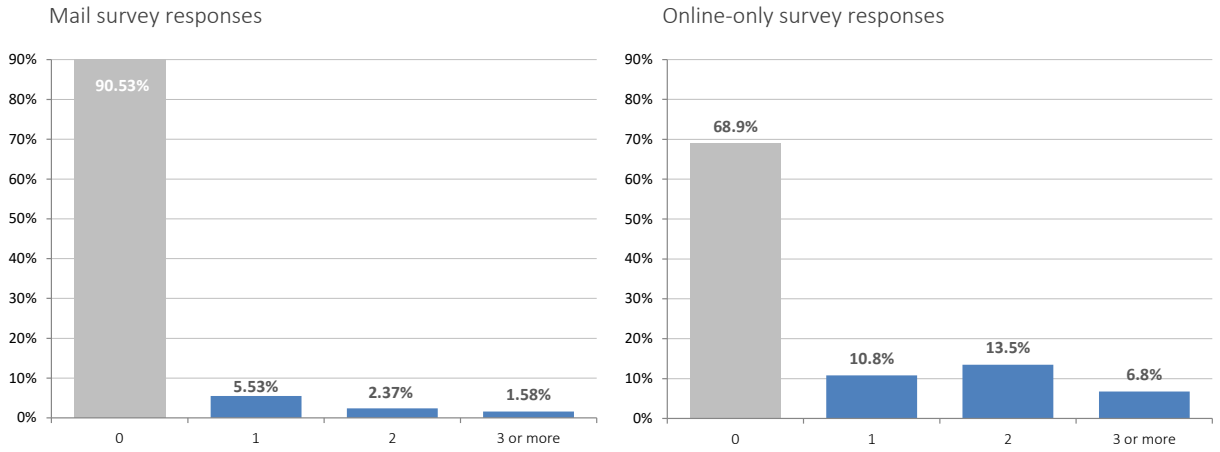
- Respondents expressed interest in, and enthusiasm for, a variety of park improvements listed elsewhere in the survey, including the development of biking and walking trails, playgrounds, restrooms, sports courts, and splash pads.
- Several respondents expressed support for improvements and upgrades to existing parks and amenities, which included comments about repairing pickleball courts, repairing playground equipment and developing Keeler Park.
- Numerous respondents expressed a desire for enhanced maintenance, safety, and cleanliness of Sequim parks. Respondents mentioned concerns about playground maintenance, duck and goose feces at Carrie Blake Park, trash, and homelessness.
- Several respondents noted concerns about the number of ducks and geese and suggested disallowing feeding to improve site management.
- Several respondents responded that they are interested in additional linkages to the Olympic Discovery Trail through new trail segments and/or improved sidewalks.
- Other comments included the need to be fiscally responsible and not raise taxes, as well as seek partnerships to provide services.

A compilation of write-in comments is on file with the Sequim Public Works Department.

Demographics

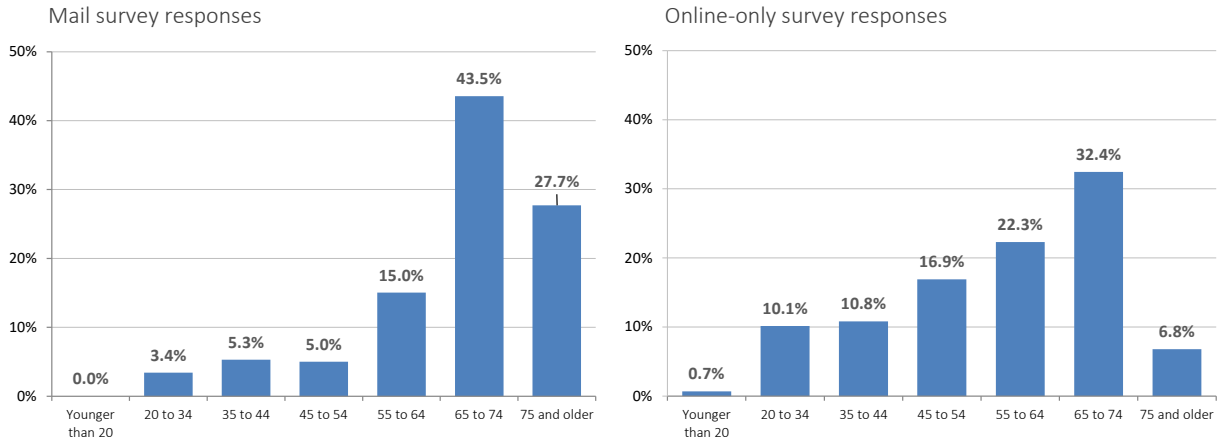
Number of children in household

A super majority (91%) of respondents to the mail survey live in households with no children under 18, while about one in twelve live in a household with either one (6%) or two (2%) children. Less than two percent of respondents live in a household with more than three children. Online-only survey respondents were slightly more likely to live in households with children than respondents to the mail survey.



Age

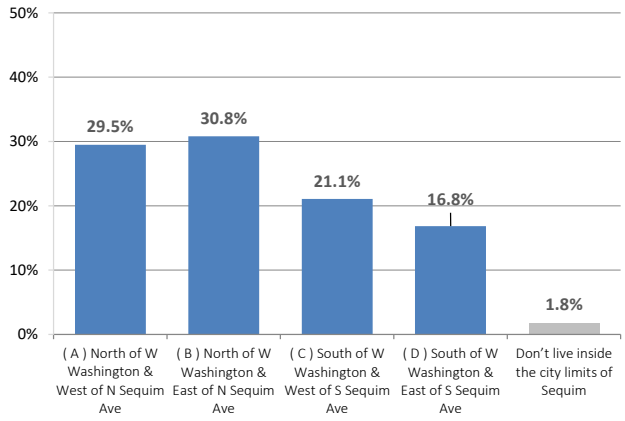
Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the mail survey (62%) were over 65 years of age. Another 15% were between 55 and 64 years, while 19% were 45 to 64 years. Respondents to the online-only survey also were predominately over 65 years old (39%); however, there were more responses from younger respondents with 21% of responses from those 20-44 years, versus 9% in the mail survey.



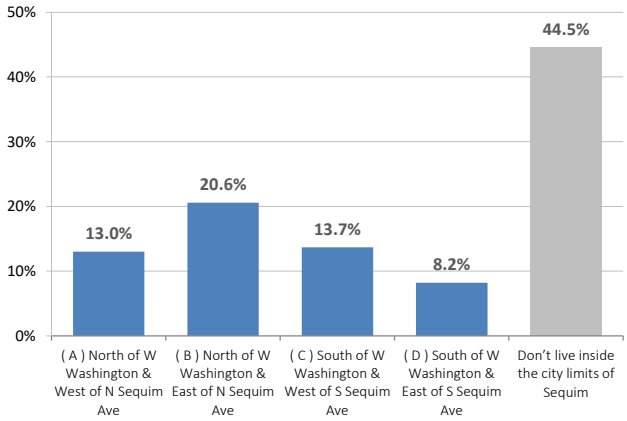
Location of residence

Approximately equal numbers of responses were collected east (48%) and west (50%) of Sequim Avenue, with about 60% of responses of Washington Street. The mail survey had seven responses from people who indicated that they live outside of city limits. Respondents to the online survey were similarly distributed for those living east or west of Sequim Avenue. However, a significant portion (45%) of online-only respondents do not live in the city.

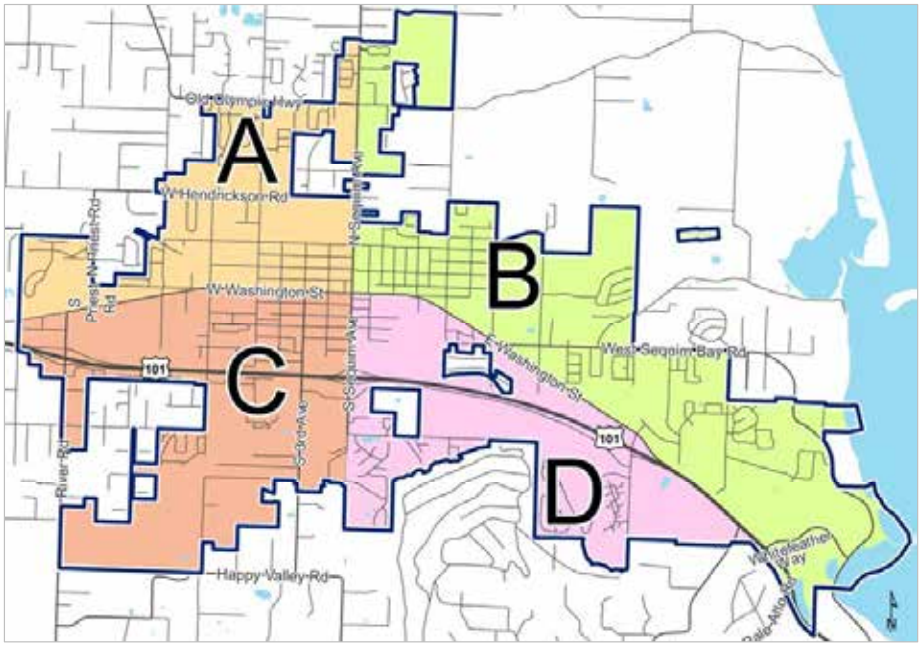
Mail survey responses



Online-only survey responses



Location Map



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT

SEQUIM
WASHINGTON

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Dear Sequim Resident:

The City of Sequim is beginning a community-led process to update its citywide Parks and Open Space Plan. We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and programs thriving. As an initial step in the planning process, the City is conducting this short survey to assess the community's recreation and facility needs. The Plan will inform and prioritize specific projects for recreation facilities, parks and trails for the next 6-10 years. Your opinions are important to the City.

The survey has 15 questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Use the QR code to take this survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sequimparksplan

1. **When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Sequim, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (CHECK ONE OPTION)**

   ☐ Essential to the quality of life here
   ☐ Important, but not really essential
   ☐ Useful, but not necessary
   ☐ Not Important at all

2. **When it comes to amenities provided by the City of Sequim for meeting your needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are... (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW)**

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Developed parks with playgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walking / biking trails	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport fields	☐	☐	☐	☐
Picnic areas & shelters	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recreation programs (camps & classes)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Off-leash dog park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pickleball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skatepark	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community events (such as Music in the Park)	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. **Prior to the COVID-19 quarantine, how often did you visit or use Sequim recreation facilities, parks, or open spaces?**

   ☐ Everyday
   ☐ At least once a week
   ☐ Two or more times a month
   ☐ About once a month
   ☐ A few times over the year
   ☐ Do not visit facilities / parks / open spaces
   ☐ Don't know

4. **Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons your household visited Sequim parks, recreation facilities or open spaces in the past year? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

   ☐ Fitness
   ☐ Playgrounds
   ☐ Sport fields
   ☐ Tennis
   ☐ Family gatherings / picnics
   ☐ Walking or running
   ☐ Bike riding
   ☐ Dog walking
   ☐ Community events / concerts
   ☐ Relaxation
   ☐ Class, camp or league activity
   ☐ N/A - I didn't use any Sequim facilities
   ☐ Other: _____

Use the QR code and take this survey online:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sequimparksplan
Or send it back in the pre-paid, self-addressed envelope provided. **Thank you in advance for participating!**

5. **Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what were ALL the reasons why your household did not use Sequim parks more often.**

- ☐ N/A - Does not apply to me; we use them often
- ☐ Age or physical limitations
- ☐ Are not well maintained
- ☐ Barriers related to physical accessibility
- ☐ Do not have the right equipment
- ☐ Do not feel safe in park or open space
- ☐ Not enough parking
- ☐ Not enough restrooms
- ☐ Not interested in park or recreation activities
- ☐ I do not know what is offered
- ☐ Too busy to go to parks or open spaces
- ☐ Too crowded
- ☐ Use parks or open spaces provided by another organization (county, state or federal lands) or private club
- ☐ Other: _____

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

	Does your household have a need for this activity?		How well are your household's needs met locally?				
	Yes	No	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Somewhat Unmet	Not At All Met	No need/ Does not apply
Disc golf course	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Basketball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tennis courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
BMX / Pump track	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor splash pads / water spray parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. **For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest). Mark each priority ranking number only once.**

	Select each priority ONLY ONCE. Highest priority → Lowest priority					Don't know / No opinion
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
Adding new amenities in existing parks, such as additional playgrounds or sport courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Acquiring additional land for future parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expanding trail opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing recreation classes & camps	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. **Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Sequim's parks, programs and events.**

- ☐ City website
- ☐ City newsletter
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Community event signs
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Other: _____

SEQUIM WASHINGTON

Community Survey on Park & Recreation Preferences

9. Today, the City of Sequim does not directly provide recreation programs or classes. The City does partner with the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and Shipley Center for programs. Also, local schools provide some athletics and activities for youth. Please indicate your household's level of interest in the City of Sequim directly offering any of the following programs or activities.

Type of Program / Activity	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not At All Interested	Don't know
Adult classes, such as arts, crafts or music	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult classes, such as fitness, aerobics or wellness	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer, ultimate frisbee or softball	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks	☐	☐	☐	☐
After-school programs or summer day camps for children	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs for youth and young adults with special needs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, trips or camps during school breaks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts or crafts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips or health	☐	☐	☐	☐
Boating programs, such as sailing, kayaking or paddle boarding	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety or health	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor classes, such as fishing, environmental or orienteering	☐	☐	☐	☐

10. The City of Sequim offers or supports many community events throughout the year that are free to the public. Below is a list of Sequim community events that are currently offered. For each event, indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, a Medium Priority, a Low Priority, or Not a Priority for your household.

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority	Don't know / No opinion
First Friday Art Walk	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sequim Sunshine Festival	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sequim Farmers and Artisans Market	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sequim Irrigation Festival	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Music in the Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sequim Lavender Weekend	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dungeness Cup Youth Soccer Tournament	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hometown Holidays Tree Lighting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11. Maintaining the park improvements and recreation programs requested by residents might require an increase the budget for these services, and additional revenues might be required to meet these expenses. Creating a special parks and recreation district might allow for tax revenues to be paid by residents of the greater Sequim area to support these services. How supportive would you be of exploring the creation of a special parks and recreation district to include the greater Sequim area for the purposes of funding park maintenance and recreation programs of interest to local residents?

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not supportive
- ☐ Not sure

12. Share any additional needs for park improvements, programs or activities that you may have in Sequim.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

The following questions help us understand whether we have a cross-section of the community responding to this survey. It's important that you provide a response to each question. Your responses are confidential.

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

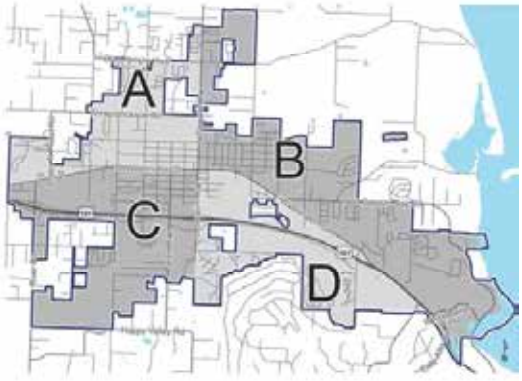
- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3 or more

14. What is your age?

- ☐ Younger than 20
- ☐ 20 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 and 74
- ☐ 75 and older

15. In which section of Sequim do you live?

- ☐ (A) N of W Washington & W of N Sequim Ave
- ☐ (B) N of W Washington & E of N Sequim Ave
- ☐ (C) S of W Washington & W of S Sequim Ave
- ☐ (D) S of W Washington & E of S Sequim Ave
- ☐ Don't live inside the city limits of Sequim



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the Sequim Parks & Open Space Plan.

Take this survey online with the QR code or at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sequimparksplan

Learn more about Sequim parks and open space, and stay informed about the Parks & Open Space Plan process at http://sequimwa.gov

The City of Sequim is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.
Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 885
Orinda, CA 94563

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APPENDIX B

Online Open House Summary

City of Sequim

Parks & Open Space Plan: Online Open House Summary

To: Matthew Klontz, Public Works Director

From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.

Date: September 8, 2021

Re: **Sequim Parks & Open Space Plan**
Online Open House Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of an online open house that explored residents' recreational needs and priorities following the community survey conducted in May 2021.

METHODOLOGY

An online open house was prepared to provide residents an opportunity to respond to a series of questions about park and recreation programs, services, and facilities.



The City of Sequim conducted outreach with the public between August 16 and September 6, 2021 to share information about the Sequim Parks and Open Space Plan and solicit input about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them.

The online open house was promoted via the city's website, social media and flyers posted throughout the city and in city parks. The survey was closed on September 6th, and preliminary data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 110 responses were collected.

This report includes findings of community opinions. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups and among responses to the online-only survey, where applicable. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

RESULTS

What are residents looking forward to doing post-COVID?

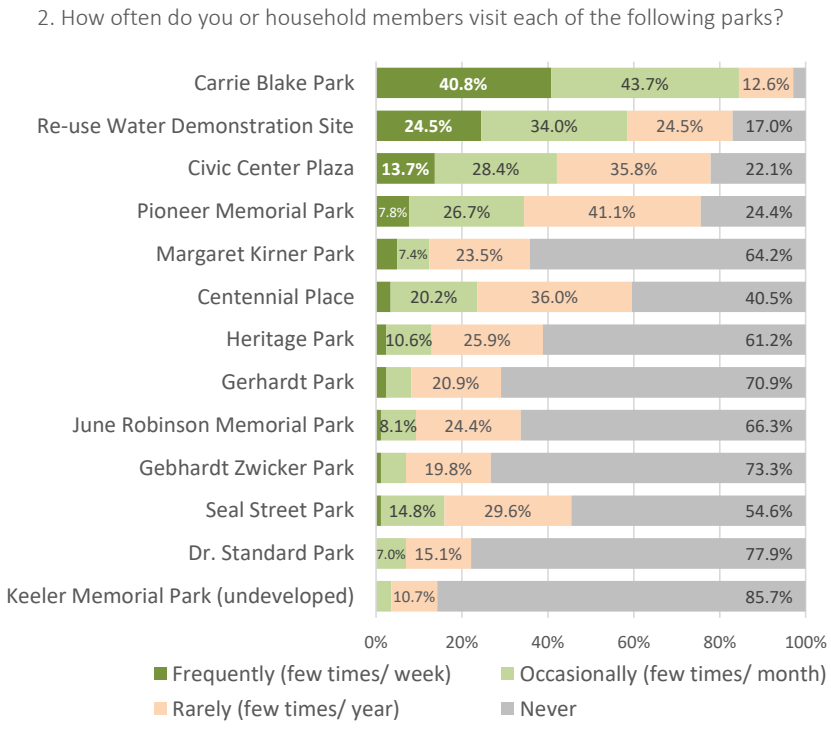
As an opening, warm-up question to the online open house, respondents were asked what activities they most look forward to once COVID restrictions are lifted. Strong majorities of respondents noted spending time with friends and family outdoors (60%) and relaxing at a park or trail (60%) as top interests.



How often do residents visit local parks?

The online survey asked respondents to indicate their frequency of visitation to a listing of city parks. Carrie Blake Park and the Re-use Water Demonstration Site were the most frequently visited parks at several times per month (85% and 59%, respectively). Of the list of 13 parks, only Civic Center Plaza and Pioneer Memorial Park were the only other sites that had visitation on a monthly basis by more than a third of respondents.

With a few exceptions, no significant differences were noted between the respondent subgroups. Respondents between 35 and 54 years of age and those with two or more children in the household indicated a slightly higher frequency of visitation to Dr. Standard Park than other age groups. Also, respondents over 55 years of age indicated a slightly higher visitation to Pioneer Memorial Park.



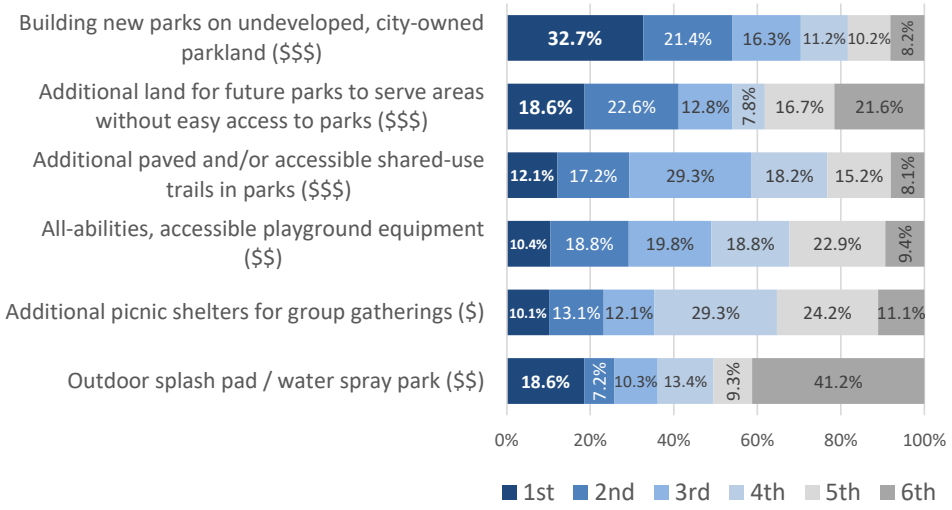
What recreation and park investments would residents prioritize?

As a way to explore some of the community priorities noted in the community survey from May, the online open house asked respondents to consider their priority for a sampling of project types that were favorably noted in the community survey. Also, hypothetical relative costs were indicated by the use of dollar symbols ($) for each system investment.

Respondents indicated the top priority as building new parks on undeveloped, city owned parklands, followed by acquiring land for future parks in areas without easy access to parks. The sentiment toward supporting park development aligns with community survey data where respondents indicated an unmet need for picnic areas, developed parks with playgrounds and walking trails.

No significant differences were noted between the subgroups regarding the general support for building new parks on undeveloped, city-owned parkland. Respondents over 55 years of age and those without children in the household indicated slightly higher priority than other subgroups for additional paved trails and additional picnic areas. Respondents under 45 years of age and those with children in the household were slightly more supportive of installing an outdoor splash pad. Respondents residing in the southeast portion of the city were slightly more supportive of additional land for future parks to serve areas without access.

3. The June 2021 community survey identified six priorities for the park system. For the following list of park system priorities, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (first priority is highest and sixth priority is lowest). Cost estimates are shown as $ (somewhat expensive), $$ (moderately expensive) or $$$ (expensive).

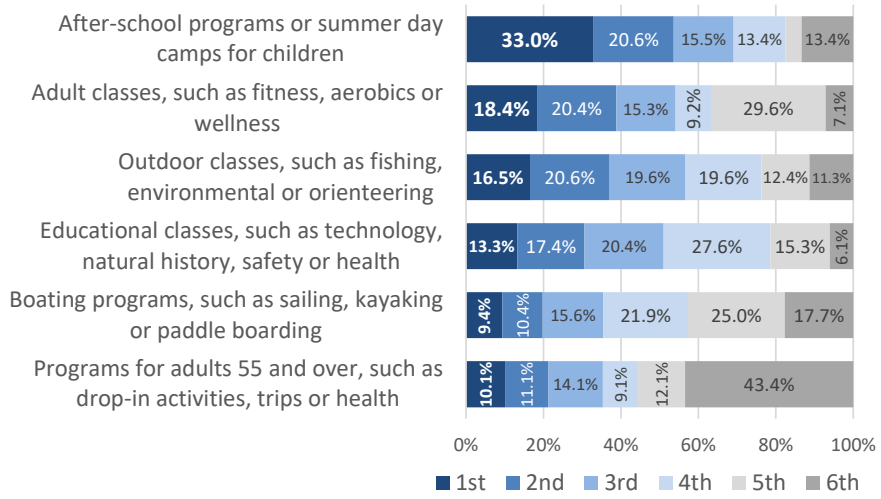


The online open house asked a similar question pertaining to recreation program priorities. Whereas the community survey framed a question about recreation program options around a level of respondent interest, the online survey framed the question around relative priorities for the different program choices.

A plurality of respondents (33%) indicated after-school programs or summer day camps as the top priority of the choices offered. The second, third and fourth options were closely ranked in priority and included adult classes (2nd), outdoor classes (3rd) and educational classes (4th). With the exception of the after-school programs, the other three of the top four priorities were also consistent with the top-rated program types of interest in the community survey.

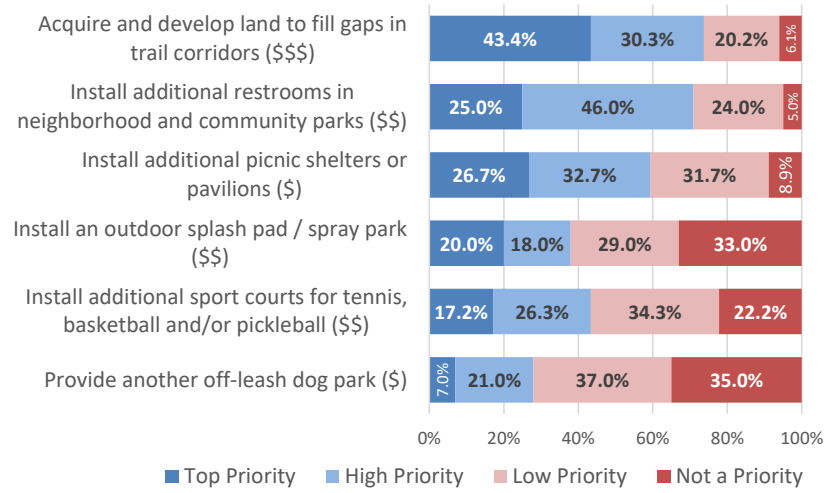
Younger respondents, especially those between 20 and 54 and with children in the household, expressed a greater priority for after-school and summer camp programs than other subgroups. Respondents over 55 years of age and those without children in the household indicated a slightly higher priority for adult classes and programs for adults 55 and over.

4. The June 2021 community survey identified six priorities for recreation programs and activities. For the following list of recreation programs and activities, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (first priority is highest and sixth priority is lowest).



A third prioritization question sought to explore community priorities for a specific selection of potential recreational amenities or improvements to the Sequim park system. Again, relative costs were indicated by the use of dollar symbols ($) for each system investment. Of the choices provided, a plurality of respondents noted acquiring and developing trail corridors as a top priority. Installing additional restrooms was noted as a second priority, followed by the installation of additional picnic shelters. The remaining items listed pertain to specialized facilities that were supported as priorities by fewer respondents.

5. The following list of new facilities/amenities may be considered in the new Parks and Open Space Plan. For each item, please tell us if it should be a top priority, a high priority, a low priority or not a priority at all. Cost estimates are shown as $ (somewhat expensive), $$ (moderately expensive), or $$$ (expensive).



Respondents between 20 and 54 and those with children in the household expressed a slightly higher priority for an outdoor splash pad and for additional sport courts. Respondents over 65 and those without children in the household

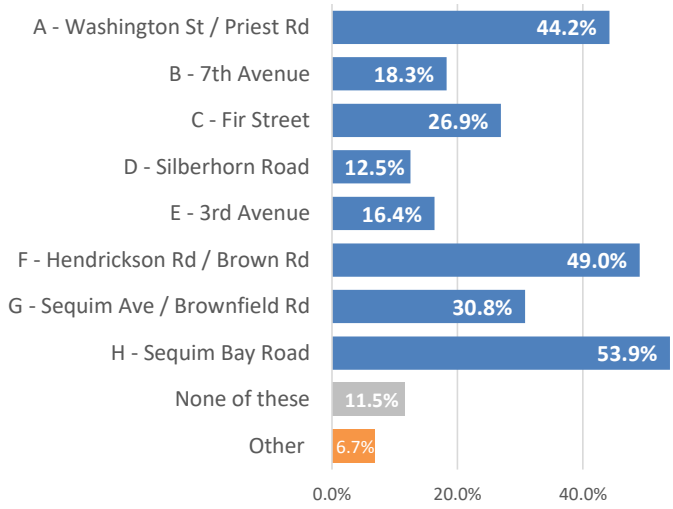
indicated a slightly higher priority for acquiring and developing trail corridors. Those living in the southeastern area of the city noted a slightly higher priority for an off-leash dog park, outdoor splash pads and acquiring and developing trail corridors.

Which conceptual trail corridors do residents prioritize?

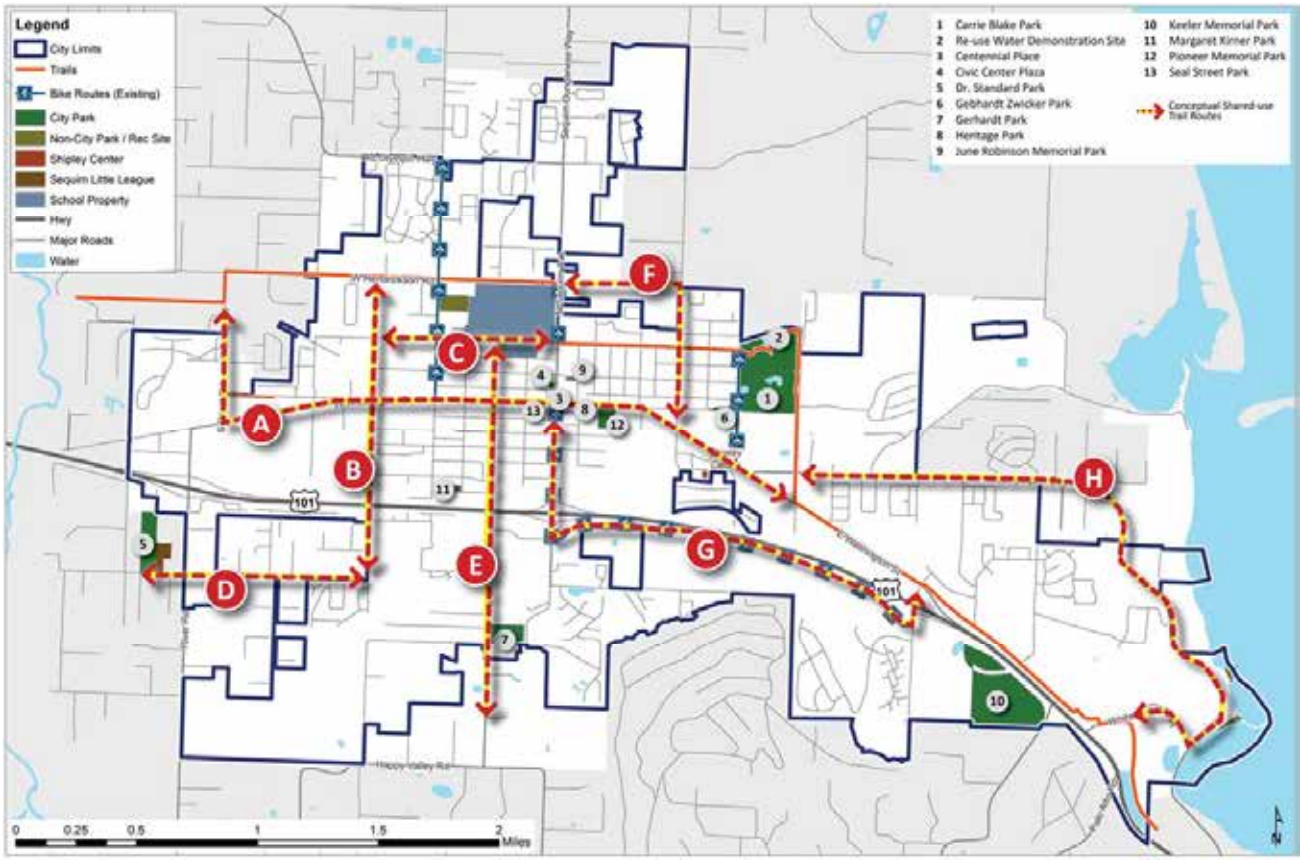
In an effort to explore trail corridors of interest, the online open house provided a map of conceptual trail corridors for consideration and asked respondents to select up to four alignments they considered priorities. Several of the conceptual alignments follow those noted in the City's Comprehensive Plan and include alternative linkages for the Olympic Discovery Trail.

A slight majority of respondents (54%) favored an alignment along Sequim Bay Road. Pluralities of respondents also prioritized an alignment along Washington Street to Priest Road (44%) through central Sequim and an alignment along Hendrickson Road to Brown Road (49%). None of the other alignments were noted as priorities by more than one-third of respondents.

6. Thinking about trails and paths, which potential trail connections are the highest priority for your household? (Select up to 4.)



Respondents tended to be more supportive of trail corridors within or close to their residence. For example, respondents living in the southeast and northeast areas were more supportive of a Sequim Bay Road corridor. Respondents without children in the households were also slightly more favorable toward a Sequim Bay Road corridor.

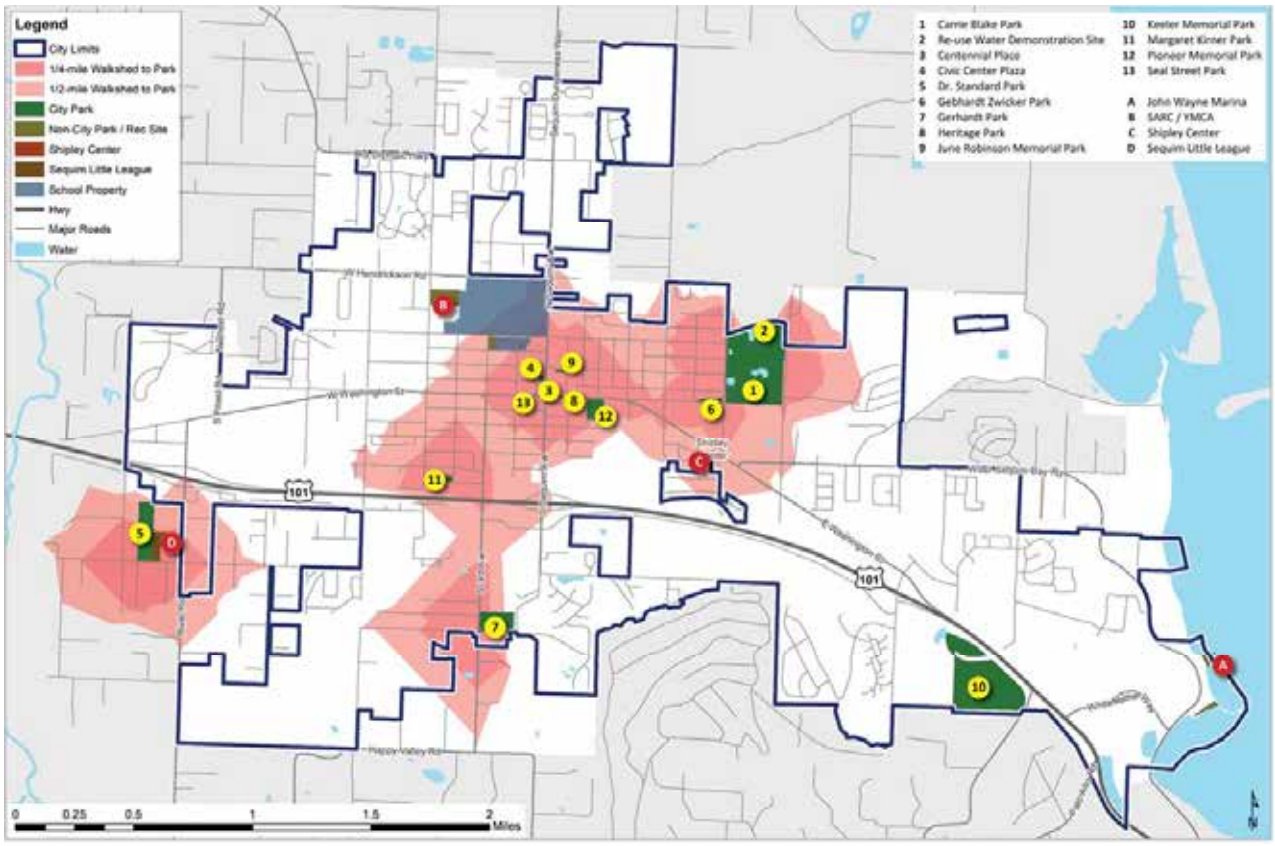


What priorities exist for land acquisition?

The community survey results from May indicated moderate public interest in acquiring additional lands for parks and open space. The online open house targeted two questions to explore community sentiment and preferences toward land acquisitions. The online open house also included a map graphic illustrating ½-mile travelsheds for existing developed parks to highlight the extent of the city that is within a ½-mile of a park (see map on following page).

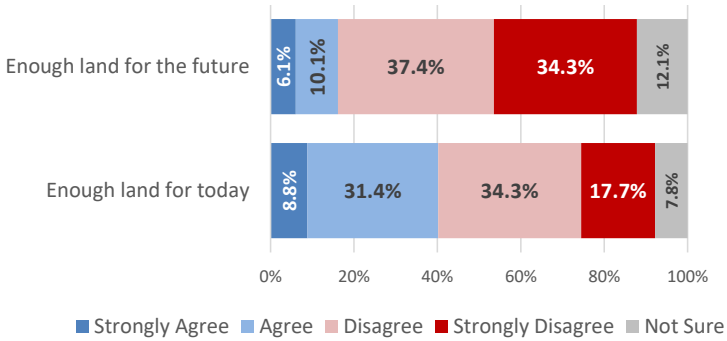
City of Sequim

Parks & Open Space Plan: Online Open House Summary



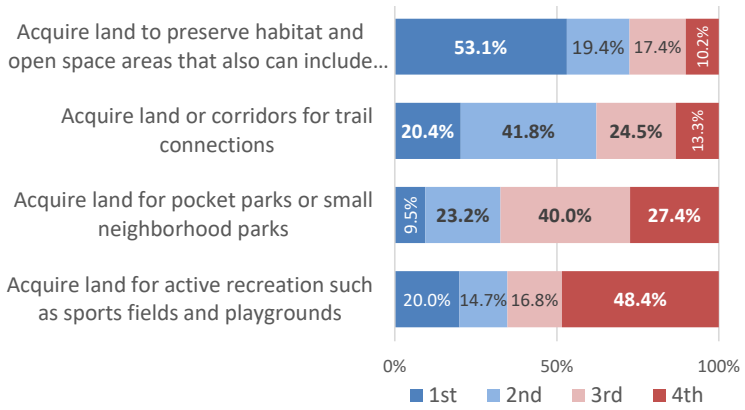
The first question asked respondents about their level of agreement toward a statement whether Sequim has enough land for parks, trails, and open space to meet community needs today and in the future. Majorities of respondents indicated that Sequim does not have enough parkland for today or the future. Regarding parklands for today's needs, respondents were closely split between agreeing that Sequim has enough parklands today, with a slight majority (52%) indicating there is not enough land today and 40% of respondents indicating there is enough land today. The difference in sentiment expanded when considering parklands for the future. A strong majority (72%) of respondents indicated that there is not enough parkland to meet the community needs for the future.

7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The City of Sequim has enough land for parks, trails, and open space to meet community needs today and in the future.



The second question focused on the types of land that might need to consider for acquisitions, if the city were to pursue additional purchases. Respondents were asked to rank in priority from a selection of four choices. A majority of respondents (53%) supported as the top priority the acquisition of open space and habitat lands that also can include walking and jogging trails. The second highest ranked priority was for the acquisition of land or corridors to accommodate trail connections. Community sentiment toward the support of land acquisition to accommodate trail corridors also aligns with survey results from May, where 'expanding trail opportunities' was noted a top priority.

8. If the City of Sequim were to acquire additional park land, please rank your land acquisition priorities from 1st (highest priority) to 4th (lowest priority). Reorder the list by dragging each line into your preferred order of preference.



Respondents between 20 and 34 years of age rated acquiring land for active recreation and for pocket parks as higher priorities than other age groups. Respondents over 55 years of age and those without children in the household rated acquiring land for habitat and open space as a slightly higher priority. Respondents living in the northwest and southwest areas of Sequim rated acquiring land for active recreation and for pocket parks as higher priorities than others.

Other Comments

The survey provided respondents with an opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions via open-ended responses. Over 83 respondents (75%) provided written comments. Common themes from these comments include:

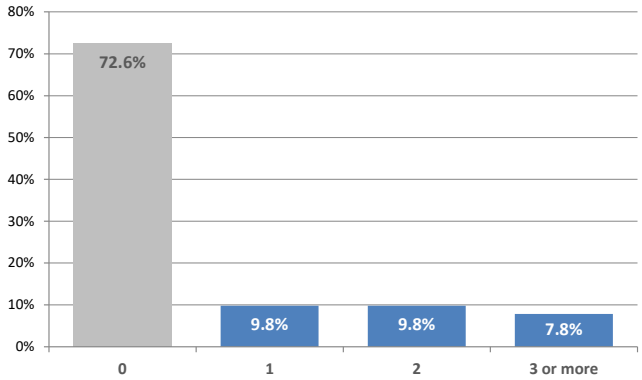
- Respondents expressed interest in a variety of park improvements, including the development of playgrounds, restrooms, pickleball and tennis courts, trails, disc golf and a splash pad.
- Several responses suggested specific projects, such as developing Keeler Memorial Park, completing the Botanical Garden, installing more trails in Pioneer Memorial Park, providing more community performance space, and providing maps and community information about parks and trails.
- Several responses noted the need for ongoing maintenance, safety, and cleanliness.

The full list of write-in comments is provided at the end of this summary memo.

Demographics

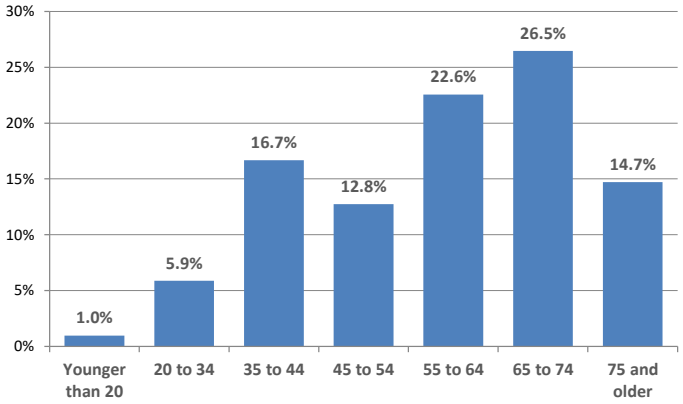
Number of children in household

A majority (73%) of respondents live in households with no children under 18, while about one in five live in a household with either one (01%) or two (10%) children. Less than eight percent of respondents live in a household with more than three children. This segmentation in households by number of children aligns closely with the responses from the May online-only community survey.



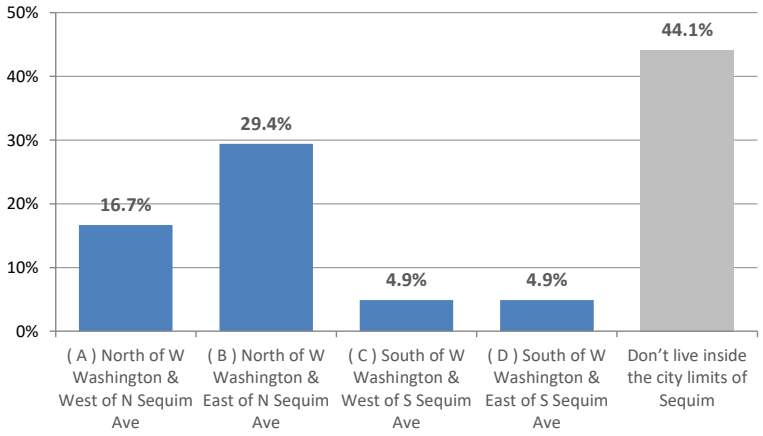
Age

Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the mail survey (64%) were 55 years of age or older. Approximately 30% of respondents were between 35 and 54 years old, and this online open house captured slightly more responses from the 35 to 44 age group than the community survey in May.

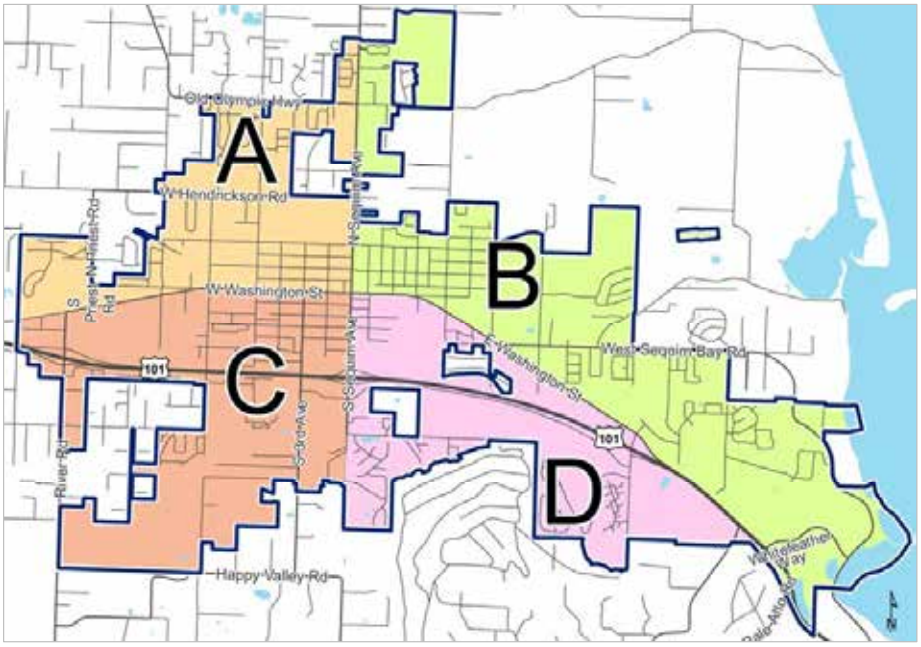


Location of residence

Close to half of the respondents (46%) reside on the north side of the city, north of Washington Street. Approximately 10% of responses were from those living south of Washington Street, which is slightly lower than the responses from the community survey in May. A significant portion (44%) of respondents do not live in the city, and this percentage is also consistent with the response from the online-only component of the community survey from May.



Location Map



ATTACHMENT 1. OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

Question 6. Thinking about trails and paths, which potential trail connections are the highest priority for your household? *(open-ended "other" responses)*

- Carrie Blake park to Hendrickson
- There are SO many people walking Sequim Ave south of 101 to Miller east- on a narrow road with no sidewalks....this would be my #1 choice
- Keeler Memorial Park
- Hire more staff to maintain
- E. Washington St/Simdars Rd
- ODT from Hendrickson to Carrie Blake
- These are not needed for my family but where I drive and see the need.

Question 9. If you wanted the City of Sequim to do just one thing to improve parks, trails and/or open space areas, what would it be?

- To develop at least 1 park dedicated to off-road/trail cycling fitness, training and competition events. Shared parks and trails are not ideal because of the speed differential and are dangerous. Currently there are no facilities for this activity without travelling outside of the city which discourages many citizens from participating. With the uptick of people taking up cycling, having a park like this in the city would be a great addition to increase safety and foster a healthy activity. The roads in Sequim are becoming more congested and the more we do to create opportunities for cycling will help to alleviate this problem.
- Acquire more open space for public recreation
- Have a parks and recreation department
- Don't forget our youth, we tend to gear to the needs of senior citizens. I would love to see the skate park fully and safely developed.
- Make them completely NO SMOKING allowed on park property -- even outdoors!!
- Add another off-leash dog park
- I would like the city to have a theatrical performance space venue for those of us willing to put on semi outdoor improv or Comdia del Arte, or Shakespeare, and other non rights reserved options for the public. This space could transform into a variety of other purposes but serve as an outdoor space yet protected from the elements, not a covered picnic area. I would also like to see a means for audition in lieu of a resume as has been requested by the art commission in the past. An actor's resume is not the same as a fine artist's resume and when suggesting an idea, it would be best for performing artists to literally perform an audition before the art commission. I highly recommend the city consider creating an ensemble composed of city residents. Performers confined to the city limits have to compete with performers from all over the city for coveted roles at our local theater. I happen to know we have some fantastic thespians in the area including one on the art commission itself.
- Restrooms/port-o-potties
- More bathrooms
- Secure parking
- Splash pad or water feature for the youth in our community to enjoy. And more community playgrounds.

- Expand Sequim Botanical Garden to include rose garden and pergola.
- More trails
- Protect park areas from over development
- Off road bike path from Carrie Blake Park to Hendrickson
- Make the discovery trails safer for walkers. The people on bicycles think they own the trail, and ride TOO fast. I don't feel safe walking on the trails anymore, especially from railroad bridge to priest rd.
- Create an interconnected system of trails to many of the open spaces and parks.
- Completion of the Sequim Botanical Garden construction.
- issue a map with descriptions of facilities
- Be careful what you develop. You don't want the homeless encampments to turn the parks into their own personal campsites. Look at Seattle and what a dump that has turned into. None of their parks are usable for the intended purposes. Don't develop parks geared towards Senior citizens. Start gearing them towards young families. Sequim will continue to struggle to attract good doctors, specialists etc. unless something is done. we are tired of continually being God's waiting room.
- paved walking path in Pioneer Memorial Park
- "Create a disc golf course, Improve the skatepark, Install an archery range"
- Install a disc golf course at Carrie Blake
- preserve the marina
- preserve habitat
- To feel safe & open spaces!
- Splash pad park
- Better maintenance
- Increase # of Picnic tables, benches, gathering places…
- "the City of Sequim is doing a FABULOUS job of keeping our parks and trails clean, trim and well planted.
- Carrie Blake Park and Water Reclamation Area is a jewel, with all of its variety of activities and integrated areas. Thank you SO much!"
- Install more swings at Carrie Blake Park!
- More sidewalks on W Sequim Bay Rd
- Take the Discovery trail off residential streets and create exclusive bike paths in these areas.
- Off-street trails to connect existing bike paths and trails
- More picnic areas!
- Get a splash pad
- Provide additional areas to sit/eat in parks.
- Add a 9-hole disc golf course at Carrie Blake Park / Water Demo Site.
- Splash pad
- Providing a multi use covered sport court surface would be very useful for activities such as basketball, in-line hockey, volleyball, tennis, etc. it is very difficult to find recreational activities and facilities for adults and children especially in the fall, winter, and spring. Access to the YMCA, school system, and Boys and Girls Club gyms are very limited.
- establish more dedicated bike/walking paths within city
- Make sure to not use pesticides. Have community 'work bees'. The parking area/road between the soccer field and the

playground area at Carrie Blake needs redesigning or more paving.

- Facilities to serve children and teens.
- I would like to see a paved or gravel trail along Sequim Bay Road
- Develop Keeler Memorial Park which was purchased more than a decade ago and is not available for public use.
- NO MORE sports in Carrie Blake or reuse area
- More picnic tables available near game and music areas.
- Build 6 tennis courts...a city needs quality tennis courts that can be used for high school tennis meets.
- Provide more pit toilets and accessible drinking water facets on the Olympic Trail.
- Accessibility and covered areas
- Install speed bumps along N Blake Ave from E Alder St to E Oak St adjacent to parkland. Cars constantly exceed speed limits which is a huge safety issue.
- Stop housing developments that are ruining our small town. Use the land for the whole community to enjoy. We don't need any more money from California.
- Spread the improved parks out to many areas in town rather than just improving one park for all recreation.
- Add parking for Soccer at Carrie Blake park!
- Provide more pavilions and coverings for parks so kids can still play in the rain.
- More playground equipment for variety and to draw families to Sequim and want to stay.
- hire additional staff to help with the parks that we have NOT office staff.....Actual working staff
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Multi-use indoor/outdoor youth sports facility
- Carrie Blake Park is over improved. Spend additional city dollars in other areas of the city to improve existing parks or acquire new land for parks. Also, add speed bumps (humps) along Blake Avenue for pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Connect the Olympic Discovery Trail to the ferry.
- Finish the ODT in a dedicated trail through Sequim. Help us get out of vehicular traffic. Safety 1st
- Umbrella shade for sitting and relaxing.
- bike and walking corridors
- Provide more benches in parks, trails &/or open space area where they are lacking.
- Build more pickleball courts
- Lots of walking/bike trails
- Build more pickleball courts.
- make getting to city parks more walkable/ridable (safer too)
- Work with the county to pass a Metropolitan Parks District. Then we'd have help ($) for all the non-Sequim residents who use our parks.
- Keep them clean, do not let them become homeless camps.
- Splash pad and more focus on kid friendly spaces, especially not just at Carrie Blake.
- protect and expand natural spaces
- ADA pathways
- Make sure they are safe and maintained so people don't step on needles, human waste and garbage. Don't allow vagrants to set up tents, use the bathrooms to bathe in and keep high risks dogs such as pit bulls banned from public spaces.

- More playground options for families
- More play areas for children!
- More family focused.
- "educate bikers"
- maintain facilities and have more restrooms
- Concise, updated, one-stop access to information on all parks, trails, and open spaces
- I understand its a retirement community, but the majority of the workforce have multiple children. Those children need places to play and be outside just as much as the retired community!
- Some type of water feature for kids

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APPENDIX C

Stakeholder Discussion Notes

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name:	Sequim Parks & Open Space Plan			**Project No.:**	Proj-# 21-134PLN
Location:	Zoom Video Conference	**Interview Date:**	August 11, 2021	**Time:**	4:30 pm
Notes by:	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix				
Participant:	David Henderson, Sequim Junior Soccer		Joel Meier, pickler		
	Renne Brock, 1st Friday Arts Walk		Nick Simpson, Sequim Little League		
	Dona Brock, Sequim Botanical Society		Dave Pruquist, angler		
	Mark Simpson, Sequim Youth Skate Park		Steve Duh, Conservation Technix		
	Kendal Wake, pickler				

Subject: **Stakeholder Group Discussion with Local Recreation Users**

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for park and recreation amenities. The meeting took place on August 11, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's Parks and Open Space Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about system planning and local recreation needs.

Local interests and priorities

- Indoor space during winter months
- Picklers have to travel quite a way for indoor pickleball courts
- Covered batting cages would be nice, but the priority should be on field renovation and ongoing field management of existing fields at Dr Standard Park. Improved field quality could stimulate additional tourism
- Grounds management at Haller Fields is also a challenge. City staff do not have the resources to properly upkeep the fields
- Big picture idea is to build a multi-sport indoor and outdoor facility that can be utilized by many groups and for youth and adults. Develop shared space beyond what is available at Guy Cole Event Center. Indoor spaces at the school district do not function well for programs or gatherings
- The skate park is good, but it is 20 years old and needs to be upgraded. Raised $16,000 and pursuing a Tony Hawk grant. An updated, enlarged skate park could serve scooters, skaters and bikers.
- Need to plan for future festival space. The Lavender Festival uses the area where the botanical garden will be

Interview Notes (continued)

- Need access to recreation – want to have young people come to town
- The plan for the botanical garden adds pathways and entries to the Re-Use Water Demonstration Site side of Carrie Blake Park.

Stand-out project ideas

- Most beneficial project is field maintenance at existing fields.
- Picklers envision the need to expand court space in the coming years due to popularity
- Anglers would like to expand the pond, which would also help for water reclamation
- Multi-use indoor/outdoor space. There is a dearth of meeting space in Sequim
- Communications – need more ways for people to find out what is available, especially for trails so people are not walking in the roads

Other Comments

- The lack of a Parks and Recreation Department is a detriment to the community. There is accountability. There should be a department and better maintenance of existing amenities
- Consider acquiring additional land
- Consider making Haller Field a fee for use site. This would reduce the use and abuse by some groups
- The baseball fields are in bad condition. Better fields could bring more people to the sport and more people to visit Sequim for games
- The T-ball field at the south end of the Little League fields are wide open , and these could be improved to open it for soccer use if scheduling allows
- Sequim has a base of loyal, passionate volunteers, and all of the organizations need to keep bringing in younger people to maintain the organizations.
- Youth can benefit from the work of all the groups in Sequim. These parks, fields, gardens and pond could be the safest places some youth see in their entire day. Council may have lost track of the need of youth. Kids going home with a smile is great, and the city and volunteer groups should work together with that in mind.

-- End of Notes --

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name:	Sequim Parks & Open Space Plan		**Project No.:**	Proj-# 21-134PLN	
Location:	Zoom Video Conference	**Interview Date:**	July 22, 2021	**Time:**	10:00 am
Notes by:	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix				
Participant:	Gail Sumpter, Branch Executive, YMCA Emily Sly, Library Manager, North Olympic Library System		Hannah Merrill, Parks Supervisor, Clallam County Steve Duh, Conservation Technix		

Subject: **Stakeholder Group Discussion with Local Providers**

PURPOSE

To discuss current park system planning issues and explore opportunities for future partnership or collaboration efforts. The meeting took place on July 22, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 10:00 – 11:30 am. Representatives from the Shipley Center, Boys & Girls Club and Sequim School District also were invited.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's Parks and Open Space Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about planning and local recreation needs.

Opening Comments

- The Sequim YMCA branch started in 2016 and offers subsidized or no cost programs for families that can't pay. Programs include youth enrichment, swim lessons and summer camps.
- The YMCA has not had a great deal of coordination with the city in the past, but the relationship with the city has gotten deeper since the start of COVID. Also, with COVID, the Youth Services Task Force has fallen by the wayside, and Gail would like to see it ramped up again.
- The YMCA hosted a summer break camp and used the Guy Cole Event Center at Carrie Blake Park for no fee. However, when restrictions are lifted, the YMCA will need to pay for the use of the facility again.
- The NOLS is undersized, but the library has a small outdoor covered space.
- County parks are outside city limits.

Needs

Interview Notes (continued)

- Trails
- Covered (outdoor) space for programming and indoor building space for activities
- There is a service gap for the middle school and high school aged teens in Sequim.
- The Boys & Girls Club has done a great job, but they have been maxed out during COVID.
- The school district offers after school sports, but not much else in the way of programming.
- Sequim does have strong volunteer-based sport leagues (e.g., soccer, little league) as an outlet for youth.
- A place to bring the community together – maybe include a makers space, robotics or intergenerational activities.
- Another need is the preservation of open space to protect the option for accommodating future needs. There has been a lot of development in Sequim.
- The city relies on other providers for services. Maybe the city could be a leader on funding, grant pursuits, etc.
- Are there options for leased, collaborative indoor spaces – built around joint use?
- For the County, day use has increased two-fold. Campground usage is up 20-30%. There has been strong use for disc golf and at water access and hand launch sites.
- There is a need in the region for more recreation fields, dog walking areas and trails.
- The Olympic Discovery Trail is a huge draw for the county, with visitors coming for extended rides and also veering off for stops to pocket parks in the city.
- Consider e-bike charging stations for the future. Also, consider wayfinding and signage improvements to include storyboards about local history or art.

<u>Envisioning Top Projects to Occur within 5 years</u>

- Indoor recreation space available to other providers as a collab space (makers space, pottery, welding, etc.)
- Art is limited in the schools. It is only offered for the very young (kindergarten) and high school. There are no options for middle year youth.
- Playgrounds are very limited, especially on the westside. There are two offered by the city and one by the school district.
- Covered space or picnic shelters for outdoor use, programs and gatherings. The Sequim Orchestra and Olympic Theatre Arts could possibly use outdoor space if available.
- Restroom space is very limited. Consider building as individual stalls to avoid congestion.

<u>Other interests</u>

- Book mobile or tiny library to include a read/return box
- Provide library services in city spaces – or consider a walking book fair or movement activity in parks
- Parents of young kids (under 5) looking for ways to get kids engaged. Consider options for Parent and Me classes, art or kinder music programs, story time and other socialization programs.
- Small bocce court
- Seasonal ice rink
- Disc golf at Robin Hill Farm Park and Dungeness Recreation Area. If the city offered disc golf, it could create a trifecta of venues that could be linked by trails.

Interview Notes (continued)

Other comments

- Excited about the direction Sequim is going
- Listen to and hear from youth. Get their feedback and perspectives
- Lots of people chose to live in Sequim and relocated to create the kind of community they want to see
- Tourism dollars have a huge impact on the community and what can be offered. Look for options to create vibrant and linked recreation options through partnerships

-- End of Notes --

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name:	Sequim Parks & Open Space Plan		**Project No.:**	Proj-# 21-134PLN	
Location:	Zoom Video Conference	**Interview Date:**	July 22, 2021	**Time:**	10:00 am
Notes by:	Jean Akers, Conservation Technix				
Participant:	Stefanie Rotmark, Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau		Luke Strong-Cvetich, Planner, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe		
	Anji Scalf, Director, Sequim Chamber of Commerce		Jean Akers, Conservation Technix		

Subject: **Stakeholder Group Discussion with Economic Development / Tourism Interests**

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for park and recreation amenities. The meeting took place on July 22, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 10:00 – 11:30 am.

DISCUSSION

Each person provided a quick introduction and highlighted their agency's mission and relationship with the City and community of Sequim. Jean gave a quick overview of the park, recreation and open space planning process and shared the importance of public engagement and community involvement. A series of questions were posed to initiate discussion on topics related to park and recreation planning and key roles that might benefit from partner cooperation and collaboration. Comments have been sorted based on topics listed below.

<u>What's working well?</u>

- City branding works well; cohesive, sunny, lavender.
- City has incorporated parks into branding with visual floral themes.
- The City has recognized the native culture with the placement of a Jamestown totem at City Hall.
- The City has a good aesthetic.
- Parks and their facilities are very accessible.
- Event permitting process with the City is clear and smooth.
- City communicates well with its partner organizations.
- Sequim is inclusive, has strong quality of life and good local recreation opportunities.
- Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau, Sequim Chamber of Commerce and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe all consider the City of Sequim as an important and valued partner and seek to be supportive of the community.

Interview Notes (continued)

Value & importance of Sequim's parks and recreation?

- Park and trail system contribute directly to quality of life. Valued by residents and visitors.
- Retirees also want attractive outdoor recreation for their grandchildren's enjoyment. Seniors want to live where their extended family will want to visit.
- Focus on visitors as well as residents. A good park system draws tourist activity and extends stays.

What's **not** working well? What's missing?

- Better wayfinding is needed. Visitors have a hard time finding Carrie Blake Park and other special local places.
- Special events and activities need more outreach.
- Lavender Festival can be an ADA-accessibility challenge when activities are conducted in a field. Difficult for navigating by wheelchairs and folks with limited mobility.
- Avoid replacing recreational amenities with other amenities that eliminate specific user groups. (Example: Pickleball replacing kids dirt track.)
- More amenities needed for youth – as unprogrammed recreational features. Splash pad, climbing wall, BMX pump track, skate spots, sport courts, etc.
- More trail connections to enhance Olympic Discovery Trail value and local walkability.
- Audubon Discovery Center (Railroad Bridge Park) is nicely shaded. City parks could use more shade trees for park user comfort.
- Splash pad for local water-based recreation. City has no waterfront facilities so options would be valued addition.

Critical future considerations and targets?

- ADA and universal access are critical.
- City's public infrastructure could be developed to support larger events to draw more as a destination, especially for winter and shoulder seasons.
- Dungeness River Audubon Center is currently developing expanded facility that will include large meeting room and exhibit hall. Valuable contribution for community and regional events.
- City and County should partner to improve Hendrickson Road to provide a bike lane as it will draw more traffic once the Audubon Center is completed.
- Winter infrastructure: indoor spaces for warming up/ drying off, covered sports courts for year-round use, support amenities for snow sports at Hurricane Ridge.
- Lower Dungeness River floodplain restoration project may create better access to the River and more recreational opportunities if the City and County plan for local connections (sidewalks/bike lanes) aligned with river floodplain access. Dike removal may entail new trails as the river is improved for better salmon habitat.
- City limits are irregular, and facilities are used by residents and non-residents alike. What annexation or district boundaries could be considered into the future?

Interview Notes (continued)

Future needs & role in the region?

- Increased growth (new housing) and tourism will create traffic problems. Streets and transportation alternatives will be critical. Locals will be more frustrated as traffic volumes grow.
- Visitors will need more lodging. This summer has been completely booked throughout the Peninsula.
- More walkability throughout the City and connecting to destinations and regional trail.
- E-bikes are growing in popularity. Biking infrastructure should be expanded to support this use.
- The niche identity as a "retirement community" can be both a "blessing and a curse". Young families also need to be included in recreation facilities and planning.

Key Priorities for City's parks and open space?

- Sequim is a central node for visitation to the Peninsula.
- Continue with trail connections across the park system and linking destinations to the Olympic Discovery Trail.
- Survey through intercept methods to find out what the existing park users think about what good and what's needed.
- Spread new amenities out across the park system to avoid displacing existing recreation features when adding new amenities.
- Provide different recreation amenities for both youth and young families.

Opportunities for Collaboration?

- Video and photo shoots needed for Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau media library. Need more about Sequim in variety of formats.
- Expand outreach beyond social media and regular channels. Consider local radio spots. Contact service and community groups for extended outreach and news releases. Chamber is ready to amplify content that City creates.
- Waterfront access (by other providers) could be facilitated and add value to local recreation choices.

Next Steps

- Content from today's discussion will be incorporated into other stakeholder and public inputs as part of the determination of community needs and priorities, leading to development of a 6-year capital facilities plan.
- Stay tuned for participation on open houses and for release of draft plan. Your review of the draft document will be appreciated.

-- End of Notes --

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APPENDIX D

Park Histories

HISTORY OF PARK SITES

Carrie Blake Park

Carrie Blake Park began as farmland at the east end of town. Now it's a community park of diverse attractions: two ponds, a Japanese garden, a gazebo, a picnic shelter, a convention center, two playgrounds, horseshoe pits, a dog park and agility training area, softball fields, a BMX track and a skate park. It's unbelievably busy and by day a visitor can easily see that Sequim is not just a retirement community based on the activity at Carrie Blake Park. The park has developed from volunteer efforts of people with different interests. When community groups saw a need, they invested time, money and hard work to make the park's amenities possible. The park area once belonged to the 200-acre Honey Locust Farm, the home of Edward Blake.

In 1910, Edward Blake's son, Charles, married Caroline Davidson, the daughter of Scottish settlers who farmed on Taylor Cutoff Road. The "Carrie" of the future Carrie Blake Park worked as a telephone operator for the Sinclair Hotel and the Port Williams single-circuit line. She joined her husband on the family farm; the couple kept a herd of 60 Guernsey cows, along with horses, pigs and gardens.

When U.S. Highway 101 was to be extended east to Blyn in 1934, the state transportation department began to mine gravel on the Blake property, creating what came to be known as "Blake's ponds." The ponds were mined for gravel for the next three decades. Meanwhile, Carrie Blake planted pond lilies and stocked the ponds with goldfish. In the 1970s, Edward Blake sold about 28 acres bordering the ponds to the City of Sequim. The Sequim Lions Club asked the City to use the land as a park. Club members followed through by grading the land and building a meeting hall with a kitchen. The meeting hall is known today as the Guy Cole Mini-Convention Center which still hosts community events throughout the year. The City purchased the ponds in 1975 and in the same year voted to name the park after Carrie Blake.

In 1993 the City of Sequim signed a sister city agreement with Yamasaki, Japan. Two years later the City set aside land in the park for a Japanese garden, to be constructed and maintained by the Yamasaki Sister City Committee. (Yamasaki joined five other cities to form Shiso City, and in 2004 Sequim entered into a sister city agreement with Shiso.) Although Bell Creek is nearby, the park always has depended upon the City to pump in reuse water to fill its ponds and stream.

Like the rest of Carrie Blake Park, the Sequim Dog Park is an example of citizen action from beginning to end. The first citizen action in 2006 included several calls to the Sequim Police Department complaining that a few dog owners were running their pets off-leash. Dog owners petitioned the Park Advisory Board to build a dog park, studied design and safety issues, gathered signatures on a petition and went before the City Council. In 2007, the City set aside nearly 2 acres on the east side of Carrie Blake Park and the "Dog Park Pals" raised money to create three fenced fields for dogs to go off-leash. The Sequim Police Department later set up an agility obstacle course to train its canine officers, opening the course to the community as well.

The skateboard park was added in 2000 and the local youth were offered free use of helmets. A graffiti wall has since been added and currently the park is used by skateboarders, bikers and scooter users.

The lazy ponds and friendly ducks may make it seem that Carrie Blake Park always has been there, but both the landscape and the activities available are the result of energetic citizens who decided to serve the interests of the community.

> Excerpts taken from: "Reflection meets recreation at Carrie Blake Park"
> by Joan Worley, for the Sequim Gazette

Water Reuse Demonstration Site

With a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology nearly 29 acres north of Carrie Blake Park was bought by the City of Sequim to transform into a Water Reuse Demonstration Site. In doing so, the Water Reuse Demonstration Site has become a place for a variety of community groups, gatherings and activities. The Demonstration Site has a park-like feel with picnic tables, walking and biking trails traversed across the site, horseshoe pits, roughly 14 manicured acres of play fields with soccer nets scattered about, ornamental community gardens and a performing arts stage "The James Center for Performing Arts." Since the purchase of the property in 1998 various community organizations have become part of the site in one way or another.

Although the acreage has provided some serendipitous community opportunities, the primary function of the Demonstration Site is to educate and demonstrate the sustainable practice of reusing wastewater. The Department of Ecology has implemented multiple water reuse demonstration sites throughout the state and Sequim's Water Reuse Demonstration Site is one of them. Partnering with the City's wastewater reclamation facility, treated Class "A" wastewater is

piped to the Water Reuse Demonstration Site where it is kept in holding ponds and used for a variety of uses. A majority of the reuse water is utilized on public lands including roadway medians, landscaped areas and park sites. Complimentary to the reuse of water, the entire site is designed with a consistent focus on water conservation using "low impact development" strategies. The Clallam Conservation District, with help and contributions from local businesses, volunteers, Sequim High School FFA and multiple grants, installed examples of low impact development such as porous paving, a rain garden (a garden of drought-resistant plant species) and water-wise landscaping. To continue to utilize the Demonstration Site's potential, future plans include additional infiltration holding ponds. The reused water is fittingly recycled about the Demonstration Site. The restrooms within the James Center for the Performing Arts uses the water and both the Terrace Gardens and Albert Haller Playfields are irrigated with it. In addition, the holding ponds support fish for youths to hone their fishing skills.

By day, the fields within the Demonstration Site are fairly undisturbed, but once work hours draw to a close the fields are used primarily by soccer players. Last spring the Sequim FC Adult Co-ed Recreational Soccer League took form. The league started with a group of local youth soccer coaches and their desire for an adult recreational league. During the league's fall, spring and summer seasons at least 200 people use the fields weekly with roughly 15 players per team and family and friends that come to watch.

The playfields are just one example of the community's interaction with the Demonstration Site. In 2004, the James Center for the Performing Arts was built by the nonprofit organization, the Sequim City Band. The organization has since gifted the center to the City with the stipulation that they can use the rehearsal hall and stage for their performances. With more than 60 band members, the Sequim City Band needs a large venue, like the James Center to play and practice. The James Center's stage was carefully engineered to properly promote acoustics and those on the stage can be heard across the Demonstration Site. Similar to the Albert Haller Playfields, the James Center for the Performing Arts has seemingly filled a community niche. Aesthetically, the Demonstration Site is pleasing. For example, the Terrace Gardens near the James Center are planted with various flowers that peak at different times throughout the seasons. The gardens started as a Master Gardeners project, but have since fallen into the hands of a local volunteer group. Although most of the gardens and landscaping is mature at this point, more than 15 years later the Water Reuse Demonstration Site continues to develop new gardens and amenities.

Excerpts taken from: "Water Reuse Demonstration Site: a versatile city space"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

Joseph L. Keeler Memorial Park

Much different than many of the City's other parks, Joseph Keeler Memorial Park is large, undeveloped and consists of rolling fields, some lightly wooded areas and wetlands. It is located near the intersection of Happy Valley Road and U.S. Highway 101, the park parallels the highway on the east of Sequim. In 2008, Joe Keeler and Carol Bolduc, the grandson and granddaughter of Joseph Keeler, sold to the City 32.81 acres for $806,610 and donated an additional 10 acres to the City of Sequim with the arrangement that the land be used as a passive park. A passive park would require the property to stay in its undeveloped and natural state. However, since the original changing of hands the agreement has changed so the eastern half of the park may be active and thus allows for picnic tables, playground equipment and other such amenities. Although there's a bit more flexibility for development at the park, it remains a "challenge site." The sheer size of the park, its location near the highway and the allocation of long-term maintenance and operations funds for the park are some of the challenges City officials are currently grappling with.

Joseph Keeler moved to Port Townsend from Kansas with his family at age 14, but given his venturesome spirit, Keeler strayed north to prospect in British Columbia and the Yukon throughout the 1890s. By 1898 however, Keeler returned to the peninsula to marry the daughter of a Sequim pioneer family, Etta Priest. In pursuit of additional business ventures the couple moved to Dawson with their son Hammond, but returned to Sequim in 1902 to settle down. When Keeler arrived to the area he brought his energy and thirst for business ventures with him. Keeler is responsible for building the first telegraph office, a saloon on Washington Street, the 50-room Sinclair Hotel, a water tower to pump in water and a generator to provide light, which later became the Sequim Light and Power Company, just to name a few of Keeler's contributions to Sequim. In 1907, Keeler laid out the first plat for the town site. Given Keeler's substantial influence on the town, the Joseph Keeler Memorial Park property, which was once part of the Keeler farm, will have interpretive signs, including a history of the Keeler family. In addition to interpretive and educational signage, there's potential for nature trails and viewing areas.

Excerpts taken from: "Joseph Keeler Memorial Park: a park with potential"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

June Robinson Memorial Park

A park full of organic gardens is a fitting tribute to June Robinson (1925-2009), who spent her life showing students and City residents that history is a living thing. June Robinson Memorial Park, opened in 2010 and provides a shady lawn and a bench for relaxing; half of the park, however, is a busy patchwork of sixteen 10-foot by 10-foot plots and eight 4-foot by 10-foot raised garden beds. Community members can apply on a first-come, first-served basis for garden plots through the City of Sequim. The park is a complete gardener's delight, with water available on-site, a protective metal fence and a well-stocked tool shed built by the Sequim Sunrise Rotary Club. The raised beds are courtesy of Sam Schwab, who took on the task as an Eagle Scout project. In addition to individual gardens, the City sponsors several plots for volunteers who wish to grow produce for the Sequim Food Bank. The park also has a porous asphalt parking lot and LED-style street lamps, a green move for the City.

Born and raised in Seattle, June Robinson spent summers hiking the Sequim area with members of her mother's family, the Spaths. Inspired by her own fourth-grade history teacher, Robinson went on to take a degree in history from Seattle University and to teach for a number of years. "A couple of students told me June was the best teacher they ever had," June's husband, Ray Robinson, said at the park's opening. "From the start, she was a good teacher." When she and Ray retired to Sequim, Robinson continued her work in education. She was a reading tutor for many years and served for more than 10 years on the Sequim School Board. She turned her scholar's eye to local history, adding her writing and editing skill to publications such as "Images of Clallam County," "A History of Clallam County," "Washington, Why Do They Call It …," "The Norwegian Memorial," "The Chilean Memorial" and the "Wreck of the Austria." Robinson created an inventory of pre-statehood landmarks in Washington to help preserve historical sites. She worked for the community as well, serving with the City of Sequim Parks Advisory Board, the Sequim Museum & Arts Center, the Clallam County Heritage Advisory Board, the Clallam County Historical Society and the Clallam County Genealogical Society. For Robinson the area's history was not a hobby but a "profession," said Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty after Robinson's death.

Excerpts taken from: "June Robinson Memorial Park" by Joan Worley and Michael Dashiell, for the Sequim Gazette

Margaret Kirner Park

Two playground sets, a group of swings, a picnic table and a few shady trees make Margaret Kirner Park a perfect play-break spot. The park is situated in the residential area at the corner of South Fourth Avenue and West Pine Street.

In 1975 the Sequim City Council appropriately named the two lots donated by John Kirner for the use of a City park "John Kirner Park," but by 1994 John Kirner requested the park name be changed to "Margaret Kirner Park" in remembrance of his wife, according to Sequim City Council Resolution 77. Margaret Willison and John Kirner were married in 1937. The couple remained together for 57 years before Margaret died from cancer, less than a year after their only child Donald Kirner died from a heart attack in 1993. Following the loss of his wife and son, Kirner continued on to live a long life farming trees, operating heavy equipment and even remarried at age 94. John Kirner was as local as they get and is considered a Sequim pioneer. Born in a farmhouse in 1904 off Palo Alto Road, Kirner attended the University of Washington and paid his way through school from money he made logging. While attending college Kirner also pitched on the University of Washington's baseball team and later his love for baseball inspired him to build a baseball diamond on his own property up Palo Alto Road. Kirner graduated in 1930 from the University of Washington with a degree in accounting and minor in economics. Post-college he joined the Army Transport Service during the early 1940s, but was determined to return to his hometown after World War II and work in the woods again. Returning to his roots, Kirner bought 80 acres off Palo Alto Road in 1948 and later bought an additional 80 acres where he continued to work in the Olympic Peninsula forests and refocus his attention to tree farming.

Throughout the years of living in Sequim, Kirner also became involved with the Sequim City Council, the Clallam County Board of Commissioners and Sequim School Board. In recognition of his ongoing community involvement, Kirner was honored with multiple awards, including Red Cross Real Hero award, according to a 2007 news article. It wasn't until the last three years of Kirner's life that he strayed from the area and wintered in Arizona. Upon Kirner's return to Sequim in 2007 after he and his wife had spent the winter away, Kirner was selected by the Sequim Irrigation Festival Committee to be 2007 Grand Marshal because of his significant community contributions. This was Kirner's second time participating as a pivotal part of the Irrigation Festival Grand Parade, as he had been an Irrigation Festival Grand Pioneer in 1983. Shortly following his participation in the Irrigation Festival, Kirner died at his home in Dungeness in June 2007 at the age of 102. The two lots Kirner donated to the City of Sequim still remain however, and although the park is just under a

half an acre, it continues to be a place in the midst of town for citizens to relax, have a picnic or where youths can play.

Excerpts taken from: "Margaret Kirner Park: a place to play" by Alana Linderoth and Joan Worley, for the Sequim Gazette

Gerhardt Park

The 7.62 acre Gerhardt Park is Sequim's most recent park addition located slightly before the intersection of South Third Avenue and Reservoir Road. Although the park was accepted before the City Council in 2006, it was in 2013 that the park came under City control. Anton and Rosa Gerhardt gifted their property to the City upon their deaths in exchange for a domestic water connection. Anton, nicknamed "Toni," died shortly after the agreement with the City and Rosa passed away in 2013 at age 100. Following Rosa's death, ownership of the property, as agreed to in previous years, went to the City of Sequim to be turned into a park.

The Gerhardts moved to Sequim from Chicago in the late 1960s. The couple bought the land in 1973 and raised sheep and honeybees on the old homestead. The park provides both open space as well as forested land and Bell Creek trickles through a deep ravine along the eastern boundary of the property.

Lou Pinnell's parents were the original owners of the property and had bought it and some surrounding acreage in 1938 for about $300. The older of the two homes at Gerhardt Park is Pinnell's childhood home. The kitchen is the original footprint of the house that was later expanded. Lou Pinnell helped the Gerhardts with their lawn maintenance and general upkeep and Donna Pinnell spent a lot of time with Rosa.

Long before their move to Sequim, both Anton Gerhardt and Rosa Gotthardt had rich pasts that began overseas. The couple met in Chicago while routinely riding the same bus route; each immigrated to America separately. Rosa immigrated to America before Anton in 1935 from her home in Moschendorf, Austria. Anton wasn't as fortunate as he became a German captive during World War II. He was the youngest among five children, and most of his siblings were killed along with his parents when their family farm was invaded. Later in the war, Anton worked as a cook serving the American Army before making his way via ship to Chicago. After moving to Sequim on a business endeavor, and though that endeavor fell through, Anton and Rosa stayed. Anton went to work on cedar telephone poles and doing odd jobs, then soon retired.

Excerpts taken from: "Gerhardt Park: property gets new lease on life"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

Dr. James F. Standard Park

Nearly each day from mid-April through early July, Dr. James F. Standard Memorial Park off of Silberhorn Road is bustling with youths, coaches and parents as the Sequim Little League practices and games are played. With the exception of a few maintenance checks or an occasional volunteer to mow the grass, the 10.5-acre park is undisturbed the remaining eight months out of the year. In addition to providing a space for the Sequim Little League to play, Dr. James F. Standard Memorial Park serves as a well-field for the City of Sequim.

In September 1975 Maurice and Frances Sherk donated the land now known as Dr. James F. Standard Memorial Park to the City of Sequim. However, according to Sequim City Council meeting notes, it wasn't until 1982 that the park was officially named after Dr. James F. Standard. After his move to Sequim, Dr. Standard pursued ongoing volunteer services for Sequim athletes in all sports. He became a devoted supporter of youth athletic activities within the area for nearly 20 years. In recognition of Standard's longtime community involvement, the park was fittingly named after him.

The park is owned by the City, but it is located outside of city limits. Given the park's location and minimal use, except from for Little League activities, it is almost entirely maintained by the Sequim Little League and volunteers. Sequim Little League does, however, own the parking area and Champion Field. In total, Dr. Standard Memorial Park is home to Thatcher, Knapp, Murillo, Lotito and Champion fields as well as four T-ball fields.

Excerpts taken from: "A City park outside the City, Dr. James F. Standard Memorial Park: home to the Sequim Little League"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT)

Although not technically a Sequim City Park, the Olympic Discovery Trail passes through the city limits and some city parks. The Olympic Discovery Trail is intended to eventually connect Sequim with the West end of Clallam County — an idea that grew from the creation of the Peninsula Trails Coalition that formed in 1987.

To date, the Peninsula Trails Coalition continues to spearhead the construction and maintenance of the trail system. A 2011 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey designed to gather data from households within the Sequim School District found 75 percent of households have a need for walking, hiking and biking trails, which ranked the highest among alternative needs, such as additional large city parks or

beach areas. The same survey concluded within a year-long period 63 percent of households used the Olympic Discovery Trail.

Upon completion, the Olympic Discovery Trail is planned to have alternative routes through the city limits with a shopping route, a shortcut or a more leisurely route. There is a newly built kiosk constructed by local Eagle Scout Brandon Grow at the corner of North Rhodefer Road and East Washington Street which provides trail information directing trail users through the city limits.

Excerpts taken from: "The trails of Town"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

S. Third Avenue Trail

The Third Avenue Trail currently is in place as an interim safety enhancement trail and will be improved in conformance with all street and landscaping standards as adjacent property is developed. The desire for this trail has come from citizens who reside along S. Third Avenue between Brownfield Road and Happy Valley Road.

Brackett Road Trail

The Brackett Road Trail currently is in place as an interim safety enhancement trail and will be improved in conformance with all street and landscaping standards as adjacent property is developed. The desire for this trail has come from citizens who reside in the Vintage Senior Housing Development on West Washington Street between South 9th Avenue and Priest Road as a means of travelling safely to the Wal-Mart shopping center.

Gebhardt Zwicker Trail

Once a sprawling dairy farm extending west from Blake Avenue, it is now a small linear park, only 1.21 acres in size, known as Gebhardt Zwicker Trail. The trail is a nature trail given its unpaved state as it follows Bell Creek from Blake Avenue to Haller Street. The trail is a small slice of the former 1920s farm owned by Swiss immigrant Gebhardt Zwicker. The trail was dedicated by Sequim City Council in 2002 and named in remembrance of Zwicker. Zwicker came to Sequim from Waldkirch, Switzerland, in 1920 to join a friend. Shortly after his arrival, Zwicker bought land to build his dairy farm and established himself among the community. By 1931 Zwicker secured American citizenship. He never returned to Switzerland and remained in Sequim to operate his farm. Today, the only remaining and undeveloped part of Zwicker's dairy farm is the short trail stretching just under a city block in length.

Excerpts taken from: "The trails of Town"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

Seal Street Park

Once a through street off of Washington Street in central Sequim, Seal Street was established as a city park in 2003 as part of a Downtown Revitalization Project. The park was fittingly named in recognition of Charles Franklin Seal who was an entrepreneur within the area and built the Sequim Trading Company at the corner of Washington Street and North Sequim Avenue. Although Seal already had a successful mercantile store in Dungeness, he refocused his attention on Sequim in anticipation of the railway in 1915. The original building built by Seal still occupies the same street corner and currently houses a variety of local businesses. Though Seal Street Park is only one-tenth of an acre in size it has three benches, an exercise station, a World War I Veteran's Memorial drinking fountain, an informational kiosk to help navigate town and is surrounded with shrubs and trees making it an aesthetically pleasing place to sit and relax. Also nearby Seal Street Park there's a city map and signage with information about the Roosevelt elk herd.

Excerpts taken from: "Pocket Parks, Sequim's small parks"
by Alana Linderoth
For the Sequim Gazette

Heritage Park Transit Stop

It's probably safe to say Heritage Park is one of the most artfully and well-kept bus stops on the North Olympic Peninsula. Located on Washington Street, the land now used as a Clallam Transit bus stop officially was deeded by the Co-op Farm & Garden (Clallam Cooperative Associations Inc.) in June 2001 to the City of Sequim. However, in an effort by the City Council to "create an attractive and safe pedestrian environment throughout commercial areas of the city," construction of Heritage Park actually began in 1998. The design and development of Heritage Park was a joint effort among a number of organizations, but primarily the City Council, Clallam Co-op and Sequim 2000. The City Council decided to utilize the donated land as a way to honor the deeply rooted agricultural history of Sequim and the year 2000. Those waiting for the bus or just taking a break are protected from the weather by the large rustic roof topped with a cupola. Colorful

tiles painted by local elementary students decorate the walls of the open structure and the area is planted with a wide variety of native plants and grasses.

Excerpts taken from: "Pocket Parks, Sequim's small parks" by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

Centennial Place

In 2013 by unanimous vote, the Sequim City Council approved a $215,000 purchase of an 8,300-square-foot plot of land, now known as Centennial Place in the midst of downtown at the corner of Washington Street and Sequim Avenue. In past years, Centennial Place was a Gull gas station. After referring to the property as the "former Gull property" for months after purchasing the land, in September 2013 the City Council settled on the name "Centennial Place" because the property was bought in Sequim's centennial year and thus marks a significant point in history for the City. Centennial Place will be an area for community events and activities.

Excerpts taken from: "Pocket Parks, Sequim's small parks" by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

Civic Center Plaza

The Civic Center Plaza is a component of the Civic Center Building construction project and it is anticipated that the plaza will be an open concept and designed to accommodate community events. There will also be some seating, a flag pole, a 911 Memorial and a totem pole which has been donated to the City of Sequim from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

Pioneer Memorial Park

Once the town cemetery, Pioneer Memorial Park is nearly four acres of sprawling grass with trees, flowers and a short road that loops through the scenic park. To this day a few headstones remain as reminders of the park's past use, although most of the bodies were removed from Pioneer Memorial Park and laid to rest at the current Sequim View Cemetery by 1919. John Bell, the man behind the land now known as Pioneer Memorial Park, came from Fort Victoria where he worked for the Hudson Bay Company farm. Bell confiscated a boat after leaving the company and rowed across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Clallam County where he voluntarily fought in the last of the Indian Wars, but not long after signed naturalization papers and filed a 160-acre homestead claim at what became the southeast corner of Sequim Avenue and Washington Street.

Originally the land now used as a park was dedicated to the board of Clallam County Commissioners in 1888 by Bell for the use of a town cemetery. By 1909 the land had been transferred to the Sequim Cemetery Association. Once the cemetery outgrew the space Bell dedicated, a new cemetery elsewhere took its place, and the land returned to nature. That is until the early 1940s when descendants of pioneers and the Sequim Prairie Garden Club began to clear the weeds, blackberry vines and debris accumulated in the abandoned cemetery. By 1951 the Garden Club secured a 99-year lease of the park for $1 per year from the Sequim Cemetery Association. Shortly after the lease agreement members voted to officially name the old cemetery "Pioneer Memorial Park." The continuous dedication by the Garden Club to reshape the park won it a national award in 1967 in recognition of the "beautification project." This award was one of many awards won throughout the years because of the Garden Club's longtime devotion to Pioneer Memorial Park.

As the park developed, various amenities were added and the landscaping continued to blossom. Picnic tables, a kitchen, clubhouse and restrooms slowly were established within the park and it became a place for social gathering, events and fundraisers. The name Pioneer Memorial Park became fitting as nearly every tree, stone, artifact and garden within the park is in memory of a Sequim historical figure. In addition to original headstones left in a far southwest corner of the park, an old canoe once used by the Quileute Tribe is nestled in the park. The canoe was donated by the Frick family. The park also is the resting place for a log cabin built in 1861 and donated by the Zaccardo family in memory of their mother. The canoe and historical cabin are a couple examples of the elements found within Pioneer Memorial Park that honor people and things of the past.

Though the City of Sequim now owns Pioneer Memorial Park, the Garden Club remains active in maintaining the park and managing the clubhouse. In 2002, the Garden Club signed a 50-year lease with the City of Sequim to secure the park's future for many more years to come. The Garden Club has more than 40 members currently and they often are seen at Pioneer Memorial Park working on their gardens. Pioneer Memorial Park may have served a variety of purposes for the community throughout the years, but it eventually evolved into the lush four acres it is today. Inside its boundaries, Pioneer Memorial Park encloses both its own rich history and historical bits of Sequim's humble beginnings.

Excerpts taken from: "Pioneer Memorial Park: a place of remembrance"
by Alana Linderoth, for the Sequim Gazette

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APPENDIX E

Recreation Trends



The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review

The 2020 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review summarizes the key findings from their Park Metrics benchmarking tool and is intended to assist park and recreation professionals in effectively managing and planning their operating resources and capital facilities. The report offers a comprehensive collection of park- and recreation-related benchmarks and insights to inform professionals, key stakeholders, and the public about the state of the park and recreation industry. The 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,053 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2017 and 2019.

Key Findings and Characteristics

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. . The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of approximately 42,500 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 20 parks comprising over 430 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

Park Facilities

Nearly all (96%) of park and recreation agencies operate parks and related facilities. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,281 residents
- 9.9 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- 11 miles of trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking

Figure F1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

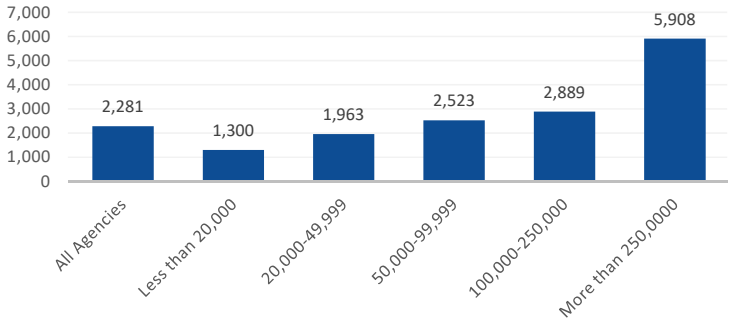
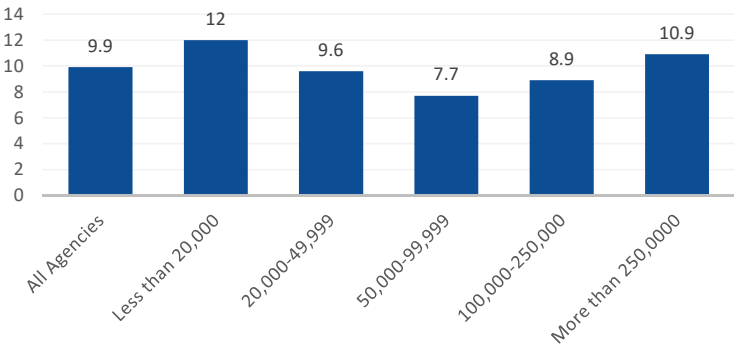


Figure F2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size

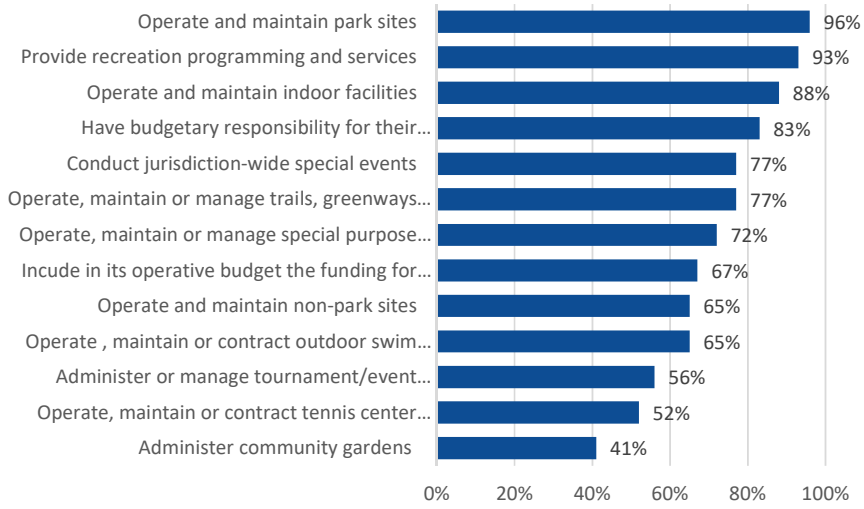


A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (93.9%) and basketball courts (86.5%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Most agencies offer community and/or recreation centers (60%) while two in five offer senior centers.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 11.0 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 84.5 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer's markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/ arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.

Figure F3. Key Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies



Programming

Nearly all (93%) of park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. More than eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (88% of agencies), team sports (87%), social recreation events (87%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (81%).

Staffing

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- 41.9 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.1 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 27.3 FTE, while agencies that serve 50,000 to 99,000 people employ an average of 60 FTE.

Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.1 FTEs.

Figure F4. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)

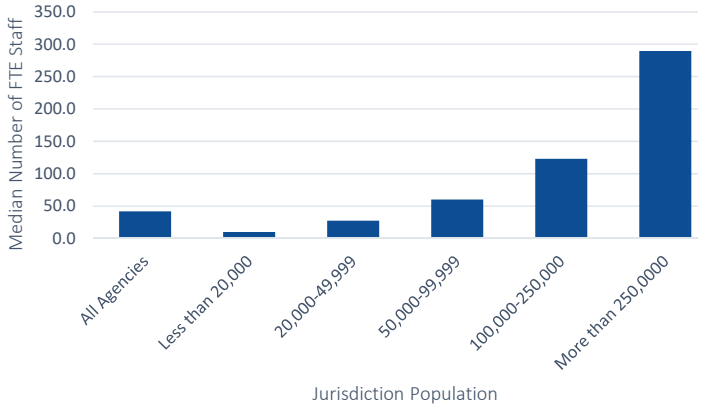
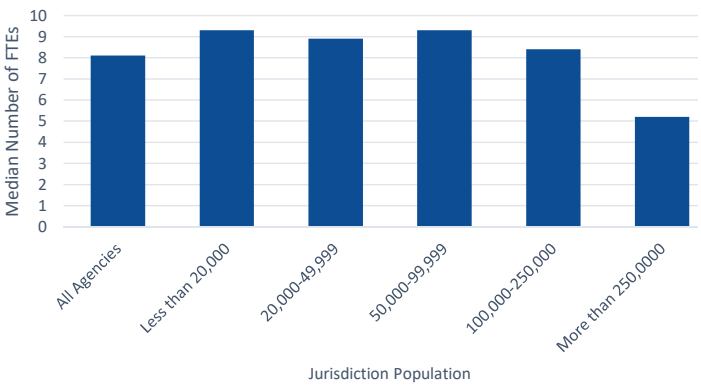


Figure F5. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



Capital and Operating Expenses

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 55% to renovation projects and 32% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about $5,000,000 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.

For operations, the typical park agency spends:

- $4.3 million per year on total operating expenses
- $7,000 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
- $81.00 on annual operating expenses per capita
- $97,000 in annual operating expenditures per employee
- 54% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 5% on capital expenses not included in the agency's capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 44% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 43% on recreation, and 13% on other activities

Agency Funding

The typical park and recreation agency:

- Derives 60% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support, 26% from generated revenues, 11% from dedicated taxes or levies, and 5% from grants, sponsorships and other sources
- Generates $21.00 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction

2020 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 22.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. Given the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Recreation Management also conducted a supplemental survey in May 2020 to learn about both the impacts to the industry and what mitigation steps organizations were taking in response.

Partnerships

The 2020 report indicated that most (89%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (64%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 100% and 95% respectively.

Revenue Outlook

In January 2020, half of respondents expected revenues to increase in both 2020 and 2021. Survey respondents from urban communities are more optimistic about revenue increases as compared to rural respondents.

In last year's report, parks respondents had reported increases in their average operating expenditures with operating costs that grew by 14% between fiscal year 2018 and 2019. Respondents generally expected their operating expenses to continue to increase between 2019 and 2021, with camps expecting a 10% increase, recreation centers at 8%, and parks at 6%.

Relative to costs and revenues, few facilities covered by the survey reported that they cover more than 75 percent of their operating costs via revenue. The percentage recovered varied with type of organization with the average percentage of costs recovered for all respondents hovering near 50% and private for-profit organizations achieving the highest cost recovery rates. For parks, the cost recovery rate remained steady at 44%.

Over the past decades, public parks and recreation departments and districts have faced a growing expectation that facilities can be run like businesses. Many local facilities are expected to recover much of their operating costs via revenues. While this is the business model of for-profit facilities like health clubs, it is a relatively recent development for publicly owned facilities, which have typically been subsidized via tax dollars and other funding sources. Most recreation providers (81%) have been taking actions to reduce expenditures. Cost recovery actions typically involve reduction in expenses with improving energy efficiency as the most common action (51% of respondents). Increased fees and staffing cost reductions and putting off construction or renovation plans were reported as other common methods for reducing operating costs.

As of May 2020, nearly 90% of respondents anticipated that total revenues would decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most anticipated a revenue drop of 30-50%, though one in seven expected a decline of more than 50%. In general, respondents are split on when they expect that revenues will begin to recover – 44% believe revenues will begin to rebound in 2021 while 40% expect further revenue declines.

Facility Use

The majority of respondents reported an increase in use of their recreational facilities as of January 2020. Looking forward, more than half of respondents (53%), including 60-65% of parks and recreation centers, were expecting to see further increases in the number of people using their facilities over the next two years.

In 2020, 22% of respondents said they were planning to add more staff at their facilities, 75% were planning to

maintain existing staffing levels, and 3% were planning to reduce staffing. The May 2020 survey found, however, that nearly half of responding organizations had laid off or furloughed staff due to the impacts of COVID-19 and nearly two-thirds had suspended hiring plans.

Facilities and Improvements

Respondents from parks were more likely than other respondents to include: park shelters (83.3% of park respondents had shelters); playgrounds (82.7%); park restroom structures (79%); open spaces (73.9%); outdoor sports courts (71.9%); bike trails (48.3%); outdoor aquatic facilities (42.1%); dog parks (40.4%); skateparks (39.9%); fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (34.5%); disc golf courses (33.7%); splash play areas (33.3%); community gardens (32.3%); golf courses (29.2%); bike and BMX parks (14.2%); and ice rinks (13.9%).

Over the past seven years, the percentage of respondents who indicate that they have plans for construction, whether new facilities or additions or renovations to their existing facilities, has grown steadily, from 62.7 percent in 2013 to 72.9 percent in 2020. Construction budgets have also risen. The average amount respondents were planning to spend on their construction plans was up 10.8% in 2020, after an 18.4% increase in 2019. On average, respondents to the 2020 survey were planning to spend $5.6 million on construction.

A majority of park respondents (54%) reported plans to add features at their facilities and were also the most likely to be planning to construct new facilities in the next three years (39%).

The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (25.4% of those with plans to add features were planning to add splash play)
2. Playgrounds (20.3%)
3. Park shelters (17.3%)
4. Dog parks (17.1%)
5. Park restrooms (16.1%)
6. Synthetic turf sports fields (14.8%)
7. Walking and hiking trails (14.8%)
8. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (14.8%)
9. Disc golf courses (12.9%)
10. Outdoor sports courts (11.3%)

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on construction plans. As of May 2020, over one-third (34%) of respondents had put construction on hold due to the impacts of the pandemic, rising costs, and supply shortages.

Programming

Nearly all respondents (97%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 65.3% of respondents); educational programs (59%); group exercise programs (58.8%); fitness programs (57.6%); day camps and summer camps (57.3%); youth sports teams (55.2%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (51.2%); adult sports teams (46%); arts and crafts programs (45.8%); and programs for active older adults (45.4%).

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions were:

1. Fitness programs (24% of those who have plans to add programs)
2. Group exercise programs (22.4%)
3. Teen programs (22%)
4. Environmental education (21.8%)
5. Day camps and summer camps (20.9%)
6. Mind-body balance programs (20.5%)
7. Programs for active older adults (18.1%)
8. Special needs programs (17.9%)
9. Holidays and other special events (17.4%)
10. Arts and crafts (17%)

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic required many respondents to either put programs or services on hold (82%) or cut programs or services entirely (34%). Additionally, many respondents have had to rethink their programming portfolios. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) had added online fitness and wellness programming as of May 2020, 39% were involved in programs to address food insecurity, and one in four was involved in programs to provide educational support to out-of-school children.

General Challenges

In January 2020, facility managers were asked about the challenges they anticipated impacting their facilities in the future. Generally, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents including their ability to support equipment and facility maintenance needs (58%) and staffing (54%). Marketing, safety/risk management, and creating new and innovative programming also remain continuing challenges for facility managers. Facility managers also report that environmental and conservation issues (13%) and social equity and access (10%) are posing increasing challenges. However, as of May 2020, many respondents concerns had shifted to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic impacts described in the sections above.

2020 Outdoor Participation Report

Overall Participation

According to the 2020 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. This increase was not universal, however, and there was significant variation in participation between age, gender, and racial groups.

Despite the overall increase in the percentage of Americans engaging in outdoor recreation, the total number of recreational outings declined in 2019. Outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings in 2019 – a 12% drop from the 2012 high-water mark of 12.4 billion outings. In addition, the number of outings per participant declined 17% in the past five years, from 85 outings per participant in 2014 to 71 in 2019.

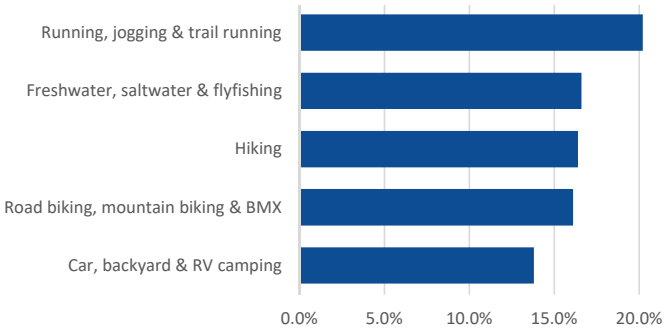
This drop mirrors a decline in the total number of outings per participant. Each year for over a decade, participants have engaged less often in outdoor activities. As a result, the percentage of 'casual' participants in outdoor recreation (i.e. those who participate one to 11 times per year) has grown by about 4% over the past 15 years, which the percentage of 'core' participants (i.e. weekly participants) has declined.

Figure F6. Frequency of Outdoor Outings: Trending Over Many Years

Frequency of Outdoor Outings	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019
Casual (1 to 11 times)	28.2%	27.9%	28.4%	31.7%	32.6%
Moderate (12 to 51 times)	32.5%	31.8%	33.1%	32.5%	32.6%
Core (52+ times)	39.3%	40.4%	38.5%	35.8%	34.9%

Running, jogging and trail running in the most popular outdoor activity by levels of participation, as shown in the chart below, followed by fishing, hiking biking and camping.

Figure F7. Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Participants, Nationwide



Youth Participation Declines

The youngest participants, children 6 to 17, were outdoors far less than in previous years. Their average outings fell from a high of 91 in 2012 to just 77 per child in 2019. Youth participation declined across the board in 2019, with the biggest declines seen in girls aged 18 to 24 (-5%) and boys ages 13 to 17 (-4%). Households with children, however, continue to drive growth in participation. Adults with children had much higher outdoor recreation participation rates (57%) than adults without children (44.4%).

Female Participation Continues to Grow

In 2019, women made up 46% of participants in outdoor recreation while men made up 53.8%, representing the smallest gender gap measured in the report's history. Women's participation has increased from 43% of all participants in 2009 to 46% in 2019.

Diversity Gap Remains

Despite increases in participation, Black/African American and Hispanic Americans continue to be significantly underrepresented in outdoor recreation. Hispanics made up 11.6% of outdoor recreation participants, a 35 percent shortfall relative to their proportion of the population ages 6 and over (17.9%). Similarly, Black/African Americans represented 12.4% of the U.S. population ages 6 and over in 2019, but just 9.4 percent of outdoor participants, a 24 percent participation deficit. Black youth were the least likely to participate in outdoor recreation as compared to Asian, Hispanic, and Caucasian youth – signaling a potential future gap in outdoor participants. However, those Black and Hispanic Americans who do participate in outdoor recreation do so frequently – more often, on average, than members of other racial groups.

In 2019, 62% of Asian Americans participated in outdoor recreation, followed by 53% of White, 48% of Hispanic, and 40% of Black/African Americans. Impacts of COVID-19

An August 2020 report from the Outdoor Industry Association indicated that COVID-19 impacted recreation participation in April, May and June as Americans flocked to outdoor recreation amid COVID restrictions. Americans took up new activities in significant numbers with the biggest gains in running, cycling, and hiking given that these activities were widely considered the safest activities during pandemic shutdowns. The hardest hit activity segments during COVID shutdowns were team sports (down 69%) and racquet sports (down 55%). Reviewing just April, May and June 2020, participation rates for day hiking rose more than any other activity, up 8.4%.

2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

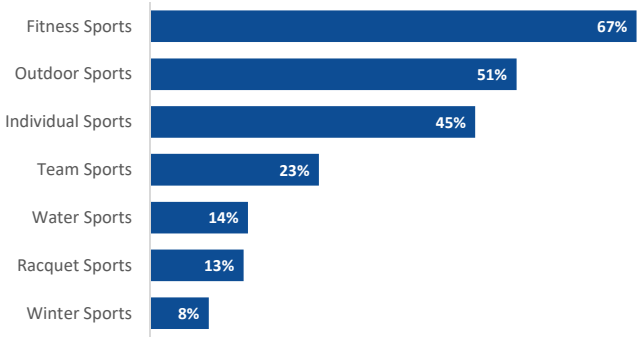
Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this February 2020 participation report summarizes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The report is based on over 18,000 online interviews of a nationwide sample that provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at 122 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities.

Compared to 2014, eight million more Americans were casually active in 2019 indicating a positive movement toward an increasingly active population. Sports that made great strides in the last six years include trail running, cardio tennis, BMX biking, and day hiking. Over the last year, only 2.1 million additional people reported participating in an activity that raises their heart rate for more than 30 minutes. Participation in active high calorie activities has remained flat for the last four years.

The percentage of people reporting no physical activity during the past year declined to 27% in 2019 - its lowest point in six years – continuing an increasing trend in activity. Rates of inactivity continue to be linked to household income levels, with lower income households having higher rates of inactivity. However, in 2019, households across the income spectrum saw declines in inactivity.

Fitness sports continue to be the most popular activity type for the 5th consecutive year. Other sports activities, including individual sports, racquet sports, and water sports have seen a modest decline in participation since 2018. Team sports experienced a slight increase in participation, driven by the increasing popularity of basketball and outdoor soccer. While racquet sports lost about 2% of participants since 2018, mostly due to declines in squash and badminton participation, the rising popularity of pickleball and cardio tennis may reverse this declining trend.

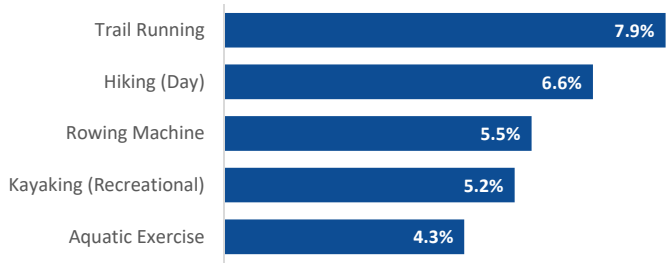
Figure F8. Total Participation Rate by Activity Category



When asked which activities they aspire to do, all age-groups and income levels tend to show interest in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger age groups are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball, while older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird/nature viewing, and canoeing.

Physical education (PE) participation shows 96% of 6 to 12-year old youth and 82% of 13-17 year olds participated in PE in 2019. While younger children were more likely to participate in PE, older youth had higher average days of participation. Children were more than twice as likely to be inactive if they did not attend PE. Overall, all ages saw an increase in PE 2019. Participation in PE is thought to lead to an increase of active healthy lifestyles in adulthood.

Figure F9. Sports with the highest 5-year increase in participation



Americans Engagement with Parks Survey

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding.

In 2020, NRPA conducted a shorter-than-typical Engagement survey because of the dynamic nature of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Study focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on park and recreation usage, whether residents see public parks as an essential public service, and whether people vote for political leaders based on their support for parks and recreation funding.

Key findings include:

- Eighty-two percent of U.S. adults agree that parks and recreation is essential.
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live.
- U.S. residents visit local park and recreation facilities more than twice a month on average.
- Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic (mid-March through mid-June 2020).

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

"In many communities across the nation, parks, trails and other public open spaces have been crucial resources available to people seeking a brief respite from the public health crisis. As businesses shut down operations during the spring, many parks and trails remained open, providing people with opportunities to safely enjoy outdoor physical activity with its many attendant physical and mental health benefits. According to NRPA Parks Snapshot Survey data (nrpa.org/ ParksSnapshot), 83 percent of park and recreation agencies kept some/all of their parks open during the initial wave of COVID-19 infections in April 2020, while 93 percent did the same with some/all of their trail networks.

Consequently, people flocked to their local parks, trails and other public open spaces. Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic — from mid-March through mid-June 2020. Parks and recreation usage was particularly strong among GenZers, Millenials, Gen Xers, parents, people who identify as Hispanic/ Latinx and those who identify as nonwhite.

As has been the case with virtually every aspect of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the frequency with which most people engage with their local park and recreation amenities. Still, slightly more than half of people have been visiting parks, trails and other public open space amenities as often — if not more often — since the start of the pandemic than they had during the same period in 2019. Twenty-seven percent of U.S. residents report that their use of parks, trails and other public open spaces increased during the first three months of the pandemic relative to the same period in 2019. A quarter of survey respondents indicates their parks and recreation usage during the period from mid-March to mid- June 2020 matched that of the same three months in 2019. Forty-eight percent of people report that their usage of parks, trails and public open spaces declined during the early months of the pandemic."

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identifies the following five near and long-term priority areas and establishes specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

Sustain & Grow the Legacy

A wealth of existing recreation and conservation areas and facilities should be kept open, safe, and enjoyable for all. Some modifications to meet the interests of today's population may be needed at some facilities. Sustaining existing areas while expanding and building new facilities to keep up with a growing population is one of the five priority goals.

Improve Equity

The National Recreation and Park Association's position on social equity states:

"Our nation's public parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies."

The Washington plan restates that equity goal for all its citizens. Improving equity is also a strategy for improving a community's health. Current statewide participation rates in outdoor activities were surveyed as part of the plan.

Figure F10. Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Participation Rates for Top 12 Categories	
Activity	%
Walking	94%
Nature activities	89%
Leisure activities at parks	82%
Swimming	68%
Sightseeing activities	67%
Hiking	61%
Outdoor sports	48%
Water-based activities (freshwater)	46%
Camping	45%
Trending activities	33%
Snow and ice activities	30%
Bicycling	28%

Get Youth Outside

Washington State youth participate in outdoor activities to a greater extent than youth nationally. Park and recreation providers are urged to offer a variety of outdoor activities for youth and to support youth programs. Most youth are walking, playing at a park, trying new or trending activities, fishing in freshwater, exploring nature, and riding bikes. Other activities of interest to youth are activities in freshwater such as boating and paddling, fishing in saltwater, and target shooting, hiking, outdoor sports, and riding off-road vehicles.

Figure F11. Youth Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Youth Participation Rates	
Activity	%
Walking	88%
Leisure in parks	78%
Trending activities	77%
Fishing in freshwater	77%
Nature-based activities	75%
Bicycling	74%
Freshwater-based activities*	66%
Target shooting	62%
Hiking	57%
Outdoor sports	57%
Off-road vehicle riding	57%
Fishing in saltwater	53%

*(not swimming)

Plan for Culturally Relevant parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics

Washington's population is expected to grow by 2 million people by 2040 leading to more congestion and competition for recreation resources. Between 2010-2040, the percent of people of color are expected to increase from 27 percent to 44 percent. With the cultural change in the population, preferred recreational activities also will change. By 2030, more than one of every five Washingtonians will be 65 years old or older. By 2040, there will be more seniors than youth. Park and recreation providers should be prepared to create new and diverse opportunities and accommodate the active senior population.

Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

The plan recognizes that outdoor recreation contributes to a strong economy and is a public investment like other public services and infrastructure. The report cites the Outdoor Industry Association and other economic studies that reinforce the importance of park and recreation services locally, regionally and statewide.

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APPENDIX F

Implementation Tools & Tactics



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

LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

COUNCILMANIC BOND

Councilmanic general obligation bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1½% of the assessed value of taxable property in the city.

VOTED GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The maximum debt limit for voted debt is 2.5% of the assessed value of taxable property in the city. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total combined debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

PROPERTY TAX EXCESS LEVY - ONE YEAR ONLY

Cities and counties that are levying their statutory maximum rate can ask the voters, at any special election date, to raise their rate for one year (RCW 84.52.052). As this action increases revenue for one-year at a time. It is wise to request this type of funding for one-time uses only. Majority approval by voters is required.

REGULAR PROPERTY TAX - LID LIFT

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is $3.375 per $1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to "lift" the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

Cities and counties have two "lift" options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

Single-year: The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial "lift" in the first year, the district's levy in future years is subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Multi-year: The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be "bumped up" each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other

method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year left does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials. For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had ever been done.

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed $5.90/$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at $5.90.

1st.	Parks & Recreation Districts (up to $0.60)
	Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to $0.60)
	Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to $0.25)
2nd.	Flood Control Zone Districts (up to $0.50)
3rd.	Hospital Districts (up to $0.25)
	Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to $0.25)
	All other districts not otherwise mentioned
4th.	Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to $0.50)
5th.	Fire Districts (up to $0.25)
6th.	Fire Districts (remaining $0.50)
	Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to $0.50)
	Library Districts (up to $0.50)
	Hospital Districts (up to $0.50)
	Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to $0.50)

SALES TAX

Paid by the consumer, sales tax is a percentage of the retail price paid for specific classifications of goods and services within the State of Washington.

Governing bodies of cities and counties may impose sales taxes within their boundaries at a rate set by state statute and local ordinances, subject to referendum.

Until the 1990 Legislative Session, the maximum possible total sales tax rate paid by purchasers in cities was 8.1 percent. The 8.1 percent is allocated as follows: State, 6.5 cents on the dollar; counties, 0.15 cents; cities, 0.85 cents; and transit districts, a maximum of 0.6 cents (raised to 0.9 cents in 2000). Since then multiple sales options were authorized. Those applicable to Parks and Recreation include:

counties may ask voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.3 percent, which is shared with cities. At least one-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes.

Counties and cities may also form public facilities districts, and these districts may ask the voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.2 percent. The proceeds may be used for financing, designing, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and re-equipping its public facilities.

Revenue may be used to fund any essential county and municipal service.

If a jurisdiction is going to change a sales tax rate or levy a new sales tax, it must pass an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Department of Revenue at least 75 days before the effective date. The effective date must be the first day of a quarter: January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.

BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX

Business and occupation (B&O) taxes are excise taxes levied on different classes of business to raise revenue. Taxes are levied as a percentage of the gross receipts of a business, less some deductions. Businesses are put in different classes such as manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and services. Within each class, the rate must be the same, but it may differ among classes.

Cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedure.

B&O taxes are limited to a maximum tax rate that can be imposed by a city's legislative body at 0.2 percent (0.002), but grandfathered in any higher rates that existed on January 1, 1982. Any city may levy a rate higher than 0.2 percent, if it is approved by a majority of voters (RCW 35.21.711). Beginning January 1, 2008, cities that levy the B&O tax must allow for allocation and apportionment, as set out in RCW 35.102.130.

ADMISSIONS TAX

An admissions tax is a use tax for entertainment. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may levy an admission tax in an amount no greater than five percent of the admission charge, as is authorized by statute (cities: RCW 35.21.280; counties: RCW 35.57.100). This tax can be levied on admission charges (including season tickets) to places such as theaters, dance halls, circuses, clubs that have cover charges, observation towers, stadiums, and any other activity where an admission charge is made to enter the facility.

If a city imposes an admissions tax, the county may not levy a tax within city boundaries.

The statutes provide an exception for admission to elementary or secondary school activities. Generally, certain events sponsored by nonprofits are exempted from the tax; however, this is not a requirement. Counties also exempt any public facility of a public facility district for which admission is imposed. There are no statutory restrictions on the use of revenue.

IMPACT FEES

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development in unimproved areas to help pay for various public facilities that serve new development or for other impacts associated with such development. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties that plan under the GMA, and cities, may impose impact fees on residential and commercial development activity to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities identified in the county's capital facilities plan. The improvements financed from impact fees must be reasonably related to the new development and must reasonably benefit the new development. The fees must be spent or encumbered within ten years of collection. Sequim currently assesses a parks impact fee.

REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX

Excise tax levied on all sales of real estate, measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties and cities may levy a quarter percent tax (REET 1); a second quarter percent tax (REET 2) is authorized. First quarter percent REET (REET 1) must be spent on capital projects listed in the city's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Capital projects include planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

The second quarter percent REET (REET 2) must also be spent on capital projects, which includes planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Both REET 1 and REET 2 may be used to make loan and debt service payments on projects that are a permitted use of these funds. The City of Sequim currently assesses the first quarter percent REET and uses this funding for a variety of capital project needs.

LODGING TAX

The lodging tax is a user fee for hotel/motel occupation. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may impose a "basic" two percent tax under RCW 67.28.180 on all charges for furnishing lodging at hotels, motels and similar establishments for a continuous period of less than one month.

This tax is taken as a credit against the 6.5 percent state sales tax, so that the total tax that a patron pays in retail sales tax and hotel-motel tax combined is equal to the retail sales tax in the jurisdiction. In addition, jurisdictions may levy an additional tax of up to two percent, or a total rate of four percent, under RCW 67.28.181(1). This is not credited against the state sales tax. Therefore, if this tax is levied, the total tax on the lodging bill will increase by two percent.

If both a city and the county are levying this tax, the county must allow a credit for any tax levied by a city so that no two taxes are levied on the same taxable event. These revenues must be used solely for paying for tourism promotion and for the acquisition and/or operating of tourism-related facilities. "Tourism" is defined as economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs; there is no requirement that a tourist must stay overnight.

CONSERVATION FUTURES TAX (CLALLAM COUNTY)

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. Clallam County imposes a Conservation Futures levy at a rate of $0.0275 per $1,000 assessed value for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county.

FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE GRANT PROGRAMS

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from un-reclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

National Recreational Trails Program

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities (parks, playgrounds, pools, golf courses, paths, community centers, arboretums, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.) and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three of these funding types require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

PARK AND RECREATION SERVICE AREA (PRSA)

A quasi-municipal corporation with independent taxing authority whose purpose is to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium and/or recreation facilities; and to provide higher level of park service.

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS/DONATIONS

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

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

PRIVATE GRANTS, DONATIONS & GIFTS

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

ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

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

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

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

Life Estates & Bequests

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

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

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

Right of First Refusal

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

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

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

Transfer of Development Rights

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

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their "highest and best" use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of

the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. Clallam County has a current use taxation program that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve farmland on their property.

OTHER LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS

LAND TRUSTS & CONSERVANCIES

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. North Olympic Land Trust is the regional land trust serving the greater Sequim area, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 3,700 acres of forests, farms, shorelines and natural areas in the region (www.northolympiclandtrust.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

REGULATORY MEASURES

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Sequim; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE UTILITY CORRIDORS

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.



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