PARK BOARD AGENDA
Community Center
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens
Tuesday, October 22, 2013

CALL TO ORDER:		6:00 pm	
ROLL CALL:			
GUEST BUSINESS:			
ACTION ITEMS:	A	Approval of July 23, 2013 Minutes*	Chair Jones
	B	Approval of September 24, 2013 Minutes*	
DISCUSSION ITEMS:	A	Park Plan Update – Draft Plan*	Russ
BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:	A		
PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:			
ADJOURN:			
PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:	A	Continuance of Meeting	Russ

*ITEMS ATTACHED
**ITEMS PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED
#ITEMS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

Special Needs

The City of Lake Stevens strives to provide accessible opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Please contact Steve Edin, City of Lake Stevens ADA Coordinator, (425) 377-3227, at least five business days prior to any City meeting or event if any accommodations are needed. For TDD users, please use the state's toll-free relay service, (800) 833-6388, and ask the operator to dial the City of Lake Stevens City Hall number.

CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Community Center
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens
Tuesday, July 23, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 pm by Chair Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Chris Jones, Roger Schollenberger, Carl Johnson, and Will Brandt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Leland Adams, Terry Van Wyck, and Marlene Sweet

STAFF PRESENT: Senior Planner Russ Wright and Public Works/Planning Coordinator Georgine Rosson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Excused Absence: A motion was not presented for excused absences.

Guest Business: None

Action Items: *Approval of June 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes:* Board Member Schollenberger motioned to approve minutes, Board Member Johnson second, motion passed, 4-0-0-3.

Discussion Items: *Park Plan Update – Goals & Policies Discussion – Senior Planner Russ Wright:*

Senior Planner Wright discussed the City's current Park goals and policies. Staff would like to update and reorganize the goals and policies section with input from the Parks Board. Currently, our policy statements do not fit neatly under each goal, the concepts are sound, but the organization could be improved. For example, "Volunteerism" is currently discussed under several different goal statements. Planner Wright would like to model our goals and policies section after the City of Bellingham's, where objectives and policies are grouped under major headings. Most of the current text would be kept or revised as appropriate; the main changes would be to organization. Board Member Johnson mentioned the Board should consider changes to society over the next 20 years. Once the survey results are collected and the second Open House is held staff while finalize the revisions to this section for the Board's review.

Information Items: None.

Board Member Reports: *Will Brandt Resignation*:

Board Member Brandt is moving to the Bothell area and resigning from the Park Board. The Park Board and the City would like to thank Mr. Brandt formally for his time and service.

Planning Director's Reports: None.

Adjourn. Board Member Brandt motioned to adjourn at 6:45 p.m., second by Board Member Johnson. Motion passed 4-0-0-3.

Proposed Future Agenda Items: *Cancel August Meeting – Special Meeting in September for Public Open House*: The next regularly scheduled meeting would be on September 24th, the Board discussed holding the Open House the week prior, on September 17th. There was also discussion on the location of the Open House. Board Member Johnson suggested holding the meeting at the school district offices; Chair Jones suggested holding the meeting in a different area of the city, such as at the fire station. Staff will make a decision on date and location and do a press release. Once the Open House is complete, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 22nd.

Chris Jones, Chair	Georgine Rosson, Planning/Public Works Coordinator

CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Fire District Conference Center
10518 18th St. SE, Lake Stevens
Tuesday, September 24, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 pm by Chair Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Chris Jones, Roger Schollenberger and Marlene Sweet

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Johnson, Terry Van Wyck, and Vice Chair Adams

STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Rebecca Ableman, Senior Planner Russ Wright and Public Works/Planning Coordinator Georgine Rosson

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Little, Councilmember Daughtry, representatives of stakeholder groups and the general public

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Excused Absence: Board Member Sweet motioned to excuse Board Members Johnson, Van Wyck and Vice-Chair Adams, second by Board Member Schollenberger motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Guest Business: None

Action Items: No action items were considered because we did not have a quorum.

Discussion Items:

Park Plan Update – Preliminary Results of Survey: Senior Planner Wright presented a draft version of the survey results. The survey was distributed by mail to over 400 residents, and has been posted electronically on the city's website. To date, 64 mailed surveys have been completed and returned and 25 electronic surveys have been taken. Planner Wright discussed preliminary results of the survey, highlighting what types of parks and special use facilities are visited most frequently. He also mentioned what park uses are most popular and what respondents would like to see for future parks and special use facilities. Overall, respondents claim to be "somewhat satisfied" with the city's parks. The survey results will help staff determine a Level of Service and a final analysis will be included within the park plan. Board Member Schollenberger asked what percentage of surveys were returned. Planner Wright responded approximately 15%. Board Member Sweet asked about the number of surveys taken during Aquafest, Planner Wright responded only one survey was returned. The cutoff date for taking/returning the survey is October 5th.

Park Plan Update – Review Draft Goals and Policies: Senior Planner Wright presented the draft goals and policies, highlighting each goal and the supporting policies. Many of the existing goals and policies remain applicable; however, they will be organized cohesively around common themes. The new goals and policies include a Parks Vision,

to “Ensure that the city has abundant, high-quality parks and recreation areas that balance recreational activities and enjoyment of the natural environment for the community.” The draft code includes nine goals, each with supporting policies to implement the goal. The preliminary survey results have played an important role in developing the new and restructured goals and policies. Chair Jones stated the goals and policies are more streamlined and better organized.

To conclude the discussion, Senior Planner Wright noted that full survey results will be presented at the next board meeting, along with a needs assessment and first draft of the park plan. The park plan will go to hearing in mid-November [as part of the annual docket] and to City Council in December for final action. The Board will look at the implementation phase, capital facilities and fees analysis in late winter or early spring of 2014. Staff and the Board discussed the possibility of scheduling a joint meeting with the Arts Commission and City Council.

Board Member Reports:

Chair Jones mentioned how important it is for board members to attend the meetings, especially upcoming meetings as we move toward adopting a new Park Plan.

Planning Director’s Reports: None

Adjourn: Board Member Sweet motioned to adjourn at 7:23 p.m., second by Board Member Schollenberger. Motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Proposed Future Agenda Items: None

Chris Jones, Chair

Georgine Rosson, Planning/Public Works Coordinator

Staff Report
City of Lake Stevens
Park Board

Briefing
Date: **October 22, 2013**

Subject: **2013 Parks & Recreation Element Update**
Contact Person/Department: **Russell Wright**, Senior Planner

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SUMMARY: 2013 Parks & Recreation Element Update

2013 Parks & Recreation Element Update

To date, planning staff has discussed the following topics with the Park Board and Planning Commission as they relate to 2013 Park and Recreation Plan (Park Plan) update:

1. Scope of Work – the proposed update will ensure that the Park Plan addresses the recreational needs of the community and contains all of the elements, recommended by the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO), which enable the city to compete for grant funding for parks and recreation projects.

2. Parks inventory and typologies – the city has approximately 146 acres of public parks, 10 acres devoted to special uses, within city limits, and 122 acres of open space – these numbers include city and county facilities (mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks), special use parks, trails and open space (undeveloped property and Native Growth Protection Areas).

   The Lake Stevens School District facilities compliment the city inventory with athletic facilities and playground throughout the city. In addition to public facilities, there are approximately 168 acres of private open space or other recreational properties within or near the city.

3. Level of service – the current LOS is 7.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. The city's current model does not distinguish types of parks and the different functions provided. Based on our current Level of Service the city has a deficit of approximately 63 acres of parkland, when evaluating the city's 2011 population estimate (28,210). The Park Board has recommended a level of service that focuses on access to facilities and the quality of facilities and amenities available as well as recommending targets for different types of facilities.

   - Mini-parks – encourage 1 park w/in ½ mile radius of all residential areas
   - Neighborhood parks LOS – 1 park w/in 1 mile radius of all residential areas
   - Community parks LOS – 1 park w/in 2 miles radius of all residential areas
   - Trails LOS – 1 trail w/in 1 mile of residential areas
   - Open Space LOS – 5% of city

   Survey results closely match the recommended level of service for the three park types (Mini-Park - 1 park w/in ½-mile radius; Neighborhood park – 1 park w/in 1-mile radius; and Community park – 1 park w/in 3-mile radius.

4. Parks & Recreation Survey – Staff prepared a survey to solicit public response on parks and recreation facilities within or near the city of Lake Stevens. The survey contained questions related to demographics, access to facilities, facility use & preferences, community desires, satisfaction and potential funding sources. The survey was distributed to 478 randomly selected residents by mail. The survey has also been posted electronically on the city's website. Seventy-three mailed surveys have been returned and 69 electronic surveys have been taken.

   Over 40 percent of respondents have visited city parks and recreation facilities in the past 12 months and nearly 50 percent have visited county parks. Lake Stevens Community Park is the most widely visited community park, Lundeen Park is the most widely visited neighborhood park, and North Lakeshore Swim Beach is the most widely visited mini-park. The library and city boat launch are the most frequently used special facilities. Survey respondents suggested that community and neighborhood level parks should receive the highest priorities. Some of the most popular uses included walking/hiking, picnicking, beach/dock use, and swimming. Some of the most desired improvements include walking, hiking and multiuse trails, picnic areas, public docks, a community garden, playgrounds, a skate park, and improved restrooms. Overall respondents claim to be somewhat satisfied with the facilities and amenities. The most common complaint was a perceived lack of amenities. Respondents identified the cost of park maintenance and land for additional access as major issues to be resolved. Popular funding sources include public and private partnerships and user fees.

5. Goals and Policies – Staff recommended that the current goals and policies section be revised. Specifically, staff suggested that this section should be organized around common themes and redundancies removed. In addition, goals and policies will be updated to reflect community preferences from the survey results.

6. Open Houses – The Park Board hosted two open houses, at different venues, to reach different city residents. The first open house included a presentation that focused on the current facility inventory and proposed changes to the level of service. The second open house was an informal "meet and greet" that allowed Park Board members and staff to discuss parks and recreation issues directly with the public.

Next Steps:

1. Complete plan revisions
2. Prepare a needs assessment & final LOS recommendations
3. Prepare an updated capital facilities plan
4. Adopt w/ 2013 Comprehensive Plan schedule
5. Prepare an updated fees survey / impact fee – may be deferred

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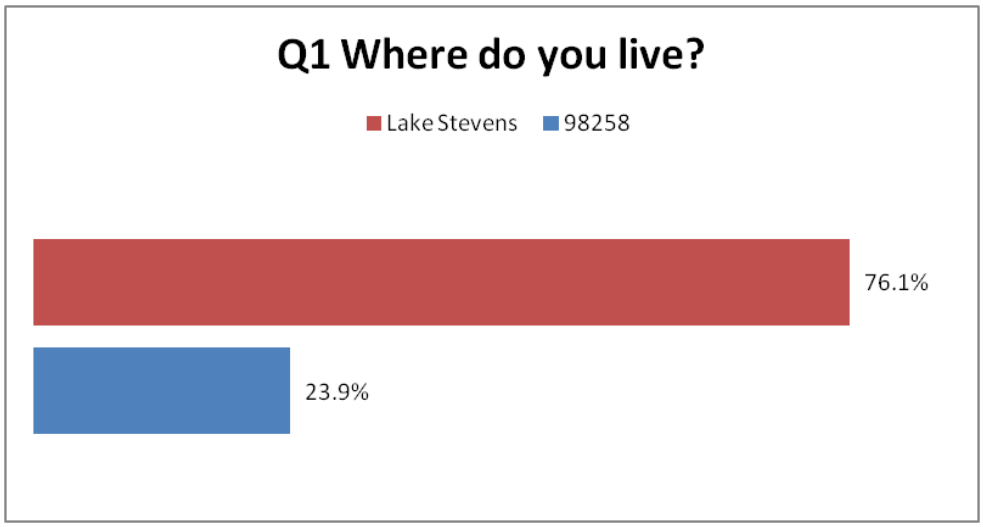
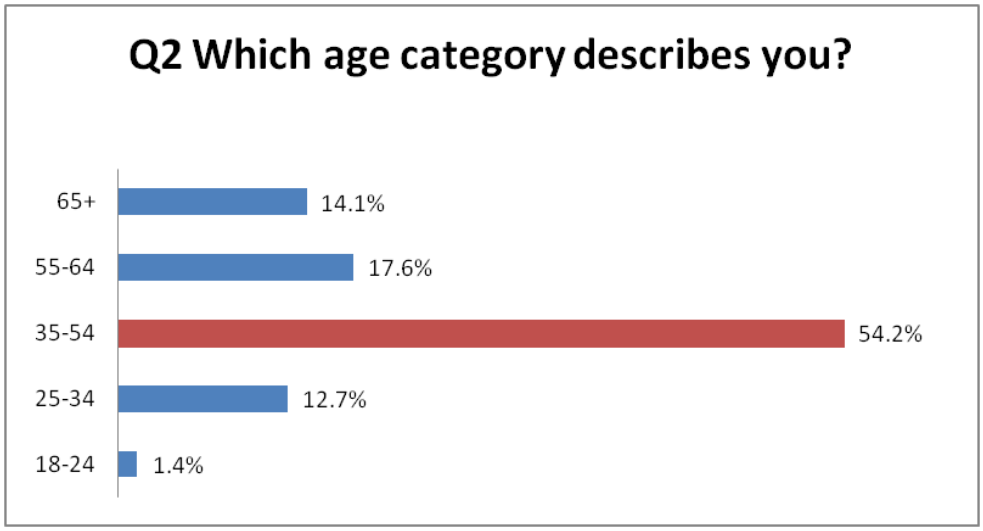
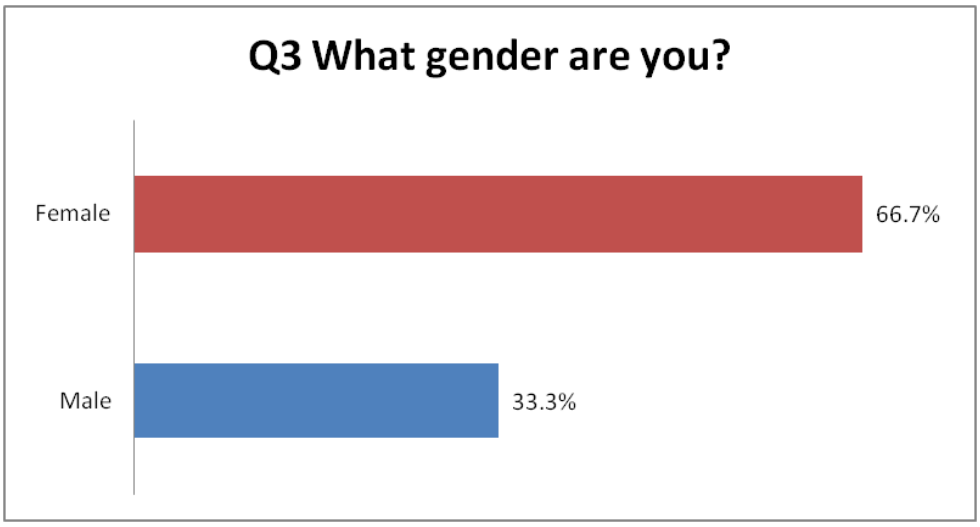
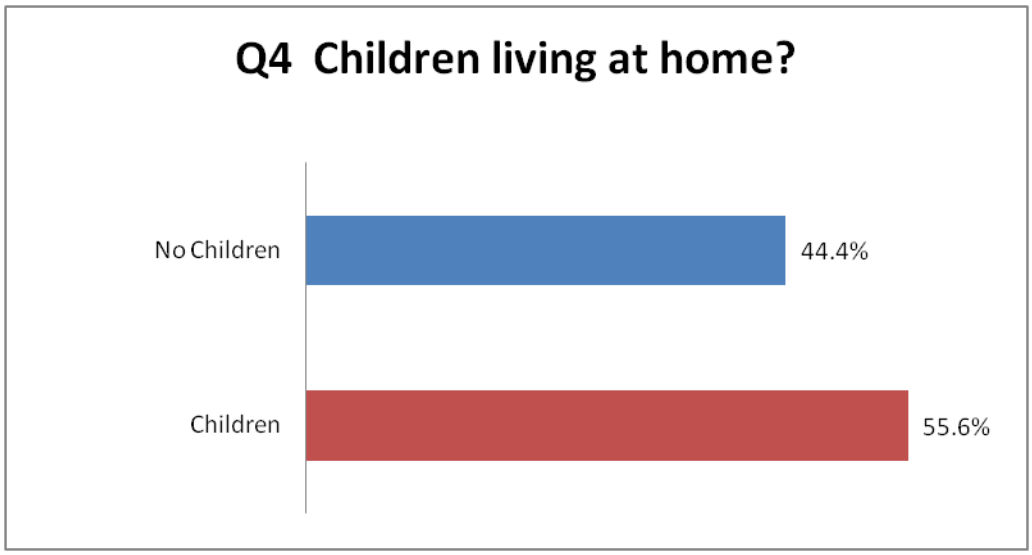
ATTACHMENT:
Public Inventory
Survey Results
Draft Park Plan

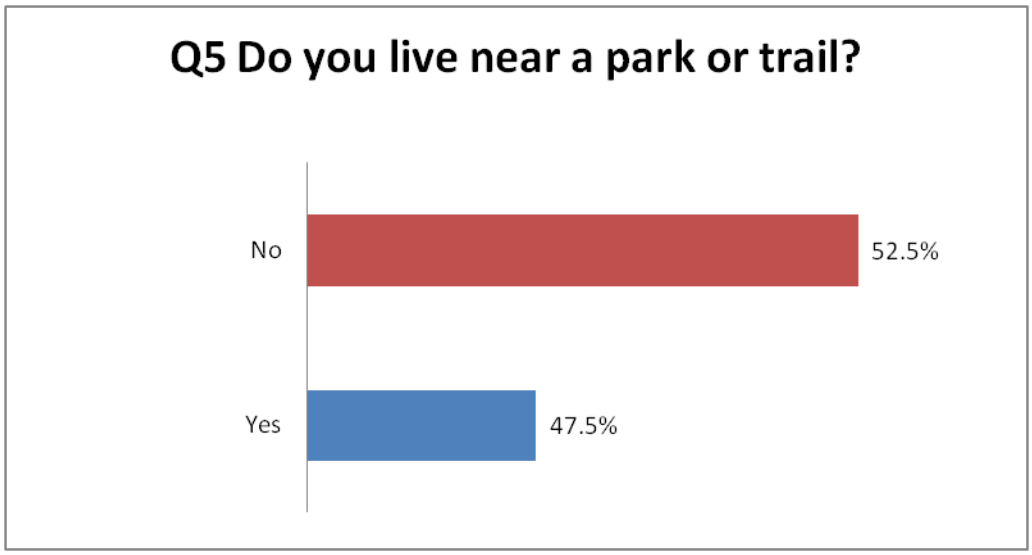
2013 Parks & Recreation Survey Results

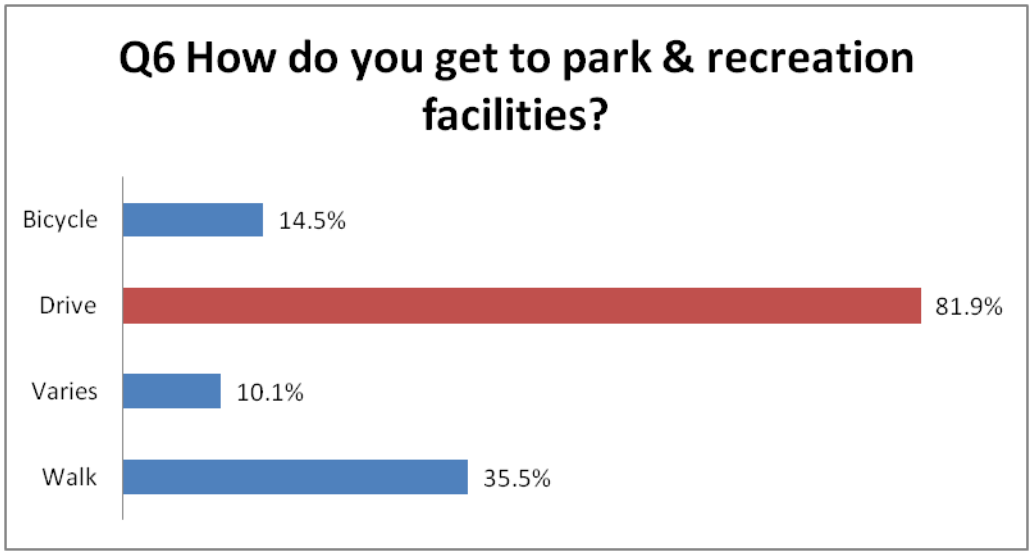




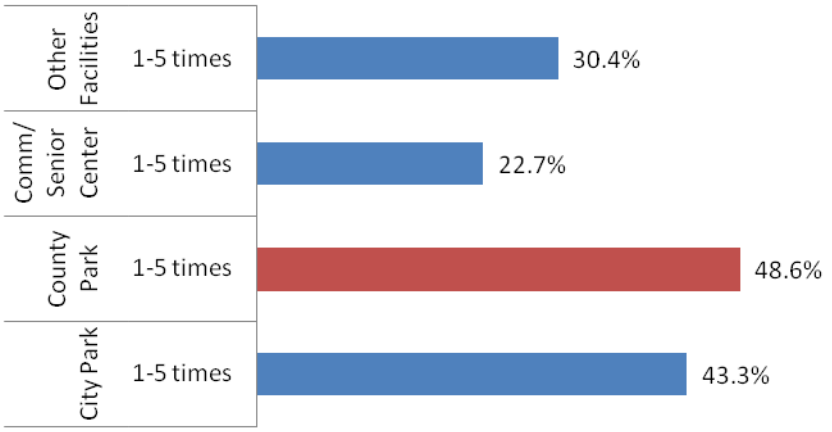



Q4 Children living at home?
No Children
44.4%
Children
55.6%

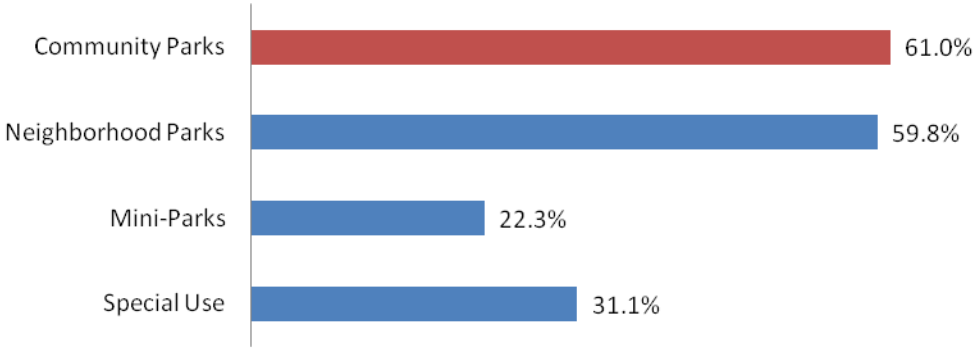

Q5 Do you live near a park or trail?
No
52.5%
Yes
47.5%


Q6 How do you get to park & recreation facilities?
Bicycle
14.5%
Drive
81.9%
Varies
10.1%
Walk
35.5%

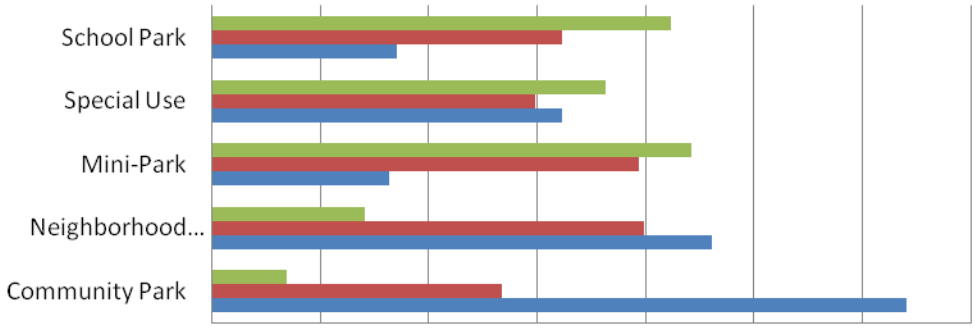
Q7 In the last 12 months, how many times have you visited the following...?



Q8 Which parks & facilities do you enjoy visiting most often?

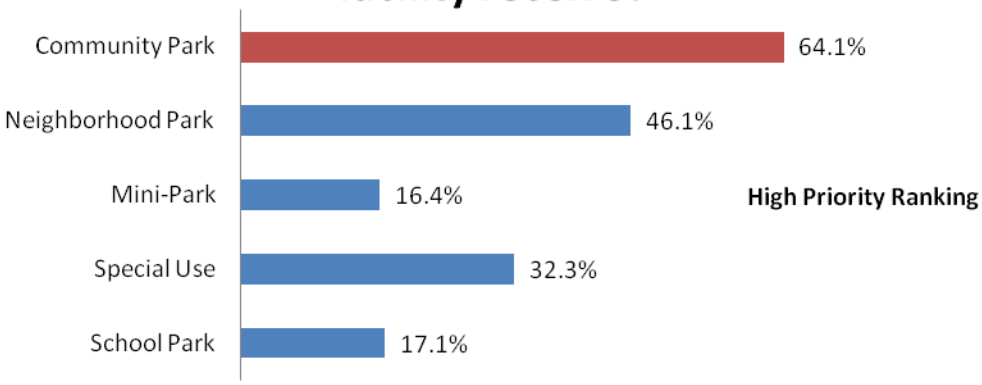


Q9 What level of priority should each facility receive?

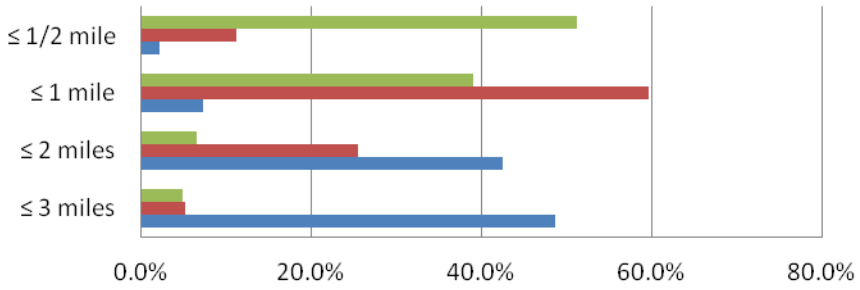


	Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Mini-Park	Special Use	School Park
Low	6.9%	14.1%	44.3%	36.3%	42.3%
Med	26.7%	39.8%	39.3%	29.8%	32.3%
High	64.1%	46.1%	16.4%	32.3%	17.1%

Q9 What level of priority should each facility receive?

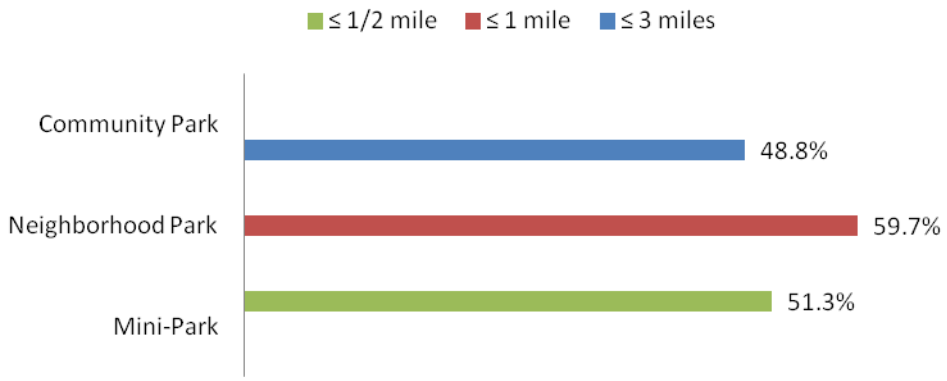


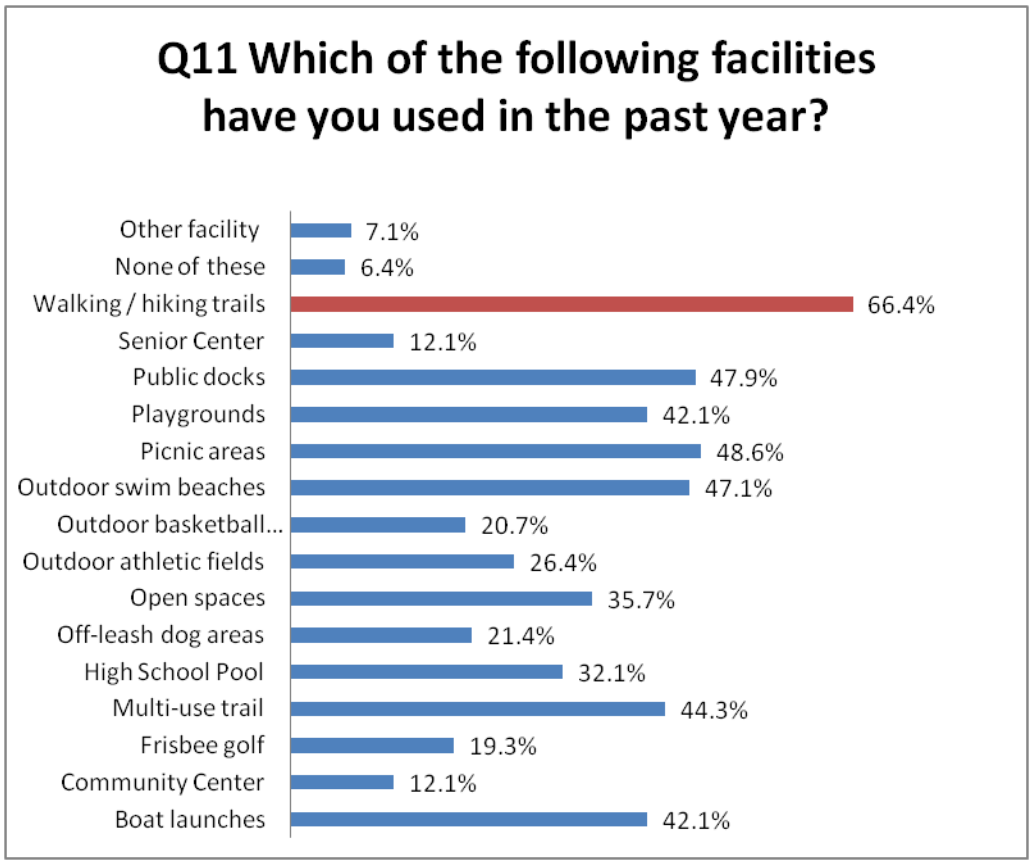
Q10 What is the maximum distance that the following park types should be from most neighborhoods?

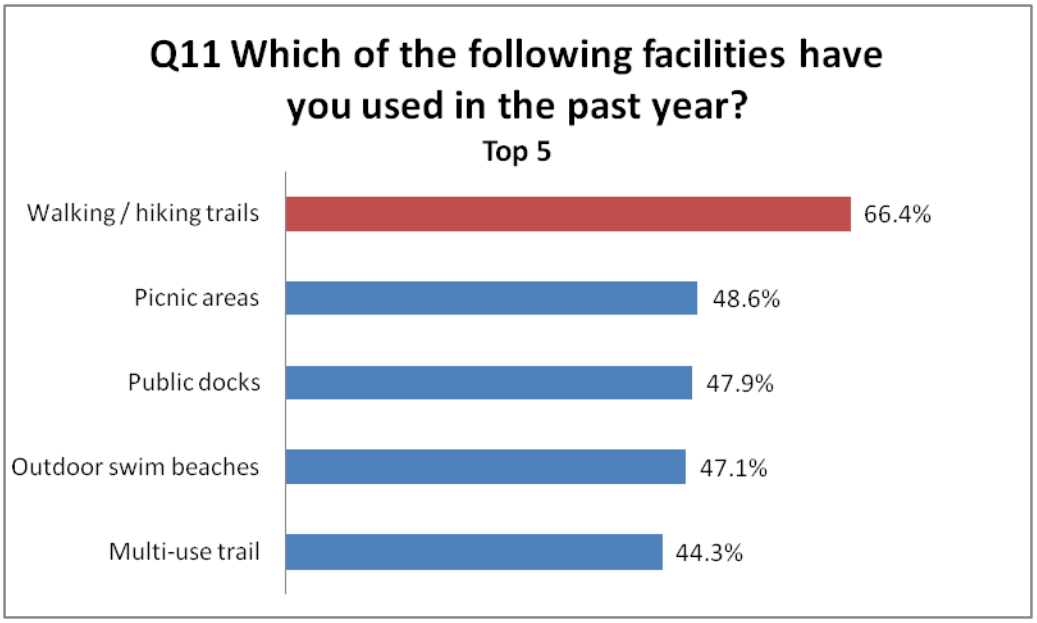


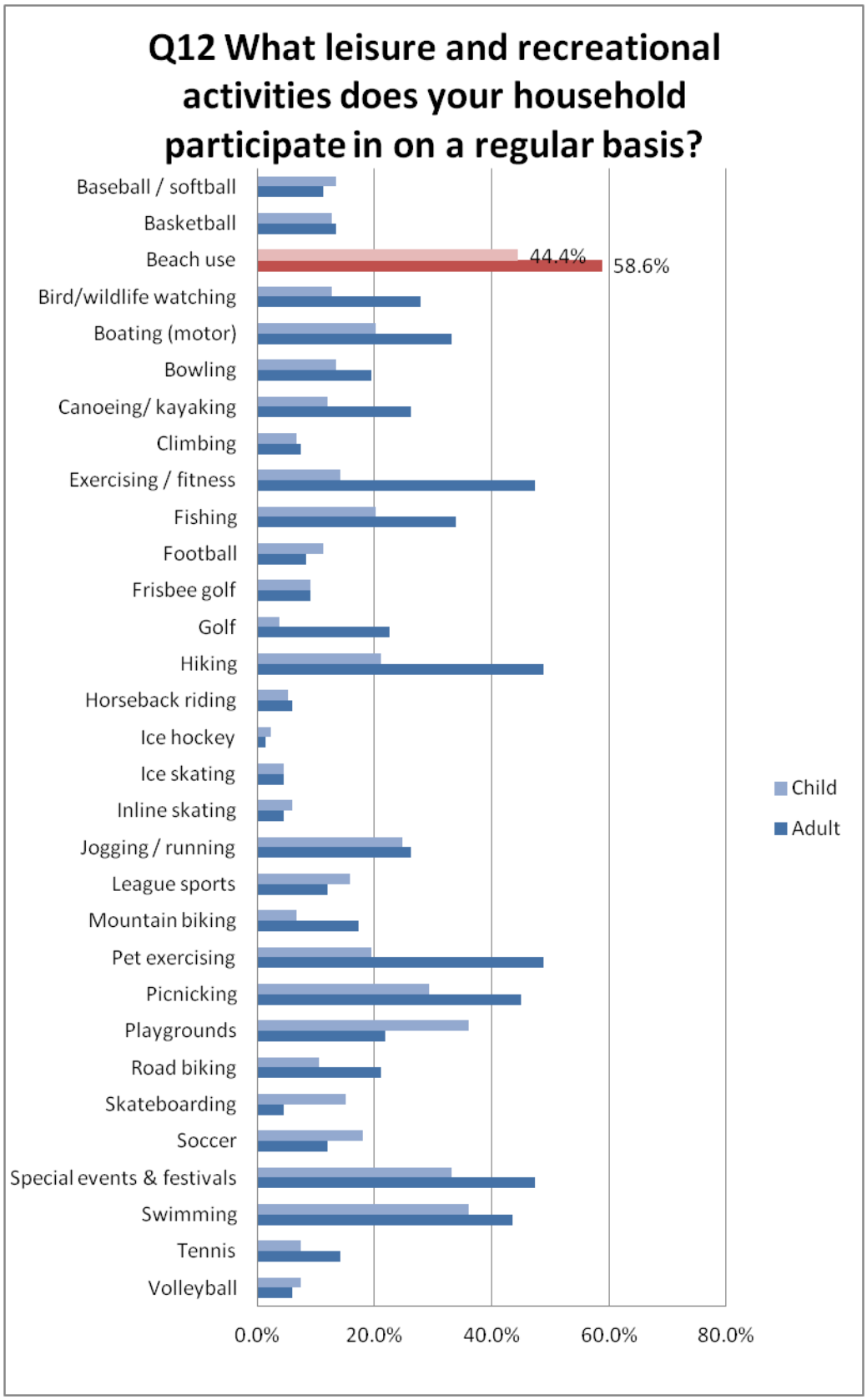
	≤ 3 miles	≤ 2 miles	≤ 1 mile	≤ 1/2 mile
Mini-Park	4.9%	6.6%	39.0%	51.3%
Neighborhood Park	5.2%	25.5%	59.7%	11.2%
Community Park	48.8%	42.5%	7.4%	2.2%

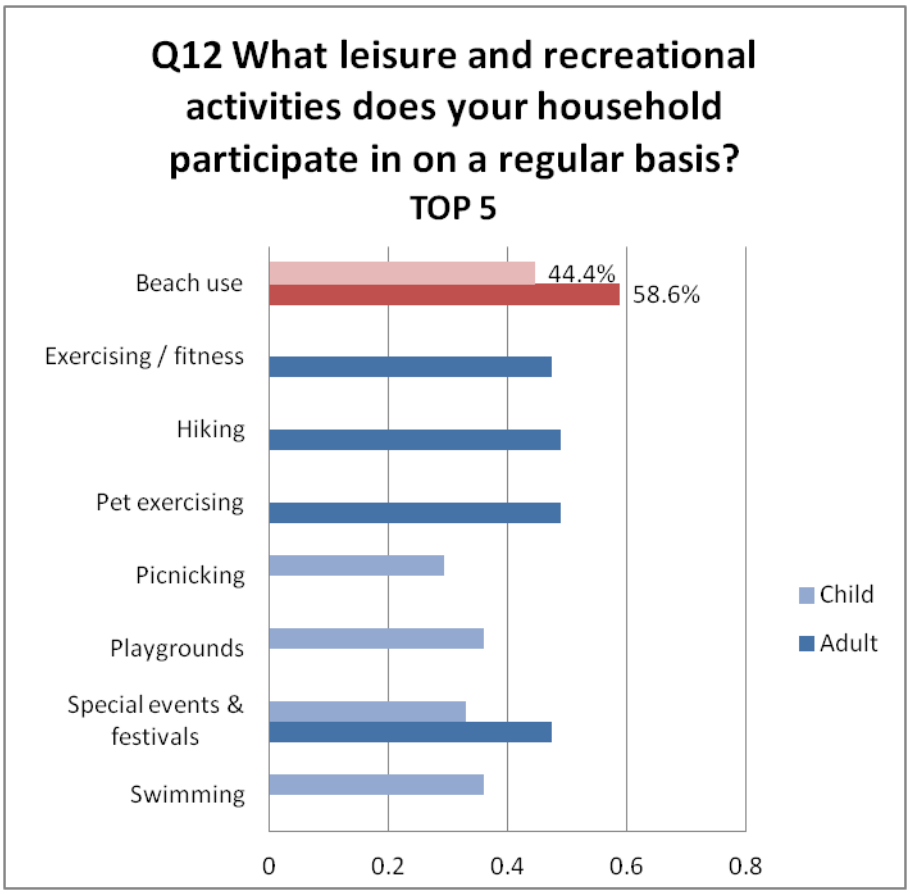
Q10 Maximum distance to the following park types?

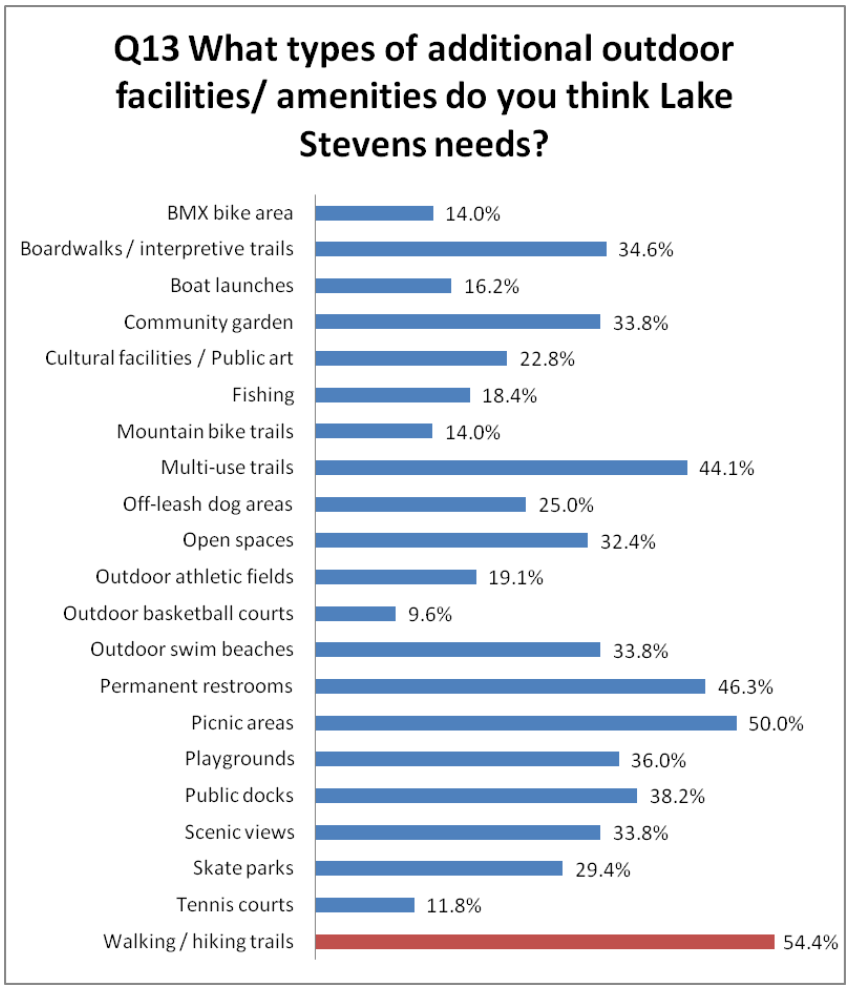


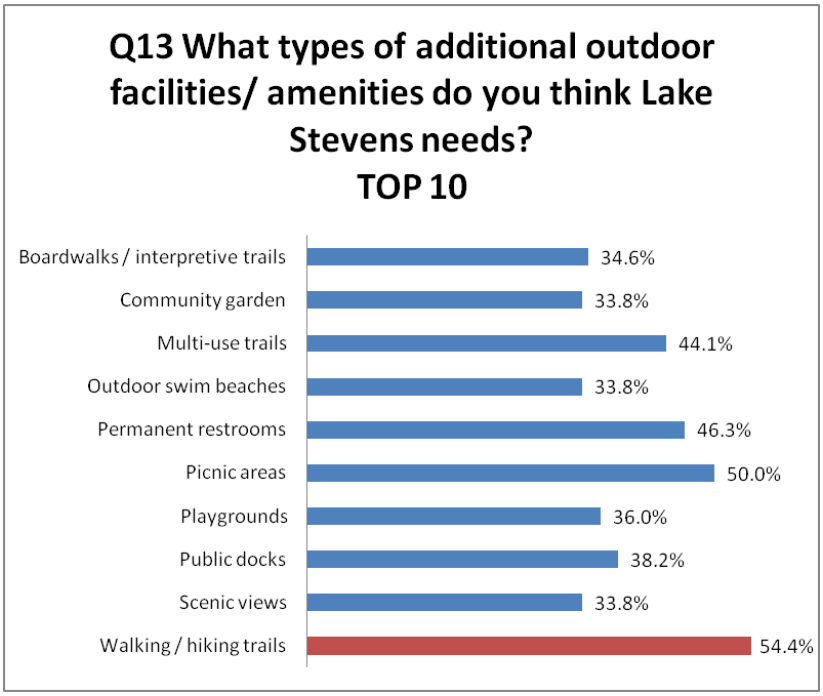

Q11 Which of the following facilities have you used in the past year?
Other facility 7.1%
None of these 6.4%
Walking / hiking trails 66.4%
Senior Center 12.1%
Public docks 47.9%
Playgrounds 42.1%
Picnic areas 48.6%
Outdoor swim beaches 47.1%
Outdoor basketball... 20.7%
Outdoor athletic fields 26.4%
Open spaces 35.7%
Off-leash dog areas 21.4%
High School Pool 32.1%
Multi-use trail 44.3%
Frisbee golf 19.3%
Community Center 12.1%
Boat launches 42.1%

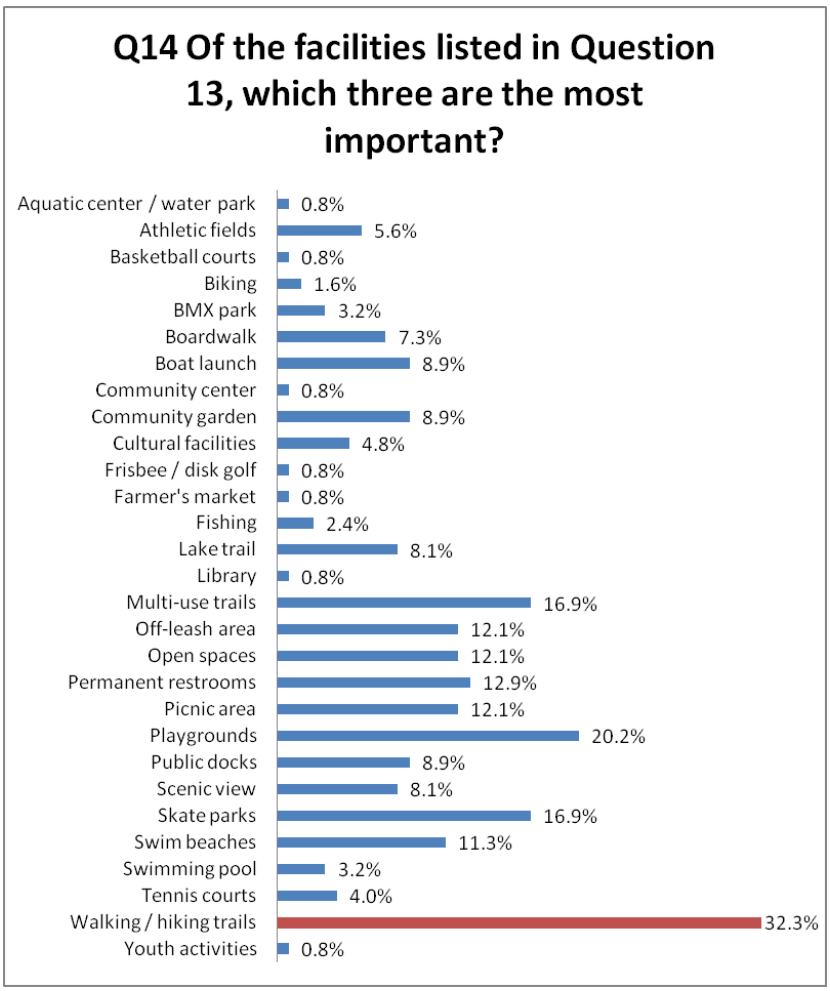

Q11 Which of the following facilities have you used in the past year?
Top 5
Walking / hiking trails 66.4%
Picnic areas 48.6%
Public docks 47.9%
Outdoor swim beaches 47.1%
Multi-use trail 44.3%

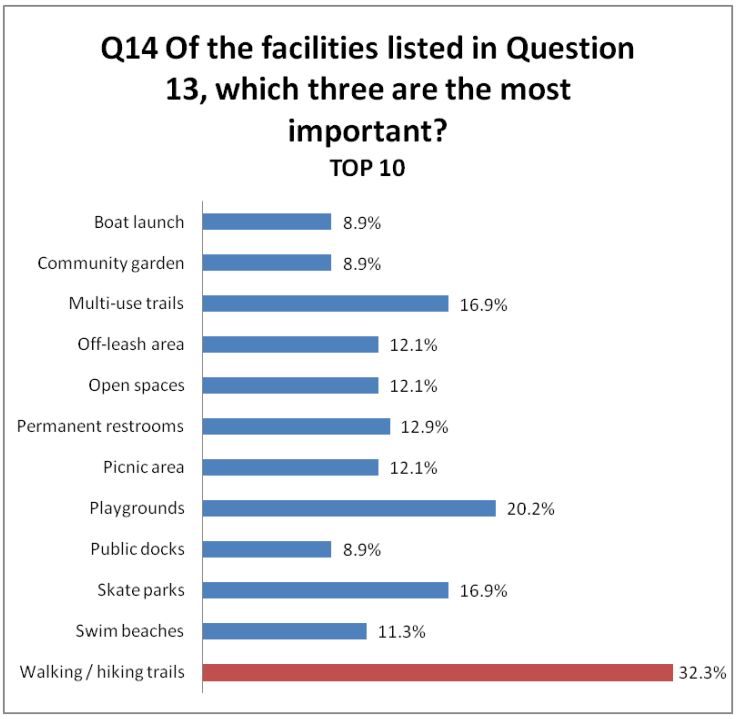

Q12 What leisure and recreational activities does your household participate in on a regular basis?
Baseball / softball
Basketball
Beach use
44.4%
58.6%
Bird/wildlife watching
Boating (motor)
Bowling
Canoeing/ kayaking
Climbing
Exercising / fitness
Fishing
Football
Frisbee golf
Golf
Hiking
Horseback riding
Ice hockey
Ice skating
Inline skating
Jogging / running
League sports
Mountain biking
Pet exercising
Picnicking
Playgrounds
Road biking
Skateboarding
Soccer
Special events & festivals
Swimming
Tennis
Volleyball
0.0%
20.0%
40.0%
60.0%
80.0%
Child
Adult

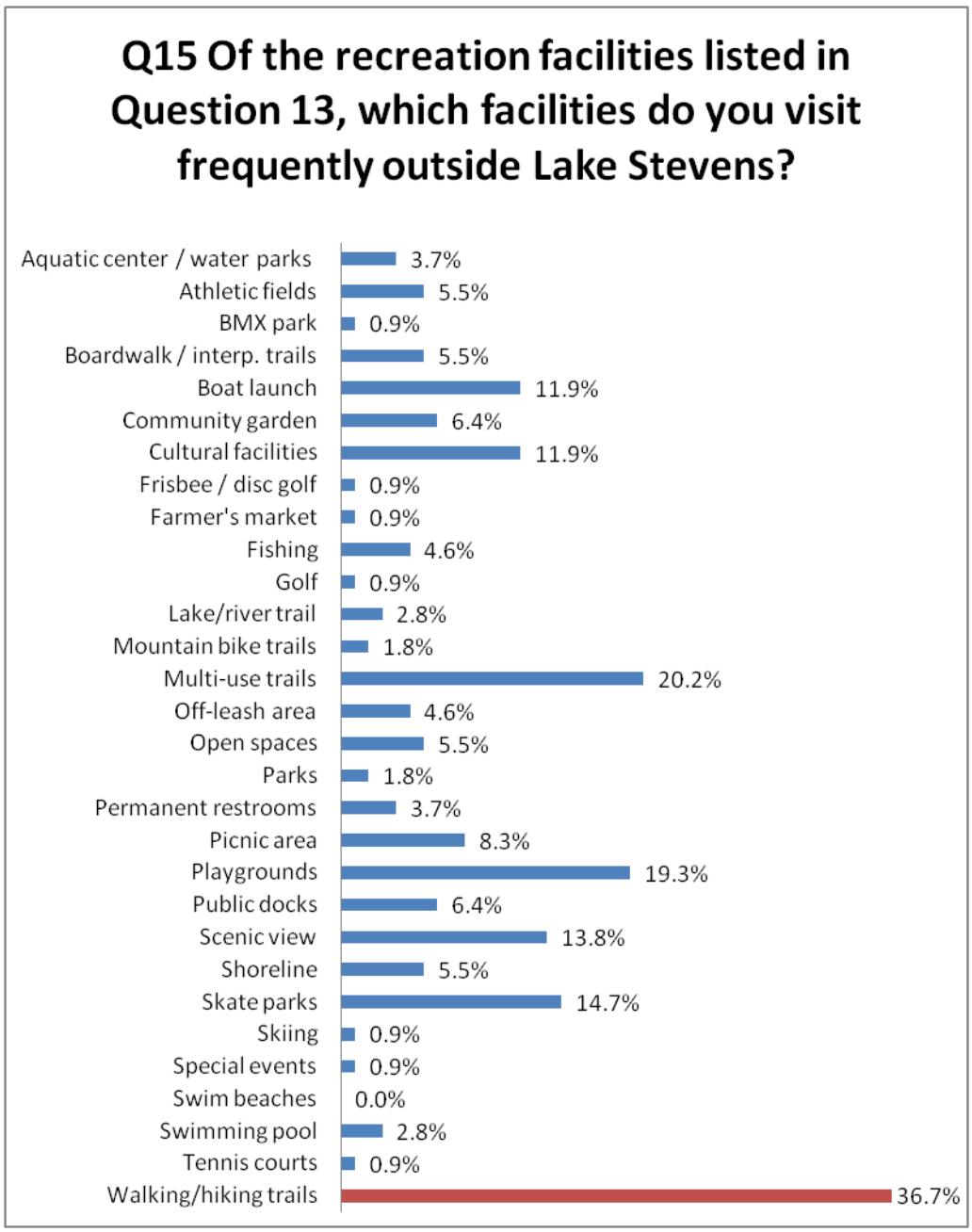

Q12 What leisure and recreational activities does your household participate in on a regular basis?
TOP 5
Beach use
Exercising / fitness
Hiking
Pet exercising
Picnicking
Playgrounds
Special events & festivals
Swimming
44.4%
58.6%
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
Child
Adult

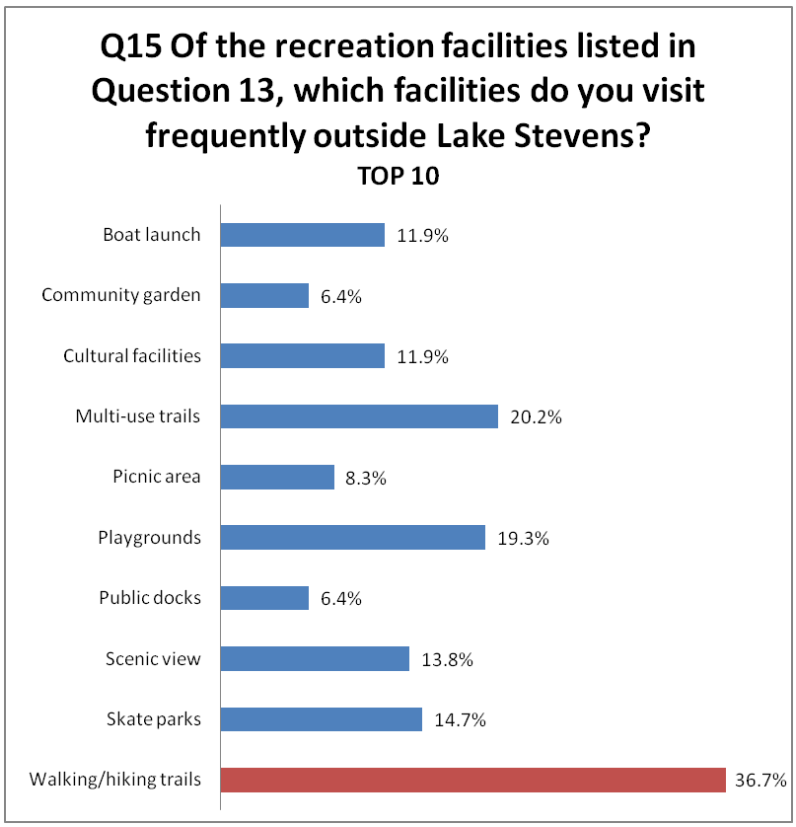

Q13 What types of additional outdoor facilities/ amenities do you think Lake Stevens needs?
BMX bike area 14.0%
Boardwalks / interpretive trails 34.6%
Boat launches 16.2%
Community garden 33.8%
Cultural facilities / Public art 22.8%
Fishing 18.4%
Mountain bike trails 14.0%
Multi-use trails 44.1%
Off-leash dog areas 25.0%
Open spaces 32.4%
Outdoor athletic fields 19.1%
Outdoor basketball courts 9.6%
Outdoor swim beaches 33.8%
Permanent restrooms 46.3%
Picnic areas 50.0%
Playgrounds 36.0%
Public docks 38.2%
Scenic views 33.8%
Skate parks 29.4%
Tennis courts 11.8%
Walking / hiking trails 54.4%

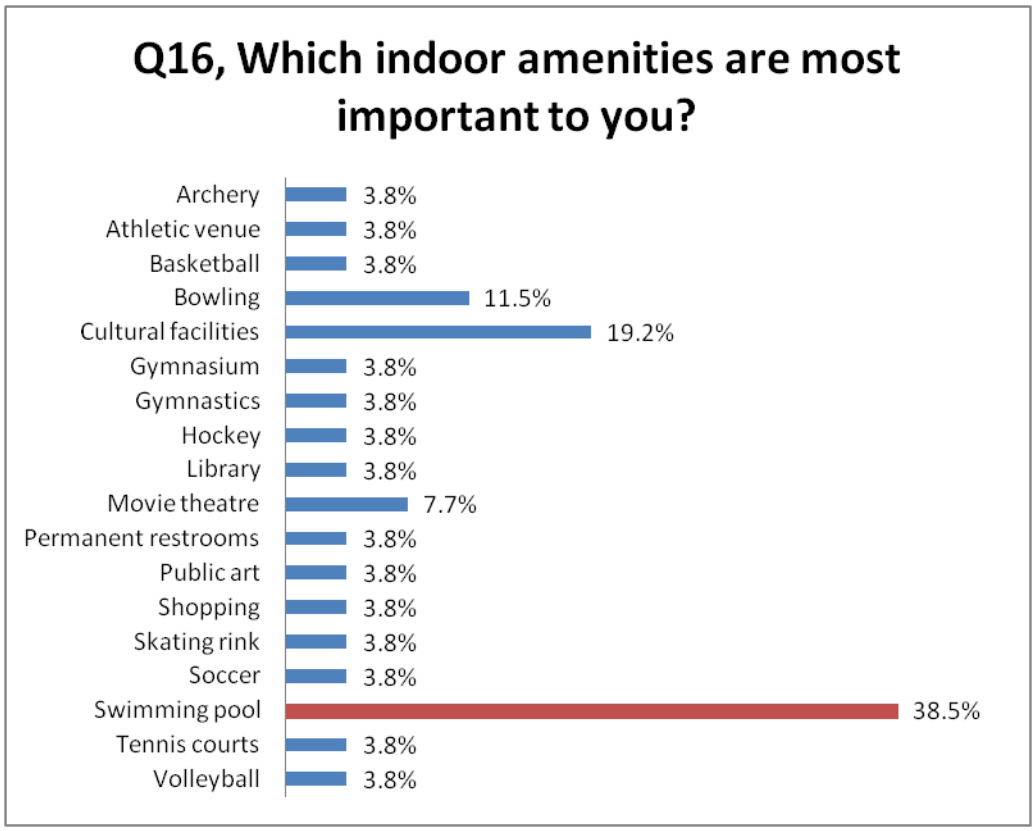

Q13 What types of additional outdoor facilities/ amenities do you think Lake Stevens needs?
TOP 10
Boardwalks / interpretive trails 34.6%
Community garden 33.8%
Multi-use trails 44.1%
Outdoor swim beaches 33.8%
Permanent restrooms 46.3%
Picnic areas 50.0%
Playgrounds 36.0%
Public docks 38.2%
Scenic views 33.8%
Walking / hiking trails 54.4%


Q14 Of the facilities listed in Question 13, which three are the most important?
Aquatic center / water park 0.8%
Athletic fields 5.6%
Basketball courts 0.8%
Biking 1.6%
BMX park 3.2%
Boardwalk 7.3%
Boat launch 8.9%
Community center 0.8%
Community garden 8.9%
Cultural facilities 4.8%
Frisbee / disk golf 0.8%
Farmer's market 0.8%
Fishing 2.4%
Lake trail 8.1%
Library 0.8%
Multi-use trails 16.9%
Off-leash area 12.1%
Open spaces 12.1%
Permanent restrooms 12.9%
Picnic area 12.1%
Playgrounds 20.2%
Public docks 8.9%
Scenic view 8.1%
Skate parks 16.9%
Swim beaches 11.3%
Swimming pool 3.2%
Tennis courts 4.0%
Walking / hiking trails 32.3%
Youth activities 0.8%

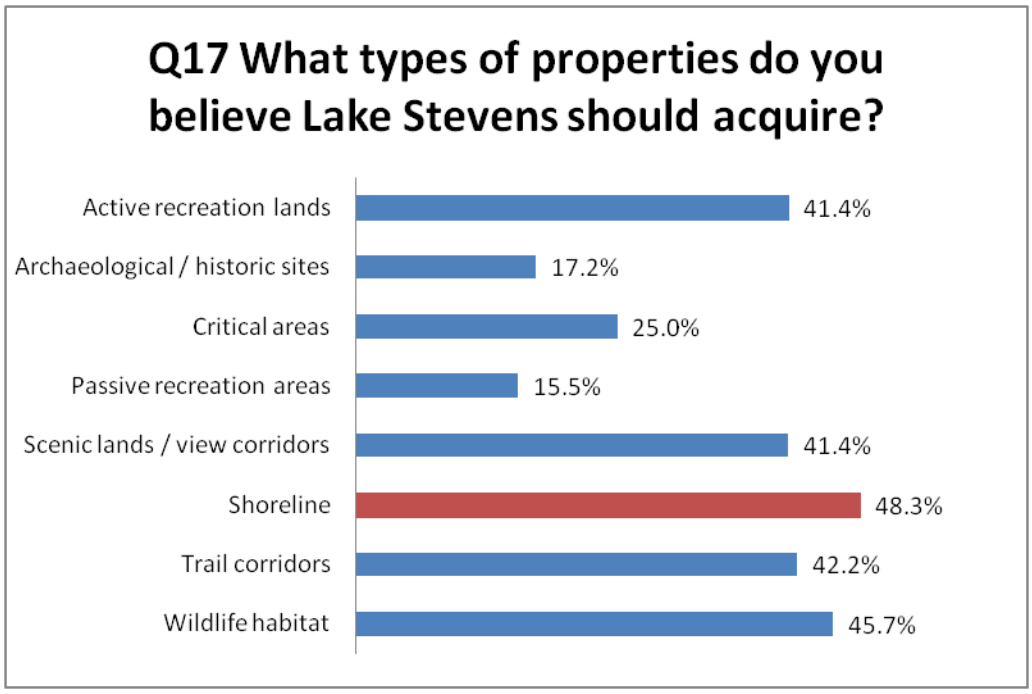

Q14 Of the facilities listed in Question 13, which three are the most important?
TOP 10
Boat launch 8.9%
Community garden 8.9%
Multi-use trails 16.9%
Off-leash area 12.1%
Open spaces 12.1%
Permanent restrooms 12.9%
Picnic area 12.1%
Playgrounds 20.2%
Public docks 8.9%
Skate parks 16.9%
Swim beaches 11.3%
Walking / hiking trails 32.3%


Q15 Of the recreation facilities listed in Question 13, which facilities do you visit frequently outside Lake Stevens?
Aquatic center / water parks 3.7%
Athletic fields 5.5%
BMX park 0.9%
Boardwalk / interp. trails 5.5%
Boat launch 11.9%
Community garden 6.4%
Cultural facilities 11.9%
Frisbee / disc golf 0.9%
Farmer's market 0.9%
Fishing 4.6%
Golf 0.9%
Lake/river trail 2.8%
Mountain bike trails 1.8%
Multi-use trails 20.2%
Off-leash area 4.6%
Open spaces 5.5%
Parks 1.8%
Permanent restrooms 3.7%
Picnic area 8.3%
Playgrounds 19.3%
Public docks 6.4%
Scenic view 13.8%
Shoreline 5.5%
Skate parks 14.7%
Skiing 0.9%
Special events 0.9%
Swim beaches 0.0%
Swimming pool 2.8%
Tennis courts 0.9%
Walking/hiking trails 36.7%

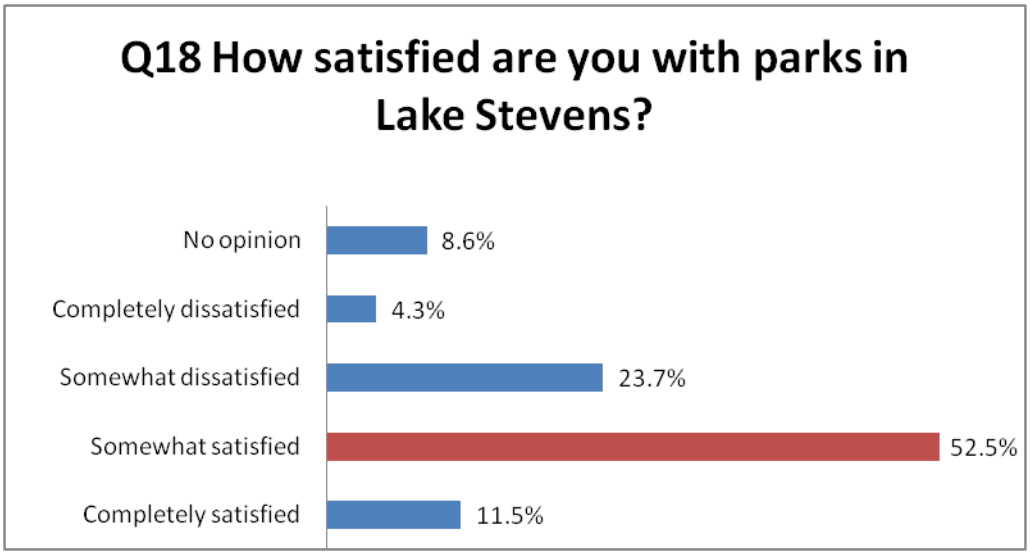




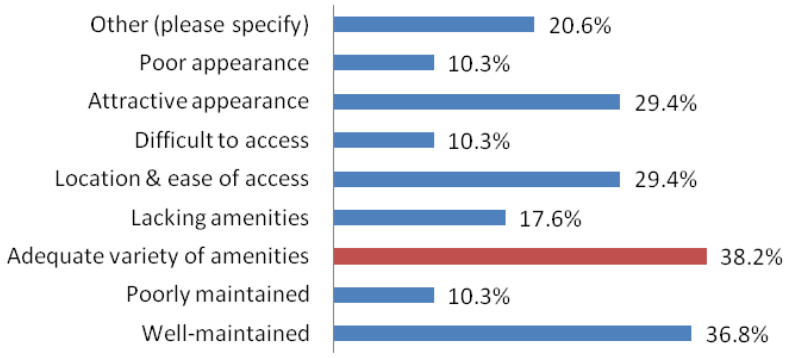
* Survey Monkey results for Question 16 are not available due to an error in numbering.



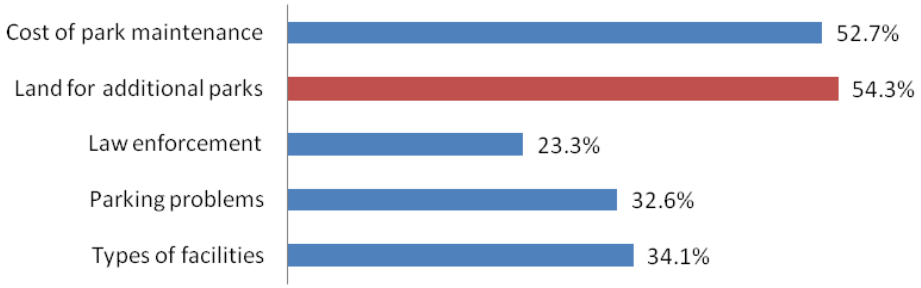
* Survey Monkey results for Question 17 and subsequent responses are tallied from previous question number due to an error in numbering.



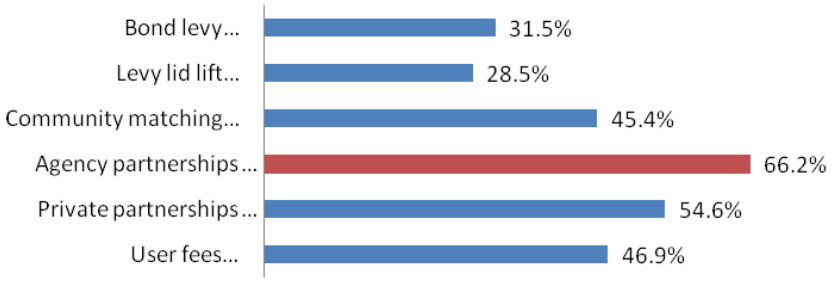
Q19 How would you describe the parks in Lake Stevens?



Q20 What do you believe the major issues to be resolved?



Q21 What funding sources would you support to finance parks & recreation facilities



Facility	Location	Owner	Area (acres)	Designation	Picnic Shelter/Benches	Playground	Trail/Pathway	Basketball	Track	Tennis	Athletic Fields/Football/Soccer	Beach / Swimming	Softball/Baseball	Dock	Boat Launch	Swimming Pool	View Corridor	Gymnasium	Restrooms	Community Center	Open Space	Native Growth Protection Area	Landscaping	Other
Community Park																								
Cavalero Community Park	2032 - 79th Ave SE	Snohomish County	32.93	Community Park			X														X			X
Eagle Ridge	2424 Soper Hill Road	City of Lake Stevens	28.20	Community Park			X													X	X			X
Lake Stevens Community Park	16th St SE & N Machias Rd	Snohomish County	43.24	Community Park	X	X	X	X			X		X						X		X		X	
		Community Parks Total Acres	*104.37*																					
Neighborhood Park																								
Catherine Creek	12708 20th St NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4 / City of Lake Stevens	16.55	Neighborhood Park	X		X														X			X
Centennial Woods	131st Dr NE	City of Lake Stevens	6.02	Neighborhood Park			X														X			
Lundeen Park	10108 Lundeen Parkway	City of Lake Stevens	10.05	Neighborhood Park	X	X						X		X			X		X				X	X
North Cove	Main St & North Ln	City of Lake Stevens	2.28	Neighborhood Park	X		X							X			X						X	X
Wyatt	20 South Davies Rd	Snohomish County	2.48	Neighborhood Park	X							X		X	X		X		X				X	X
		Neighborhood Parks Total Acres	*37.37*																					

Facility	Location	Owner	Area (acres)	Designation	Picnic Shelter/Benches	Playground	Trail/Pathway	Basketball	Track	Tennis	Athletic Fields/Football/Soccer	Beach / Swimming	Softball/Baseball	Dock	Boat Launch	Swimming Pool	View Corridor	Gymnasium	Restrooms	Community Center	Open Space	Native Growth Protection Area	Landscaping	Other
Mini-Park																								
Baker Vista	33rd St NE & 166th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.46	Mini-Park		X	X																	
Chase Short Plat	31XX Mandolin Court	City of Lake Stevens	0.06	Mini-Park		X																	X	
Crossing at Catherine Creek	29XX - 1127th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.41	Mini-Park		X															X			
Greenwood Village 1	5XX - 125th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.45	Mini-Park		X	X																	
Greenwood Village 2	123XX - 4th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.46	Mini-Park		X	X																	
Greenwood Village 3	72X - 127th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.74	Mini-Park		X																		
Kids Oasis	12708 - 20th St NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	0.36	Mini-Park		X																		
North Lakeshore Swim Beach	North Lakeshore Dr	City of Lake Stevens	0.71	Mini-Park								X		X			X							
Summer Hill Estates	113XX - 36th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.11	Mini-Park		X																	X	
Sunset Park	410 E Lake Stevens Rd	Snohomish County	0.60	Mini-Park	X							X		X			X						X	
Timber Lake	12th & 131st Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.57	Mini-Park		X																	X	
		Mini-Park Parks Total Acres	*4.94*																					

Facility	Location	Owner	Area (acres)	Designation	Picnic Shelter/Benches	Playground	Trail/Pathway	Basketball	Track	Tennis	Athletic Fields/Football/Soccer	Beach / Swimming	Softball/Baseball	Dock	Boat Launch	Swimming Pool	View Corridor	Gymnasium	Restrooms	Community Center	Open Space	Native Growth Protection Area	Landscaping	Other
Special Use																								
Bonneville Field	1530 N Machias Road	Snohomish County	7.32	Special Use									X											X
City Boat Launch	North Drive	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife	0.89	Special Use										X	X		X							X
Community Center/ City Hall	1805 Main Street	City of Lake Stevens	0.58	Special Use																				X
Grimm House	1804 Main Street	City of Lake Stevens	0.60	Special Use																				X
Library / Historic Society	1804 Main Street	City of Lake Stevens	0.25	Special Use																				X
Lochsloy Field	6710 - 147th Ave NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	15.17	Special Use																				
		Special Use Parks Total Acres	*24.81*	Special Use							X		X											
Trail																								
Centennial Trail		Snohomish County	90.62	Trails		X											X		X		X			
Rhododendron Trailhead	10911 54th Place NE	Snohomish County	20.36	Trails		X															X			
SR-92 Trailhead	36th St NE & Old Hartford	City of Lake Stevens	0.01	Trails		X															X			
		Trails Total Acres	*110.99*																					

Facility	Location	Owner	Area (acres)	Designation	Picnic Shelter/Benches	Playground	Trail/Pathway	Basketball	Track	Tennis	Athletic Fields/Football/Soccer	Beach / Swimming	Softball/Baseball	Dock	Boat Launch	Swimming Pool	View Corridor	Gymnasium	Restrooms	Community Center	Open Space	Native Growth Protection Area	Landscaping	Other
Open Space																								
16th St Open Space	16th Street NE & Main	City of Lake Stevens	1.77	Open Space																	X			
18th St Open Space	125th Ave NE & 18th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	1.87	Open Space																	X			
4th St NE Open Space	4th St SE	Snohomish County	9.83	Open Space																	X			
Baker Vista	34th St NE & 116th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	2.77	Open Space																	X	X		
Bridgeport at the Crossing 1	Catherine Dr & 124th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	9.72	Open Space			X														X	X		
Bridgeport at the Crossing 2	124th Ave NE & 30th Pl NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.26	Open Space			X														X		X	
Castle Dwellers SP	24th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.04	Open Space																	X	X		
Cedar Road	29th St NE & Cedar Rd	City of Lake Stevens	2.30	Open Space																	X	X		
Grade Road	25XX Grade Rd	City of Lake Stevens	25.94	Open Space																	X			
Greenwood Village	4th St SE	City of Lake Stevens	20.91	Open Space		X															X	X		X
Lake Forest	25th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	1.01	Open Space			X														X			
Lake Pointe	9th Pl NE & 122rd Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.48	Open Space																	X			
Lake Stevens Woods Div1	Catherine Dr & 125th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	4.09	Open Space		X															X	X		
Lake Stevens Woods Div2	Bryce Dr NE & 125th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	7.04	Open Space		X															X	X		
Lake Stevens Woods Div3	Catherine Dr & 32nd St NE	City of Lake Stevens	1.70	Open Space																	X	X		
Lake Stitch	Lake Stitch	Snohomish County	0.31	Open Space																	X			
Lake Villa	126XX - 16th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	2.35	Open Space																	X	X		

Facility	Location	Owner	Area (acres)	Designation	Picnic Shelter/Benches	Playground	Trail/Pathway	Basketball	Track	Tennis	Athletic Fields/Football/Soccer	Beach / Swimming	Softball/Baseball	Dock	Boat Launch	Swimming Pool	View Corridor	Gymnasium	Restrooms	Community Center	Open Space	Native Growth Protection Area	Landscaping	Other
Open Space (continued)																								
Lakeview Park	Meridian Place NE	City of Lake Stevens	1.02	Open Space																	X	X		
Lifrig Short Plat	36th St NE & Bryce Dr	City of Lake Stevens	0.28	Open Space																	X	X		
Macomber Short Plat	101st Ave Ne & Spruce Rd	City of Lake Stevens	0.44	Open Space																	X	X		
Main Street Open Space	17th Pl NE 7 Main St	City of Lake Stevens	0.59	Open Space																	X	X		
Malia Heights	111th Dr NE & 36th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	1.55	Open Space																	X	X		
Mill Cove Reserve	East Lakeshore Dr & Main St	City of Lake Stevens	0.42	Open Space																	X			X
Pilchuck Terrace	118xx 34th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	4.26	Open Space																	X	X		
Reserve Div 1	14th & 123rd	City of Lake Stevens	8.78	Open Space																	X			
Reserve Div 3	6XX - 125th Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	10.39	Open Space			X														X	X		
Reserve Div 5	60X - 122nd Ct NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.87	Open Space																	X	X		
Scholtz Short Plat	11xx 122nd Ave NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.06	Open Space																	X	X		
Shadow Brook	127th Dr NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.03	Open Space																	X			
Shirewood	31st St NE	City of Lake Stevens	0.91	Open Space																	X	X		
Sorensons Short Plat	10th & 125th	City of Lake Stevens	2.13	Open Space			X														X	X	X	
Summer Hill Estates	36th St NE & 114th Ct Ne	City of Lake Stevens	0.83	Open Space																	X	X		
Three Township North	117xx 34th St NE	City of Lake Stevens	1.28	Open Space																	X	X		
Williams Woods Div 1	28XX Grade Rd	City of Lake Stevens	1.08	Open Space																	X	X		
		Open Space Total Acres	*123.66*																					

Facility	Location	Owner	Area (acres)	Designation	Picnic Shelter/Benches	Playground	Trail/Pathway	Basketball	Track	Tennis	Athletic Fields/Football/Soccer	Beach / Swimming	Softball/Baseball	Dock	Boat Launch	Swimming Pool	View Corridor	Gymnasium	Restrooms	Community Center	Open Space	Native Growth Protection Area	Landscaping	Other
Schools																								
Cavelero Mid-High	8220 24th St SE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	37.56	School			X		X	X	X		X					X			X			
Centennial Middle School	3000 S Machias Rd	Snohomish School District No. 201	19.69	School				X	X	X			X					X			X			
Glennwood Elementary	2221 103rd Ave SE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	12.04	School		X					X		X					X			X			
Highland Elementary	3220 113th Ave NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	8.67	School		X					X		X					X			X			
Hill Crest Elementary	9315 4th St SE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	11.47	School		X		X	X				X					X			X			
LS High School	2602 115th Ave NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	36.00	School					X	X	X		X			X		X						
LS Middle School/ Skyline Elementary	1031 91st Ave SE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	24.69	School		X	X	X	X				X					X			X			
North Lake Middle School	2226 123rd Ave NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	18.41	School			X		X		X		X					X			X			
Pilchuck Elementary	12708 20th St NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	21.71	School		X	X				X		X					X			X			
Sunnycrest Elementary	3411 99th Ave NE	Lake Stevens School District No. 4	13.69	School		X	X	X										X			X			
		Schools Total Acres	*203.93*																					

DRAFT 10-18-13

Chapter 5: Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element

CHAPTER 5: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Public parks, recreational facilities and open spaces improve the quality of life for community residents within an urban environment provide areas for families and friends to socialize. Parks and open spaces create natural buffers between neighborhoods and create functional corridors for humans and wildlife throughout the urban environment.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element "Park Plan" of the Comprehensive Plan establishes specific goals and policies that will help guide decision-making related to acquisition, development and improvement of facilities and lands. This element contains an inventory of the City's current park, recreation facilities and open spaces; it analyzes the City's ability to provide adequate parks, open space, and recreation services, sets service standards and guidelines and identifies implementation strategies. Regulatory/Policy Background

The Park Plan conforms to the Growth Management Act (GMA) Chapter 36.70A RCW and considers the planning criteria developed by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

The GMA includes several sections that relate to parks, recreation, and open space:

- RCW 36.70A.020(9) establishes a planning goal to "Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities." Capital improvements are included within the definition of "Public Facilities,"
- RCW 36.70A.030 (Mandatory Element). Cities may impose impact fees for the provision of Public Facilities (including publicly owned parks, open space and recreation facilities) (RCW 36.70A.040, RCW 82.02.050). Impact fees must be based on demands on existing facilities by new development, and additional improvements required to serve new development (RCW 82.02.090).
- RCW 36.70A.070(8) requires a park and recreation element that is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. Furthermore, this section states, "The element shall include: (a) Estimates of

park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand."

- RCW 36.70A.150 states jurisdictions shall identify lands useful for public purposes and includes recreation.
- RCW 36.70A.160 requires jurisdiction to, "identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. They shall include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas as defined in RCW 36.70A.030."

As noted, the Park Plan includes the plan elements recommended by the Recreation and Conservation Office, which ensures continued eligibility for grant grants administered by that agency:

- Goals & objectives
- Inventory
- Public Involvement
- Demand & Need Analysis
- Capital improvement program (six year plan for acquisition, development, renovation, & restoration projects)
- Plan adoption

Park, Recreation & Open Space Classifications and Characteristics

There are many reasons for governments to provide parks, open space, recreation opportunities, cultural amenities, and trails for their citizens. Parks offer innumerable physical and psychological benefits by providing safe places for the community to exercise, recreate, meditate, and generally escape daily pressures. The city of Lake Stevens has a variety of parks – the inventory includes a mix of city and county facilities. Below is a brief description of the different type of Park, Recreation & Open Space wihtin the city of Lake Stevens s (See Figure 5.1 for details):

Community parks

Community parks have the largest service area and attract citizens from across the community. Size and variety of amenities characterize community parks. Typically, these parks provide a mix of informal, active, and passive recreation areas. Community Parks are generally at least 10-acres, but must be large enough to provide room for organized sports, a recreation center, and/or a group-use shelter. Community parks should provide easy vehicular and pedestrian access to community residents from the street network, sidewalks and bike lanes and contain dedicated parking areas.

Community parks may benefit from multijurisdictional cooperation for facility planning, development and maintenance.

Neighborhood parks

Neighborhood parks are the "backbone" of the city's parks inventory. These parks offer common gathering sites for social interaction, physical activity and play to residents from contiguous neighborhoods or an even larger service area depending on amenities. Neighborhood parks should be located in highly visible and centralized locations that provide convenient and safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists. This park type often offers both passive and active recreation opportunities as well as multi-purpose facilities. Neighborhood parks should include permanent restrooms and parking areas.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks often referred to as pocket parks or tot lots are the smallest sized recreation sites within the park inventory with the smallest service area. They should be easily accessible to surrounding neighborhoods or within commercial centers. Ideally, mini-parks connect neighborhoods or commercial centers by paths, trails, sidewalks, bikeways, or greenways. Mini-parks may be public or private, but must provide small-scale recreation opportunities that often include one or two amenities such as a small playground, picnic benches or landscaping.

Special Use Parks & Facilities

Special use parks may be any park type or facility (private or public) with a specialized amenity that provides a unique experience, particular sport or activity and may provide a revenue income. Special use parks may include boat launches, cultural facilities, community centers, recreation centers/facilities or public art. The size of these facilities varies depending on the proposed use and available amenities. Special use parks should be distributed throughout the city.

Non-City agencies provide most special use parks and facilities. The Lake Stevens School District owns and operates the indoor swimming pool, and the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA) owns and operates the competition baseball fields. Both organizations have been generous in making their respective facilities available to the public. Since the demand for these types of facilities is generated from both within and outside the City's corporate limits a cooperative partnership between the City, the County, other recreation providers and surrounding communities is desirable.

The Lake Stevens School District's Community Education program currently provides recreation and leisure service programming. The School District offers summer youth recreation programs and adult programs in the fall, winter, and spring. The City, School District and LSJAA should explore additional programs, services, and facilities that can meet the unmet needs of the community, including those of teens and elderly.

There are a few commercial recreation enterprises currently within the City. Potential opportunities include the lake and Centennial Trail. For example, the City could make the lake more accessible through regulation to allow for the safe use of the lake. This could in turn encourage either the public or private provision of non-motorized boat rentals including sail boats/windsurfers, paddle boats, and kayaks.

As noted in this document, the Centennial Trail, a regional non-motorized facility, is located partially within the City. The City could facilitate the establishment of public and/or private commercial recreation opportunities contiguous to the trail. For example, bicycle and skate rentals might provide an opportunity to enhance the use of the trail.

School Parks

School parks provide are ancillary facilities that compliment the city's inventory. School parks often recreational needs not be available through other parks or provide similar functions to other park types. For example, elementary playgrounds may provide a similar benefit to neighborhoods that a mini-park or neighborhood park would. Because schools are typically located within residential neighborhoods, they are easily accessible and evenly distributed throughout the community. Additionally, school campuses provide area for sports activities, informal recreation uses, and potentially special activities.

Open Space

Open spaces consist of undeveloped lands, passive recreation areas or Native Growth Protection Areas, both public and private. Open spaces provide allow residents to engage in low-intensity and passive recreation activities such hiking and bird/wildlife watching while protecting natural areas and natural resources. Typical amenities include soft trails, scenic vies, boardwalks, and interpretive signage. Open space may provide habitat corridors for wildlife and links between neighborhoods for humans. Open spaces frequently buffer potentially incompatible land uses. Open space must be distributed throughout the city.

Currently, the land use code requires dedication of Native Growth Protection Areas on lands with critical areas such as wetlands, streams, and steep slopes during development. The City also requires the dedication or creation of open space as a condition of approval for some subdivisions and attached housing developments. These set asides form a large portion of the open space inventory for the city that must be managed cooperatively between the city, home owners, home owners' associations, other agencies and even non-profit land trusts. The city's open space policy, as established by this plan element recognizes the need to address open space along with related issues including the disposition of lands within the entire Urban Growth Area, issues of bio-diversity and endangered species protection, and critical areas protection. The Critical Areas Element and the land use code address these issues.

Trails and pedestrian facilities.

Soft surface or paved trails, walking paths, sidewalks or multiuse trails for walking, hiking, and bicycling. Paths and trails provide links between neighborhoods, parks, schools, transit facilities and commercial areas and generally enhance connectivity throughout the community and provide opportunities for alternative transportation. Recreational paths and trails can meander away from the road network, creating a focus on interacting with the natural environment. Transportation paths and trails provide safe, direct routes between points or along a road network. Paths and trails can connect the recreational assets of a community while also adding to the transportation network.

Park, Recreation & Open Space Classifications and Characteristics			
Type	Typical Size	Description & Typical Amenities	Area Served
Community Park	> 10 acres	Informal, formal, active, & passive recreation amenities that may include playgrounds, landscaping, picnic areas, trails, sports fields, structures, parking, special features, permanent restrooms, etc to serve community-wide recreation needs	Within 2.5 miles of residential areas
Neighborhood Park	≤ 10 acres	Informal, active, & passive recreation amenities that may include playgrounds, landscaping, picnic areas, trails, single or small sports fields, parking, restrooms, etc that meets the specific needs of adjacent residential neighborhoods	Within 1 mile of residential areas
Mini-Park	≤ 1 acre	Small public/private area that may include playgrounds, landscaping, plazas, and picnic benches that serve the needs of the immediate neighborhood	Within 1/2 mile of residential or commercial areas
School Parks	Varies	Playfields, playgrounds, sports & recreation facilities located at schools that may substitute for other park types and compliment the city's inventory distributed throughout the city	Varies
Special Use Parks & Facilities	Varies	Any park or facility that provides a unique experience created for specific recreation needs and/or commercial purpose that may include boat launches, cultural facilities, community centers, recreation facilities or public art distributed throughout the city	Varies

Paths, Trails & Pedestrian/ Bicycle Facilities	Varies	Soft surface or paved trails, walking paths, sidewalks or multiuse trails for walking, hiking, and bicycling distributed throughout the city	1 trail w/in 1 mile of residential areas
Open Space	Varies	Low intensity and passive recreation areas such as Native Growth Protection Areas, greenbelts, or undeveloped areas that may provide natural buffers between neighborhoods, natural habitat areas and scenic views distributed throughout the city	Varies, based on resource availability

Figure 5.1 – Park, Recreation & Open Space Classifications and Characteristics

Inventory of Facilities

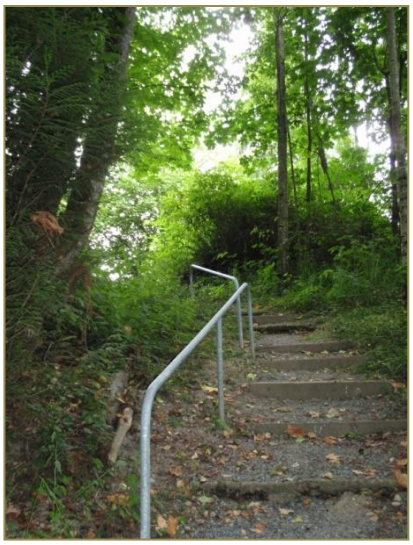
The following is an inventory of the parks, open space tracts, recreational facilities, and cultural programs and facilities found within the City and its vicinity. A map of the locations of these facilities is shown as Figure 5.1. The city has approximately 146 acres of public parks, 10 acres devoted to special uses, within city limits, and 122 acres of open space – these numbers include city and county facilities (mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks), special use parks, trails and open space (undeveloped property and Native Growth Protection Areas).

Community Parks

Lake Stevens Community Athletic Park
LSC Park, east of the city limits, is a 43-acre Snohomish County park, that provides largest athletic complex near Lake Stevens with baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, and basketball courts. LSC Park also includes a picnic shelter, playground, walking path, permanent restrooms and landscaping. The other two community parks Cavalero (a 33-acre County Park) and Eagle Ridge (a 28-acre City Park) are master planned community-level parks that will include trails, interpretive areas, etc when complete.

Eagle Ridge Park — City Council adopted the Eagle Ridge Park Master Plan in 2010. The plan includes a capital cost estimate and a schedule to implement the Master Plan in three phases over a 10-15 year period. The master plan includes details for park development and proposed amenities and recreational opportunities. The overall vision for the park is that of an 'outdoor classroom' with both passive and active recreational activities that embrace and enhance the natural beauty of this park. Eagle Ridge currently houses the Lake Stevens Senior Center, soft trails, and open spaces. This

park is notable for its eagle habitat. The master plan for this park envisions picnic shelters, a community garden, interconnected trails, educational features such as an interpretive center, outdoor classrooms or amphitheater and interpretive signage. The plan also promotes the use of Low Impact Development in design and construction.



Cavalero Community Park – Cavalero Community Park, located off 20th Street SE, in the southern part of the city, underwent a master planning process around 2010. This plan was not implemented. Because the park is located within the Lake Stevens, the city and Snohomish County are preparing to revise the master plan for this facility through a joint planning effort in the near future. Currently Cavalero has an off-leash dog area and undeveloped open space.

Neighborhood Parks

Catherine Creek Park – An eight-acre community park, which the City leases from the Lake Stevens School District. It is located adjacent and to the east of Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School, between 20th Street NE and 16th Street NE. The park is maintained primarily as a "natural" park with a network of trails, access to Catherine Creek, and picnic facilities. A disc golf course, installed and maintained by the community, began operating in 2000.

Centennial Woods Park — A 6.3 acre passive recreation park purchased in 1997 through the Snohomish County Conservation Futures grant program. Some informal trails through the site were widened and graveled in 1999, which connect Centennial Trail to Catherine Creek Park (with an eye on an eventual connection to downtown).

Lundeen Park -- This is a 9-acre regional multi-use park located south of Lundeen Parkway at 99th Avenue NE. Facilities include a public pier, 500 feet of shoreline, swimming area, 2 basketball courts, a children's playground and a tot lot (Sarita's

Playground), interpretive stations along a salmon-spawning creek, a caretaker's residence, public restrooms, a rinse-off shower, a covered picnic area, and 98 parking spaces. Hours of operation are 5 am to dusk. Figures on park use are not available but it appears to be a popular facility with considerable usage.

North Cove Park – A four-acre waterfront park located at the extreme northeast end of the lake. Access is available to downtown Lake Stevens, next to the City Hall complex. The park has a 250 foot municipal boardwalk/pier (interpretation, fishing & picnicking, but no boat access), picnic tables, and two horseshoe pits. Parking facilities are shared with the Civic Center complex. The City is currently planning for future expansion and development of the park.

Willard Wyatt County Park -- This is a three-acre regional park located four miles from downtown, across the lake, on Davies Road. Facilities include a public boat launch, a dock (for boats), a fishing pier, a swimming area, restrooms, picnic tables, and 80 parking spaces. This parks is especially busy during summer weekends.

Mini-Parks

There are new subdivisions, which have provided small neighborhood (or "pocket") parks which provide playground equipment, basketball courts, and picnic tables. Such

parks are included in several plats, which were completed in the late 1990's and early 2000's. The largest of the developed public mini-parks are included.

Kid's Oasis Playground – A 0.5-acre children's playground located on the grounds of the Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School. It was built in 1992 as a community volunteer project, with help from individuals, businesses, the City, and the Lake Stevens School District. The playground equipment is a "fantasy-style" wooden castle. Parking is available in the school parking lot. Most users are children and their parents, coming mostly during sunny hours throughout the year.

North Lakeshore Swimming Beach – A 0.5-acre waterfront community park whose primary use is lake access for swimmers, located approximately 0.2 miles west of downtown on North Lakeshore Drive, on the north side of North Cove. Facilities include 560 square feet of useable beach, a 600 square foot municipal swimming dock, a portable restroom, and 10 parking spaces. The boundaries of the swimming area are roped off with warning buoys.

Sunset Beach – This is a 0.25-acre, County-owned, waterfront neighborhood/pocket park whose primary use is water access and picnicking. It is located 0.3 mile south of downtown on East Lake Stevens Road. Facilities include a public dock, picnic tables, and six parking spaces.

School Parks

The Lake Stevens School District (LSSD) owns the largest percentage of the formal recreational/athletic facilities in the City. Many of the facilities are open to the public on a regular basis. This Comprehensive Plan establishes policies, which will allow the City to participate in jointly developing and managing parks and recreational facilities with the LSSD and other providers of leisure services to ensure efficient and effective use of the community's resources and avoiding redundant services and facilities.

LSSD has six elementary schools – each has playground facilities and a mix of other amenities. There are three middle schools with a different mix of athletic fields and play courts. There is one Mid-high School and a single High School. Like the middle schools, these schools provide a variety of athletic amenities. The high school also houses a swimming pool open to the public that functions as a special use site.

Special Use

Two properties within the UGA are owned by private organizations and operated as semi-public recreation facilities. These are:

Lake Stevens Boys and Girls Club – A one-acre property located at the intersection of 16th Street NE and Main. This property is owned by Clubs, Inc., a non-profit organization composed of representatives of the Lake Stevens' Lions Club and the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA). Facilities include a recently remodeled building and a new gymnasium, which are under a 30-year lease (with a 10-year renewal option) to the Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County. The Boys and Girls Club building has a small meeting room (50-60 person occupancy) available for rent through the Boys and Girls Club. This room is available for no cost to service clubs and scout troops. There is also a baseball diamond and storage/concession area, operated and maintained by LSJAA, behind the gymnasium. There are approximately 75 parking spaces on the property.

Bonneville Field Ball Park – A three-acre baseball field, which also provides informal trailhead parking for the Centennial Trail, is located at the intersection of 16th Street NE and Hartford-Machias Road. The LSJAA operates this site. Facilities include a baseball diamond and approximately 35 parking spaces. The park is used primarily by organized little league teams during the summer.

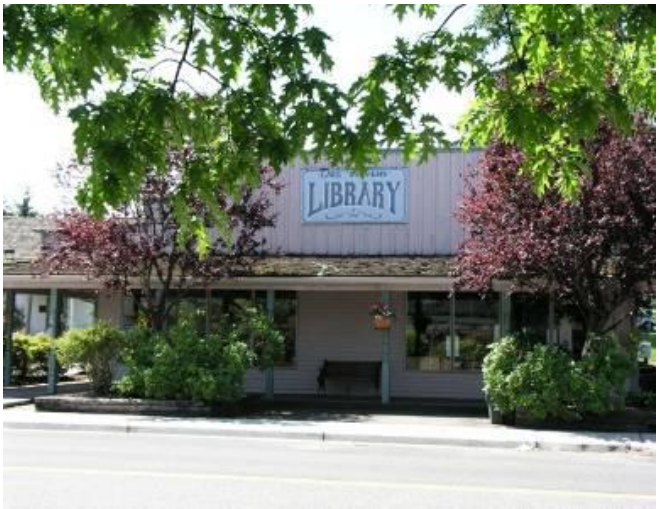
City Boat Launch – A one-acre regional boat launch and parking lot (30 spaces) located on the eastern shore of North Cove. Access is from 17th Place NE, off 124th Avenue NE. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife owns this site and leases it to the City. Most users are boaters, anglers, and jet-skiers launching their craft. Use is heaviest on summer weekends.

Cultural Resources (Museums, Libraries, Meeting Rooms, Historic/ Prehistoric Sites, etc.)

Community Center – Within the Civic Center complex is a 1,800 square foot meeting/activity hall with a small (<150 square foot) kitchen. The Center is used for public meetings, activities, and classes. The Center is available for rent by the public for specific activities.

Lake Stevens Historical Museum – Adjacent to the Lake Stevens branch of the Sno-Isle Regional Library is the 1,600 square foot Lake Stevens Historical museum. This museum was built and is run by the Lake Stevens Historical Society. The museum houses permanent and rotating exhibits illuminating the town's history, the Society's office, and a 1,000-piece historical photograph collection.

Sno-Isle Regional Library, Lake Stevens Branch – The City owns a 2,500 square foot building that serves as a library at 1804 Main Street and contracts with the Sno-Isle Libraries to provide library services to the community. The building size limits the possibility to increase the collection, add computer access, increase programming, and to provide meeting space and quiet areas. Based on current activity levels and 2025 population projections for the Lake Stevens area, Sno-Isle Libraries estimates a need for a 15,000 square foot facility.



Grimm House – The historic Grimm House, next to the Historical Museum serves as an adjunct to the museum. The house has been relocated and renovated in large part through volunteer efforts.

Historic/Prehistoric Sites – The potential for historic sites in Lake Stevens is excellent because of the City's rich past linked to logging and railroads, evident in remains around the lake. For example, the concrete footing of the water tower serving the Rucker Brothers' Saw Mill is still located in North Cove Park. There are also trestle remains from the mill operations, in the lake, dating back to the turn of the century.

Recreation Programs and Events

Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA) – A non-profit youth organization, the LSJAA organizes seasonal teams for baseball, softball, soccer, football, and basketball. User fees fund their programs.

School District Office Community Education Programs – The LSSD offers evening and weekend classes in sports, hobbies, job skills, continuing education, and other recreational classes.

Rowing Clubs – Different rowing clubs use Lake Stevens frequently. They host several large regattas on the lake, including the Washington State Games, and offer competitive rowing opportunities for juniors and adults.

Aquafest – Lake Stevens' annual city celebration usually held in July. It includes an aqua-run, children's activities, fireworks, vendor booths and several parades.

Ironman Triathlon – Lake Stevens hosts an annual World Qualifying Triathlon event with competitors swimming, running and bicycling through Lake Stevens.

Scouting, 4-H, Church Youth Programs, Other Special Interest Groups – All the scouting organizations are represented in Lake Stevens, as well as 4-H. Additionally, many of the churches have youth programs.

Lake Stevens Historical Society – Formed in 1982, the Lake Stevens Historical Society is a group of about 150 individuals dedicated to preserving community history through the collecting of information and artifacts and educating the public. .

Lake Stevens Senior Group – The Lake Stevens Senior Center, located at Eagle Ridge Park, welcomes all older adults to share in fellowship, classes and social events in the Lake Stevens area. The Senior Center is in a 2,800 square feet building with a commercial kitchen, dining/multi-purpose room, barrier-free bathrooms, office space and additional class and meeting rooms.

Open Space and Natural Resources

The City receives dedications of land and/or exclusive easements through the development process (offered as mitigation) or as gifts from property owners. Generally, open spaces are located in critical areas and are retained in a natural state to protect the resource. Interpretive trails are allowed in buffers. Many of these lands would be suitable for passive development such as interpretive areas or for pedestrian trails.

The City has many natural resources with the primary resource being Lake Stevens, a 1040-acre lake. Tributaries to Lake Stevens provide migration, spawning, and rearing habitat for resident and anadromous fish species. The variety of topography, soils, and vegetation described above has created a variety of habitat niches for wildlife in the area. Lake Stevens is used by a large assortment of birds including songbirds, bald eagles, red-tail hawks, and other birds of prey, Osprey, Blue Heron and a variety of waterfowl. Other common species include black-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, coyotes, meadow voles, and muskrats. There are many bald Eagles that live around the lake; the most famous pair named George and Martha live in Eagle Ridge Park. There are many wetlands that provide extremely valuable resources.

Mill Cove Reserve Park – A one-acre passive recreation park purchased in 1997 though the Snohomish County Conservation Futures grant program. The site is at the location of the historic Rucker Mill and is wooded, contains wetlands and shorelands. From the site, one can see the pilings that supported the old mill over the lake. The City will continue to seek grant opportunities to finance trails, signage, and other passive recreation amenities.

Grade Road

Trails

The City has developed approximately five miles of trails throughout the City, either through acceptance of development dedications, or through grant-development projects. Many of the shorter trails serve to link road segments. One trail circumscribes the western and southern borders of the high school property. Two miles of trails meander through Catherine Creek Park, which connect to gravel trails leading through Centennial Woods Park to the Centennial Trail. The Snohomish County Centennial Trail skirts the eastern City limits, 1.3 miles of which are within the City. Another four miles (approximate) of trails have been constructed in some of the newer plats. These skirt wetlands, creeks, or other sensitive areas; some have viewing and interpretive stations. Over time, these trails should connect to form a network throughout the City.

Centennial Trail – The Snohomish County Centennial Trail skirts the eastern City limits, 1.3 miles of which are within the City. The trail stretches between the City of Arlington to the north and City of Snohomish to the south. Eventually the trail is planned to extend from the southern Snohomish/King County line to the northern Snohomish/Skagit County line (totaling 44 miles). The trail serves pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and equestrians.

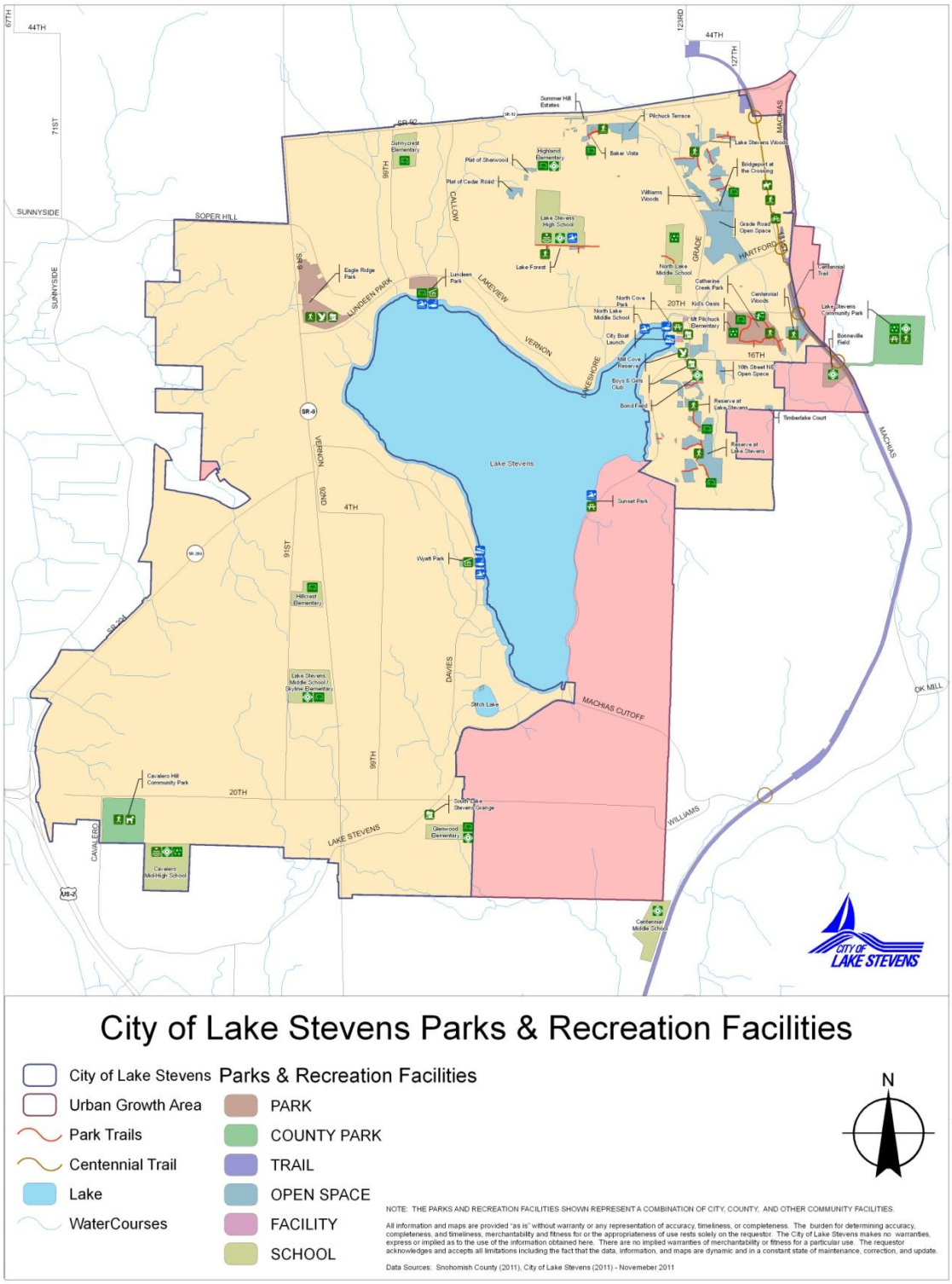

City of Lake Stevens Parks & Recreation Facilities
City of Lake Stevens
Urban Growth Area
Park Trails
Centennial Trail
Lake
WaterCourses
Parks & Recreation Facilities
PARK
COUNTY PARK
TRAIL
OPEN SPACE
FACILITY
SCHOOL
N
NOTE: THE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES SHOWN REPRESENT A COMBINATION OF CITY, COUNTY, AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.
All information and maps are provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness, or completeness. The burden for determining accuracy, completeness, and timeliness, merchantability and fitness for or the appropriateness of use rests solely on the requestor. The City of Lake Stevens makes no warranties, express or implied as to the use of the information obtained here. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular use. The requestor acknowledges and accepts all limitations including the fact that the data, information, and maps are dynamic and in a constant state of maintenance, correction, and update.
Data Sources: Snohomish County (2011), City of Lake Stevens (2011) - Novemeber 2011
Lake Stevens
Summer Hill Estates
Pilchuck Terrace
Sunnycrest Elementary
Highland Elementary
Baker Vista
Lake Stevens Woods
Bridgeport at the Crossing
Plat of Sherwood
Plat of Cedar Road
Williams Woods
Lake Stevens High School
Grade Road Open Space
Lake Forest
North Lake Middle School
Catherine Creek Park
Centennial Trail
Eagle Ridge Park
Lundeen Park
North Cove Park
Centennial Woods
Kid's Oasis
Lake Stevens Community Park
North Lake Middle School
Mt Pilchuck Elementary
City Boat Launch
Bonneville Field
Mill Cove Reserve
10th Street NE Open Space
Boys & Girls Club
Bond Field
Reserve at Lake Stevens
Timberlake Court
Reserve at Lake Stevens
Sunset Park
Wyatt Park
Hillcrest Elementary
Lake Stevens Middle School / Skyline Elementary
Stitch Lake
Cavalero Hill Community Park
South Lake Stevens Grange
Glenwood Elementary
Cavalero Mid-High School
Centennial Middle School
SOPER HILL
SUNNYSIDE
LUNDEEN PARK
LAKEVIEW
VERNON
LAKESHORE
CALLON
GRADE
HARTFORD
MACHIAS
MACHIAS CUTOFF
DAVIES
CAVALERO
LAKE STEVENS
WILLIAMS
OK MILL
44TH
20TH
16TH
4TH
71ST
91ST
99TH
127TH
128RD
67TH
SR-92
SR-9
SR-204
US-2

Table 5-2 – Inventory of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Analysis of Facilities

Condition of Parks and Recreational Land Uses

The Parks and Recreation Element and the Capital Facilities Element of this Comprehensive Plan outline in detail what improvements to facilities and services need to be made at the various parks.

FUTURE NEEDS

Understanding that users of parks and recreation facilities do not necessarily recognize political boundaries, it is imperative that jurisdictions join together to plan for and provide recreation facilities that meet the needs of the population at large. Recognizing this fact also allows a more efficient system to be established using scarce tax dollars to provide for the recreational needs of regional populations. For example, it is more efficient to build a swimming pool between two jurisdictions where demand exists than to build two separate pools three blocks from each other simply because each city feels that tax dollars should be spent in their own communities.

To identify and facilitate the provision of regionally sited projects, Snohomish County Tomorrow, including the City of Lake Stevens, Snohomish County, and the other cities within the County, funded a regional recreation plan identifying NRPA standards, RCO participation models, city/county/agency existing levels of service, city/county existing levels of service, and facilities needed to bring the level of service up to what users throughout the county appear to need (facilities that are in "deficit"). While the study has not been completed, it includes a telephone survey of city/county residents, looks at costs of implementation, and has provided initial recommendations on the approaches available for funding the needed facilities.

Table 5-4 – Park and Recreation Needs Assessment
downtown, through neighborhoods

This element of the City's Comprehensive Plan recommends an approach that blends the regional and local needs identified and explores funding alternatives closely aligned with the recommendations of the aforementioned countywide plan. It is important that the City keep moving toward a cooperative approach for supplying needed facilities not only because of the costs involved, but because it is the only reasonable method to ensure that redundant/costly projects don't strip scarce funding from essential facilities and programs.

In developing this element, the first step was to ask a community perception of what was needed in the way of parks and other leisure services. The Park Board held three public meetings held to solicit community input into the Park and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, the findings of which are summarized in Table 5.4. The ideas solicited from the community only represent a portion of the City's responsibility for ensuring the provision of future parks and recreation opportunities and include no cost estimates. The City must also be concerned with the unincorporated Urban Growth Area (UGA) and with the needs of the population in the unincorporated Joint Comprehensive Planning Area (JCPA), especially as annexations may occur which will change the existing LOS for areas within the City.

The aforementioned public workshops held by the Park Board have provided the basis for determining the local need/demand analysis that are incorporated into the plan. A private consultant study funded by local governments through Snohomish County Tomorrow provided a regional perspective on park and recreation facility needs.

Proposed Level of Service (PLOS)

Financing

In accordance with the Revised Code of Washington 82.02.050 and 82.02.060, the City is to provide a balance between impact fees and other sources of public funds to meet its capital project needs. Revenues from property taxes, user fees (if imposed), sales taxes, real estate taxes, grants, and other revenue sources need to be used to pay the proportionate share of the growth-generated capital facilities costs. Therefore, the City’s commitment to improving the parks system is not solely reliant on impact fees.

Impact Fees

Once an LOS is adopted, impact fees may be assessed under GMA to ensure that levels of services are maintained as the population grows. It is required that impact fees be based on the LOS in place at the time of development. It is in the City's interest to pursue impact fees as allowed under GMA based upon the level of service established in this element. The amount that could be charged new development would be determined through a separate fee study.

Other Sources of Funding

General Revenues

Unlimited General obligation bonds may be submitted to voters of park and recreation purposes. These bonds require approval by at least 60% of the resident voters during an election, which has a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last state

general election. The bond must be repaid from a special levy, which is not governed by the six percent statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate.

Grants

While the City has been successful in obtaining grants for parks, the lack of match has proved to be a constraint on obtaining even more grants. With a larger community it is anticipated that the City's resources could be better leveraged with more and larger grants.

Four types of state project grants may provide needed revenues for parks.

1. The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), formerly known as the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), administers state matching fund grants through legislative authorized funding. IAC grants have contributed significantly to the construction of the Centennial Park bathrooms and the boat launch and dock improvements.

2. The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA) uses revenues obtained by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and as the name suggests, said grants are oriented to aquatic lands. The North Cove pier was paid for with ALEA funds.

3. The Department of Ecology administers the Centennial Clean Water Program that can apply monies to park development that proposes to restore, construct or otherwise enhance fish producing streams, ponds, and other water bodies.

4. The Department of Ecology administers Coastal Zone Management grants for shoreline planning and shoreline development projects.

Special Revenue Funds

Conservation Futures: By state law, counties can elect to levy up to $0.065 per $1,000 of assess valuation for all County properties to acquire shoreline or other open space lands. In 1997, the City obtained conservation future funds to purchase about 21 acres of open space lands, contained in three parks.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET): State law allows counties the option of imposing excise taxes on the sale of real estate. The tax may be imposed in $0.25 per $1,000 in sale value to be used to finance capital facility developments, including the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities.

Foundations

As another source of revenue the establishment of a foundation is being explored. The Parks Board and Arts Commission have agreed to look at developing a non profit 501C Foundation that would provide the ability for people to make tax exempt contributions that directly support park and art activities.

GOALS AND POLICIES

This section discusses the plan for Parks and Recreation Facilities in the City of Lake Stevens. The timing of development and provision of services comprise key components of this planning process. An analysis of existing conditions and projected needs in the previous section highlighted the areas of concern and opportunities for Lake Stevens. The Vision Statement for the City was used, along with the inventory and analysis contained in this element, to create a Plan. The Capital Facilities Element contains a strategy for achievement of the City's goals in light of the existing conditions in the City. The goals and policies within the Plan provide guidelines and actions for achieving that Plan.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Vision – Ensure that the city has abundant, high-quality parks & recreation areas that balance recreational activities and enjoyment of the natural environment for the community.

An analysis of existing park, recreation, open space facilities along with community input provide the basis for establishing goals and policies within the Park Plan. The goals and policies within the Plan provide guidelines and actions for achieving that Plan. Goals are broad intent statements that describe a desired outcome. Policies provide the framework for developing specific measurable actions.

GOAL 5.1 PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES AND INTEREST GROUPS.

Policies

5.1.1 Provide a system of multi-purpose neighborhood and community parks, throughout the community, accessible to all residents that meet the following levels of service:

Neighborhood Parks – one park within a one-mile radius of all residential areas and

Community Parks – one park within a two-mile radius of all residential areas.

5.1.2 Provide a park, recreation and open space system with activities for all age groups and abilities, equally distributed throughout the community, with an emphasis on youth-oriented activities.

5.1.3 Provide a balanced mix of active recreational facilities including but not limited to court and field activities, skateboard/BMX areas, and multi-use trails and passive recreations facilities including but not limited to hiking/walking, shoreline access, and picnicking accessible to the largest number of participants.

5.1.4 Promote balanced lake access for pedestrians and motorized and non-motorized watercraft so all segments of the population can enjoy the lake and have access to its recreational opportunities.

5.1.5 Encourage the inclusion of performing art facilities in public parks and recreation areas and incorporate visual arts into the design of park features, such as railings, benches, buildings and other amenities.

5.1.6 Support the use of indoor community spaces for arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities and other spaces for all age groups on a year-round basis.

5.1.7 When appropriate and economically feasible, participate in the development of special interest recreational facilities.

5.1.8 Continue to participate in the annual Aquafest community celebration.

5.1.9 Identify recreational and cultural needs opportunities for special needs populations.

5.1.10 The City supports the Lake Stevens Historical Society in their efforts to inventory significant historical and archaeological resources and to provide information to the community on its history.

GOAL 5.2 PROVIDE AN INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM OF HIGH-QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE TRAILS AND GREENWAY CORRIDORS THAT OFFER DIVERSE, HEALTHY OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES WITHIN A VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL HABITATS, PUBLIC FACILITIES, LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS, BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND REGIONAL TRAILS.

Policies

5.2.1 Provide a comprehensive network of multiuse trails for pedestrians, bicycles, and skating using alignments along the public right-of-way, through public landholdings as well as across cooperating private properties that link residential neighborhoods to community facilities, parks, special use areas, commercial areas and the waterfront that meets the following level of service: one trail within one mile of residential areas.

5.2.2 Provide for a comprehensive inter-city trail system linking the downtown area, schools, parks, and the Centennial Trail.

5.2.3 Establish a multiuse trail around the lake, choosing a route that best provides lake access and/or views.

5.2.4 Establish a north/south trail under the power lines as identified in the Lake Stevens Center and 20th Street SE Corridor subarea plans.

5.2.5 Establish an east/west sidewalk trail along 24th Street SE and South Lake Stevens Road that will eventually connect to the Centennial Trail as identified in the 20th Street SE Corridor subarea plan.

5.2.6 Establish, expand, and/or improve nature trails and boardwalks through open spaces with an emphasis on Eagle Ridge Park, Catherine Creek Park, Centennial Woods, Mill Cove Reserve, and the Grade Road Open Space.

GOAL 5.3 PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL, RESOURCES AREAS INCLUDING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, MIGRATION CORRIDORS, NATURAL MEADOWS, AND WATER RESOURCES.

Policies

5.3.1 Preserve open space corridors and buffers to provide separation between natural areas and urban land uses with a goal of maintaining five percent of city as open space.

5.3.2 Plan, locate and manage park and recreation facilities so that they enhance wildlife habitat, minimize erosion, complement natural site features, and create linkages within the developed area.

5.3.3 Balance the desire for public access and interpretive education with preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and other natural sites

5.3.4 Maintain and enforce leash laws and animal at-large laws to stem wildlife predation.

5.3.5 Preserve lake and other scenic views for the public when considering land use decisions and when siting park and recreation facilities.

5.3.6 Plan for an open space system that may include:

a. Natural or scenic areas,
b. Water bodies and drainage easements,
c. Public/private passive park and recreation sites,
d. Cultural, archaeological, geological and historical sites,
e. Large reserve tracts, private parks, common ground, and buffer areas from residential development,
f. Utility corridors, and

g. Trail corridors that may function as wildlife corridors

GOAL 5.4 MAXIMIZE PARK FACILITIES BY LEVERAGING, SHARING AND EFFICIENTLY USING RESOURCES.

Policies

5.4.1 Cooperatively plan for joint-use facilities, meeting and classrooms, athletic fields, and other facilities with the Lake Stevens School District, Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association, Snohomish County Parks Department and other public or private providers of recreation services and facilities that are of mutual benefit each agency and the users/participants in the City and its Urban Growth Area.

5.4.2 Create a comprehensive, balanced park, recreation, and open space system that integrates city facilities and services with resources available from the Lake Stevens School District, Snohomish County and other state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that will best serve and provide for area residents' interests.

5.4.3 Support continued cooperation between the City, non-profit organizations, the Lake Stevens School District, and other agencies for continuation and development of recreation programming for youths, senior citizens, and other segments of the population and to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent area resident's interests through joint planning and development efforts.

5.4.4 Establish inter-local agreements between the City, County, School District and private non-profit organizations, and other agencies to provide for athletic facilities to serve the needs of the City and the Urban Growth Area.

GOAL 5.5 MAINTAIN PARK FACILITIES TO MAXIMIZE LIFE OF THE FACILITIES AND TO PROVIDE AN ATTRACTIVE AND PLEASING ENVIRONMENT FOR USERS.

Policies

5.5.1 Design and develop facilities that reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs. Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, and retain natural conditions and experiences.

5.5.2 Develop a maintenance management system to estimate and plan for life cycle maintenance in addition to replacement costs.

5.53 Provide operation and maintenance to insure safe, serviceable, and functional parks and facilities. Provide adequate funding to operate and maintain existing and new special use sites.

5.5.4 The City shall establish creative methods to efficiently expand park and trail maintenance services such as encouraging volunteer efforts, continued use of

the State Department of Corrections crews, and mutual coordination with other local agencies.

5.5.5 Where appropriate, the city should initiate joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to provide for special activities like shoreline access, aquatic facilities, marinas, and community festivals.

5.5.6 In the design of parks, encourage the use of materials and designs to reduce the occurrence and impacts of vandalism. Parks design which provides for easily surveillance of facilities by residents and by police can reduce the incidence. Use of materials such as graffiti resistant coatings can reduce the impacts.

5.5.7 Repair acts of vandalism immediately to discourage park property and City recreation facilities from becoming targets for further such acts.

5.5.8 Ensure that all park and recreation facilities owned and operated by the City comply with ADA accessibility requirements.

5.5.9 Establish a formal volunteer network as volunteerism is a significant source of energy and ideas. The City must continue to tap and improve existing opportunities to involve the community in its own programs. The City shall formalize a volunteer program that will include "adopt a park," and "adopt a trail," and similar programs.

GOAL 5.6 THE CITY RECOGNIZES THAT LAND IS IN HIGH DEMAND AND THAT ACQUISITIONS MUST BE PURSUED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY'S VISION CONCURRENTLY WITH DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING EXISTING FACILITES TO ACHIEVE A HIGH-QUALITY AND BALANCED PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM.

Policies

5.6.1 Add capacity at existing parks by expanding or improving facilities to accommodate current and future populations and desired uses including walking/hiking trails, active recreation, and passive recreation.

5.6.2 Acquire additional shoreline lands for trails, public docks, waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, boating and other water related recreational activities.

5.6.3 Cooperate with public and private agencies, and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high-quality, convenient park and recreation facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.

5.6.4 Work with developers to identify additional parks, recreation and open space opportunities in redeveloping areas.

5.6.5 Prioritization for new park and recreation facilities shall take into consideration areas within the community, which are under-represented by parks, types of desired facilities not presently available, availability of properties appropriate for a particular type of park, and availability and opportunities for grants and other funding sources.

5.6.6 With a developer requirement of paying GMA based park mitigation fees, developers are still encouraged to install mini-parks voluntarily for the benefit of their developments, however such mini-parks shall not be credited against meeting the developer's mitigation obligation. The city has not defined an LOS for mini-park, but encourages one park within a ½ mile radius of all residential areas

GOAL 5.7 DEVELOP PARK AND TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS.

Policies

5.7.1 Standardize facility design to ensure consistency and quality in the Lake Stevens park system, and establish a standard for trail signage including interpretive, safety, and regulatory signs.

5.7.2 Develop trail improvements to a design and development standard that facilitates maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles and includes:

a. Trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive, directory and mileage signage as well as rules and regulations for trail use.

b. Provide site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, dog waste stations, trash containers.

c. Locate trails in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and to take advantage of access to existing restrooms and drinking water thereby reducing duplication of supporting improvements.5.7.3 Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.

5.7.4 Implement the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards that will improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.

5.7.5 Promote sustainable landscapes to increase the ecological functions of natural areas and utilize native vegetation in planted areas where possible.

5.7.6 Choose durable products to promote human health in a safe environment and consider life-cycle analysis of material options. Incorporate green building technology including nontoxic materials and sustainable development practices. Select local products where feasible. Consider environmental as well as economic impacts

GOAL 5.8 INCREASE AWARENESS OF PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

Policies

5.8.1 Promote the use of local parks through the media, Aquafest, other festivals and by providing information as to their availability such as publishing maps showing parks locations and their available facilities.

5.8.2 Promote and provide volunteer opportunities.

5.8.3 Facilitate community involvement and stewardship.

a. Continue and expand the volunteer work party program.

b. Continue and expand the Adopt-a-trail program.

c. Develop inter-local management agreements.

d. Encourage participation in community trail events.

e. Expand on existing relationships with schools, business and non-profit organizations.

5.8.4 Promote environmental protection as part of providing a successful park and recreation program by establishing a permanent celebration promoting Earth Day activities

5.8.5 Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols, and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

5.8.6 Provide historic and natural interpretation opportunities throughout the City's park system.

5.8.7 Promote commercial recreation opportunities along the Centennial Trail and on and near the lake.

5.8.8 Utilize interpretive materials to highlight features such as native flora and historic points of interest

GOAL 5.9 CREATE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF ACQUIRING, DEVELOPING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ACCURATELY DISTRIBUTE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS.

Policies

5.9.1 Establish financing mechanisms to ensure that adequate parks, open space, and recreation facilities are available to the community.

5.9.2 Investigate innovative available methods or the financing of maintenance and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.

5.3.1 The City shall explore and where appropriate adopt a creative funding strategy which takes advantage of traditional sources, such as capital budgeting, grants, and developer contributions, but also non-traditional sources including, but not limited to volunteers, interlocal agreements, donations, foundations, interjurisdictional partnerships, and any other appropriate mechanism.

5.3.2 In developing the park system, encourage donations and dedications, conservation easements, innovative land use contractual agreements and other methods involving foundations, organizations, associations, trusts, developers, landowners, others from the private sector and neighboring and regional governments.

5.3.3 Allow fee stewardship programs to be established in conjunction with recognized land conservancies to maintain dedicated natural areas in lieu of permitting homeowner associations to assume such responsibilities (assuming the City does not wish to assume such responsibility).