



Parks and Recreation Questionnaire Results Summary

Available online at <http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/>

March 16 – April 24, 2015

The City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update (the Plan) process combines technical analysis with the input of the community to set a direction for the future of the system. This process is designed to ensure that the planning team gathers the input necessary to develop a Plan that is technically sound, rooted in the needs of the community and implementable.

The questionnaire is a key tool for broadening participation and validating the input received from other opportunities. Of all of the planned activities, the questionnaire provides the most flexibility both for the respondent (by allowing them to provide input on their own schedule and giving open-ended opportunities to say whatever needs to be said) and for the planning team (questionnaires are easily distributed, with self-entry allowing for large numbers of respondents at a low cost). This summary describes the results of the questionnaire and includes comparisons with the statistically valid survey conducted in February 2002¹ where possible to compare and contrast changes in public opinion over time. Appendices A and B provide responses to questions that included an option for “Other.” The questionnaire was available on the City’s website (<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us>) and City staff advertised the link via email and through City utility bills. A total of 444 individuals responded to the online questionnaire, including 351 fully completed and 93 partially completed questionnaires.

Data Limitations

This questionnaire is self-selecting and therefore not random. The results cannot be generalized to the entire population of Ellensburg with any statistical validity. No one public involvement activity is intended to find “the answer” from the public; rather, the themes that emerge from multiple activities will be used as guiding direction for the analysis and recommendations in the Plan.

Percentages

In order to capture the maximum number of results, all percentages in the tables below are calculated based on the total number of respondents who started the questionnaire. The “not completed or not displayed” and/or “no answer” answers represent respondents who chose not to answer a certain question or not finish the questionnaire. Therefore, the “not completed or not displayed” and/or “no answer” answers should not be considered a response to the question being asked. These are included in the following summary only to show the total number of

¹ Part of the City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (August 12, 2002)

respondents who initiated the questionnaire. Further, in the case of questions allowing multiple responses, the percentage is not based on the sum of the answers indicated but rather the number of respondents. In these cases, the sum of the percentages will exceed 100%.

Key Findings

Parks

- *Parks, recreation and open spaces are very important to respondents.* The majority of the respondents (85%) indicated that parks and recreation programs are important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg. Close to 60% of the respondents indicated that natural open spaces are very important to the community.
- *Developed parks, trails and waterfront areas are the most popular types of parks.* Based on the questionnaire, respondents visited these areas frequently (at least once a week or 1-2 times a month). Similarly, parks were mostly used for physical activity, including walking or biking.
- *Respondents are generally satisfied with park maintenance, but there is some desire for improved maintenance.* Nearly 58% of respondents found the general upkeep and maintenance of parks as excellent or good, while another 25% found it ok. However, based on the open-ended responses, there were many comments expressing a need to improve maintenance.

Recreation Facilities and Trails

- *There is interest in adding greater variety in the park system.* Ideas expressed by respondents included a water playground or splash pad, skating rink, disc golf, off-leash dog areas and places for kids to play.
- *Respondents voiced a need to maximize use of existing parks and public land.* In existing parks and facilities, respondents suggested adding lights to ball fields to increase hours for field use, and multi-purpose indoor space for use during colder weather. Some respondents noted that there is existing vacant or underused public land that could be improved for public use.
- *Surrounding natural open spaces are highly valued.* Ellensburg is surrounded by outdoor recreation areas and outcomes highlight the importance that these resources have for residents.
- *Trail activities are the top most desired types of recreation activities.* Given the time, money and transportation, walking and biking for pleasure were the top two activities chosen by respondents as those they would like to do most.
- *Respondents prefer paved trails and trails that link neighborhoods or connect to other trails.* Based on the questionnaire, respondents are most interested in developing more trails for exercise and to increase non-motorized transportation options. A lack of safe trails and connections was also the top reason why respondents aren't currently using trails.

- *Recreational trails are also popular.* Respondents expressed a need to provide natural surface trails for mountain biking and trail running.

Recreation Programs and Special Events

- *There is potential to increase recreation program participation.* Although 54% of all respondents responded that their household had used City-sponsored recreational programs last year, many respondents were unaware of current offerings. In addition, a smaller percentage of respondents indicated that members of their family had used City-provided recreational programs in the last year compared to the 2002 survey.
- *There is interest in special interest programs.* When asked what additional City-provided recreation programs should be offered or expanded, respondents indicated a need for outdoor/environmental programs (37%) and fitness classes (25%). The majority of respondents also indicated they would or would consider paying more for these types of programs.
- *Respondents expressed a need for more opportunities for children and families.* Based on the open-ended responses, many respondents felt that children and families are the most underserved by recreation programs.

Future Improvements

- *Respondents prioritized upgrading and maintaining existing parks and facilities.* Based on outcomes of the questionnaire, 41% of respondents indicated a need to upgrade existing parks followed by maintaining existing parks and facilities (28%). Based on open ended responses, examples of facilities with an expressed need for improvement include the Racquet Center, City pool, tennis courts and playground equipment.
- *New trails are the top priority if funding were available.* Prioritizing a citywide trail system was the top ranked option according to questionnaire outcomes.
- *There is interest in a multi-purpose community facility.* The second most popular response for prioritization if funding were available was a multi-purpose community facility. In addition, respondents preferred several types of features to include in such a facility, including an ice or roller rink, tennis or racquet courts.
- *Though respondents value parks and natural areas, adding or developing new parks and natural areas are not as prioritized.* Only 13% of respondents indicated that acquiring land for future parks was a desired future improvement, followed by 16% for developing new parks and 20% for acquiring natural areas.
- *Respondents prefer that funding and maintenance for parks and recreation is a shared responsibility.* Outcomes highlighted that funding should stem mostly from tax dollars and some user fees. In addition, respondents prefer that private groups continue to share sports field maintenance with the City. Fewer indicated that no fees should be charged or that the City should develop and maintain sports fields and leagues without support.

I. Respondent Demographics

Table 1. Question 1. Do you live, work or go to school in Ellensburg? (choose all that apply)

Answer	Count	Percentage
I am a resident of Ellensburg	358	81%
I work in Ellensburg	197	44%
I am a CWU student in Ellensburg	26	6%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%

- The majority of respondents live in Ellensburg, indicating a stronger representation of the needs of the city at large. Four of every five respondents reported that they live in Ellensburg, while nearly half of the respondents reported that they work in Ellensburg.

Figure 1. Question 2. Drag and drop the pin to the location where you live.

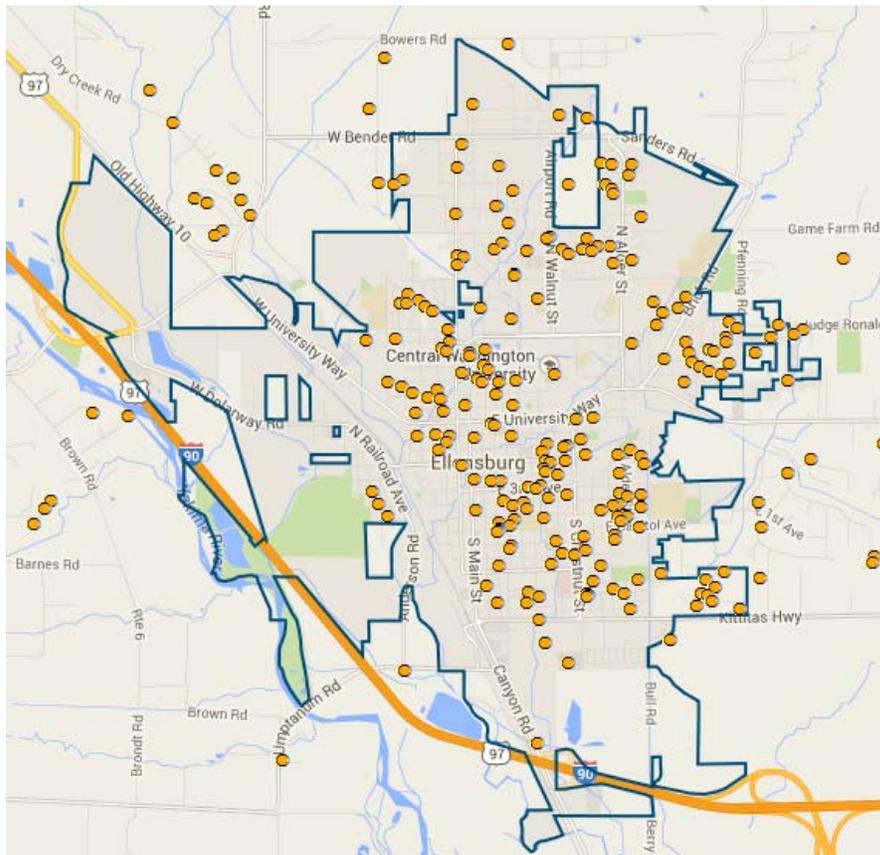


Figure 1: Where do you live in Ellensburg?

- Based on responses to the “where do you live in Ellensburg” question, most areas of the city were generally well represented with input from a wide cross section of the city’s land area. This also suggests that questionnaire responses more strongly reflect the needs of the average user from within the city.

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- There were few responses from within the university dorm areas and multi-family housing north of the campus. When compared with Question 1, this pattern indicates that there were fewer responses from CWU students.
- There were also several responses from just outside of the city including residential areas just outside of the city limits (within 1-2 miles). This suggests that there are a small percentage of residents living outside of the city that are interested in the city's park and recreation offerings.

Table 2. Question 3. If you live in Ellensburg, how long have you lived here?

Answer	Count	Percentage
10+ years	210	47%
2-5 years	73	16%
6-10 years	66	15%
0-1 years	29	7%
I don't live in Ellensburg.	25	6%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%
No answer	16	4%

- Nearly half of respondents (47%) have lived in Ellensburg for 10 years or more, while almost one-third (31%) have lived in Ellensburg for 2-10 years. This suggests that the majority of respondents are more familiar with the longstanding needs, challenges and opportunities facing the city's parks and recreation system.

Table 3. Question 4. What is your age?

Answer	Count	Percentage	US Census % ²
35-49	184	41%	11%
25-34	90	20%	16%
50-64	66	15%	9%
65+	39	9%	9%
18-24	29	7%	41%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%	-
No answer	10	2%	-
Under 18	1	0%	14%

- The majority of responses represent the opinion of adults. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) identified themselves as being at least 35 years of age. There were almost no responses under the age of 18 and only seven percent of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Based on US Census estimates, there is a higher percentage of youth and young adults in Ellensburg, and fewer adults than questionnaire respondents, especially within the 35-49 age range.

² US Census, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 4. Question 5. What is your gender?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Female	235	53%
Male	165	37%
Not completed or Not displayed	25	6%
No answer	19	4%

- Slightly more than half of the respondents (53%) identified themselves as female.

II. Parks

Table 5. Question 6. How important are parks and recreation programs to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very important	288	65%
Important	84	19%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
Somewhat important	21	5%
No answer	5	1%
Not very important	2	0%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%

- According to respondents, parks and recreation programs are important to the city's overall quality of life. Five of every six respondents reported that parks and recreation programs are either important or very important to the overall quality of life in Ellensburg.

Figure 2. Question 7. How frequently do you visit the following Ellensburg parks in season?

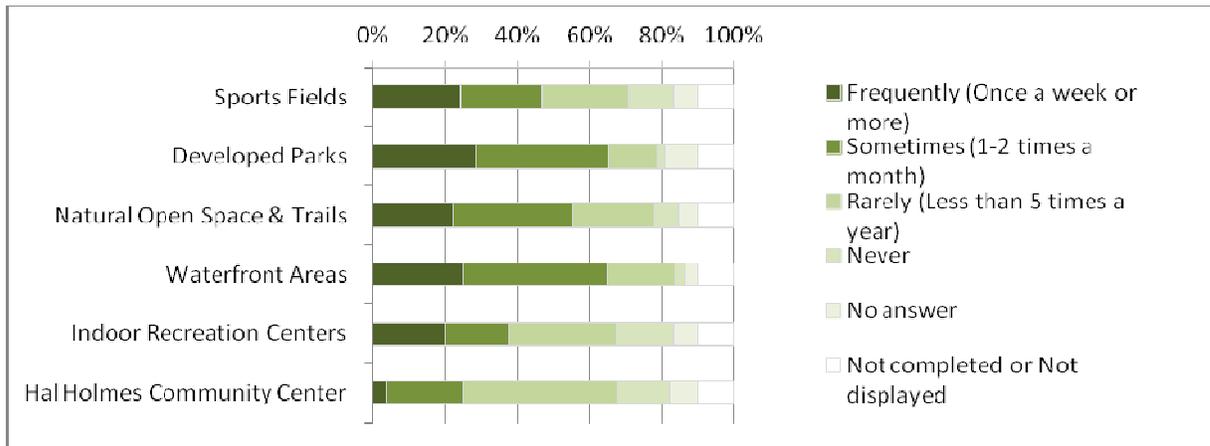


Figure 2: How frequently do you visit the following parks?

- The most frequently visited types of parks included developed parks, waterfront areas and natural open space and trails.
- Approximately one of every five respondents reported visiting each category of parks at least once each week in-season, with the exception of the Hal Holmes Community Center.

Table 6. Question 8: What are the primary reasons that you use parks in Ellensburg? (Please check your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	224	50%
Walk or bike for exercise	172	39%
Play sports	121	27%
Participate in family activities	86	19%
Picnic and general leisure activities	57	13%
Use a specific facility at a park	50	11%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
Meet friends	36	8%
Attend special events/concerts/movies	34	8%
Don't use parks	2	0%

- Respondents generally prefer being outside, walking or biking and playing sports. The top three reasons that respondents reported using parks in Ellensburg are to enjoy the outdoors or nature, to walk or bike for exercise and to play sports. Fewer respondents visited parks for attending special events, concerts or movies.

Table 7. Question 9. If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Ellensburg, what are your reasons? (Please check your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
None of the above	122	27%
Lack of facilities	45	10%
Not completed or Not displayed ³	44	10%
No time	36	8%
Don't know what's available	28	6%
Poorly maintained	27	6%
Too far away/not conveniently located	17	4%
Don't know where they are	16	4%
Not interested	15	3%
Too crowded	10	2%
Feel unsafe	3	1%
Do not have transportation	2	0%

- Of the specific reasons offered, respondents' most common reasons for seldom or never using parks in Ellensburg are due to lack of facilities and lack of time, similar to the feedback collected from the open-ended responses. The higher percentage of "none of the above" responses is likely due to respondents intending to note that they use parks more frequently, and that none of the typical reasons for seldom using a park apply. This observation is supported by the small number of respondents indicating that they don't use parks in Question 8.
- However, respondents generally feel safe in parks and have adequate transportation. A lack of transportation, safety concerns, crowded conditions, and awareness of park locations were not primary reasons for seldom using parks.

Table 8. Question 10. How would you rate the general upkeep and maintenance of the existing parks in Ellensburg? (Please check only one)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Good	207	47%
Ok	111	25%
Excellent	48	11%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
No answer	17	4%
Poor	12	3%
Don't Know	5	1%

³ The "not completed or not displayed" answers should not be considered a response to the question being asked. These are included only to indicate the total number of respondents who initiated the questionnaire.

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- Nearly two-thirds of respondents (58%) rated the general upkeep and maintenance of the existing parks in Ellensburg as good or excellent.
- The second highest response for rating general upkeep and maintenance of existing parks was ok (25%) while only three percent rated upkeep and maintenance as poor.

Table 9. Question 11: How would you rate the importance of natural open space to the community? (Please check only one)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very important	261	59%
Important	90	20%
Not completed or Not displayed	44	10%
Somewhat important	35	8%
No answer	9	2%
Not very important	5	1%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%

- Respondents feel strongly about natural open space. Seventy-nine percent of respondents consider natural open space to be important or very important.
- Of the most popular types of recreation activities, these areas support being outdoors and trail related activities such as walking and biking.
- Based on observations from the open-ended comments, many respondents identified the popularity of surrounding natural open space areas and outdoor recreation resources, outside of Ellensburg. Responses to this question highlight the importance of these resources for outdoor recreation and the high value these areas have to residents.

Figure 3. Question 12. How often do you participate in recreation activities in Ellensburg or elsewhere? For each activity in which you participate, please select the response that most closely represents how often you participate when the activity is in season.

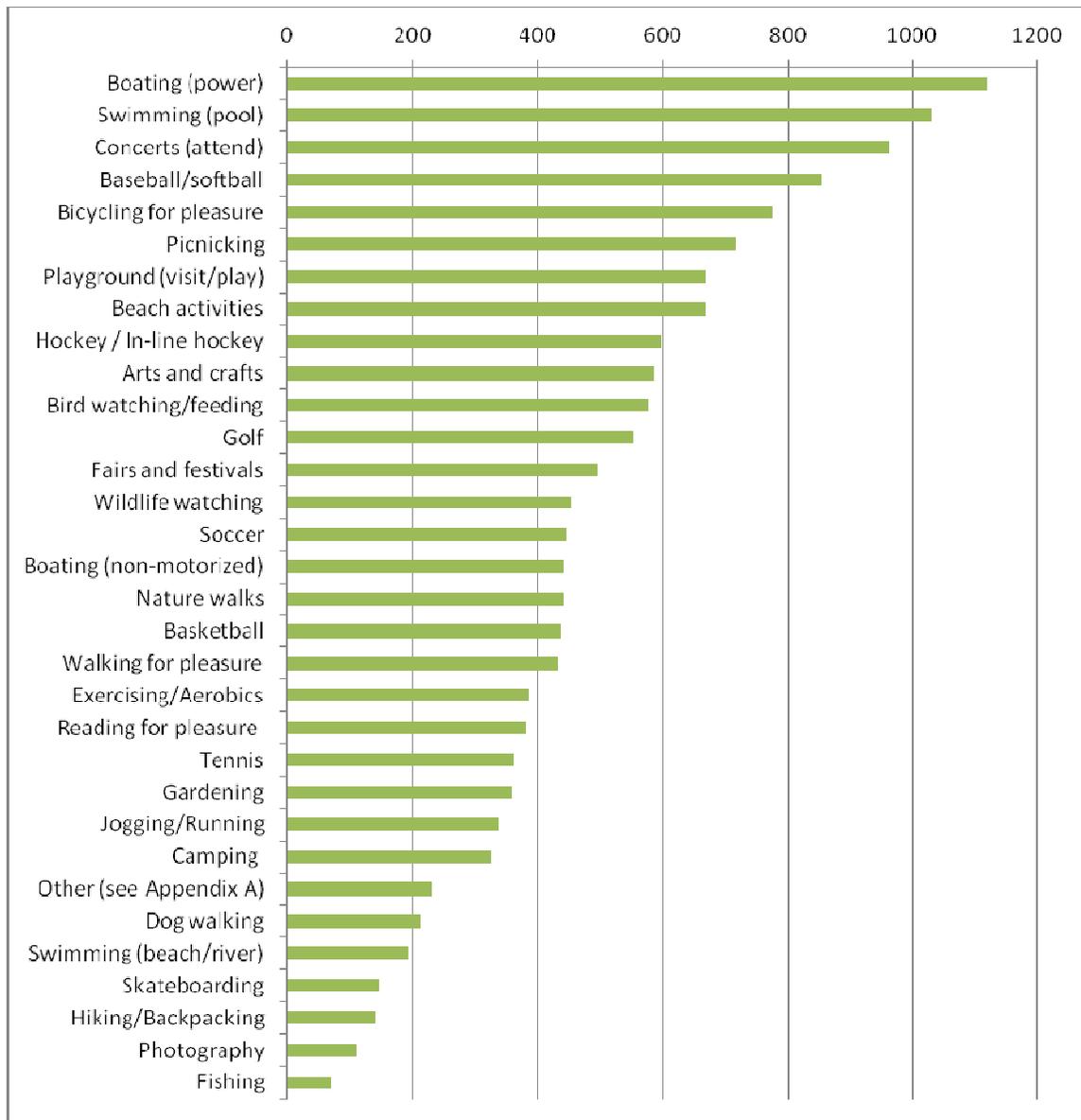


Figure 3: How often do you participate in recreation activities in Ellensburg or elsewhere?

- Figure 3 shows the frequency of participation in recreational activities. Frequency of participation can be affected by factors such as level of interest; local availability of facilities, programs and events; physical ability; gear and equipment required; cost and convenience. To generate a participation score for each activity, each “daily or almost daily” response was given 5 points, each “once a week or more” response was given 4 points, each “1-2 times per month” response was given 2 points, each “less than 5 times a year” response was given

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1 point, each “never” response was given 0 points, and each “no answer” was given 0 points.

- Though the nearest boat launch facility is outside the City of Ellensburg, power boating had the highest participation rate. This outcome supports the finding that surrounding outdoor recreation areas play an important role in parks and recreation for Ellensburg residents.
- Swimming (in a pool), attending concerts, playing baseball/softball and bicycling were also activities that respondents participated in most frequently. These responses also support the finding that being outdoors, biking and playing sports are the top reasons for using parks.
- Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” responses if none of the choices for recreation activities listed were the ones that they participated in. Out of the 44 open-ended responses, many said that they mountain bike, although biking was also listed as a choice in the questionnaire. Roller skating was also a frequently cited response.

Figure 4. Question 13. Select the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.

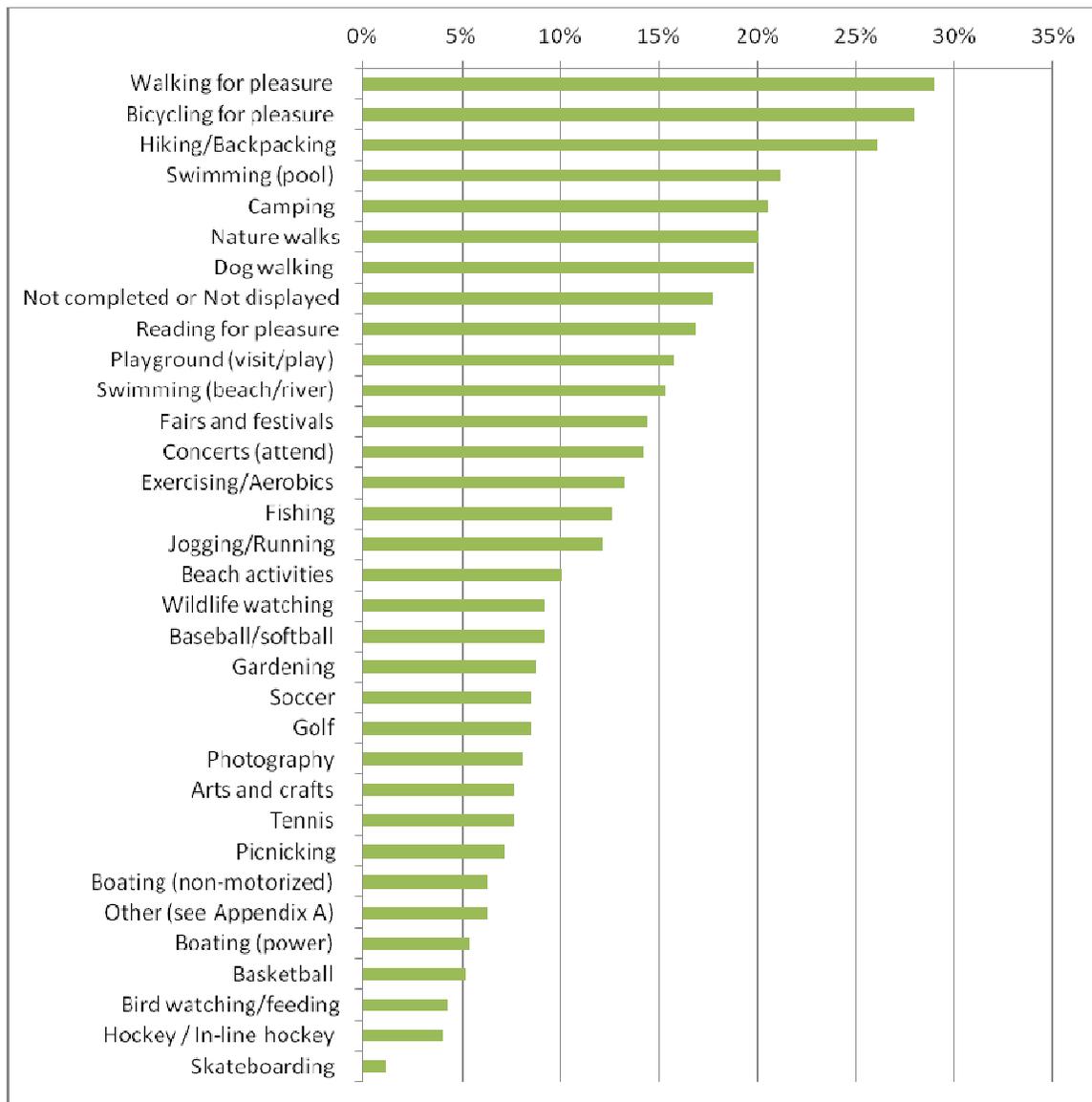


Figure 4: Select the 5 activities you would like to do most.

- Figure 4 reflects the percent of respondents who included each activity as one of the five they would most like to do, regardless of obstacles. Walking for pleasure, bicycling for pleasure and hiking/backpacking were the top three activities in this question.
- Biking is a top activity regardless of any barriers. This activity was the only one in Figure 4 that was also among the top half of activities actually engaged in, as represented in the preceding question.
- When comparing results from Question 12 with 13, walking for pleasure, hiking/backpacking, camping, nature walks and dog walking were all activities that respondents did not already participate in frequently, but would participate

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in more regardless of barriers. Though backpacking and camping do not already occur in Ellensburg’s parks, these are activities that can take place in surrounding natural open space areas and could be activities offered through recreational programming.

- Some activities such as soccer, tennis, gardening, wildlife watching, fairs and festivals would remain unchanged regardless of barriers. This may indicate that they are activities that are already adequately supported by existing facilities.
- Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” responses if none of the choices for recreation activities listed were the top five activities that they would like to do most. Of the 39 open-ended responses, many respondents recorded mountain biking and roller skating as one of the top five activities that they would like to do most.

Figure 5. Question 14. Besides the City of Ellensburg, other public and private entities own and operate a variety of park and recreational facilities within the City’s recreational service area. For each facility/provider, please mark the column that best describes how often you visit.

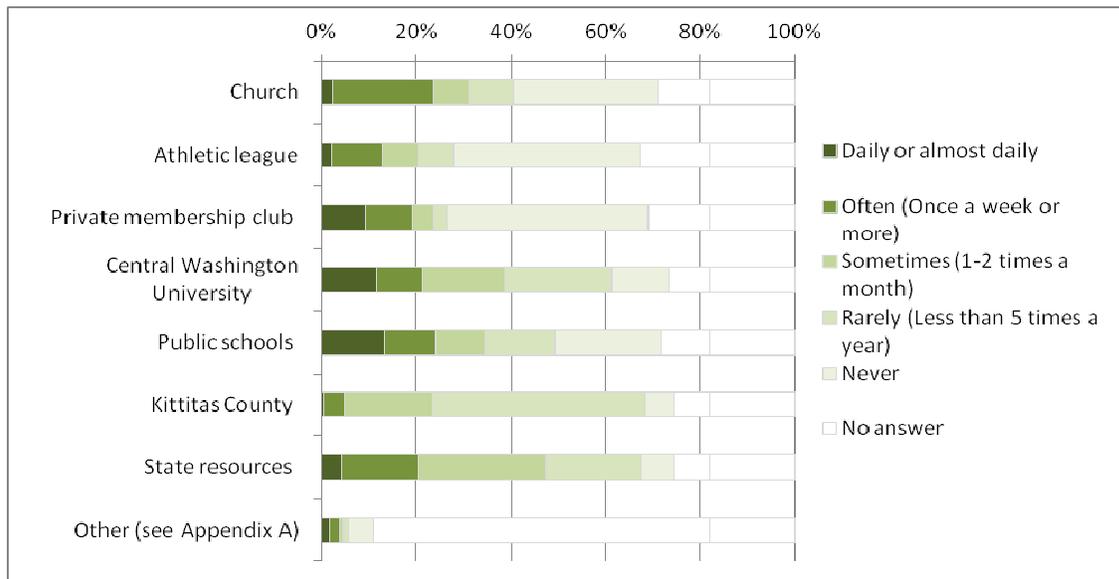


Figure 5: How often do you visit other public and private recreational facilities?

- Overall, Figure 5 shows that more than half of respondents occasionally rely on other public and private recreational facilities. This supports findings from the open-ended responses that many respondents use surrounding natural open space areas for outdoor recreation.
- Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” public/private park and recreation facility that they used besides the choices listed. Of the 25 open-ended responses, many respondents recorded Manatash Ridge Trail and Naneum Canyon Hiking as other recreation facilities that they used besides City-provided parks and recreation facilities.

- Facilities that received the highest share of “sometimes” or “rarely” responses included state resources and Central Washington University.

III. Recreation Programs and Special Events

Figure 6. Question 15. Have any household members used recreational programs provided by the City in the last year?

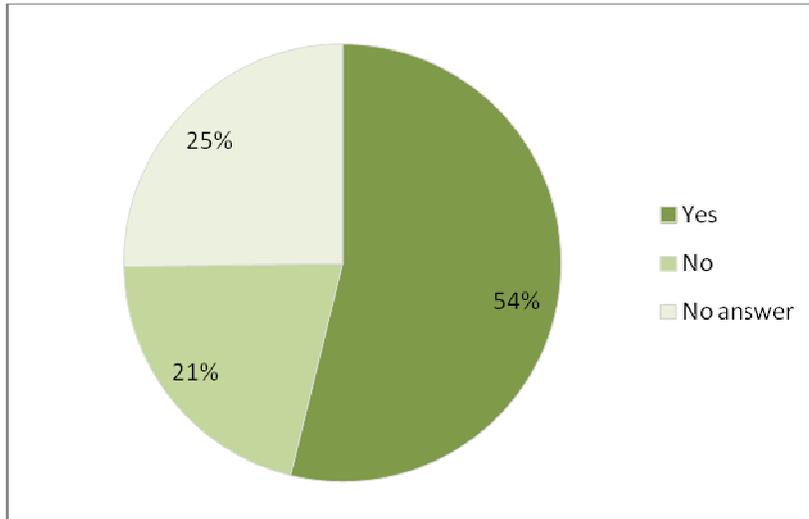


Figure 6: Have any household members used recreational programs provided by the City in the last year?

- Slightly more than half of all respondents (54%) indicated that members of their household had used City-provided recreational programs in the last year. According to the 2002 Survey, slightly more (66%) responded favorably to this question.
- Although more than half of all respondents indicated that members of their household had used City-provided recreational programs in the last one year, nearly 46% of the respondents either did not provide an answer or currently do not use City-provided recreational programs. When combined with responses from Questions 17 and 19, outcomes suggest a need to improve the awareness and variety of available programs.

Table 10. Question 16. If you participated in services and programs offered by the City of Ellensburg, how did you learn about them? (Please select all that apply)

Answer	Count	Percentage
From friends or word of mouth	161	36%
From the City's program guide	99	22%
Information distributed at schools	92	21%
Website/Facebook	87	20%
From the local newspaper	86	19%
Posters/Flyers/Banners	83	19%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%

- Approximately one-third of respondents indicated that they learned about City services and programs from friends or word of mouth. However, all other sources received a similar share of responses. Results suggest that in-person networks might be the most effective in communicating services and programs.

Table 11. Question 17. If you do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by the City of Ellensburg, what are your reasons? (Please select all that apply)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Not aware of programs	86	19%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%
Too busy/no time	70	16%
Don't have activities I'm interested in	61	14%
Held at inconvenient times	28	6%
Too expensive	22	5%
Need child care in order to participate	18	4%
Poor quality of programs	14	3%
Classes or programs are full	5	1%
Held at inconvenient locations	3	1%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	3	1%
Lack of transportation	2	0%

- Respondents' most frequently cited reason for not participating in programs offered by the City is a lack of awareness of programs. The next most frequent reason is a lack of time, followed by a lack of activities that hold their interest.

Table 12. Question 18. What are the most convenient program times for you and others in your household? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Weekday evenings	173	39%
Weekend afternoons	102	23%
Weekend mornings	96	22%
Drop-in formats, rather than on-going activities	93	21%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%
Weekday afternoons	67	15%
Weekday mornings	42	9%
Weekend evenings	39	9%

- Respondents indicated that weekday evenings are the most convenient times for them to participate in programs, followed by weekend afternoons and weekend mornings.
- Respondents indicated that the most inconvenient times for them to participate in programs are weekend evenings and weekday mornings.

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- Besides weekday evenings and weekend afternoons or mornings, drop-in formats emerged as a popular choice. This could be a format that can be explored to satisfy multiple user needs, especially if offered during weekends where more than one convenient time is identified.

Table 13. Question 19. What additional recreation programs do you feel the City of Ellensburg should offer or expand? (Please select all that apply)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Special events (concerts in the park, festivals, movies, etc.)	168	38%
Outdoor/Environmental programs	163	37%
Fitness classes (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	110	25%
Sports (Baseball, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.)	102	23%
General interest classes (music lessons, computers, etc.)	93	21%
Not completed or Not displayed	80	18%
Arts (drama, painting, etc.)	77	17%
Aquatic programs (swim lessons, water exercise, etc.)	77	17%
Drop-in activities	70	16%
Before and after school programs	68	15%
Other (see Appendix A)	57	13%
No additional programs are needed	18	4%

- In general, outcomes suggest a need for more variety in recreation programming opportunities. Respondents were most enthusiastic about Ellensburg offering additional special events, outdoor/environmental programs and fitness classes. All of these programs could be supported through outside partners or organizations.
- When compared with responses from the 2002 Survey, there were more respondents who prioritized before and after school programs and aquatic programs, but fewer who prioritized special events and fitness classes.
- Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” additional recreation programs that the City of Ellensburg should offer or expand. Of the 57 open-ended responses, some of the most common responses included ice hockey, roller skating, tennis, biking/cycling and opportunities for children.

Table 14. Question 20. Which groups are most underserved by current recreation services? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Adults	103	23%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
All groups are served adequately	74	17%
High school youth	46	10%
Families	43	10%
Middle school youth	39	9%
Preschoolers	34	8%
Elementary youth	33	7%
Seniors	33	7%
People from diverse cultures	29	7%
People with disabilities	23	5%

- Almost a quarter of respondents indicated that adults are the most underserved group. At the same time, nearly one-fifth of respondents indicated that all groups are adequately served.
- However, open-ended responses suggest that there is a need to increase offerings for youth and families.

Table 15. Question 21. What role should the City of Ellensburg assume in organized youth sports and sports facilities? (Please select one)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Develop sports fields and share maintenance responsibilities with private groups (City's current role)	174	39%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
Develop and maintain sports fields and manage/develop sports leagues	67	15%
No answer	61	14%
Develop and maintain sports fields	46	10%
Not be involved in organized youth sports	7	2%

- More than one-third of respondents indicated that the City should maintain its current role in organized youth sports—to develop and share maintenance responsibilities of sports fields. About one in six respondents believe that the City's role should expand to include developing and managing sports fields and sports leagues.

Table 16. Question 22. How would you rate the recreation activities and programs provided by the City of Ellensburg? (Please select one)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Satisfactory. There are some opportunities to do the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	159	36%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
Very Good. There are several opportunities to do many of the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	75	17%
Not very good. There are a few opportunities to do the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	45	10%
Not sure. I don't know what is offered.	32	7%
No answer	24	5%
Excellent. There are many opportunities to do all or most of the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	16	4%
Totally inadequate. There are no opportunities to do any of the recreation activities and programs I enjoy.	4	1%

- Overall, respondents are satisfied with recreation activities and programs. Slightly more than one-third of respondents rated the City's recreation activities and programs as satisfactory. Nearly one-fifth of respondents rated the programs and activities as very good.
- However, 11% felt that activities and programs are inadequate. An additional 7% indicated that they don't know what is offered, reinforcing the top response in Question 17

Table 17. Question 23. Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel park and recreation programs and facilities should be funded? (Please select one)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Mostly from tax dollars and some from user fees	192	43%
Not completed or Not displayed	89	20%
Mostly from user fees and some from tax dollars	88	20%
100% from taxes – no fees should be charged to use recreation facilities and programs	30	7%
Don't know	24	5%
No answer	15	3%
100% from user fees	6	1%

- Respondents generally felt that support for parks and recreation should be partially shared between residents and users. Nearly half of respondents (43%) indicated that programs and facilities should be funded primarily from tax dollars with some additional user fees.
- One in five respondents indicated that they believed the opposite to be ideal; that funding should come primarily from user fees with some additional tax dollars.

Figure 7. Question 24. How would the following factors influence the amount you would pay for recreation programs and organized activities? For each factor, please mark the column that best describes how you would pay.

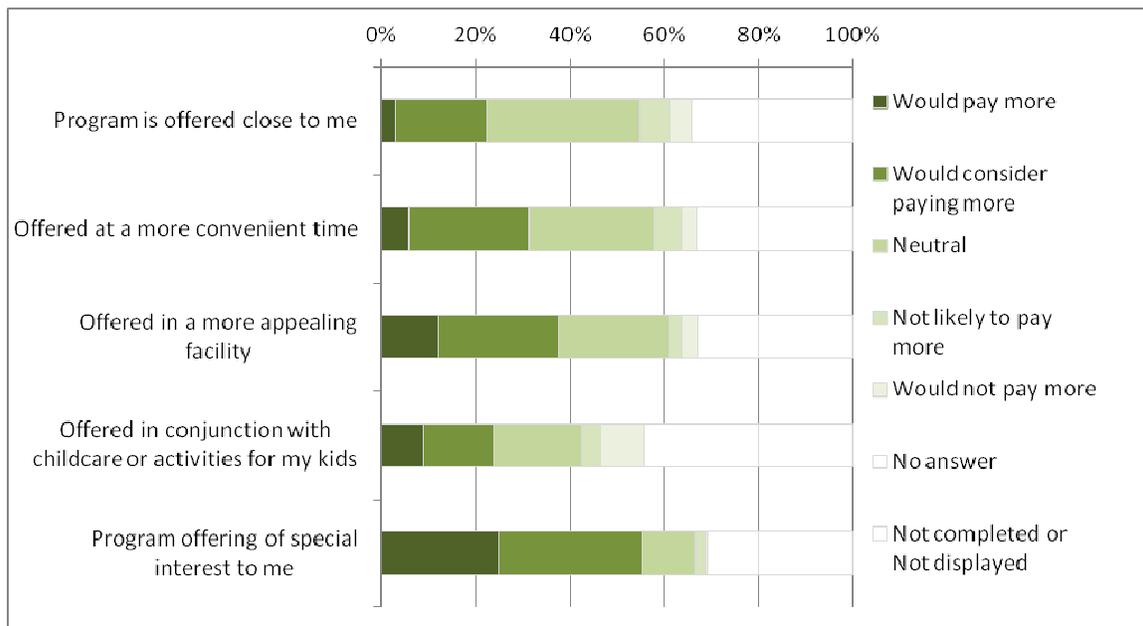


Figure 7: How would the following factors influence the amount you would pay for recreation programs and organized activities?

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- Of the respondents who provided an answer to this question, approximately half indicated they would or would consider paying more for recreation programs and organized activities.
- When evaluated all possible answer choices, programs that offer special interest, and a more appealing facility are the most appealing.

IV. Future Improvements

Table 18. Question 25. How can the City of Ellensburg park system be improved? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Upgrading existing parks	183	41%
Maintaining existing parks and facilities	125	28%
Building major new facilities, such as sports fields or community centers	95	21%
Not completed or Not displayed	92	21%
Acquiring natural areas	89	20%
Developing new parks	69	16%
Acquiring land for future parks	59	13%

- The majority of responses show a need to reinvest in existing sites and facilities. Nearly three-quarters of respondents indicated that improvements should focus on upgrades to existing parks (41%) and maintenance of existing parks and facilities (28%).
- Only one-fifth of respondents supported building of new facilities, and slightly fewer respondents selected acquiring or development parks and natural areas.
- When compared with a similar question in the 2002 Survey, protecting and adding natural areas was a higher priority for respondents.

Table 19. Question 26. If funding were available, which of the following facilities should have the highest priorities in Ellensburg? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
A citywide trail system	143	32%
Multi-purpose indoor community/recreation/senior center	114	26%
Not completed or Not displayed	92	21%
Water playgrounds	87	20%
Off-leash dog area	72	16%
Other (see Appendix A)	65	15%
More river access for recreation, swimming and boating	60	14%
Sports fields (e.g., baseball, softball, soccer, rugby)	44	10%
More outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball or tennis	41	9%
Community gardens	21	5%
More picnic areas	11	2%

- A citywide trail system (32%) and a multipurpose community/recreation/senior center (26%) were the highest priorities for respondents if funding were available. Both types of facilities were also top responses in the 2002 Survey.

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- Adding a variety of different facilities, such as water playgrounds and off-leash dog areas were also noted in Appendix A. Respondents were provided with the opportunity to identify “other” additional facilities besides those listed as options that should receive priority if funding became available. Of the 65 open-ended responses, many respondents indicated that the City should prioritize funding for ice hockey facilities, a roller skating rink and biking trails.

Table 20. Question 27. What facilities would you most like to see in an indoor recreation center? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Multi-use gymnasium	194	44%
Weight room/fitness room	100	23%
Not completed or Not displayed	92	21%
Aerobics/exercise classrooms	71	16%
Space for teen activities	66	15%
Large multi-purpose/reception room	63	14%
Space for senior activities	36	8%
Childcare	29	7%
Meeting rooms/classrooms	28	6%

- Respondents would most like to see a multi-use gymnasium in a new recreation facility, followed by a weight/fitness room.
- Though spaces for kids and teens did not rank highly in this question, results from other questions suggest a need for spaces dedicated for youth and teen sports and programming. Alternatively, a multi-use gymnasium could be designed to accommodate a wider range of age groups.

V. Trails

Table 21. Question 28. What type of trails/pathways should have the highest priority in Ellensburg? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Paved trails for walking, biking, etc.	173	39%
Trails that link neighborhoods with community destinations	145	33%
Trails that link with other existing trails	98	22%
Not completed or Not displayed	93	21%
Nature trails (pedestrians only)	89	20%
Trails that extend long distances (5+ miles)	84	19%
Trails designed for mountain biking	52	12%
None of the above	8	2%

- In general, responses suggest a need for paved trails that connect users to neighborhoods and city destinations. Respondents indicated a high priority for paved trails (39%), and for creating connectivity in Ellensburg’s trail system, both by linking neighborhoods with community destinations (33%) and by linking new trails to existing trails (22%).
- Responses from the open-ended questions also show a strong interest in natural surface trails for biking, hiking and running.

Table 22. Question 29. If you do not currently use pathways or trails in Ellensburg, what are your primary reasons? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Lack of trails and connections	93	21%
Not completed or Not displayed ⁴	93	21%
None of the above	76	17%
Don’t know where they are located	60	14%
Too far away, not conveniently located	53	12%
Poorly maintained	24	5%
Feel unsafe	16	4%
Not interested in using trails	15	3%
Conflicts with other types of trail users	14	3%

- Lack of trails and connections, lack of awareness of trail locations and lack of access are indicated as the most likely reasons respondents do not use the existing trails in Ellensburg.
- Safety concerns and lack of maintenance are not the major reasons preventing respondents from using trails in Ellensburg. Only 3% of the respondents indicated that they do not use pathways or trails for these reasons.

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- The higher percentage of “none of the above” responses is likely due to respondents intending to note that they use trails more frequently, and that none of the typical reasons for not using trails applies. This observation is supported by the higher number of respondents indicating that they frequently use trails in Question 7, as well as feedback collected from the open-ended responses.
- When combined with the top responses from Question 28, responses indicate a strong interest in building the trail system and filling in gaps to complete community connections.

Table 23. Question 30. What are the primary reasons to develop more trails in Ellensburg? (Please select your top 2 choices)

Answer	Count	Percentage
Exercise	223	50%
Increase non-motorized transportation options	158	36%
Recreation	120	27%
Experience nature	106	24%
Not completed or Not displayed	93	21%
Improve children’s access to schools	32	7%
No additional trails are needed	10	2%

- Respondents indicated that the most important reasons to develop more trails in Ellensburg are for exercise and to increase non-motorized transportation options.
- Only two percent of respondents indicated that no additional trails are needed.
- When combined with other questions in the questionnaire, respondents feel strongly about improving access to trails and increasing opportunities for recreation as well as non-motorized transportation.

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- *Indoor sports facilities:* Another common theme from the open-ended responses is the need for indoor sports facilities for tennis, soccer and skating.
- *Awareness of existing recreation programs and facilities:* Many respondents felt it is difficult to find or learn about activities offered by the City or private entities. They expressed a need for some physical or digital bulletin with activities that are City-provided and also from other private entities.
- *Improved maintenance and facility upgrades:* Several comments expressed the need to reinvest in existing facilities. These included improving maintenance and upgrading or expanding on recreation facilities to add excitement and variety to the system.

Appendix A

Questions 12, 13, 14, 19 and 26 provided respondents with the opportunity to identify 'Other' responses. All of these open-ended responses are provided below, edited only to remove personally identifying information.

Figure 8. Question 12. How often do you participate in recreation activities in Ellensburg or elsewhere?

- Long walks with the dog
- love the park at canyon rd and berry. Very green grass!
- in line skateing
- Roller derby/skating
- Biking!
- I regularly attend soccer games at the west side playing fields in season.
- BMX/Street riding
- ultimate frisbee
- Plays, events at Hal Holmes
- hunting, outdoor landscape and/or wildflower and/or wildlife photography
- Disc Golf
- Ellensburg is so nice for walking and biking. I mean just as an everyday activity.
- picking wild berries, mushrooms & other edible plants
- horseback riding; cross-country skiing
- Mountain Biking and rock climbing
- I wish there was a dog park! We see so many people with dogs and no where to let them play off leash!
- Mountain Biking and Road Biking
- Mountain biking, road biking
- Mountain biking on Manastash Ridge, above the Orr mansion, Orion Farms area. Daily or almost daily.
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking, Skiing
- Would love more skills type bike features I would do that with my famil 1-2x per week. I'd also love an enclosed dog park area I would do that 1x per week
- Trail running; Mountain Biking (I like trails!)
- Mountain biking and trail running
- Football
- Mountain biking
- The city really lacks outdoor tennis facilities in comparisson with othr similiar sized communities. The indoor racquet center needs its courts dedicated to tennis only use and those courts need regular cleaning.
- dog walking almost daily
- Racquetball
- EXERCISE @ THE RAQUET CENTER

Figure 9. Question 13. Select the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.

- splash pad
- PICKLEBALL would be nice to have. You get great exercise doing it and it is fun. It is the fastest growing sport. It is a sport from grade school kids up to 80 year olds
- in line skating
- Roller Derby/skating
- Do not limit what I can chose!
- BMX/Street riding
- Indoor exercise facilities need to be improved and increased.
- Ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf
- PLAYS and other shows!
- It would be nice to have an indoor place to walk during the winter when cold & windy, and also during the very hot days.
- Disc Golf
- Live theatre productions
- I like my exercise incorporated right in to my life style. Ellensburg is such a great town for this style of living. I walk and bike all year long. People like to complain about wind but living in town I rarely notice it. My grandson and I like to visit the city parks.
- kayaking on the river
- Mountain biking and rock climbing
- Letting our dog play in a dog park!
- Would like to take our dogs to an off leash area to run and play.
- Mountain biking
- horse trail riding/hiking
- Bicycling for pleasure needs to be broken into road cycling and mountain biking. Put me down for Mountain Biking #1, and Road Biking as my #2!
- Mountain Biking
- Skiing, Mountain Biking
- Biking, mountian biking
- Lots of mountain biking!!!
- Trail running; Mountain Biking (Trail access)
- Flag Football
- Mountain bike
- We really need city tennis courts. The city has a large adult and adolescent tennis population with few options to play that don't require parking permits (CWU) or competing with multi use of the two idoor courts at the ERRC. We need another location for the uses (roller blading, roller hockey, batting cages, etc. that compete with tennis for the two indoor courts). We could also re-claim use of a third and possibly fourth indoor tennis court at ERRC if we could locate the gymnastics and/or soccer program to another facility.
- hunting

Figure 10. Question 14. Besides the City of Ellensburg, other public and private entities own and operate a variety of park and recreational facilities within the City's recreational service area.

- Yoga - Yoga Hot Spot, Ellensburg
- Manastash Ridge
- Hiking trails in the canyon, Naneum and Ridge
- Naneum Kids pond
- Manashtash ridge trails
- Manashtash Rigde, Umpatanum Falls, Yakima Canyon Trail
- Wenas Wildlife Area, L.T. Murray (WDNR/WDFW), USFS lands, BLM recreation areas, National Parks and Monuments (various),
- I frequently hike to wild cat lake and Gem lake.
- City of Yakima - Disc Golf
- LT Murray/Manastash Ridge Hiking, Naneum Canyon Hiking, Coleman Canyon Hiking, USFS Table Mountain Hiking
- City Parks, my husband has a membership at the GYM.
- Manastash Ridge
- LTMurray
- Fish and wildlife properties and Dnr Properties for Mountain Biking and hiking
- Imagine the revenue the John Wayne Trail would bring in if it was paved... Again, look at the Kellogg, Plumber Idaho model. Paved railroad grade.
- All area trails: BLM & USFS, in addition to State resources mentioned above (DNR, WDF&W, State Parks)
- Mountain bike and road biking opportunities
- More tennis courts, indoor and outdoor.
- ellensburg rec center
- Out into the hills around town in the spring/summer/fall for hiking, picnics, etc.
- Racquet center to skate there on Friday nights
- Adult Activity Center
- walk, camping, picnicking
- BLM and Forest Service land (Manassas and Umtanum, primarily)
- Ellensburg Racket and Recreation Center

Figure 11. Question 19. What additional recreation programs do you feel the City of Ellensburg should offer or expand?

- women's self defense
- adult sports
- Competitive and non competitive soccer leagues
- parks!! Playground equipment, things to do that are family oriented
- adult exercise programs
- exercise facilities cheaper! I go to the racket club, cause it's cheap, but aerobic equipment is all broken!
- more kid's program pls!
- adult co ed basketball
- would LOVE to see a reasonable priced or even FREE youth fitness program
- more summer camps for all age groups
- Dog park!
- Paved Riverwalk (several miles)
- Better aquatic center
- Adult sport, we need an indoor basketball court
- A pour in place concrete skateboard park is needed
- sign language
- Water park or like a splash pad for outdoor use in the hot Ellensburg summers. We have to drive to Moses Lake or Ephrata. Why can't Ellensburg provide an outdoor area for our kids to play in the water that it not Irene Rinehart water?
- indoor area for walking
- continue to offer and/or expand areas appropriate for bird-watching, nature walks, etc.
- SAIL
- more cycling!
- Disc Golf Tournament; Golf Lessons
- urban farming
- water features such as a splash pad
- Expand to include more for 5 and under
- Mountain Biking
- mountain bike resources
- trails for all non motorized uses
- Mountain Biking Trail System
- Flag Football, more softball fields, weights at the pool
- Bicycling
- Cycling
- Ice Hockey
- Hockey!
- Hockey
- Hockey

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- Mountain bike skills area, similar to Duthie. Little logs, ramps, small stuff for kids.
- ice hockey
- Ice hockey
- Endurance events: Running, cycling, multi-sport, especially during the winter
- Pickleball
- more cycling and bicycle racing opportunities
- Family bike park
- expand tennis facilities and programs
- drop in recreation for school aged kids, skate park needs to be fixed up, safe places for middle school aged kids
- Tennis facilities (both indoor and outdoor) are inadequate. The Racquet Center has not been maintained for years--the roof leaks, the parking lot is terrible, use by indoor soccer takes necessary court space and is very loud.
- hockey / in-line hockey
- More organized tennis
- EXPAND RACQUET CENTER GYM
- off leash dog parks
- tennis
- skating rink for kids/families/rollerderby
- roller skating area
- Need more programs for the teenagers within our community, especially highschool age.
- Rollerskating rink
- I think a skating rink would be extremely useful for young kids, college kids and adults. The local in-line hockey and roller derby groups would use them very frequently.
- Tennis Team

Figure 12. Question 26. If funding were available, which of the following facilities should have the highest priorities in Ellensburg?

- Indoor Basketball Courts
- racquet center overhaul
- PICKLEBALL court
- better parks with neat playgrounds
- Pave portion of John Wayne Trail for safe bike riding with kids
- Recreation center on vantage hwy needs upgrades.
- Upgrade the play equipment at the parks. Currently you have a large amount of parks with low quality play equipment.
- Pedestrian bridge across yakima River at IR park with a bike path connection to brown road
- Parking at Sports Fields
- Paved Riverwalk (several miles)
- Better Playground equipment
- Indoor basketball, volleyball, soccer courts
- Indoor rec center for sports teams
- Pour in place concrete skatepark
- More comprehensive exercise facility/program/equipment
- pickleball courts!
- MORE PARKS, PERIOD
- THEATER
- natural areas for walking, bird-watching, wildlife habitat, w/some limited mountain-bike, dog use areas
- Maintain what we already enjoy
- drama
- cycling
- Bike paths/trails
- More/easier public access to nearby lands
- edible landscape
- open nature areas (like Irene Rhinehart)
- Off-leash areas, but not a small defined dog park area!
- Mountain bike resources
- build new swimming pool and exercise facility
- Biking trails
- Mountain biking trails
- Skatepark
- hockey rink, mountain bike trails
- Ice Rink
- A indoor rink for roller hockey, roller derby (great opportunity for kids AND adults)
- Hockey courts
- Hockey

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- Hockey
- Hockey Facility, preferably Ice
- ice rink
- Skills park for biking with trails
- ice rink
- Ice rink
- better hockey facility
- Pickleball
- trails for mountain biking
- Tennis facilities
- overseeding grass and better weed control at existing parks
- ice hockey / in-line hockey
- dedicated indoor tennis courts
- RACQUET CENTER
- Resolve flooding issue at McElroy so we can use it!
- Badminton, table tennis (both out and indoor), roller blading area & trails. All areas can be dog off-leash. Dogs behave well that way - (there are models, e.g. even main parks in large European cities). In Ellensburg, there are never any incidents in the areas that are off-leash.
- Upgrade play structures at existing parks.
- tennis courts on west end of city
- a roller skating track. the mountain view one needs maintenance. it'd be nice to have a covered one for when it rains.
- Indoor Rec facility
- citywide paved trail system for people to bike, skate and walk/run on
- Multipurpose space for indoor basketball and could also be used for skating
- Outdoor Roller court at Mt. View Park
- Multi-use skating rink (family skating, hockey, roller derby)
- refuse funding
- roller skating rink
- bicyclin/walkin/ horse trail like around Sacramento
- Tennis courts

Appendix B

Questionnaire participants had the option to contribute open-ended comments regarding parks and recreation. More than 150 respondents provided feedback. All of these open-ended responses are provided below, edited only to remove personally identifying information.

Figure 13. Question 31: Is there anything else that you would like us to know?

- I believe the city really needs to maintain and improve what we have.
- The Racquet Center is in need of renovation. I wish The City of Ellensburg were able to collect impact fees when new homes are built so that they could fund upgrades and maintenance to park properties. The racquet center has old, outdated carpeting and seems poorly maintained for a government facility. The bathrooms are really old and need renovating. My daughter plays a lot of city league sports. I have called before and requested that she be put on the same team as another child her age so that I could help with transportation with that family's child and vice versa. I am married to a police officer who often works nights and weekends so can not help transporting kids to sporting events. The other family's parent is married to a commercial pilot and has other children that also play sports and therefore can not always take her children to practice/games. I was treated rudely on the phone for even requesting my child be put on a team with another child, but ultimately my request was granted. I do not think I should have been treated poorly and if I can't network with another parent to arrange shared transportation my child will not be continue playing the city league sports because it would be a waste of money and unfair to her teammates if she could not make it to practices/games. I just signed my daughter up to play volleyball as well, and another parent wants my help transporting her daughter. This parent has about 6 children living at home and her husband is recently deceased. So she could really use the help with transportation and I happen to be one of her neighbors. I hope you grant her wish of allowing the two kids to be on the same team.
- Check out the Croc Center in Coeur d'Alene. That specific facility is outstanding. Why should the college get all the facilities and the community at large be second to the college wants. It would be neat to entice more bicycling tourism and other outdoor recreation, as Ellensburg is a good "hub" location to these places/activities. Horses are great, but we need more diversity. Pave the John Wayne Trail!!!
- I would like Mountain View Park to provide Basketball courts that are not locked in the roller blade/hockey skate area.
- There needs to be more shaded picnic areas at the parks, and better restrooms.
- access to adult sports leagues - softball and basketball maybe in off season times - summer basketball or softball

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- You need some pickleball courts. The parking is horrible during little league. You need more parking. Support baseball tournaments because it brings in money to the town.
- I hate piles of dog poop and urine smell on the John Wayne trail as well as dogs off leashes. Please make that trail a non dog area once the dog park is open.
- I used to live in Moses Lake. The town isn't the best but I've always been impressed by their play area, playground equipment and parks. I think we need more for high school aged kids and young children. Places that are clean and safe and fun. What about an ice skating rink or something unique?
- I think that the city has an incredible resource in the Racquet & Recreation center. It provides an appropriate mix of sports opportunities. The 2 primary drawbacks are its distance from town and overall quality of the facility. I have spent a significant amount of time in that facility over the past 10-15 years and have seen very little improvement in cleanliness or quality. The bathrooms are inadequate and outdated. The overall fit and finish of the building is unacceptable for the type of events that it could support. Soccer Tournaments, Gymnastics meets, tennis tournaments and racquetball/handball leagues could all draw large numbers if the facility was a bit more modern and clean. It would require a significant investment but if managed properly could provide for endless potential returns, especially in the winter months.
- It would also be helpful if there was a place (physical and/or digital) to learn about activities offered not only by the City of Ellensburg but also other private entities. It is nearly impossible to find or learn about events, clubs, groups, etc unless one is already connected to the social structure here. I have had a remarkably difficult time becoming a part of the community here, and this has made choosing to continue to live here in the long term unlikely.
- A water playground would be amazing! And, based on the catalogs I've seen, there are plenty of programs for kids & seniors, but not much for adults 30-50+.
- I really appreciate the dog bags and garbage bins in all the parks.
- I would love to have a fitness/weight area that is more affordable, and yet better equipped than at the racket center. I try to go there, but the equipment is broken. I feel like most cities offer this at an affordable rate, cheaper than privately owned gyms.
- I want you to have more programs for kids.thank you.
- I continually experience and hear complaints about the city pool. It always seems over-chlorinated, the rules are quite rigid and the schedule isn't great for family use. It would be great to see this resource used more effectively as it is our only aquatic option in town.
- I would love to see a trail system in Ellensburg that would make it safe for my family to all get around town by bike/walking. It would be great to have a community recreation building with activities/classes for both adults and children, as well as childcare.
- I want a place for dogs to go because I'm tired of owners taking their dogs off their leashes and letting them run all over the park while my kids are trying to play.

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- After moving to Ellensburg from a very small town in Oregon, I was very disappointed with the playground equipment. Ellensburg has so many young children and there are very few park with swings or nice play structures. It's very disappointing!!!
- I appreciate the variety of parks we have in Ellensburg and the care that is given to maintain the cleanliness of our city. I would like to request that the designers of our parks and recreation areas consider the intensity of wind in our region. Often our time is cut short when using parks because the wind interferes with picnic options, sports activities, and body comfort. Frustrations rise when plates go flying wasting food, basketballs/frisbees are redirected with wind burst. The use of trees, shrubs, and partitions such as lattice with growing vines could reduce the intensity of wind and increase the natural beauty in the parks making it more enjoyable to use the recreation facilities.
- I would really love if you developed some sort of splash pad for use when it is warm out. Our small children have next to nothing to do in town. I also think the new Alder st park needs a few benches on/near the playground so parents can sit.
- It would be GREAT if you could add a bathroom at the outer fields at W. Eburg park where the little kids soccer and baseball is held. Nothing worse then having to haul a young child across the entire field to use a restroom
- love the ball fields, raquet center and pool is ok, could use more free swim time.
- I would like to see the existing parks improved. I feel that there isn't a great park to take my kids to that has decent play equipment. I feel that the parks are in desperate need of new and improved play equipment, such as a big structure that resembles a ship or something of that nature. When the sun is out, there are more kids than equipment at each of the parks. A water park would be nice too, especially since summers are very hot here.
- There should be more small neighborhood parks throughout the city. Children should be able to walk to a park within a few blocks of their home, no matter where they live in the city.
- Great facilities and very positive experiences with sports programs. Thank you.
- I frequently bicycle around town and particularly like the opportunity to pedal in bicycle lanes and on sidewalks. It feels so much safer. Would like to see Sanders Rd improved with bike lanes and sidewalks. The freeway underpass linking West Ellensburg Park and Rinehart Park is great, providing safe and easy access from town to Rinehart Park. Kudos for the expanded trails in the Reecer Creek floodplain. They should be promoted more.
- More Yakima River front trails would be nice. Bike and hiking trail to connect to Hansen Ponds, McCabe pond, up to Thorp, Cle Elum, and Selah.
- P&R is what makes a community great. Please pursue all avenues of funding from impact fees on developers to state/fed grants. If Winthrop, WA can get a great trail network with some expensive bridges we should too
- I am pretty ignorant of the process involved and what would need to change to make this happen, but I feel strongly that as the city expands and new developments are added the developers (in combination with some other resources: taxes, community groups) have to provide/pay for new parks. I can't

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fathom how a new development like the one currently being proposed north of town could be built without providing for at least one new public park (even if it is not currently part of the City yet). It just seems like poor planning/development to have such a large concentration of homes north of town with only one park (Alder Street Park).

- PLEASE PUT UP LIGHTS AT THE BASEBALL FIELDS, BOTH THE HIGH SCHOOL FIELD AND LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS. THIS WOULD EXPAND MANY MORE OPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES
- I think that our trails have improved, but it would be nice to have more paved trails and longer trails.
- I am grateful for the excellent parks we do have and the options for safe spaces for children. I do wish we can have more biking/walking trails throughout the city so that children and adults can bike to their destination rather than take the car only because it does not seem safe to have children in traffic.
- The city needs to develop the last two softball fields and put up the lighting for the fields which they already have had in their possession for the last several years. This will greatly enhance the potential for on going tournaments being held which helps out the community through sales revenue and sales tax.
- We need a water park in Ellensburg. Please help make that project real. It will keep children away from coaches , television and junk food. Aren't they the future of this beautiful country?
- More open parks to have dogs off the leash.
- Exercise trails that are long enough for good exercise.
- We would love a dog park.
- Legal mountain bike trails!
- Please partner with CWU, other local governments, and perhaps tribal offices to build a paved Riverfront Trail that goes along the Yakima river for several miles, e.g., Oneil Rd to Tjossem Pond area. Yakima has something similar and it's great.
- Many cities have nice aquatics centers (example: http://www.snohomishaquatic.com/activities-classes/recreation_pool) that I feel the community would support immensely. I would be willing to pay a much higher fee to use facilities like this with my family.
- We need more areas for young toddlers- splash pad during the summer, bouncy houses, open gym with small child toys, etc. There really aren't too many different programs for moms to take young children and the park equipment tends to get a little boring.
- I am surprised at how long it takes the city to make necessary repairs to the city pool. Last year the shower in the women's locker was down to shower heads. It took months and months for the repairs. Recently the drain in the same locker room became plugged. It took the city two weeks to unplug the drain. That is not acceptable. I believe parks and recreation is underfunded.
- Overall, I think we are lucky to have the programs that we do and the community people that we do. I grew up spending the summer at the park doing the parks and recreation program from 1-5 everyday. My parents didn't

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worry about me and I was entertained. I am happy to have my kids in your programs.

- Thanks for offering this survey!
- I feel we don't have any parks located at the north end of town (off Water). There is a increase in the population on our side of town but I feel we are being ignored by the park system of Ellensburg. They build a new park on Alder even though they had plenty of access to parks on that side of town. The closest park on our side of town is Kiwanis and is well over 20 minutes of walking time away. I also would like to see some kind of park that would incorporate a walking trail, basketball courts and skater parks to give our young people a place to hang out.
- Reed Park needs to be sprayed for dandelions in the spring.
- We need indoor sports facility for youth sports as well as adult leagues. There are so many beautiful trails in the mountains to go to, I just wouldn't use the trails in town.
- I think an indoor play ground would be a great option for families for inclement weather. It would be nice if there was a walking track around so parents can exercise while kids play safely indoors.
- We would use trails at Irene Rinehart Park more if the city would enforce dog-leashing there. My wife is scared by unrestrained dogs that run up to her .
- Options for bicycle commuters to have paths that are not adjacent to busy roads would be great. Current bike lanes are too close to heavy traffic. Bike paths that are commutable would be great.
- Please consider using some park lands for a new pour in place, concrete skatepark. The current skatepark is outdated and has had to have welds repaired numerous times.
- Currently doing OK with insufficient funds/facilities. Greater focus/funding on public exercise facilities and programs is important for creating and then maintaining a healthy community.
- complete basketball (shirts, shorts, socks, and shoes) uniforms. last name on uniforms. more Than 2 practices times a week and longer than 1 hour. move from seven games season to a 10+ games season."
- maybe a little off topic here, but this town is losing its old trees at an alarming rate. our neighborhood alone (counting cwu) has lost over 30 100 yr-old trees in the last 5 years. the standing trees are aging, the replanting is haphazard and not well-thought out.
- I was so glad to see mention of a water/splash park. I've longed for that for our families/community/kids for many years. Doesn't have to be big, just easily accessible and centrally located (not at a current park, but downtown). I've joked with friends about wishing the city would use eminent domain to take the Wells Fargo drive thru building/corner for this type of park. Also, I think a high priority needs to be given to walkable neighborhoods (I am against the expansion of 3rd Ave. to Pfenning). Driving less needs to be encouraged and provided for. Focus on local residents who will walk places, not on people who use vehicles to drive everywhere. Make it attractive to WALK (or ride bikes).

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- I think the most important thing that the city can do for the youth programs and adult programs is to upgrade the facilities out at the west end fields. It actually could be an amazing facility, if the city took the time to hire people who could maintain it like the sports facility it is. Not like its another park where they go mow the grass and walk away. Baseball fields, soccer fields, are not parks. they are sports complexes that take a lot of work to maintain. LIGHTS, LIGHTS, LIGHTS!!!!. You want to increase revenue in Ellensburg? Put lights up out at all the fields, and complete the other two fields you said you would 6 years ago!! When you do that, tournaments can be held out there. and people would come, because people from the west side want to come over for the great weather, and its not to far away. This would allow you to do more youth tournaments because you can go into the night which allows more teams. More teams means more hotel rooms, more hotel rooms, means more people in Ellensburg. More people in Ellensburg means the businesses get more people, restaurants, bars, grocery stores. All benefit from just adding one thing to the fields. Yakima has 7-8 fields all with lights and they hold tournaments every weekend all summer long!! Huge Revenue booster.
- It is frustrating that we live in a town where there are few parks for children to play in. Also, it is frustrating that we have no outdoor water area for kids/families to enjoy. Much smaller towns than ours have swimming pools/aquatic areas outside for family use. We have to drive many miles to get to these places. Even a splash pad (water shooting up from the concrete) would be SOMEWHERE to go outside during the summer to get wet. I am not a fan of swimming at Irene Rinehart Park. The water is gross. I would love more parks and some sort of water facility/swimming pool that is outside.
- A long distance trail for biking and rollerbladding would be nice though I prefer natural hiking trails with some elevation.
- The survey was a bit confusing. It asked what my general recreation interests were, but than seemed to also ask which I do within the city limits. For example, hiking/backpacking was an answer to which type of recreation I do. Obviously, this isn't something I can do within the city limits. I selected this, but I'm not sure that is what the survey was asking. Ellensburg needs something like the Yakima Greenway, which includes exposure to natural areas (i.e. the river), encourages walking/biking, and is away from traffic. It would be a great addition to the City.
- Off-leash dog areas need to be developed! There is a high demand in this city for areas for dogs to play.
- I would love to see the other two softball fields finished and lights put in/donated from somewhere. If the softball fields were made into a 4-plex that was nice and maintained it would bring in tournaments and revenue for the city. It would be pretty inexpensive to finish the fields, and if you can get Puget Sound Energy to donate/sponsor the lights, it could really upgrade those facilities/expand the leagues.
- I would like to see the city focus on more indoor activity spaces, an adequate full featured theater space that would be large enough for large scale live productions. And other indoor activities such as bowling would be nice.

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- It would be nice to have a large indoor area for walking during hot summer days, cold winter days and on windy days.
- Thank you for a great park & rec system and looking forward to future developments to save and expand the quality of life and beauty of the area.
- Preservation of natural areas such as waterfront, wetlands, etc. is generally undervalued; creating parks that allow or facilitate access to these types of areas, as well as providing/preserving/improving wildlife habitat is a multi-use (including non-human) approach that serves both citizens and the environment. I encourage inclusion of these considerations in parks and recreation planning.
- For my family, our enjoyment is utilizing the plentiful options already available to us. We can walk paved trails, nature trails, play all sorts of sports, enjoy animal/bird watching, watch movies in the park, picnic, swim (indoor and outdoor), bike, etc., in so many places w/in city limits. The city does an excellent job offering great park and recreation activities already and I hope that if there is an expansion of parks/services/activities, it doesn't take away from maintaining our already awesome parks/activities.
- Softball fields need lights so games can be played later. They should develop the other two fields and have four softball fields. If you build it they will come.
- Better advertisement for your softball league on how and when to sign up. Also general information on other sports leagues that are offered. Maps of exciting trails, walking/hiking areas around Ellensburg.
- There is plenty of City owned land not in use for anything; just sitting there. That land can be sold and monies used to fund improvements to present trails, parks, water ways and recreation sites. Rather than taxing the community higher with the claim that the city doesn't have the funds. If the City has enough money to buy land and let it sit and do nothing with it then it clearly has the money to build a new Adult Activity center and fund a New middle school rather than covering a broken bone with a band-aid it's high time this city gets to fixing the problems with infrastructure. Children should not be forced in an unsafe building and Senior should have access to space that can accommodate the increase in aging population with equipment that is not falling apart.
- The community needs a Disc Golf course; City needs to focus on Maintaining and improving facilities, not building new structures; a 5+ mile paved trail would be awesome for biking, walking, and other recreation.
- Thanks for all the good work. Please develop bike paths and bike trails away from motorized traffic.
- The parks are beautiful—thank you! The parks and sports activities have been great for our family over the years— (4) baseball, soccer, T-ball, volleyball, tennis, swim team, not to mention hiking and swimming with friends—thank you!
- I believe it is good to research this, but we are already paying quite a bit for the recently approved fire station and middle school. You can't keep piling it on people.
- Would like to see improvements to trails in Irene Rinehart park outside of the picnic area, better for walking in wet conditions. Walking trails through Ellensburg urban area would be fine for walking exercise and errands, and for those walking to school. Safer biking too.

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- I think a splash park is an excellent idea.
- I love Ellensburg! I am older so lots of parks and recreation activities don't apply to me but I still want those programs. I know that variety builds a solid, diverse, and growing community. I don't necessarily mean growth as more people, more stuff but that we as individuals keep our minds and bodies moving whether we are old or young. I would personally love to see more water driven facilities aka a kiddies water splash park and maybe even an outdoor pool. Our city pool could use a few dollars to upgrade changing facilities. Even tho the city pool is very nice and well managed. I also think a larger Veteran's Park would be nice for families. A place for picnics and outdoor family games. I think it would be cool to buy surplus military equipment and have it for climbing and exploring. You can never have enough bike and walking paths. It's hard to compete with cars when you are riding around with a school age youngster. I can say honestly that the city does a great job now and having a survey is just an example of the commitment to making Ellensburg even greater. Thank you.
- Edible landscape should be incorporated to existing parks in the form of food forests. At the least some fruit & nut trees. Lawns should be reduced as they are a wasted resource that wastes other resources such as water, I believe this would not only increase park usage, encourage more outdoor activity, & provide citizens with a most basic need (fresh food), but hopefully reduce maintenance costs, auto traffic, garbage, & perhaps a few grocery bills. These areas would also be a great learning resource not just for schools but for everyone who might be encouraged to grow more food and less lawn.
- More trails please. More pre-K friendly parks and play structures please. More water features like a splash pad. They have one in Wenatchee and it is fun as hell.
- The community would greatly benefit from connecting walking, biking trails throughout Ellensburg. Also, more accessible activities along the river front such as bike, kayak, etc. rentals and access would not only benefit locals from Ellensburg but it would draw people from other areas to stay and play! (for example: Bend, OR has developed a wonderful system of parks, trails and river float access. It would be great to emulate their use of natural spaces)
- I am assuming you wanted to know whether we live in EB CITY, not county. Otherwise, my answer to the first question is wrong. We live in EB but just outside city limits. You need to consult with someone when you do your next survey; many of your questions are not analyzable because they are ambiguous.
- landscape should be kept up better.it would be nice to have asphalt trails with some work out equipment every 1/4 mile,freshly painted bathrooms would be nice,and better weed control.and bathrooms all year round.
- The city should carefully monitor the farm-and-wooded land on the west side of the Yakima river that faces Rinehart Park. When that land comes on the market, the city should buy it and maintain its natural state in order to preserve the "wild" ambience of the Park.
- You should have areas for dogs, and dog friendly people that can walk long distances off leash for exercise for people with or without their dogs. I would

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say at least 95% of people are dog friendly. Not all dogs like to play with other dogs in dog parks, but they like to run and sniff and go long distances (large dogs in particular). If that is not feasible, then maybe times of day that we would be allowed to do that in existing parks without FEAR of the dog catcher.....WITH access to a lake, stream, or river. Whether you know it or not, those of us with dogs that walk with dog in our parks DO help keep the parks clean!!! Not only do we pick up after our own dogs, but we pick up litter from the people that are disrespectful that throw their trash on the ground. I pickup way more PEOPLE trash on my walks than my dog poops. I feel dog walkers are given a bad rap and are looked down on in by the parks staff, especially if we (god-forbid) let out dogs off leash so they can get real exercise. I am 73 years old and am not able to jog with my dog, but I definitely am a good steward to our parks, as my philosophy is to always leave a place cleaner than the way I found it. A dog park is just another place for the parks dept. to maintain, and for dogs to get into fights (where was only place my dog was attacked viciously.)"

- I think Ellensburg does a good job providing playgrounds and sports fields for its residents. The two major areas my family would like to see improvements in are 1) a dedicated dog park/off leash walking/hiking area. 2) Community trails. Although I could only choose two options I think all of the trail options listed in the survey are important. Trails that connect within the community as well as longer multi-use trails that allow people to get out into natural areas for recreation are both needed. As a mountain biker (one of the quickest growing outdoor activities in Washington) I would like to see more bike specific trails.
- Good job in general, Parks and Rec! I would love to see a paved Yakima river trail extending from Irene Rhinehart park to the Yakima River Canyon and even into the Canyon! I know its a long term plan.
- It seems there is a lot of focus on family based, and young children activities in this area. Which is good. However, I know of few activities for adults only in the area for entertainment, activity or special interest within the city limits. Same goes for the retirement community that lives here. Although the valley itself provides camping and outdoor activity opportunities, most adults and seniors I know, for true entertainment or recreation leave the valley in order to do so.
- I love the Iron Horse trail that runs through town but I think actually in town it should be developed a little bit more. Maybe have some additional parking at trailheads and develop it through the city more. Also, I really love West Ellensburg Park area and Irene Rinehart, those two should be constantly maintained because they are beautiful right now and would be a shame to see them any other way.
- need more signs of park rules. need more trash cans located where people congregate.
- A dog park would be an incredible addition to Ellensburg. My wife and I moved here so she could go to school. We used to have access to a local dog park and it was so nice to be able to let our dog run off-leash and get his energy out; especially now that we live in an apartment. We've met many people (students and residents) who feel the same way. The nearest dog park is in Yakima, and

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that is just too far to go regularly so most people end up letting their dogs off-leash in the nearby fields which could be a safety concern for some.

Additionally, a community garden would be a fantastic addition. We gave up a yard to move here and my wife misses being able to get her hands dirty in the garden.

- West Ellensburg Park is a wasted space, thus a wasted opportunity for the parks department. I understand that funding is an issue, but based on my questionnaire it should be apparent that I am interested in bicycle trails. There is a local group that is more than willing to volunteer it's time to create and maintain a trail system if given the chance. Once built the maintenance is minimal as grass and weeds would not grow over a trail that is constantly in use.
- Please put in new tennis courts for the public. Central tennis courts are always packed in the afternoon with high school and college practice. Can never play or will be kicked off courts after 30min or less. It's beyond irritating.
- Outdoor parks appear well maintained, parks appear to need little improvement aside from continued maintenance. More trails for bike and foot traffic to further connect city locations would be a great improvement. Pool facility is very outdated and in need of replacement with new building, improved exercise and weight lifting equipment.
- The space in Irene Rinehart park could be used so much more effectively for establishing a stacked loop trail system for different user groups.
- I do not feel like mountain bike trails connected in the city offer much of a benefit, but an interconnected trail system with a mountain bike trail would be nice for the city. There is lots of labor available for trail development but a comprehensive plan connecting all trails is necessary. Also the softball fields could be upgraded to 4 total fields and lights, this would bring more people in town during the summer to stay in our hotels and feed into our economy. The current pool facility is nice but an expansion with more gym options would be really nice.
- memorial park pool, or as it is more commonly known 'pool of rules' has 2 major issues. first is the incessant bossing by the lifeguards. i've been reprimanded for the most esoteric and harmless things and i genuinely feel like the lifeguards have been instructed to make up rules on the spot because there is no way for me to believe some of the rules i have been cited could actually exist on a pre-existing document. issue 2 is the hours. 7 is not a time many families can bring kids to the pool for open swim. it's too late. kids have to eat and get to bed. the other issue i have with parks is when the bathrooms don't open at parks to correspond with usage. a sunny day in February can be a nice time to visit a park until someone needs to relieve themselves. having a solution in place would be nice.
- The area would be greatly improved if a network of trails was developed.
- I believe Ellensburg should be more active and engaged with the local biking population.
- With a burgeoning and extremely passionate mountain bike and cycling community within Ellensburg I think the city would be well served to work with the local advocacy group to offer more resources for mountain biking and road

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cycling. This could include skills parks, pump tracks, trail systems, and improvements to the skate park. The area immediately surrounding Ellensburg has a large amount of great mountain biking terrain. The city is also in a very central and often-passed location for riders from all areas of the state travelling to other mountain bike hubs within the Pacific Northwest. Along with improving infrastructure for the city's residents itself, improving the infrastructure would also give travelling mountain bikers and cyclists more reason to stop in town and benefit local businesses with tourism revenue.

- I would like to see more mountain biking trails in the area. A skills park would also be nice to attract more people to the sport.
- An ice rink could draw weekly traffic and revenue from neighboring Yakima as the completely volunteer run facility in that city is in constant danger of shutting down. Currently, even though there is ice in Yakima in the winter, men and women from Yakima travel to the Tri-cities weekly to play hockey. That could all be restaurant, gas station, and other revenue that might be shunted to Ellensburg.
- I would really like to see a dedicated facility that would allow for indoor soccer, roller hockey and roller derby. It's nice to at least have the ERRC, but it seems like most of the priority is focused on tennis and soccer. There is no dedicated facility for roller hockey (or derby). The program hasn't seen an ounce of funding in YEARS and because of the lack of a facility or really any kind of attention from the City of Ellensburg the skaters are forced to use the same equipment for the past 17 YEARS. The current (and original) set of pads have almost been completely destroyed. Program participants have had to provide (out of their own pocket, on top of already paying to use the facility) new tarps and DUCT TAPE to wrap the deteriorating pads in that are already laughably destroyed. The boards that were once purchased by the city for roller hockey were taken away and given to soccer without any kind of compensation to the roller program. In fact we were just told that we had to make due with the original sets of pads mentioned above. The Roller Derby team (to the best of my knowledge) is even worse off. They don't have any kind of dedicated facility (which could easily be shared with hockey and soccer). Last summer they had to use the outside "rink" (which hasn't had a bit of maintenance since it was first converted from old tennis courts at least a DECADE ago). They have to bring their own tape (which they supply, every single practice) to tape out their own makeshift rink. Bottom line I think there needs to be less focus on creating new baseball and soccer fields (since there are already plenty for a community of this size) and some of the other lesser known programs should get a chance to grow their program with some attention and funding. It is hard to grow new community interest in a sport when the City doesn't spread out the funding enough to even have the most basic equipment for the sport to even play.
- Upgrading and investing more money in the parks will ultimately get people out of their homes and interacting with their neighbors which will increase the quality of life in Ellensburg. Too many people tell me that there is nothing to do in town besides the bar scene. With programs such as summer evening concerts or nature and hiking expeditions or complexes that could host sports

tournaments people would become more optimistic about where they live. The city needs to take the lead by giving people these reasons to come to the parks. Maybe I am biased because I play hockey but the inline rink is in need of attention and with a regulation rink we could invite teams to come and play us. We already have members of the community that stop by and watch us play, and these are just people who are at the park or live close enough that they can see us playing. A new rink could provide new opportunities for my team. And it is the same for soccer. You could easily set up an adult outdoor soccer league in the summer that would be a great success and that could also lead to tournaments being hosted at the parks. I know that wide and sweeping changes are probably not fiscally feasible but how about just starting with things like summer concert series that are lower budget to get people to the parks and then combine that with fundraising for some larger projects in the future (like the inline rink). Concession stands at the events could combine with community donations to make park projects feasible. You just have to get the people to the parks to allow them to see what parks mean to the community.

- Our hockey facilities are probably the most poorly maintained out of all the activities provided by the city or other organizations. The pads are moldy and falling apart. The yellow dust the pads give off is full of mold, bacteria, and not to mention what effects the synthetic material might be having on our lungs. It is probably worse for us to play hockey than not, due to the damage to our lungs that we probably won't know about for another 10 to 15 years. Ideally, a multi-purpose facility that could be used as an ice rink during the winter and roller hockey/derby rink in the summer would be ideal. However, even just having some plastic boards, a regulation sized roller rink, and some sort of cover or enclosure would be better than anything that what we have now. The damage that we do to ourselves and our gear from skating on tennis courts becomes very expensive and damaging to our bodies. In addition to that, the damage that has been done to the pads from sitting outside summer after summer is irreparable. Not to mention that the nets are not maintained and take just as much abuse during the Summer as the pads do. We live in the middle of the state and we are surrounded by hockey. There are two WHL teams in the Seattle area, a WHL team in Tri Cities, a WHL team in Spokane, another WHL team in Portland, and finally a Junior A team in Wenatchee. Most of those WHL teams stop in Ellensburg during road trips, just ask the Ellensburg Pasta Company. In addition to that, the greater Seattle Area boasts one of the largest amateur hockey leagues in America. With enough interest in hockey, there are ways that the community could leverage our location to take advantage of events, such as when WHL teams come through town, or host hockey events that would draw players from all around the state. We are sitting on prime hockey real estate and most of us don't even know it.
- Family friendly activities, such as mountains bike skill parks like Duthie would be amazing for this community!!
- I would love to see a roller rink be built in Ellensburg. The growth of hockey is at a high rate. There used to be a youth hockey program and I would love to see that come back. Hockey is a wonderful game that is enjoyed at all levels. A

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roller rink would be great for the Ellensburg roller hockey league to have a place to call home.

- I feel like Ellensburg would be a great place for a rink. Tri-cities, Wentachee, Moses lake, Seattle, Spokane, yakima all has ice ricks and we are centered in the middle. If Ellensburg had a rink I know the community will stand behind. It's a great sport for kids and adults. What ice time we don't fill would be filled with teams from out of town playing meeting up in the middle to play each other. CWU hockey team plays Eastern, Western WSU, UW, CBC, along with a few other teams. CWU travels to yakima each week to practice. Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope the city Ellenburg considers an ice rink. This state already has to many soccer fields and softball fields.
- From my short time living in Ellensburg, less than a year, I've become convinced that Ellensburg has great potential to grow in a direction to attract active professionals and associated business, much as outdoor hubs like Bend, OR and Boulder, CO have. An abundance of underutilized open space exists, and we are in close proximity to many outdoor recreational opportunities. My personal lifestyle is one of outdoor recreation, primarily trail running, skiing, mountain biking, and climbing. As such, I've lived in several cities with well-developed trail systems: Chico, CA; San Luis Obispo, CA; Ashland, OR; and Salt Lake City, UT. I also hold a M.S. in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. It is my opinion that Ellensburg has the potential to exceed all these places in terms of trail access, likely through continued development of new and connecting trails within the city limits and partnerships with land management agencies to continue nearby trail development as well as connection with city trails. The City to Canyon trail plan is an excellent example. Such trails are a major draw for outdoor-minded individuals when considering where to live. Please keep up and maybe even increase the good work in this direction!
- It would be nice to see the community have more paved running trails, not just sidewalks that weave through college housing. Also would like to see an ice rink or a better maintained inline hockey skating area. The one at Mt. View park is pretty ragged.
- I moved here from Bend, Oregon to go to grad school and I'm a former wilderness/trails professional for the Forest Service. I'm also a daily runner, with a preference for dirt... not that hokey paved variety. Having come here from Bend, I'm burdened with a pretty high bar, and I just wanted to tell you all how awesome I think Ellensburg is, and how cool it would be if the trail system were developed. I would use every last mile you built and never leave! It's seriously the only thing missing as far as I'm concerned. That, and it's a little frustrating staring at the backside of Mission Ridge all winter and not being able to drive there! So happy to see this survey! Thanks for all your hard work!
- More bike paths/walking paths around town would be cool. More mountain biking and trail running trails. My kids like Kiwanis park because they love what the city did with the stream. They like playing down there as opposed to big fields. More free space, community gardens on empty lots. People have gotten too used to perfectly manicured parks. Kids enjoy playing in more natural surroundings.

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- Why is Kiwanis Park ball field so neglected?
- Almost every time I'm at Irene Rhinehart Riverside Park there are people who ignore leash rules and let dogs run free.
- Ellensburg has always been a great cycling community and I would like to see it grow and improve.
- A bike skills park and water spray parks would be a wonderful way to give families outdoor activities that are easily accessible and provide a lot of entertainment value.
- This survey could have been better formatted to include tennis in the options mentioned with other sports in relevant sections. There is a large adult and pre-adult tennis community here in Ellensburg that would be much larger if it had adequate facilities. Ellensburg is really lacking in tennis facilities when compared with other similar sized communities. This survey also missed the mark in not targeting tennis players and instead focused on organized groups. Since we tennis players are so lacking in facilities here we have not opportunity or reason to form groups.
- We need some sort of outdoor water/sprinkler/splash park available for young through school aged kids. It would get a ton of use.
- I'd love to have somewhere I could take my dog off leash! The more trails in the city the better, especially some sort of trail that links CWU to downtown, preferably bike-able.
- Improve grassy areas with more dense grass through over-seeding and fewer weeds with more spray or more grass; Increased play toys and swings at all parks would be great. The walking trails at Alder Street park, McElroy Park and the link between Irene Rhinehart and Rotary park are great ways for parents to exercise while kids play and great places for kids to learn bike riding on the paved paths; Leaving more restrooms open at parks in the winter would improve access and use;
- Feel fortunate to live in a place with so much public open space and such diverse parks!
- I would love it if there was a trail system from downtown to the ball fields and Irene Rhinehart trails system. I currently tend to drive to Reecer floodplain to walk my dog each day because there isn't an option beyond sidewalks in town to walk and the bicycle, skateboards and pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks is not enjoyable to navigate.
- I'm overall really pleased with what Ellensburg P&R offers. I do wish we had more for teens. And the interconnecting trail idea is fantastic for many reasons!
- Ellensburg needs outdoor tennis courts. The only usable courts are at CWU. The city and the school district have let all outdoor courts deteriorate. These have then either been removed or are unusable for enjoyable tennis. The Racquet Center has been allowed to deteriorate. The roof leaks, and the courts are very dirty. The courts are only available for tennis a small part of the week. The nets are continually being taken down and put up due to alternate uses on the courts. This means the nets are usually not at the correct height. The courts are never cleaned. Soccer seems to have a priority, as there are soccer games going on almost all of the time when I play tennis. These soccer games are very

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loud, with spectators often standing on the tennis courts to view the soccer matches. The supports for the soccer enclosure extend into usable court space, making a very dangerous playing environment for one of the two remaining courts. Compared to other recreational uses, tennis gets virtually no support from the City.

- Build a ice hockey arena and roller hockey arena you would get great income of money beaing in the center of the state. And the economy of the city would benefit as well.
- Keep up the good work and interest in what the community needs ~
- The tennis courts at the Rec Center are in poor shape and competing with other activities like the batting cage and the soccer court are very distracting
- THE RACQUET CENTER IS IN DIRE NEED OF UPDATING. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE THE RACQUET CENTER. IT'S NOT A BIG MONEY MAKER, BUT WOULD GENERATE A LOT MORE MONEY IF IT WAS UPDATED. PEOPLE DEPEND ON THE RACQUET CENTER AND UNFORTUNATELY IT SEEMS TO BE LAST ON THE LIST FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND UPDATES.
- Take care of the parks we have. McElroy has had an ongoing flooding issue for years that has still not been addressed. All city parks should be landscaped to benefit birds and other wildlife...not just people and their dogs. City parks are most valuable because residents don't have to drive a long way to get to them and so can use them when recreation time is short.
- I understand that an of-leash dog park is planned for the northern section of the Rotary park. If true, I would suggest the city make a dog swim area, using Reecer Creek as the water source.
- Create a dog park
- In several cases, the options offered were limiting and did not include an "other" category to allow for choices outside of those predetermined by those who created the survey.
- Bathrooms! Bathrooms! Bathrooms! The bathroom situation at Memorial Park is disgusting. No one wants to use a port a potty. You especially don't want your kids in there. Why does this long standing park in the center of the city not have an actual bathroom facility. This is especially troubling since this is also the site of the yearly fair. Yes, we can use the pool but it creates a tough supervision proposition when you have multiple kids and you have to walk all the way to the pool to use the bathroom. Again no one wants to use the port a potty. This should not be a long term solution for any of our parks. Also the Park on North Willow needs to be upgraded. That park has a few out door things to do with like little creek and the rocks and the ""track"". Yet again no adequate bathroom facilities. Also, some covered areas and a water fountain are needed badly. West Ellensburg Park is a pretty cool park for kids. The play structure is probably the best one in the city. My kids love it. Lastly, it would be cool is the city publish the recommended bike routes with the mileage. This would give bicyclists a few different routes to explore and they would know how many miles they were completing before they started. Also, having ratings for difficulty (uphill, off road, easy, kid friendly) would be cool too.

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- I think Ellensburg and Kittitas County should look at Norco, CA. We should be a horse community!
- Nothing
- Ellensburg has plenty of parks, they just need to be updated and maintained. The existing play structures need to be upgraded or added to. There are not many choices for elementary aged kids. Most of the play structures are geared toward smaller children. More play structures like the ones at the Alder street park are needed and a splash pad would be awesome!
- Swings! And installation artwork. Spokane's Riverfront is a great model.
- Please enforce leash laws. I am very weary of encountering dogs who are off leash every single time I attempt to use our community resources.
- I think a small fee would help people remember to not trash the parks/facilities, but I don't want to see things be so expensive that struggling families can't enjoy all of that is offered either. Our teenagers NEED something to do and somewhere to go, we have more and more families that aren't on farms and these kids have no chores (or very few) to keep them busy...so, they pass my house weekly to head to the hills to drink and do drugs around bon-fires - which makes for very unsafe conditions, then they are driving down our road to get home (if they make it without wrecking - which is another issue in safety), or they are smashing mailboxes (we are on our 7th mailbox in ten years - and it's already been hit. Our son lives in town and he's on his third - and he's lived in his house two years) and destroying property, which is a huge cost to us taxpayers. All out of boredom!!
- There is too high a focus on certain sports, soccer and baseball mostly, and maintaining and expanding those areas, but no convenient tennis courts unless one is willing to drive and pay too much money for sub-par courts on Vantage Hwy. Yet, there is lots of space and potential at many of the parks for nice, outdoor courts. In the town I grew up, there were at least 2 courts for each small city park and an indoor facility for bad weather days. Tennis is a good life sport that does not need a large number of people to participate. It also allows for young and old to play together for fun and should be more promoted in our community. We should not have to rely on using the courts at CWU, as the students there paid for their use and should not have to share with city residents. My other comment is that we are way overdue for more dog parks. After traveling with our dogs over the past few years, many communities have more than one dog park and even our neighbor, Yakima, has one. We are in great need for areas within city limits where dogs can meet one another as it decreases dog aggressive behavior if they are well socialized off leash with other canines and people. Thank you...
- I really would like to see a covered skating rink. The one at Mountain View is not bad, but has many cracks and is difficult to use when kids are playing on the basketball court. I had heard talk of putting a covered skating rink in at one point and time, but I'm not sure what happened with that. The Ellensburg Rodeo City Rollergirls as well as hockey players and kids who like to rollerskate would greatly benefit from a covered, maintained skating rink. When the weather is not nice outside the rollergirls lose their gym space to the high school athletes, and

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a covered outdoor space would be a good alternative. I'd also like to see a dog park. Ellensburg is very much a dog town, and people need a place to take their pups where they can be off leash and interact and socialize with other dogs.

- Would like to see covered outdoor or indoor skating rink in ellensburg for the community use and recreational leagues in town.
- The Memorial Pool needs to open longer hours.
- There needs to be more access to sports in demand. the ERCC does have "batting cages" but it always conflicts with tennis and if it doesn't, then special interest groups have reserved it. More Fields, indoor batting cage facility. Also, there is a large group of community members who enjoy some type of skating (hockey & roller derby) that could really use a nice, indoor dedicated space.
- I think Ellensburg Parks and Recreation is doing a great job. They have lots of activities for the young and the old but feel they miss they middle ground a bit. There needs to be more activities offered for Middle School and exspecially High School young adults. This would help to keep kids out of trouble if they had a place to go and things to do. Classes in art, music and theater would be amazing!
- Improve exciting facilities
- Some of the existing parks/recreation areas in Ellensburg are very poorly maintained, but would be used frequently by many people in town if they were updated and better maintained. For example, the "play area" at the Carey Lake park near Irene Rhinehart Riverfront Park is dangerous for children. It is decrepit, broken, has peeling paint and splinters and is generally unsafe for children. However, during the spring and summer months that park is the ONLY safe place in the lower county that families can go for outdoor swimming. Children desperately need a place to play at that park that is safe for them. Additionally, there used to be a floating divider that marked where the drop-off is in the sandy swimming area at Carey Lake, but that too was left to deteriorate like the play equipment. Also, the outdoor hockey/roller skating sports court at Mountain View park gets use constantly during the spring, summer and early fall. but it is in horrible condition. The local women's roller derby league uses it, the junior roller derby league uses it, and the local hockey league uses it. That should be better maintained for the safety of those groups that are using it, and that will also make it more appealing to families who want to teach their children how to roller skate or roller blade. It should be resurfaced and covered so that it can be used even when it's raining. If the city needs donations for projects they should ask the people. Local groups would donate sweat hours and would work to improve facilities if they had the opportunity.
- I think a facility that could accommodate indoor inline hockey and roller derby would be a great benefit (even if it was a large skating rink). Yakima has a skating rink which is quite busy and now they have a roller derby facility). There is a lot of potential in a skating rink for the area – young kids, young adults and adults would get use out of this. Money can be generated by hosting in-line hockey and roller derby bouts at the facility.

City of Ellensburg Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

- I wish that the survey also looked at the horrible management of the city swimming pool, with its high prices, inconvenient hours and inconsiderate employees.
- The only park I have noticed that needs improved grounds is Irene Rinehart Park. The play structures are old and in poor shape. I think the Parks Department does an amazing job maintaining our parks with the few staff they have.
- 1. Maintain a clean park environment. 2. Enforcement of pet 'clean-up' rules. 3. Encourage food trucks to set up for events.
- Parks and Rec generally does a good job. Lack of tennis courts and lack of trails are significant deficits. CWU offers the only tennis courts in Ellensburg (outside of the dirty racquet center) and is a liability if CWU is using the courts. Other similar size towns have much more extensive trail systems and the trails get frequent use for recreation and transportation. Providing trails to the community greatly enhances livability.
- Since one self selects to complete this survey, the results are not particularly meaningful. I.e. it is not as useful in getting a sense of the community as a random survey would be.
- Would love to have a pool with hours that you can just drop in and not have to schedule the entire day around. Also a waterpark for summer and something for kids to do in winter.
- mountain view park needs to be preserved for soccer. the fields at rotary are closed to the public in the evenings.
- Continue to create/build recreation facilities - indoor and outdoor
- Many thanks for all the work being done and for all the volunteers.
- 1-4 times a year send/(mailers) to residents about what is going on at parks/what is available
- City league basketball and volleyball has been great for "non" AAU level kids. Great opportunity for kids that the schools are overlooking.
- I think Ellensburg does a great job of offering programming, sports facilities and parks for a town our size. I just would like to see more waterplay opportunities for kids during the summer...free wading pools or splash parks like many other cities we visit. Also port-a-potties in parks during the shoulder seasons would be nice when restrooms are locked...MANY families still utilize the parks with no where for their children to use the restroom besides behind a tree! My other advice is on a much bigger development scale...I moved from the midwest (frame of reference) but I cannot understand why Ellensburg continues to develop neighborhoods/housing developments with NO responsibility of the builder/developer to put in walking paths and parks near each group of homes. This is required where I come from with fees included in the initial home price...even just a little park with 2 pieces of equipment and open space. I understand we have many parks near older neighborhoods, but new neighborhoods should be required to include parks/open space--no Rotary Club and Generations clubs fundraising to purchase equipment for parks that should be the responsibility of builder/developers! Thanks for hearing my 2cents worth!

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- Parks are an underappreciated commodity in this town that needs to be advertised and pushed with considerable effort. Outdoor play and learning are a vital part of the lives of all ages. We have great opportunities that need to be communicated to the public, so they can invest in their success and future.
- I am a long standing, active member of this wonderful community and appreciate the efforts put in by this city's parks and recreation program. However I feel that a rather large interest group has been neglected for far too long. This city is severely lacking in efforts to help promote the ever growing sport of tennis. This is a community sport easily applicable to all age levels that promotes an active lifestyle and community engagement. If the city was to develop a new indoor activities center with an area allotted to purely tennis related activities I believe the community would greatly benefit from it.
- I wish dog owners/walkers would clean up after their animals then walking on the grass at parks wouldn't be a minefield