

Informational Briefing

Parks & Recreation Vision Plan (PRVP)

Parks & Recreation Element (PRE)

Comp Plan 2024 Update

Presentation Outline

1. Role of the PRVP and PRE in the 2024 Comp Plan Update *(5 minutes)*
2. PRVP public outreach survey preliminary results *(5 minutes)*
3. Issues and considerations for planning *(5 minutes)*
4. Questions, comments, and discussion



How does Parks' work integrate with PDS' Long-Range Planning?

GMA Requirements

- Under RCW 36.70A.130, Snohomish County and its cities/towns are required to:

- ★ Plan for the succeeding 20-year population and employment growth forecast; and
- ★ Review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of the GMA.

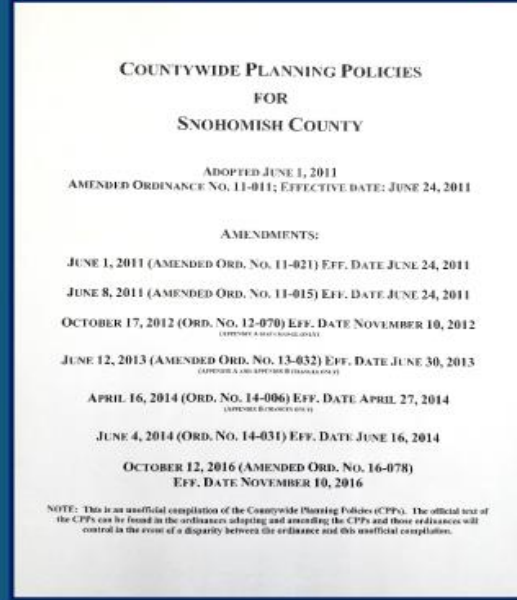
- **June 30, 2024, deadline to complete the update**

**Slide from June 15 Planning Committee Presentation by Frank Slusser*

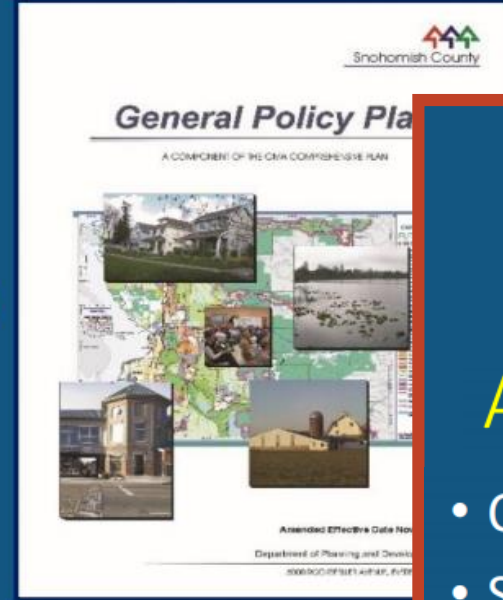
Regional Planning



Countywide Planning



Local Planning



Countywide Planning Policy Areas of Emphasis

- Climate Change
- Social Justice/Equity
- Tribal Coordination
- Annexations
- Missing Middle Housing
- Open Space
- Affordable Housing
- Displacement

*Slides from June 15 Planning Committee Presentation by Frank Slusser

Parks coordination areas



Planning Overview → Public Outreach Prelim. Findings → Emerging Issues/Considerations → Questions & Discussion

Initial Thoughts on 2024 Update Policy Amendment Scope

Baseline

- Amendments as a result of the CPPs changes
- Compliance Review (awaiting Commerce Checklist)
- Amendments from Implementation Matrix Work
- Housekeeping (date changes, references to Vision 2040, etc.)
- Amendments to the Capital Facilities Element, Transportation Element and Parks and Recreation Element corresponding to 2044 plan horizon

Possible Additions Beyond the Baseline

Possible Additions

- Urban Tree Canopy 
- Ag Preservation 
- Open Space 
- Broadband
- Hazard Mitigation
- Resilience 
- Rural/Urban Edges
- Others???

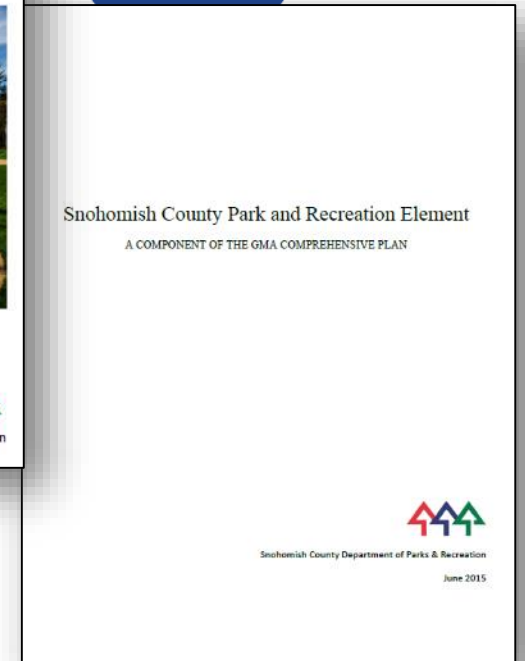
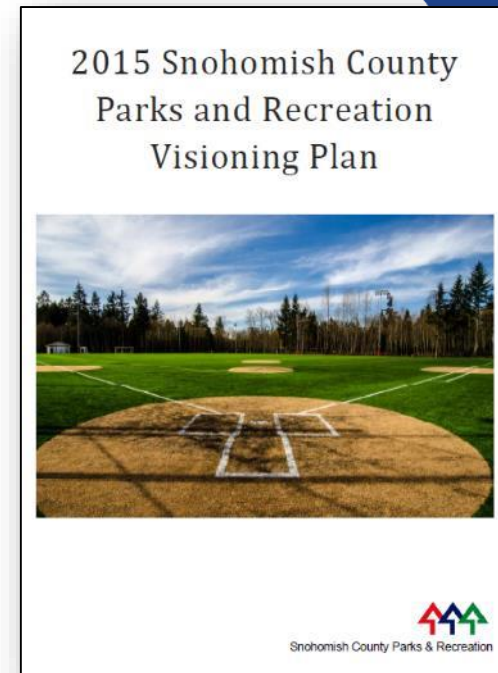
Parks coordination areas 

**Slides from June 15 Planning Committee Presentation by Frank Slusser*

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Comprehensive Plan 2024 Update

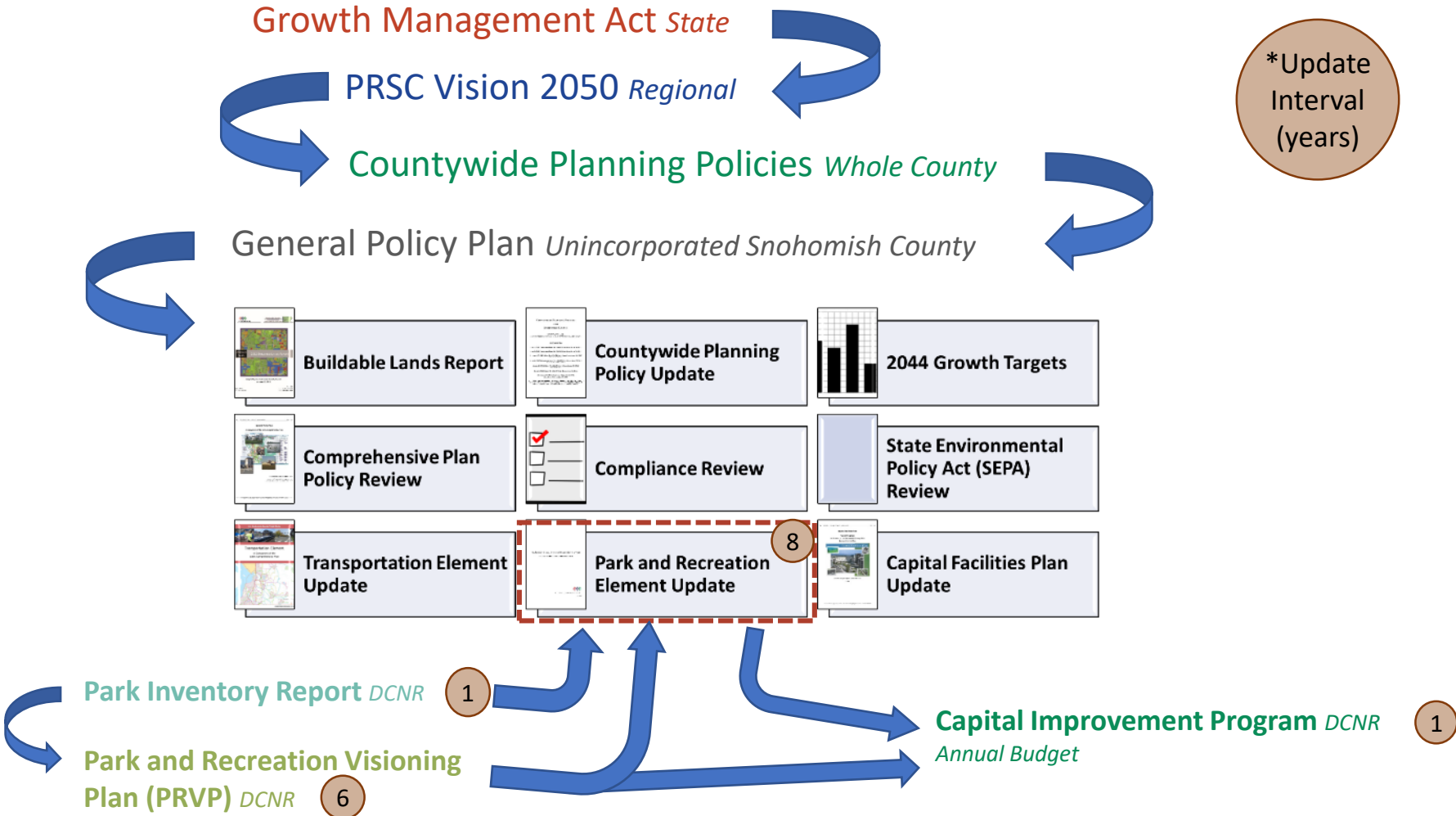
- Parks & Recreation Vision Plan (PRVP)
 - Sets our vision and informs our work for the next 6 years
 - Public outreach for the Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan (feeds into Parks and Recreation Element)
 - State RCO grant funding requirement
 - 2020-2021 drafting; 2021 adoption
- Parks & Recreation Element (PRE)
 - Provides the policies, goals, objectives and strategies for providing park services through 2045 and satisfies GMA requirements.
 - 2022-2023 drafting; 2024 adoption



DCNR

Planning Overview → Public Outreach Prelim. Findings → Emerging Issues/Considerations → Questions & Discussion

How the Plans Work Together



Planning Overview → Public Outreach Prelim. Findings → Emerging Issues/Considerations → Questions & Discussion

PRVP Survey Preliminary Results

April 22 – June 1, 2021



SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Conservation & Natural Resources

Outreach Process

OUTREACH PROCESS

4 Public meetings

13 Translated languages

Focus groups 10

Park kiosk fliers posted 50

1,815 Online survey responses

3 Advisory Boards / Council Committees: County Council, Parks Advisory Board, Planning Commission (July 2021)

AND MORE

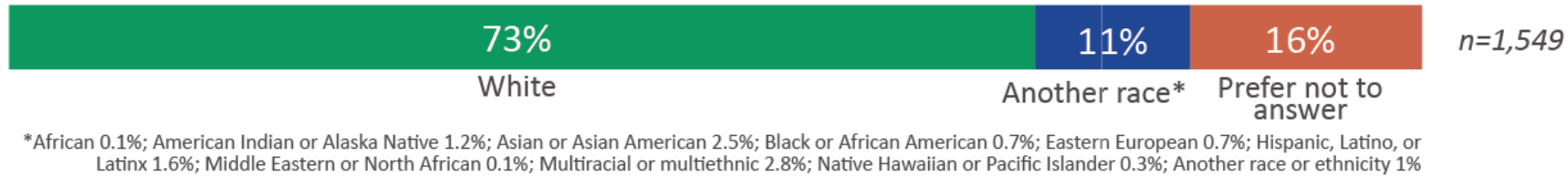
- Press release, website notices, posts on social media: Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, Parks e-newsletter
- Comments collected via email and phone calls
- Briefings, discussion and polling for Parks' staff input

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondent Location



Respondent Race



Snohomish County's Demographics:

Location:
44% Unincorporated
56% Incorporated

Race/Ethnicity:

68% White
12% Asian
11% Hispanic
5% Two or more
3% Black
1% Native

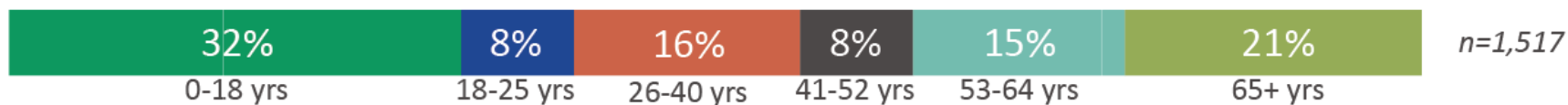
Household income:

25%: Under \$50k
31%: \$50k-\$100k
32%: \$100k-\$200k
12%: \$200k+
(Median: \$89,260)

Household Annual Income



Youngest Age in the Household



Oldest Age in the Household



Years living in Snohomish Co



Planning Overview → **Public Outreach Prelim. Findings** → Emerging Issues/Considerations → Questions & Discussion

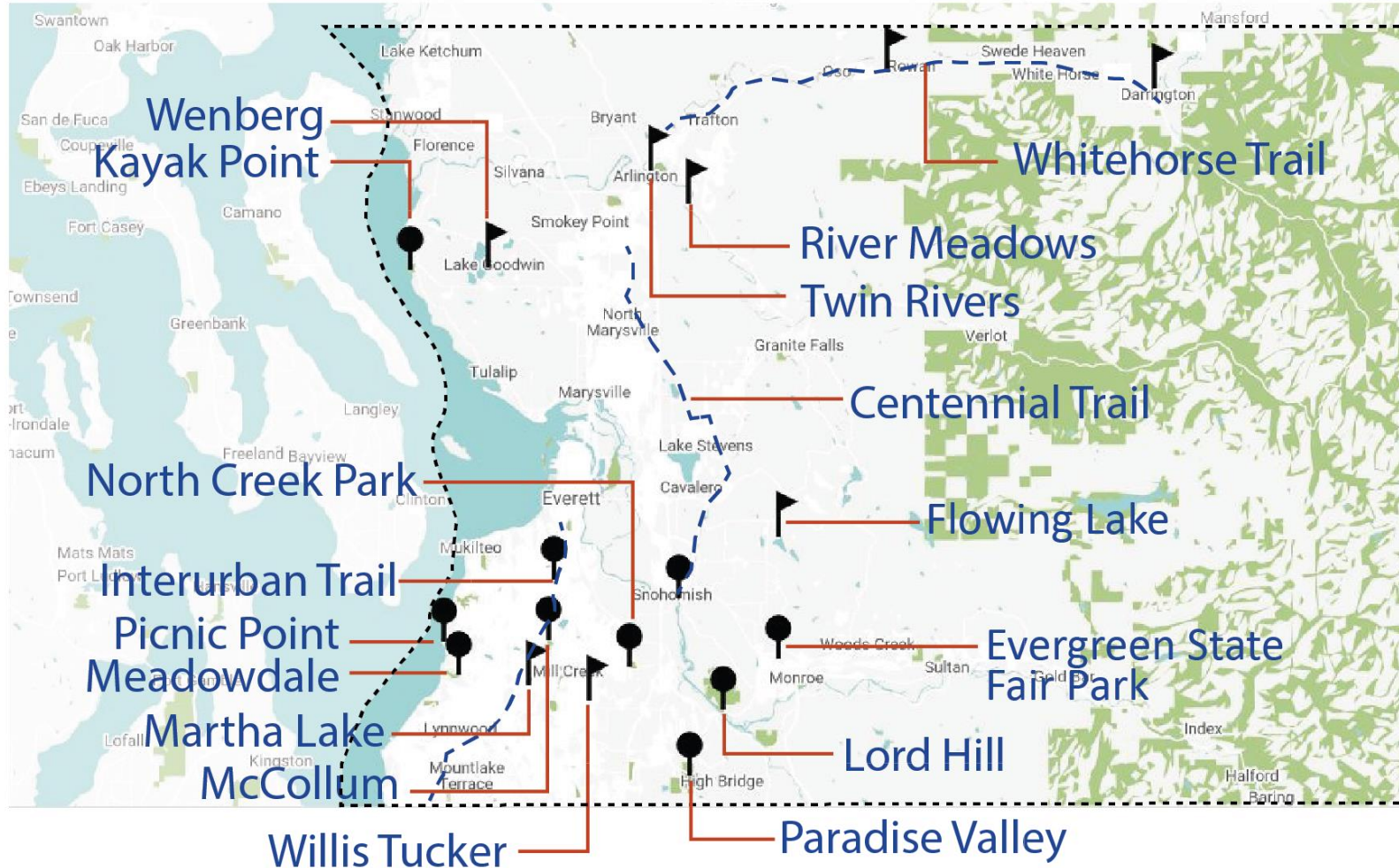
WHAT PARKS DO YOU USE MOST OFTEN?

(Survey results supplemented with 2020 park visitor counts)

📍 Survey responses

🚩 Park Visitor Counts

n=1,717



Survey Results (top 15):

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Lord Hill | 9. Evergreen State Fair Park |
| 2. Centennial Trail | 10. Picnic Point |
| 3. Meadowdale | 11. Flowing Lake |
| 4. Willis Tucker | 12. North Creek |
| 5. McCollum | 13. Spencer Island |
| 6. Interurban Trail | 14. Southwest County |
| 7. Paradise Valley | 15. Other |
| 8. Kayak Point | |

Park Visitor Counts (top 15):

**Excluding Evergreen State Fair Park*

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Centennial Trail | 9. Lord Hill |
| 2. Kayak Point | 10. Picnic Point |
| 3. Twin Rivers | 11. Interurban Trail |
| 4. Wenberg | 12. Paradise Valley |
| 5. Willis Tucker | 13. Whitehorse Trail |
| 6. River Meadows | 14. Martha Lake |
| 7. Flowing Lake | 15. McCollum |
| 8. Meadowdale | |

Planning Overview → **Public Outreach Prelim. Findings** → Emerging Issues/Considerations → Questions & Discussion

Values

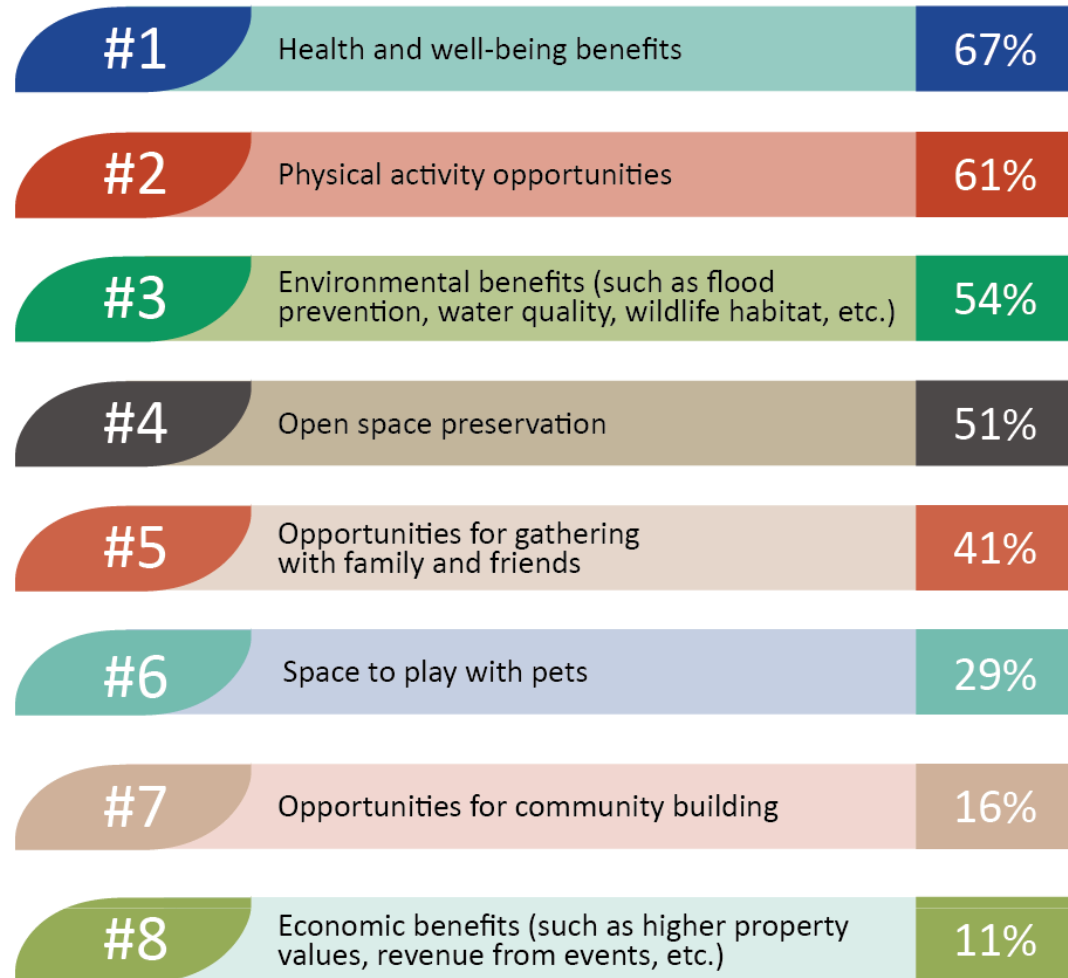
“Parks bring value (and revenue to local business) and strengthen community. As population grows here, the county needs more spaces to find separation from urban pressures, facilities for organized sports, and a shooting park to direct activity (legitimate and illicit) out of the unincorporated areas plagued today into a facility that will benefit everyone.”

“I see the parks as a place to enjoy nature. I don't want to go and have fast moving/loud things destroy the very reason I go. Please try to keep the parks the way nature meant them to be.”

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT YOUR USE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

(Select all that apply) Ranked results

n=1,581

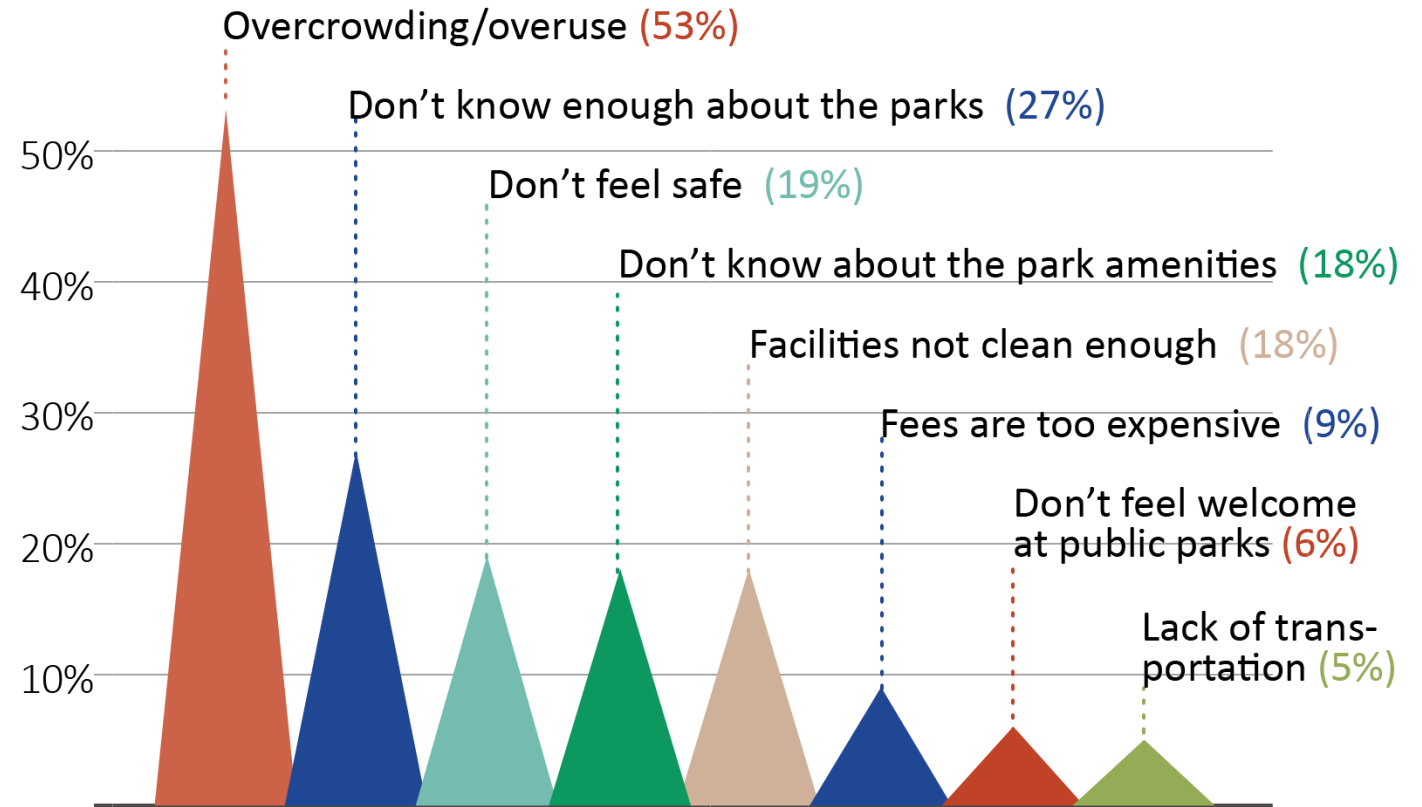


Barriers

“Wheelchair and walker friendly trails and lookouts seem to be few and hard to get to.”

“I would like there to be a yearly pass for county parks that is less than \$75 if not launching a boat. Maybe \$30 like discover pass.”

“Work with the community more. Support the BIPOC community members. Most of the park users and the Parks leadership are white people who are more often than not represent the middle class. Parks should be part of community resiliency and connected to ALL community members.”



WHAT BARRIERS PREVENT YOU FROM ENJOYING SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

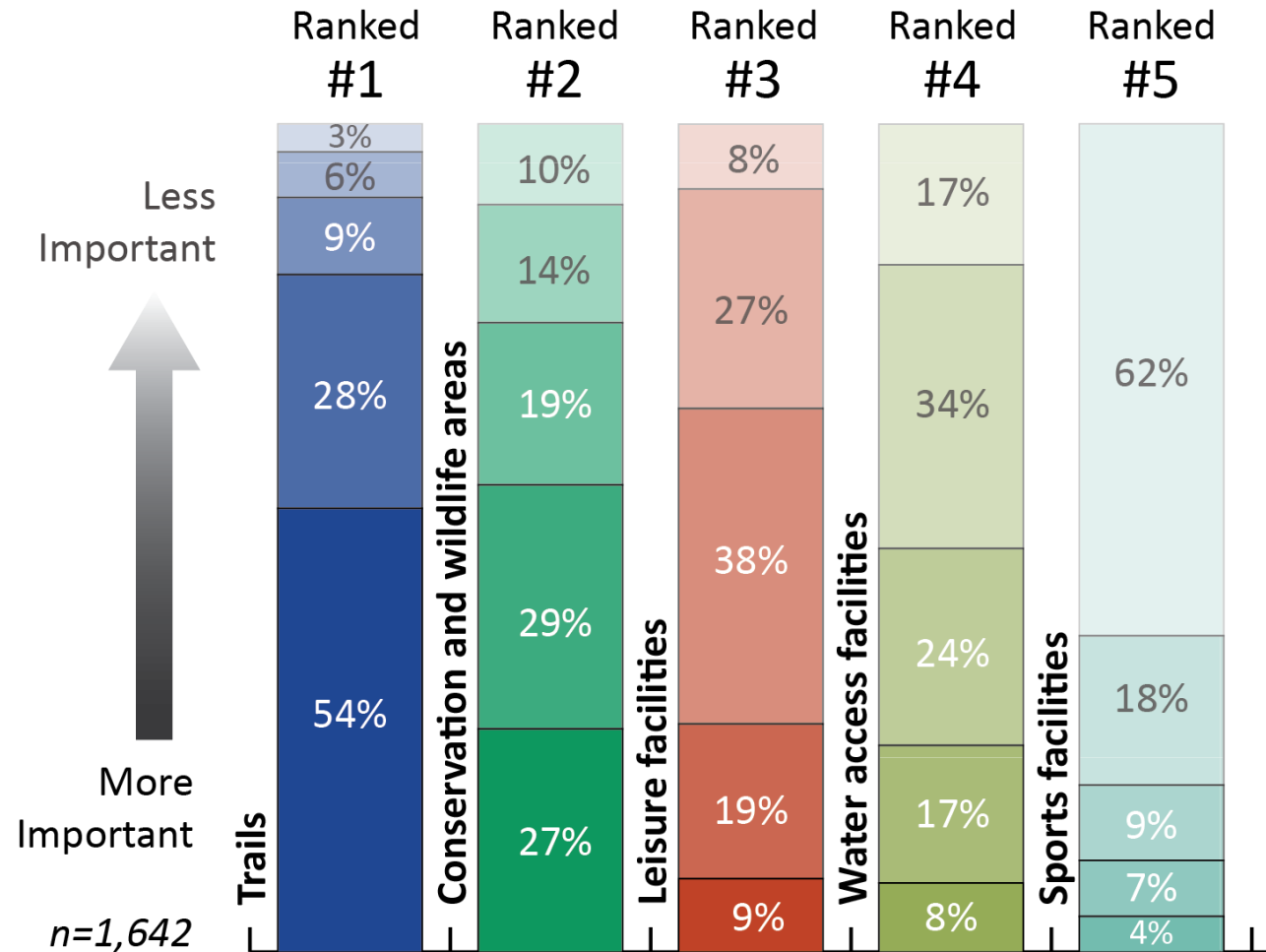
(Select all that apply)

n=1,340

Priorities

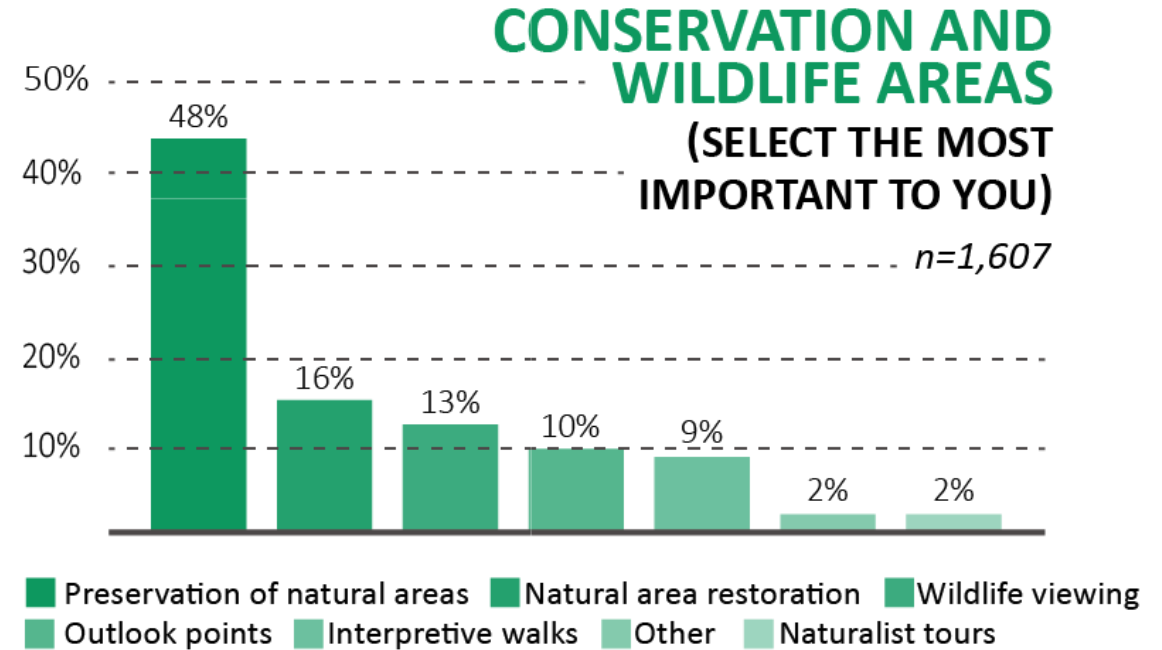
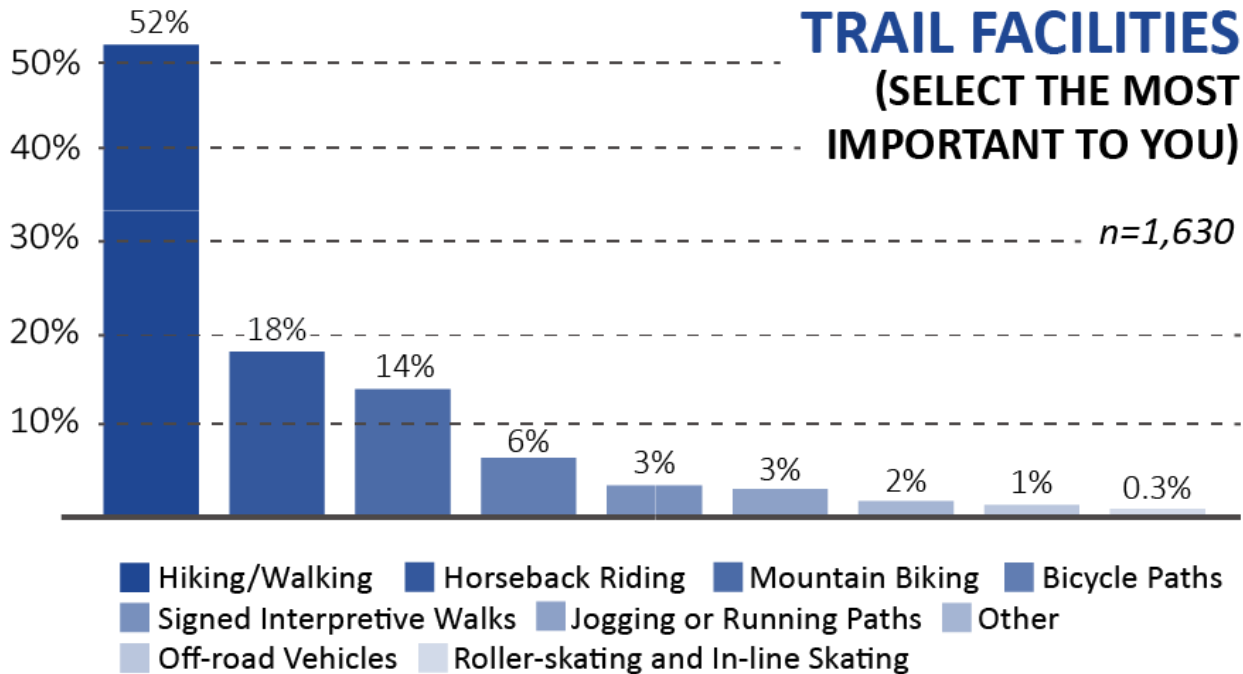
“We must protect habitat corridors in our urban growth areas. Purchasing key properties would help educate and incentivize private property owners to help establish protected corridors. This is a key response to our climate crisis.”

“It's crucial that every park and playground be designed for functional accessibility for people with disabilities. We need to start going beyond the bare minimum requirements of the ADA and designing our public spaces according to principles of universal design and inclusive access.”



RANK THE TYPES OF PARK SITES ACCORDING TO WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS TO FOCUS ITS RESOURCES DURING THE NEXT SIX YEARS

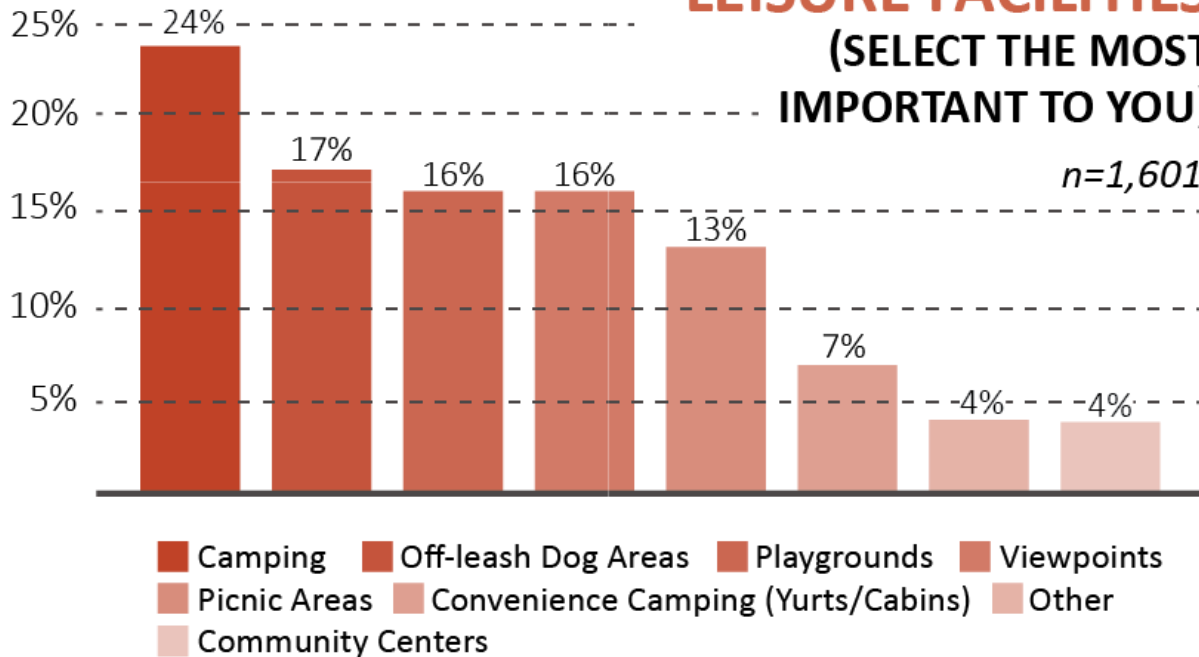
Priorities



Priorities

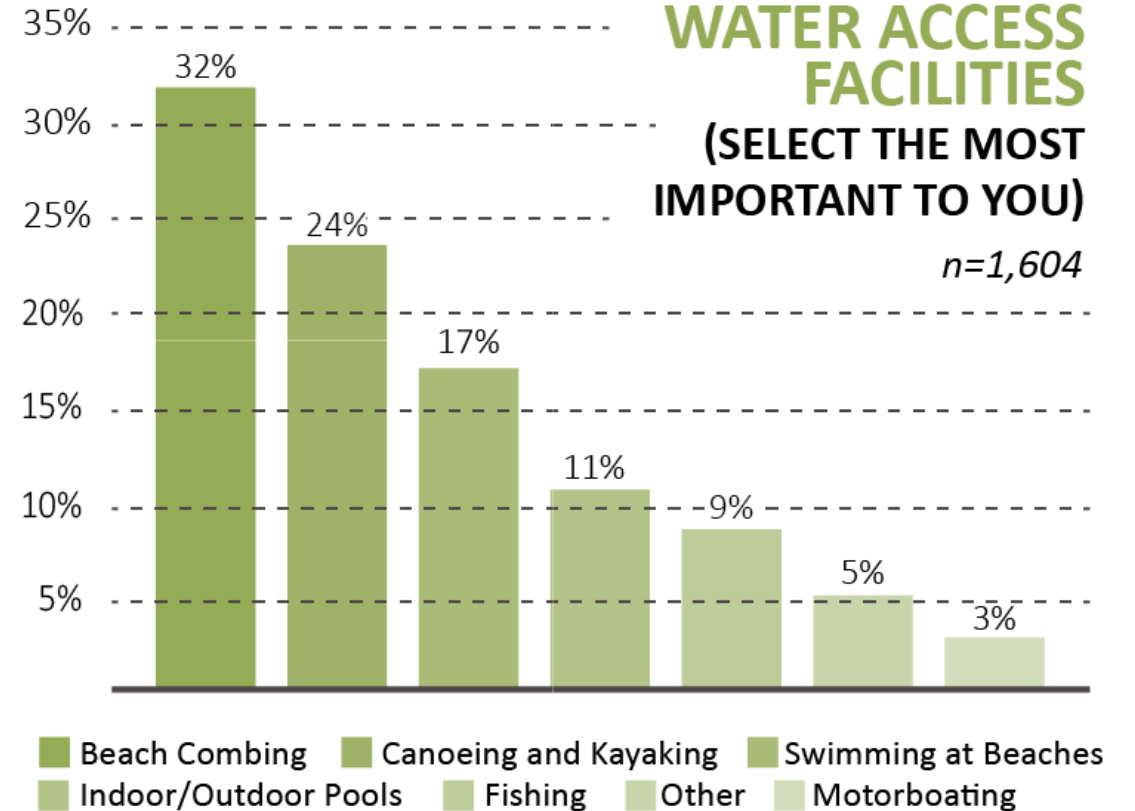
LEISURE FACILITIES (SELECT THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU)

n=1,601

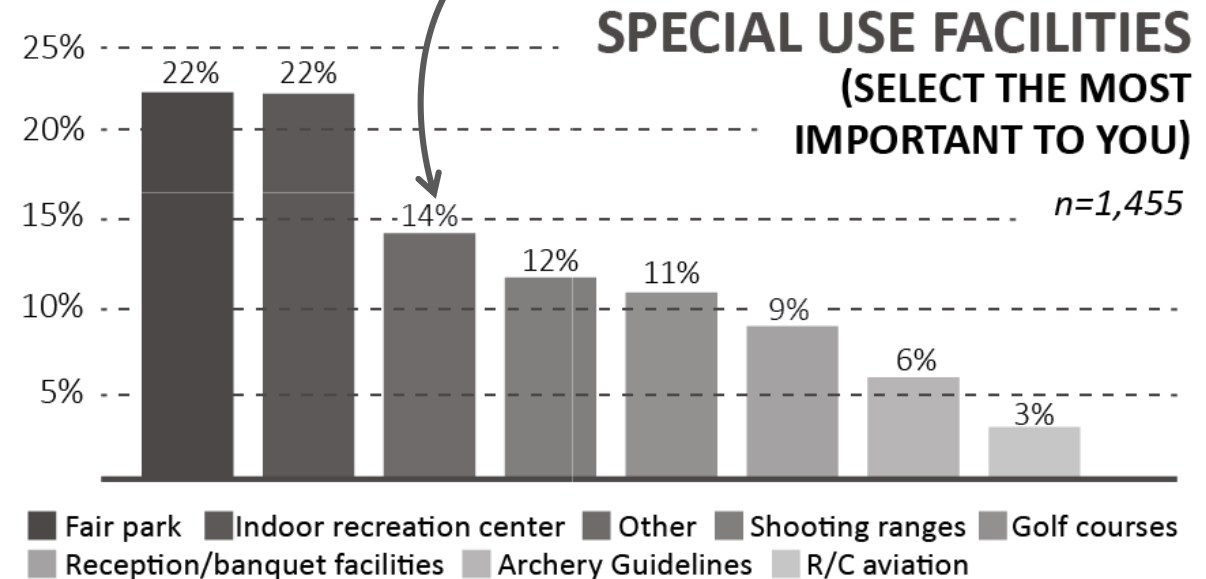
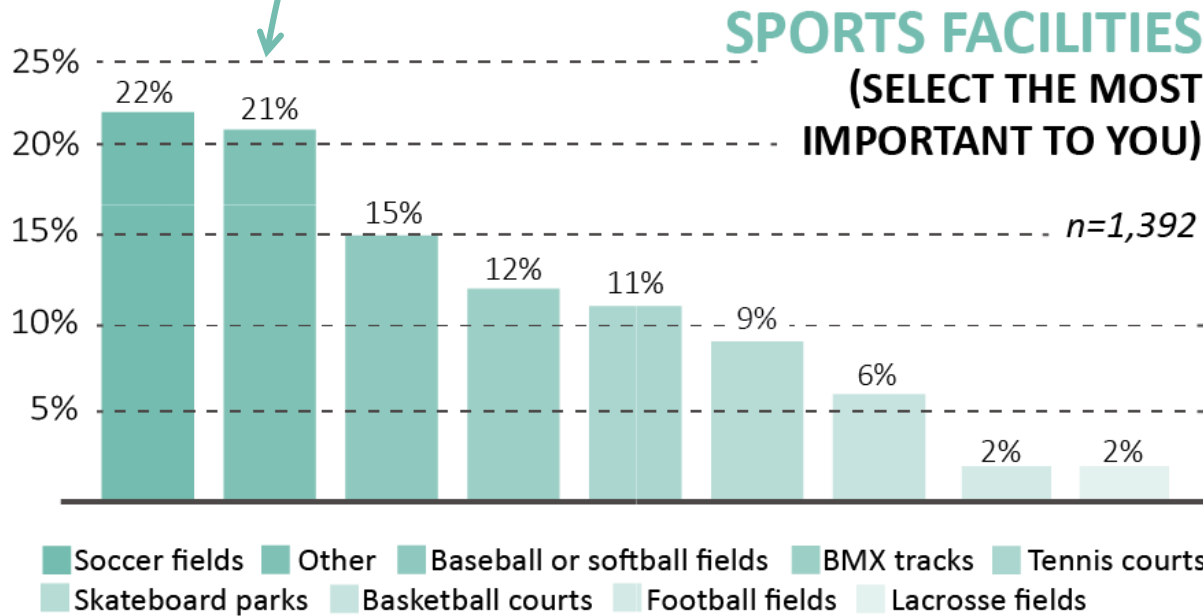


WATER ACCESS FACILITIES (SELECT THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU)

n=1,604



Priorities



Planning Overview → **Public Outreach Prelim. Findings** → Emerging Issues/Considerations → Questions & Discussion

Priorities

“Improve and maintain current parks for safety, accessibility and functional use.”

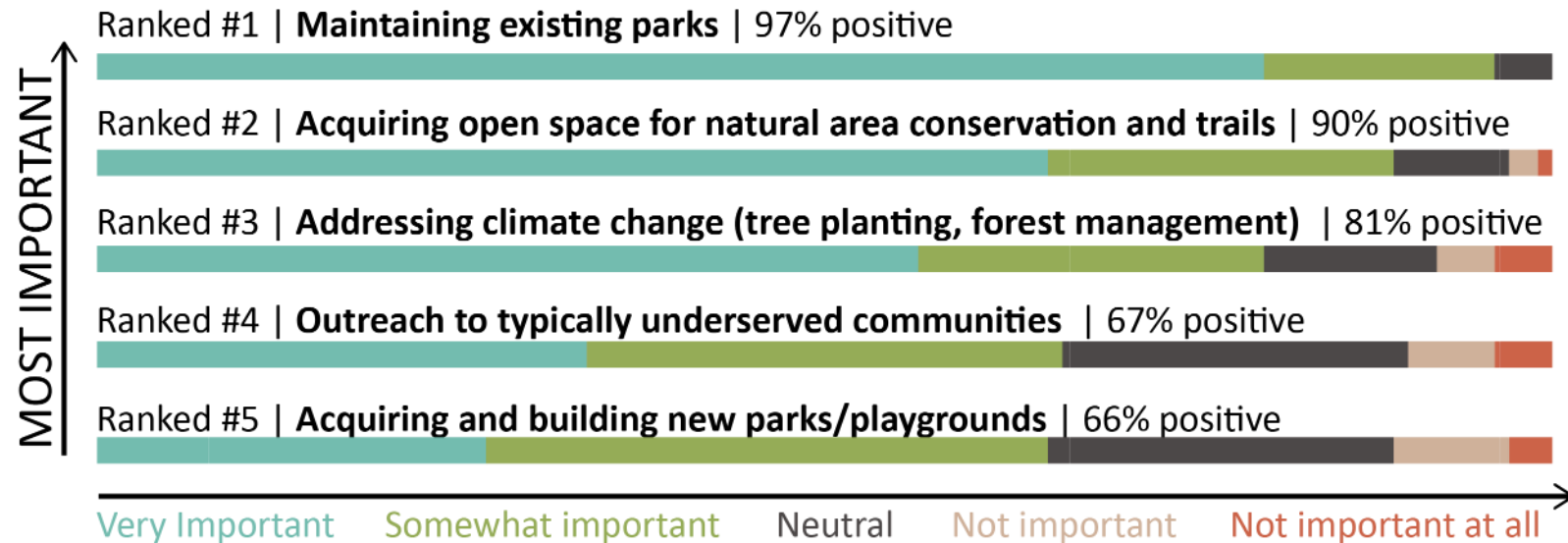
“Cycling paths and mountain bike trails! Mountain biking has exploded in popularity these past couple of years.”

“Outdoors experiences such as wildlife watching and knowing that the wildlife has a place to live in the parks.”

“Beaches and waterfront walking paths, we have the gift of being by Puget Sound, take advantage of this special place.”

HOW IMPORTANT IS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SITE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES TO YOU?

n=1,599



Funding

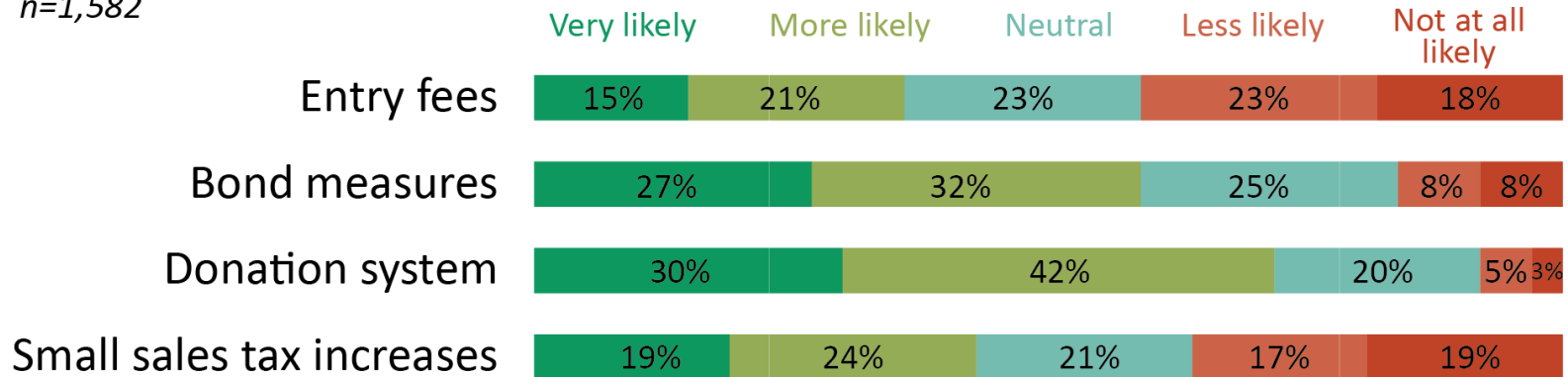
“Not everyone can afford a flat entry fee - I think a suggested donation would be helpful because then everyone can still use the park/facility and the ones who can afford it can donate.”

“Entry fees might restrict those who most need the open space and would be another case of economic/social injustice.”

“You could have opportunities for the community to help with fundraisers for their local parks. I have lived in Snohomish for 3 years and didn’t know about 95% of the parks that were listed in this survey. Perhaps the popular parks would be less crowded if people knew more about the other parks that are available.”

HOW LIKELY WOULD YOU BE TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS?

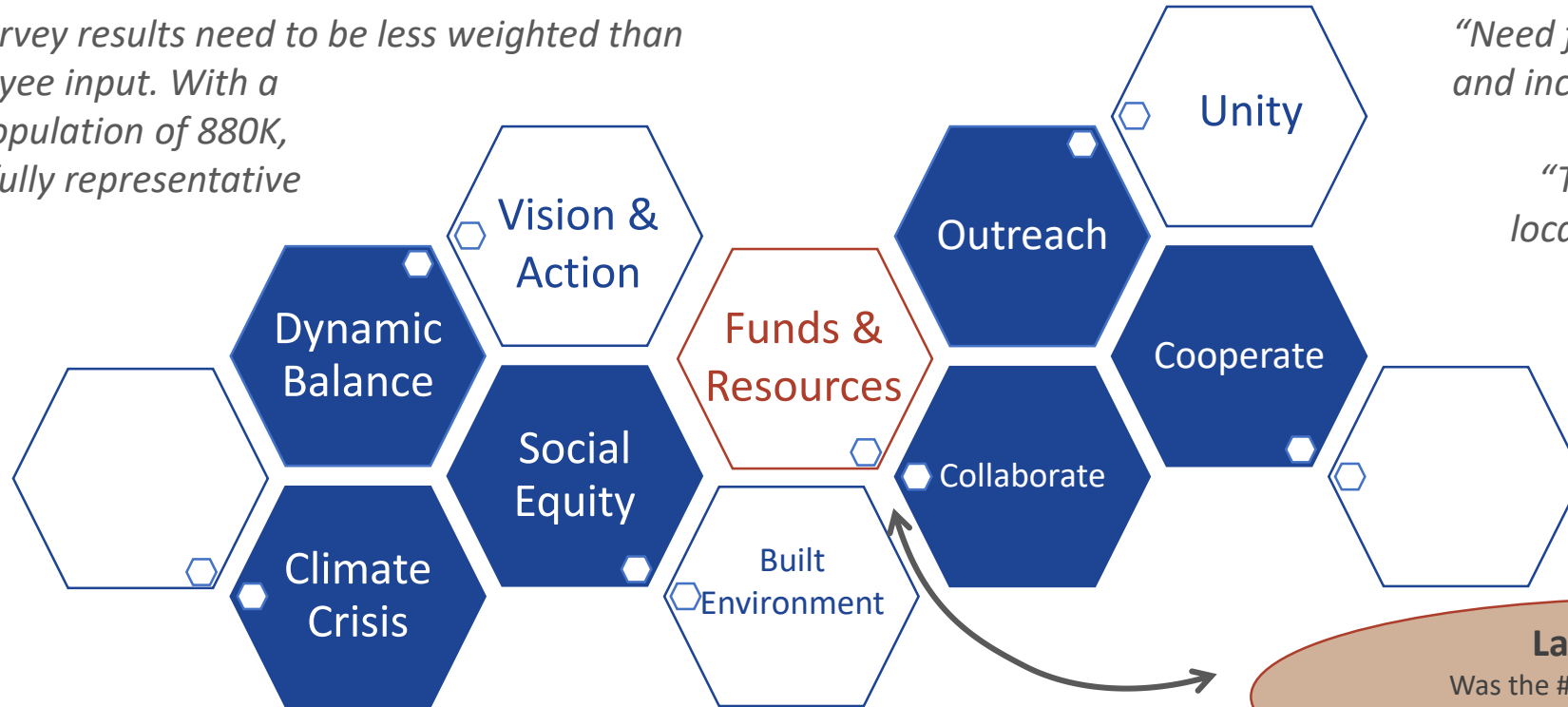
n=1,582



Considerations & Discussion

DCNR Process –Staff & Council Feedback

“I think survey results need to be less weighted than the employee input. With a County population of 880K, it’s not a fully representative survey.”



“Need for more diverse engagement and inclusion”

“Think about collaboration with local businesses and sponsorships (For Example, a rain garden sponsored by XYZ nursery).”

Lack of Funding
Was the #1 obstacle mentioned by stakeholders and staff to achieving goals or being innovative

Most important future consideration? “Balancing quality and quantity. With a growing population, there will be a natural increase in the demand for parks. Balancing that demand with resources and assets will be crucial to maintaining a great park system.”

Planning Overview → Public Outreach Prelim. Findings → **Emerging Issues/Considerations** → Questions & Discussion

Park Classification & Level of Service Overview



Park Classifications

- Neighborhood
- Community
- Regional
- Regional Trails
- Open Space/Preserve
- Special Use

Table 6. Minimum Level of Service Standards for Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks and Regional Trails and Anticipated Number of Future Facilities Needed by 2035

| Summary Capacity Measures | Unit Measure | Minimum LOS Standard | Needed Units to Meet Demand: 2035 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Net Unincorporated Growth 2013 - 2035 | | | 63,338 |
| Active Recreation Facilities | Number | 3,250 | 15 |
| Passive Recreation Facilities | Number | 3,650 | 11 |
| Regional Trail | Open Miles | 8,750 | 6 |
| Waterfront | Mile | 11,500 | 1 |
| Campsites | Number | 1,050 | 43 |
| Parking Spaces | Number | 120 | 393 |



Park Classification & Level of Service Overview

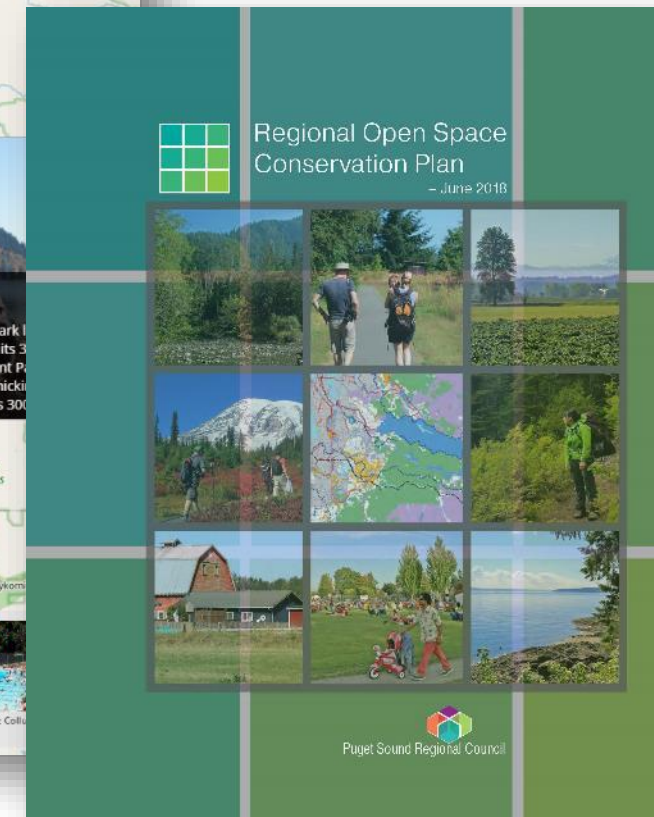
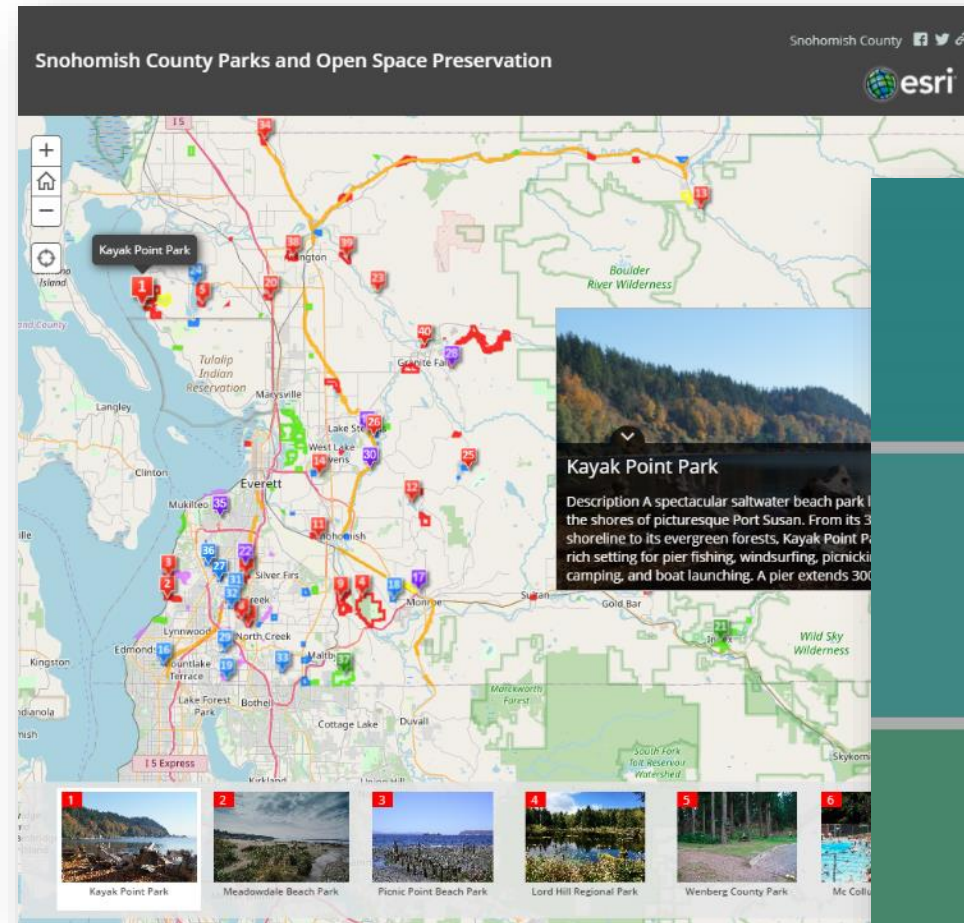


Policy Question

Should 'Open Space/Preserve' classified parks be considered for inclusion as facilities designated as Necessary to Support Development, along with the currently identified 'Neighborhood,' 'Community' and 'Regional' Parks, along with 'Regional Trails?'

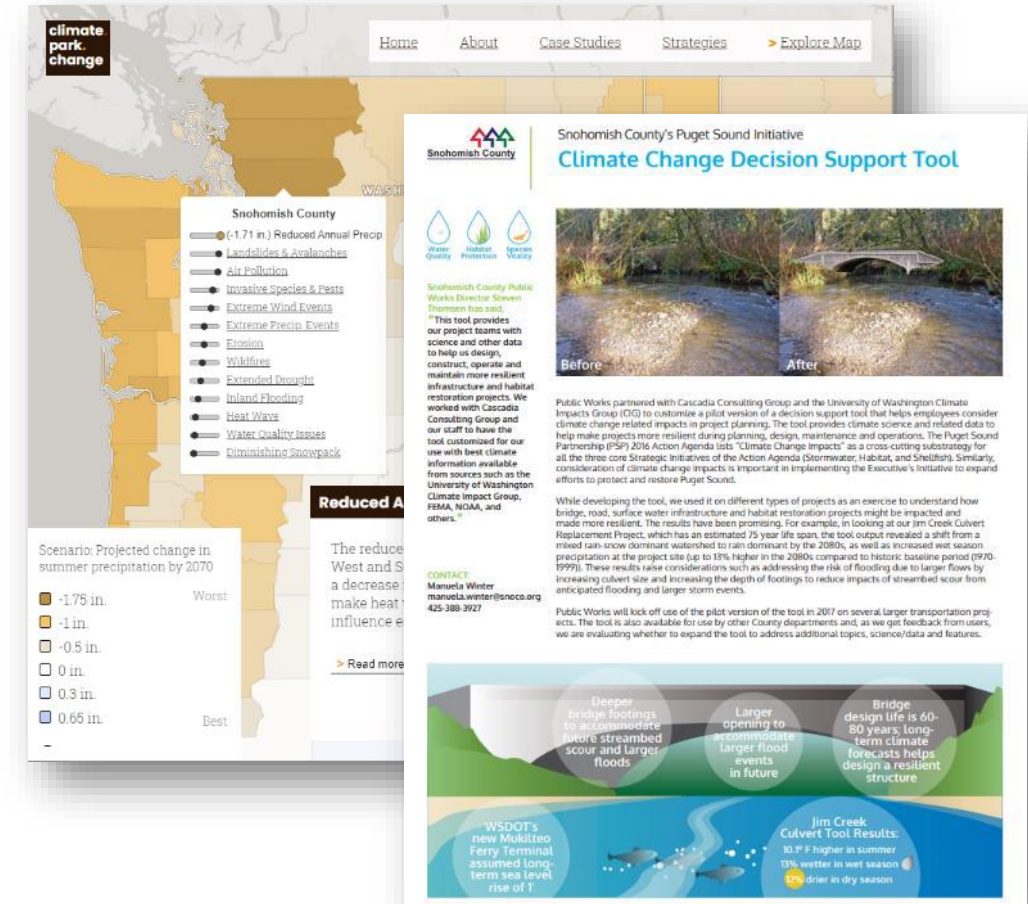
Open Space Preservation

- Open space preserves target rural areas.
- Huge value to mental health in urban areas.
- Implementing the PSRC Regional Open Space Conservation Plan
 - Coordination with PDS



Climate Change & Parks

- **Use existing tools**
 - Public Works' climate change adaptation decision support tool
 - ClimateParkChange.net (National Recreation and Parks Association): *"Mitigation and adaptation strategies to build environmental and community resiliency through the power of local parks and recreation"*
- **Working interdepartmentally and across DCNR**
 - Office of Energy & Sustainability's Climate Action Planning
 - SWM & PDS on balancing open space for conservation, ecosystem services, and public access for recreation
 - Office of Agriculture to steward regenerative farming on park properties



climate park change

Home About Case Studies Strategies > Explore Map

Snohomish County

- (-1.71 in.) Reduced Annual Precip
- Landslides & Avalanches
- Air Pollution
- Invasive Species & Pests
- Extreme Wind Events
- Extreme Precip. Events
- Flooding
- Wildfires
- Extended Drought
- Inland Flooding
- Heat/Wave
- Water Quality Issues
- Diminishing Snowpack

Reduced A

Scenario: Projected change in summer precipitation by 2070

- -1.75 in. Worst
- -1 in.
- -0.5 in.
- 0 in.
- 0.3 in.
- 0.65 in. Best

The reduce West and S a decrease make heat influence e

> Read more

Snohomish County

Snohomish County's Puget Sound Initiative

Climate Change Decision Support Tool

Water Quality Habitat Protection Species at Risk

Snohomish County Public Works Director Steven Thomson has said,

"This tool provides our project teams with science and other data to help us design, construct, operate and maintain more resilient infrastructure and habitat restoration projects. We worked with Cascadia Consulting Group and our staff to have the tool customized for our use with best climate information available from sources such as the University of Washington Climate Impact Group, FEMA, NOAA, and others."

FORNIGHT

Manuela Winter
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425-388-3927

Public Works partnered with Cascadia Consulting Group and the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (CIG) to customize a pilot version of a decision support tool that helps employees consider climate change related impacts in project planning. The tool provides climate science and related data to help make projects more resilient during planning, design, maintenance and operations. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) 2016 Action Agenda lists "Climate Change Impacts" as a cross-cutting substrategy for all the three core Strategic Initiatives of the Action Agenda (Stormwater, Habitat, and Shellfish). Similarly, consideration of climate change impacts is important in implementing the Executive's Initiative to expand efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound.

While developing the tool, we used it on different types of projects as an exercise to understand how bridge, road, surface water infrastructure and habitat restoration projects might be impacted and made more resilient. The results have been promising. For example, in looking at our Jim Creek Culvert Replacement Project, which has an estimated 75 year life span, the tool output revealed a shift from a mixed rain-snow dominant watershed to rain dominant by the 2080s, as well as increased wet season precipitation at the project site (up to 13% higher in the 2080s compared to historic baseline period (1970-1999)). These results raise considerations such as addressing the risk of flooding due to larger flows by increasing culvert size and increasing the depth of floodings to reduce impacts of streambed scour from anticipated flooding and larger storm events.

Public Works will kick off use of the pilot version of the tool in 2017 on several larger transportation projects. The tool is also available for use by other County departments and, as we get feedback from users, we are evaluating whether to expand the tool to address additional topics, science/data and features.

Deeper bridge footings to accommodate future streambed scour and larger floods

Larger opening to accommodate larger flood events in future

Bridge design life is 60-80 years; long-term climate forecasts helps design a resilient structure

WSDOT's new Mukilteo Ferry Terminal assumed long-term sea level rise of 1

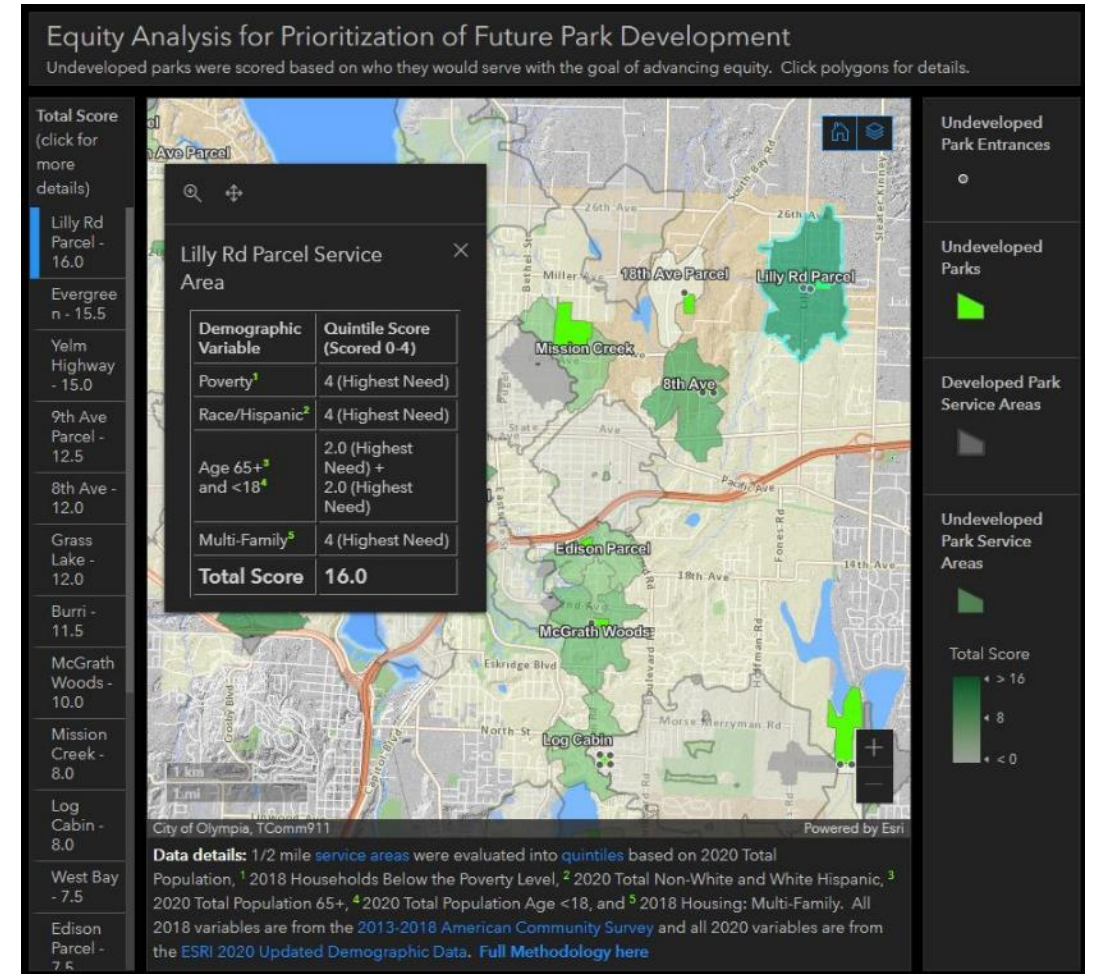
Jim Creek Culvert Tool Results:

- 10.1° F higher in summer
- 13% wetter in wet season
- 50% drier in dry season

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Equity & Parks

- Use Existing Tools
 - Trust for Public Lands ParkScore Index
 - Learn from other jurisdictions doing this work – Lynnwood, Olympia, Seattle
- Work with Office of Social Justice
 - Consider mapping integrated into other relevant County-wide mapping (human services, public works, parks system)
- Future Tool?
 - Help shape acquisitions and development priority areas
 - Mapping demographics and services, then rank based on highest need to serve historically marginalized communities



Questions?

Project Contact Information:

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