



City of
**MOUNT
VERNON**

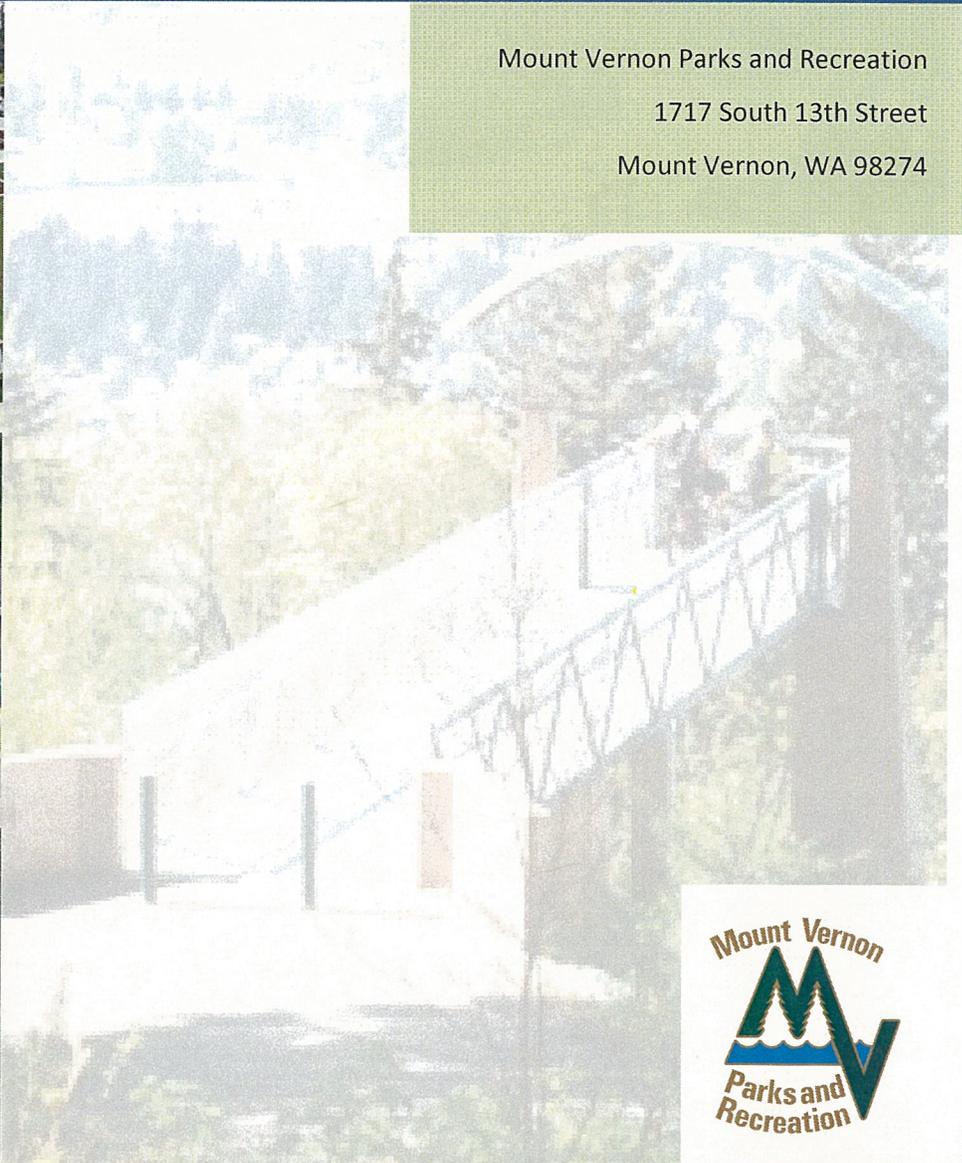
2014

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation

1717 South 13th Street

Mount Vernon, WA 98274



September 2014 - Final

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mount Vernon would like to acknowledge all of those individuals who gave their time and energy to developing this Comprehensive Plan.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Plan updates the 2007 plan. It is intended to lay the groundwork for the future of the City park system. The plan inventories existing parks and identifies current and future park needs. It explores potential park development and/or improvements, and prioritizes strategies to meet a level of service which fits the needs of City residents. The plan also describes existing and potential funding sources that will be needed to maintain park facilities and recreation services.

The plan establishes project priority by analyzing:

1. **Public Input – Survey, Open Houses, Focus Groups and Mailings**, which provides direct and fundamental information from those who use facilities and programs in Mount Vernon and indicate facility or program desire;
2. **Park Needs**, which provide statistically valid information on statewide trends in recreation and a population based Level of Service (LOS) standard for Mount Vernon; Park Condition is also assessed here.
3. **Use Patterns**, Results from focus groups and from those who oversee facilities and programs in Mount Vernon and indicate facility or program needs;

Mount Vernon grew in population over 21 percent between 2000 and 2014. Future projections indicate similar growth may occur during the next 25 years. As a growing community with higher densities, there will be an increase in the need for parks and recreational facilities. The changing pattern of projected growth may require that the City's priorities and strategies related to the growth of park and recreation facilities will need to adapt in several ways. Among the ways that such strategies may change is by focusing more attention and resources into park planning for areas that are projected to grow. Community desired facilities, like trail corridors, are much harder to coordinate after plat or commercial development approval. This will help assure the needs are being addressed and the facilities are connected.

The park plan contains an inventory of City facilities: parks, recreation, trails, and related sites. The inventory is supplemented by a description of other facilities available to City residents; specifically, sites and facilities owned or controlled by County and school districts. Inventories primarily show facilities and speak very little about the condition of the facilities.

The “Level of Service” (LOS) standards used for this plan are derived from looking at how much of a park facility is currently provide per a unit of the population. This LOS method will be very effective in the future to assess if the City is able to continue providing parks and trails at the current level as the population grows. Level of Service (LOS) standards are often derived by the number

and size of facilities without accounting for the facility conditions. The condition of facilities becomes important for making proper comparisons in service levels. This plan assesses facility condition as well.

Use patterns can be analyzed in a variety of ways. Lack of facility space, a shortage of ball fields, or an overrun trail system may lead Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation (MVPR) staff to easily conclude needs are not being met. In other cases, the analysis may be more complex. For example, the fact that a facility is being used under capacity may lead some to believe the needs are being sufficiently met. Whereas, the real reason the facility is being underutilized may be due to maintenance needs at the facility, expansion needs, or some other inadequacy. In other situations, there may be a surplus of baseball and/or softball fields on the west side of the City but a shortage on the east side, even though the LOS standards indicate there is sufficient amount of fields City-wide. Because of the many variables, it becomes necessary to look at each facility and/or program “site specifically” to determine if the needs of the community are in fact being met. This level of analysis is addressed in the chapter titled *Use Patterns*.

The parks plan includes a discussion of sources available to fund the maintenance and expansion of the City parks system; a system that must meet the growing needs of an increasingly urbanized area. These sources include a variety of tax revenues, user fees, mitigation fees, and grants and loans from state, federal, and private sources. While the plan makes general recommendations regarding specific funding options, it assumes that most existing sources will continue to be available. Other potential sources will allow the City to be flexible and consider future funding options as circumstances may dictate.

The focus of this Comprehensive Plan update is to provide direction for the Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department (MVPR) for the next six years. The update will also allow continued MVPR eligibility for Recreational Conservation Office (RCO) grants. The main priority of the plan update is to ensure the need for adequate public facilities that maintain an adequate level of parks and recreational services and, perhaps more importantly, the needs of Mount Vernon residents are being met. Although challenges may force MVPR to deviate in some instances, the goal of providing satisfaction with recreational opportunities to Mount Vernon residents will remain.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Mount Vernon is located in the heart of Skagit County, an area known worldwide for its abundance of natural and recreational resources. Mount Vernon (MV) is the largest city in Skagit County with a diverse and vibrant community that shows great interest in access to recreational opportunities.

This report discusses the findings and recommendations for meeting park and recreation services in Mount Vernon. This Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (PRCP) is an update to previous plans and it reflects the changes in both supply and demand for parks and recreation since the most recent 2007 plan.

MISSION STATEMENTS

City of Mount Vernon: We provide professional, efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference for our Community.

Vision Statement-

- Mount Vernon is a City that is characterized by a "hometown" atmosphere, where Residents and Government work together in a trusting environment.
- We encourage personal and economic vitality and pride in our accomplishments.
- We promote cooperation with our neighbors to create a greater community that is a preferred place to live, work and play.

Parks and Recreation:

Our commitment is to continually strive to create and maintain quality services and leisure experiences which are readily accessible to the public.

Department Goals

- To successfully meet the needs and desires of Mount Vernon's citizens
- To provide programs and facilities accessible to citizens of Mount Vernon
- To work closely with other organizations and jurisdictions, providing quality parks and recreation services that are complimentary, not duplicative
- To enhanced the public's understanding of environmentally sensitive parkland
- To encourage health and exercise for all citizens by providing access to park facilities and recreation programs
- To continue to provide a parks and recreation system that is efficiently administered and maintained
- To treat all people respectfully and in a courteous manner

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

A strong parks and recreation system is essential for a thriving community. Recreation benefits the individual, as well as, the society as a whole; both mentally and physically. It is the overall goal of

this plan to provide direction over the relative short term of the next six years so that Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation may work smartly in fulfilling specific needs as deliberately as possible.

This plan will establish a sense of direction for Mount Vernon to follow in serving the recreational needs of its residents. The update is a Growth Management Act (GMA) requirement and fulfills grant funding eligibility criteria required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). It helps to provide direction for MVPR in regards to property acquisition, park development, capital improvement planning, and programs for the next six years.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The elements contained in this plan include:

Chapter 1, Introduction: an overview of the document organization, discussion of opportunities for public comment, and an overview of the public process.

Chapter 2, Community Profile: discusses community profile information that influences demand for parks and recreation services. This includes demographic and land use information.

Chapter 3, Existing Recreational Facilities: includes an inventory of existing parks and recreation areas in the MV area. This includes lands owned by other agencies.

Chapter 4, Existing Operations and Administration: includes an analysis of department operations, organization, staffing, operating budget, and maintenance operations.

Chapter 5, Public Input: results of public open house meetings and community wide public opinion survey.

Chapter 6, Park Needs Assessment: an overview of the results of the State of Washington parks and recreation needs assessment and a quantity and quality level of service analysis specific to Mount Vernon.

Chapter 7, Use Patterns: results from focus groups of specific recreation types and other specific user groups.

Chapter 8, Analysis: combines the information from chapters 5, 6, and 7 into an aggregated ranking of different types of park facilities or park uses.

Chapter 9, Recommendations: identifies ranked project recommendations related to the acquisition, development administration, and management of parks and recreation in Mount Vernon.

Chapter 10, Implementation Strategy: provides a list of potential funding sources and strategies.

PLANNING PROCESS and PUBLIC INVOLVMENT

The planning process consisted of the following steps:

Background Analysis: All studies available to us, including 2000 and 2007 PRCP, and The Skagit County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, and the City of Mount Vernon General Comprehensive Plan (MVCP), were reviewed for specific direction.

Open Public Input: The process included the following;

1. Three (3) open public meetings throughout the City. The meetings served as a forum for listening to the concerns and desires of residents.
2. An internet survey developed to help the public communicate their recreational interests.
3. Study Session with City Council and the Mayor to hear input received through the various council wards and political representatives.
4. Direct mailing in City utility bills.

Focus Group Input: Focus groups of the major recreational areas were developed to provide direction in the following areas.

- 1-Trails
- 2-Active Recreation, Sports Programs, and Fields
- 3-Passive Recreation, Natural Resources, and Open Spaces
- 4-Enrichment Programs and Special Use Facilities
- 5-Latino Park Users
- 6-Teen Park Users
- 7-Senior Park Users
- 8-City Council and Staff

These groups developed input regarding specific recommendations of each of these recreational areas and an outreach to broaden the range of input into the comprehensive plan.

Park Needs Analysis: Background data for the City of Mount Vernon was compiled to document specific community needs regarding park quantities and conditions. The most recent state of Washington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was also summarized to provide direction on park needs based on current recreational trends.

Draft Recommendations: Parks staff reviewed and compiled all data to generate a ranked list of recommendations.

Public Comment on Recommendations: Ranked recommendations were shared in an open public meeting for comments and modifications.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public participation in this type of study is critical because local needs vary, depending upon the values local residents place on their region. Additional public involvement included the following mechanisms:

Parks and Recreation Foundation Board:

Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation has a foundation board which meets bi-monthly. The Parks Foundation reviews acquisition offers, policy recommendations, works in concert with park staff to develop master plans, and provides input into development projects as an advisory group. Over the next six years, the Parks Foundation will continue to provide a sounding board for the public to provide input about a variety of park issues.

Site Master Plan Processes:

Park sites with significant development opportunities are typically subjected to a master plan process. This process incorporates input from a variety of park users, neighbors, and the general public in developing the future vision for a given park. As such, it is a good vehicle for the public to express their opinions on their park needs. The two master plans that have been generated since the last MVCP, Kiwanis Park and Little Mountain Park, are incorporated into this document.

Public Comments:

Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation staff have contact with their clientele on a daily basis. This contact provides a forum for staff to receive recurring advice, criticism, comments, assessment, analysis, and/or praise from park users. Letters, electronic mail, phone calls, and other types of correspondence come in regularly. This information is often presented and discussed at MVPR staff meetings. This informal type of feedback from the public is taken in earnest and was gathered in a separate meeting with MVPR staff and integrated into the public comment sections.

CHAPTER 2

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Located in Western Washington, the City of Mount Vernon is situated at the western edge of Skagit County in the heart of the Skagit Valley. The City is positioned midway between the Cascade foothills and the Puget Sound.

The City is linked with the rest of Western Washington by various modes of transportation. Interstate 5 and Highway 9 connect the City of Mount Vernon with destinations north and south. Highway 20 connects the City with communities to the east and west. The City is also served by a major rail line, Burlington Northern Railroad, and has an Amtrak stop in downtown.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area for this study includes the area within Mount Vernon city limits, plus the unincorporated lands within the City's urban growth area (UGA).

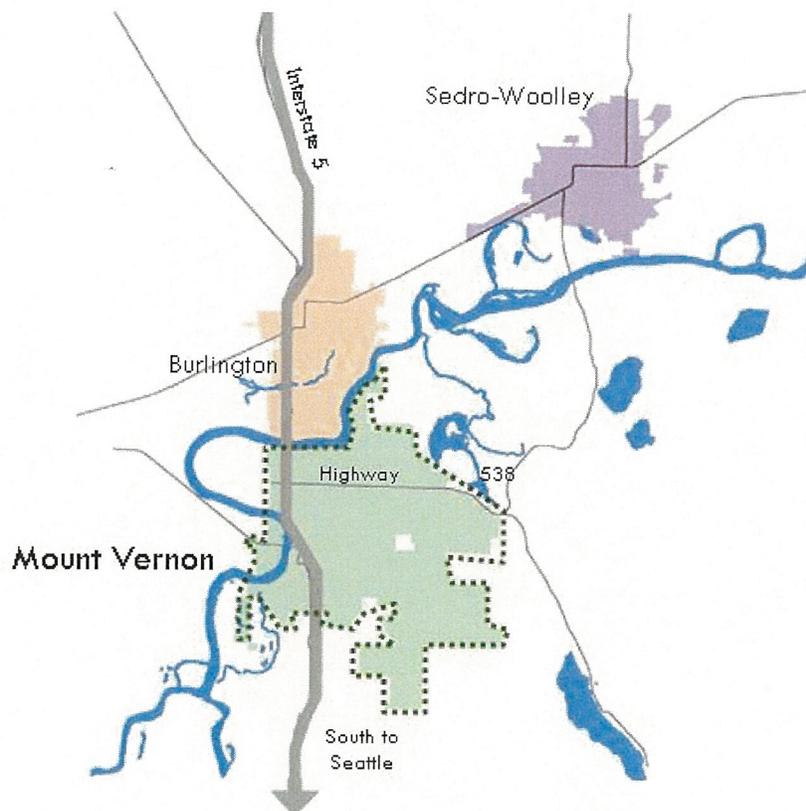


Figure 2.1 Regional Location

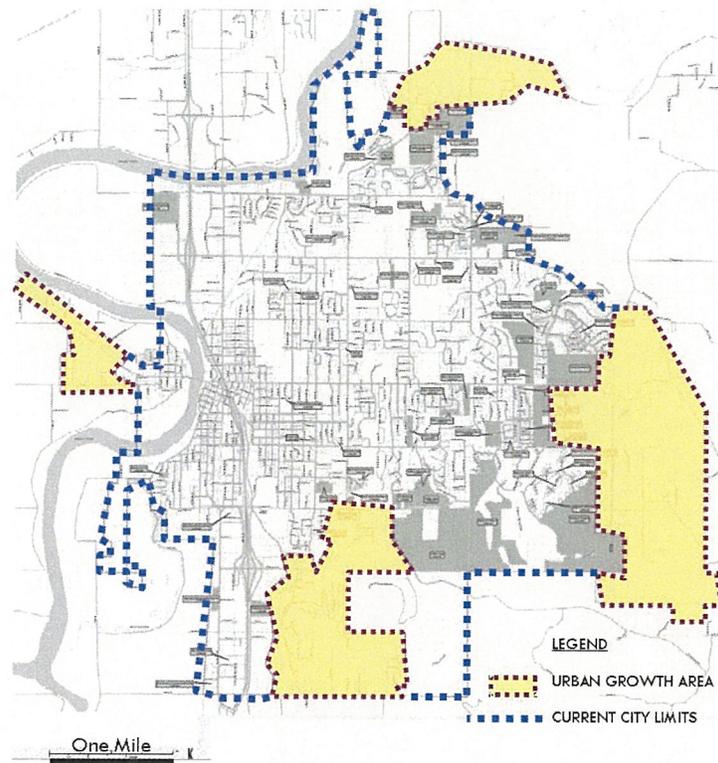


Figure 2.1 City Limits and UGA

NATURAL FEATURES

The natural resources in the Mount Vernon area are important for a variety of reasons. The topography/terrain, the existence of water features and drainage corridors, location of floodplain/floodway, and the presence of wetlands all impact the potential for development. While these lands are considered environmentally sensitive and have limited development potential, they are often conducive to park, open space, and recreation uses. Aside from providing these potential functions, the protection of these areas has a number of other benefits such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining aquifer recharge areas and other hydrological functions, and preserving the riparian and vegetative cover. The natural features that influence the provision of park, recreation and open space areas include: topography/terrain; rivers, streams, and drainage ways; floodplains and wetlands.

Terrain and Topography

The topography in the Mount Vernon area is directly attributed to glaciating and alluviation processes that occurred over millions of years. These processes have resulted in the formation of a broad valley. Mount Vernon is located within the valley floor.

The terrain in the Mount Vernon area can be divided into two distinct regions. The largest of these areas essentially consists of floodplain lands along the valley floor and follows the course of the Skagit River. It encompasses most of west and north Mount Vernon. From I-5, the terrain rises to a level plateau and consists of level to moderate hillsides. This area slopes gently toward the west and offers views of the valley. Within this area, there are several bluffs and hillsides, including Little Mountain Park. Topography is a major factor in both the development and overall aesthetic character of the City of Mount Vernon. The steep slopes of the Cascade Mountains provide a backdrop for the City and offer beautiful scenic views.

Rivers, Streams, and Drainage

The watershed system in the Mount Vernon area is part of the Skagit River drainage basin and consists of a hierarchy of rivers, streams, creeks, and other drainage ways. Drainage basins are described in terms of their size within the overall drainage system. The primary basins are those which have the largest carrying capacity and are subsequently divided into smaller sub basins.

Rivers, streams, and drainage way areas are important because of their ability to provide habitat corridors for fish and wildlife, preserve riparian vegetation, and carry storm water runoff. In addition to their functional and aesthetic characteristics, the drainage ways can also serve as conduits for trails.

In the Mount Vernon area, the Skagit River is the most prominent water feature within the Mount Vernon drainage system. The City has also identified several features in its comprehensive plan that are considered urban streams and other drainage ways. These include Nookachamps Creek, Carpenter Creek, Maddox Creek, and Flowers Creek. Each of these features is a tributary to the Skagit drainage corridor.

Floodway and Floodplains

Floodways and floodplains are important because of their hazard potential and their ability to store floodwater. Because lands within these areas are subject to flooding, development is usually heavily regulated and/or prohibited, particularly in the floodways. Generally, these areas are less conducive to the construction of housing, commercial, or industrial structures. However, these areas can be used as a resource for recreation, in the form of open space, trails, sports fields, and scenic areas. These types of facilities do not typically interfere with the flow of water and are not significantly impacted by seasonal flooding; Edgewater Park is such an example.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas that have surface or ground water and support vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated, or hydric, soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. These types of areas are important features because of their ability to detain and absorb storm water, recharge groundwater, improve water quality, and provide habitat.

For purposes of parks and recreation, wetlands are important for a number of reasons. The identification of wet areas creates a constraint to development, meaning lands are not conducive to construction of housing, commercial, or industrial structures. This means that the areas can be used as a resource for recreation, in the form of open space, interpretive areas, or scenic areas. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory (NWI) has identified existing wetland areas within the Mount Vernon area. Using this information along with other sources, a wetlands inventory map was prepared identifying 134 sites, equivalent to approximately 1,046 acres of land. These areas are constrained by various jurisdictional regulations.

Climate

Similar to most communities in the Skagit Valley, the climate in Mount Vernon can be characterized as relatively mild with four distinct seasons. In general, the climate is wet and cool in the winters and warm and dry in the summers. The average winter temperature ranges from 30 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit and the summer temperature ranges from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation averages about 47.2 inches a year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic characteristics are important attributes because they create demand and influence recreational interests and participation. The existing population base serves as the foundation for creating demand. Factors such as age and income significantly affect the level and individual ability to pursue recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education, and ethnicity also play a role. The population information for the City of Mount Vernon has been derived from the 2010 US Census. Although this information is not up to date, it provides some valuable information about the composition and make-up of the City.

Mount Vernon is the thirty-third largest City in the state of Washington with a 2014 population of 33,170. According to the US Census, the City’s 1990 population was placed at 17,647 persons. This is an approximate 85% increase in 20 years. Table 2.1 below, illustrates population growth for the City of Mount Vernon, as well as, Skagit County and the state of Washington. The population has grown significantly over the last twenty years, outpacing both the County and the State.

Table 2.1
Population growth 1990 – 2010
WA State Office of Financial Management

Year	City of Mount Vernon	% change	Skagit County	% change	State of WA	% change
1990	17,647	N/A	79,555	N/A	4,866,692	N/A
2000	26,232	49	102,979	29	5,894,121	21
2010	31,743	21	116,901	14	6,724,540	14

Relative to the County population as a whole, Mount Vernon's population has experienced a significant increase. This suggests that a greater percentage of the County's population can be found in the incorporated areas, such as Mount Vernon. This trend will increase the City’s role in providing for the demand for parks and recreation services.

Age

The demographic profile for the City of Mount Vernon varies from the rest of the state of Washington. Compared to the statewide averages, the age profiles in Mount Vernon are slightly

lower in the middle age groups, ages 18-64, and higher in the younger age groups and over 65 age groups.

In general, the older the population, the less they participate in active or competitive recreation activities. In contrast, youth age groups tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group and favor activities that are more active and competitive in nature. This would include activities such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, bicycling, etc.

Young adults, ages 18-35, are also an active age group and typically form the core of adult competitive sports. Older adults, ages 35-65, typically have less time to devote to recreational activities and tend to have a more passive interest in recreation programs. Recreational time is at a premium and often limited to weekends and occasional evenings.

Table 2.2
Age Breakdown 2010
WA State Office of Financial Management

Category	Population (estimated)	Percentage (rounded)
Under 9 years	5,100	17
10 to 19 years	4,500	15
20 to 34 years	6,666	21
35 to 64 years	10,792	34
65 to 74 years	1,905	6
75 years or greater	2,222	7

Median resident age: 32.3 years

Washington median age: 46.6 years

Income

Income levels are also used to reveal important demographic characteristics. In general, the higher income groups tend to be more active and participate in the more expensive types of activities.

Income levels within the Mount Vernon area are slightly lower than the rest of Skagit County and the state of Washington. A comparison of the 2009 household incomes is shown below.

Median household income in Mount Vernon in 2009
WA State Office of Financial Management

Area	2009 household income
Mount Vernon:	\$47,401
Skagit County	\$54,856
State of Washington:	\$56,548

Employment

An analysis of the labor force in Mount Vernon revealed that the largest class of employment type is retail trade, followed by health and education services, and manufacturing. Considering the census information is a few years old, it is assumed that there has will be additional change in the employment composition. Farming and agricultural practices will continue to play an important role in the employment composition within the area. A breakdown of employment classifications is listed below.

Median household income in Mount Vernon in 2011
(2011 American Community Survey)

Type	City of MV Percentage
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	21.00%
Professional, scientific, management and administrative, and waste management services	11.80%
Retail trade	11.60%
Manufacturing	10.50%
Arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services	8.80%
Construction	7.00%
Finance and insurance, and real estate, rental and leasing	6.00%
Public administration	5.40%

Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5.10%
Other services	4.60%
Wholesale trade	3.10%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2.50%
Information Services	2.50%

Ethnicity

An analysis of race and ethnic background revealed that a majority (59.7%) of the residents are Caucasian. Approximately 30% of the total population is of some ethnicity. This is important from a recreation participation standpoint as some ethnic groups have a higher anticipated participation level in specific types of recreational activities.

Ethnicity in Mount Vernon in 2011
(2011 American Community Survey)

Type	City of MV Percentage
Caucasian alone -	18,935 (59.7%)
Hispanic alone -	10,686 (33.7%)
Asian alone -	814 (2.6%)
Two or more races -	668 (2.1%)
American Indian alone -	287 (0.9%)
Black alone -	251 (0.8%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone -	63 (0.2%)
Other race alone -	39 (0.1%)

Population Projections

Population growth is projected to be significant over the next 20 years and will place a great demand on parks and recreation in the City. Growth primarily occurs through three means; annexation, in-migration, and infill. Annexation is the process of incorporating additional land/population by expanding the City's physical boundaries. In-migration is the process of absorbing additional population growth through the occupancy of existing available housing units. Infill results in an increase in population through new development, or re-development of existing property, within the

existing City limits. All of these sources are particularly critical in identifying new demand for parks and recreation services.

***Skagit County Population and Projected Increases**

(Source: WA Office of Financial Management)

Year	County Population	Increase
2010	121,624	--
2020	136,410	12%
2030	153,632	26%

*Information for the City of Mount Vernon is not available from Washington State.

CHAPTER 3

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The most effective and efficient park system to manage is one made up of different types of parks; each designed to provide a specific type of recreation or opportunity. Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation (MVPR) owns or manages over 860 acres of park land, both developed and undeveloped. MVPR managed parks come in an array of shapes and sizes and provide a variety of services. They range from small neighborhood parks to large areas of open space and represent the many unique recreational opportunities available to the citizens of Mount Vernon.

PARK ADDITIONS SINCE 2007 PLAN

Since the last comprehensive plan, MVPR has worked to add to the existing park inventory in a meaningful and sustainable manner. The following facilities were either added or expanded.

Bonnie Rae Park	11 acres
Little Mountain Addition	5 acres added for a total 522
Skagit Riverwalk	.33 miles of trail
Skagit Riverwalk Park	.75 acres
Kiwanis Park	9 acres
Division Street Park	.75 acres

New Additions

Dog Park - at Bakerview Park	1.5 acres
Little Mountain Trails	5 miles

Mount Vernon park land is classified by several factors, which may include size, service area, and type of use. Tables 3.1 through 3.3 list all Mount Vernon park land by various classifications. The initial classification is based upon park size and service area. These categories are as follows:

- Regional Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Open Space and Undeveloped Parks
- Special Use Park Land

The quick guides for each park classification can be found on the following pages.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are generally larger sites that offer a variety of unique features or recreational experiences that serve the entire county population and beyond. These may include one-of-a-kind natural, cultural, or historical features, water access, or a concentration of facilities that can accommodate large-scale events.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are generally bigger than neighborhood parks, generally smaller than regional parks and host a larger number and type of ball fields, facilities, and a variety of activities such as open space, swimming, BBQs, and picnic areas for larger gatherings. Passive recreational development includes boardwalks, nature trails, picnicking facilities, shelters, park benches, picnic tables, environmental, cultural or historical interpretive facilities, and parking. Natural areas include streams, wetlands, forest lands, or even a unique natural feature.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are generally small, pedestrian oriented and situated to serve residents of an immediate area. Recreational activities may include both passive and active uses, as well as, multipurpose facilities such as basketball, tennis, or play equipment. Passive uses include open play areas. Age appropriate needs of the surrounding neighborhood, such as play equipment, should be emphasized as a neighborhood park.

LINEAR PARKS

Linear parks, or trails, are facilities where trail usage is the primary use versus an accessory use. Trails are often the most used and most requested park facility, and therefore are offered as an amenity and used in as many other park types as possible. Linear parks typically consist of the trail corridor itself and are, by nature, linear in physical dimension.

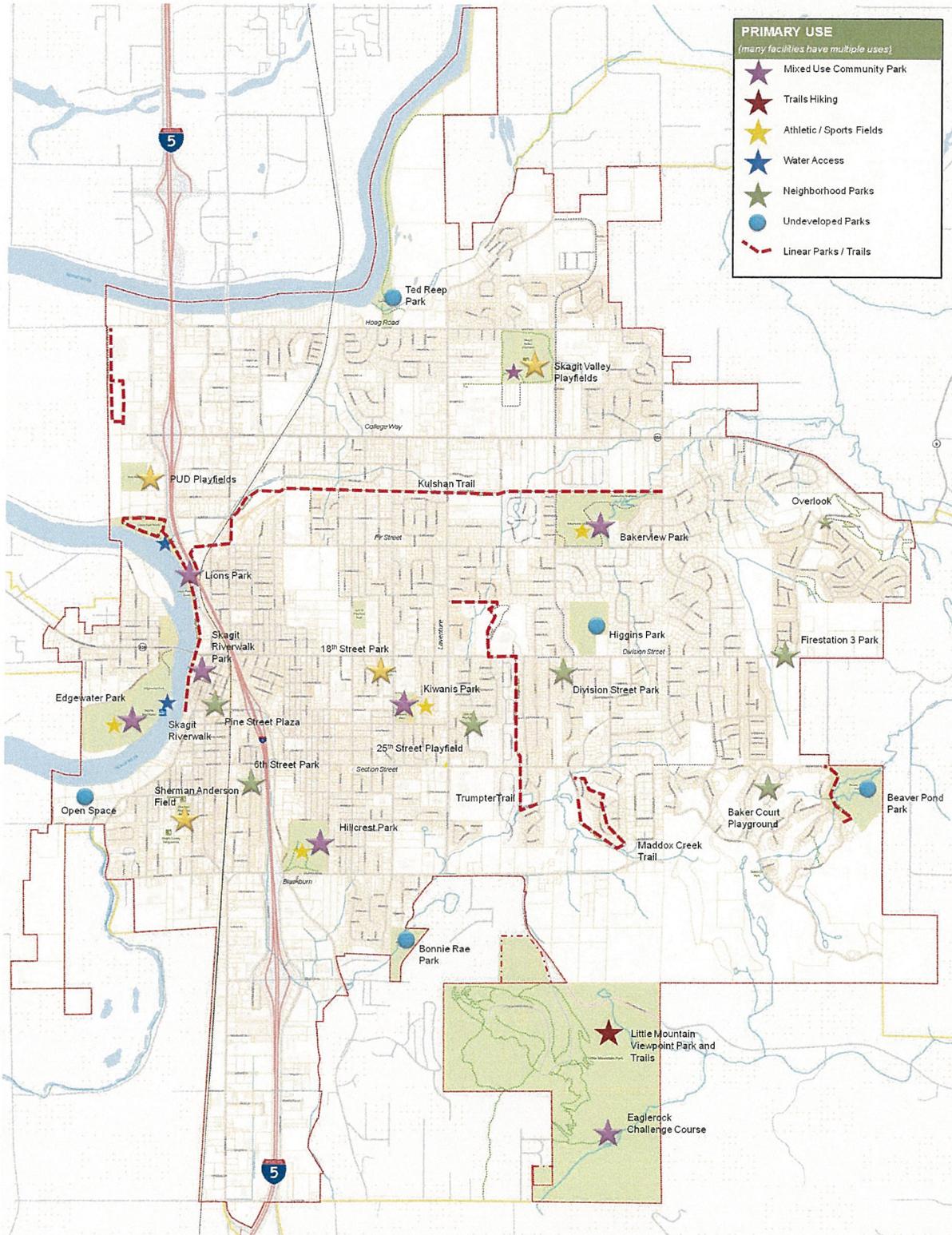
SPECIAL USE AREAS

These park lands are acquired to provide for park activities that have specific needs that may or may not be compatible with other uses. Examples include land acquired for development of a golf course or the City managed ropes course; Eaglerock Challenge Course. These park areas are generally not open to the public and are open only to those participating in the special use of the facility.

OPEN SPACE / UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Open space parks and undeveloped parks are identified as available for passive outdoor recreation, offering some trails for viewing, parking, and other limited improvements. Open space and undeveloped parks often allow for passive recreation opportunities in the form of sightseeing,

picture taking, picnicking, beachcombing, and other activities. Open space parks may also feature natural or conservation areas. Open space parks may also function as a greenbelt or view shed on which there is no public access.



Mount Vernon City Park Facility Locations

Table 3.1
MVPR Summary of City Park Lands

	Acres / distance	Reg. Baseball Fields	Reg. Softball Fields	Youth Base / Softball	Soccer Fields	Open Play Areas	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playground Areas	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Areas	Restrooms	Biking Trails	Pedestrian Trails	Water Access / Views	Boat Launch	Indoor facilities	OTHER
Regional Parks																				
Little Mountain Park	522									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Community Parks																				
Bakerview Park (includes: Skate Park, Dog Park, BMX Track, Disc Golf, Sand Volleyball Courts)	40			x	x	x	x		x				x	x	x	x			x	
Edgewater Park	65		x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x		x	x			Stage
Hillcrest Park	30.5			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x			x	
Kiwanis Park	9		x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x				Spray Park
Lions Park	1.6					x			x		x	x	x	x		x				
PUD Playfields	6	x			x															
18 th Street Park	1				x	x														
Skagit Riverwalk Park	.75												x	x		x				
Neighborhood Parks																				
Pine St Plaza	.33												x							
Division St. Park	.5						x		x				x	x						
6 th Street Park	.5					x	x		x				x							
25 th Street Playfield	1			x		x														
Fire Station 3 Park	1					x							x			x				
Bakerview Court	.33					x			x		x									
Overlook Park @ Skagit Highlands	.66										x					x				
Special Use Areas																				
Sherman Anderson Field	3.4	x												x						Batting Cage
Eagle Rock Challenge	10									x		x				x				Yurt
Linear Park																				
Maddox Creek Trail	.75									x					x	x				
Kulshan Trail	2.5									x					x	x				
Skagit Riverwalk Trail	.33									x		x	x	x	x	x				
Trumpeter Trail	1.1									x					x	x				

Table 3.1 (continued)
MVPR Summary of City Park Lands

	Acres / distance	Reg. Baseball Fields	Reg. Softball Fields	Youth Base / Softball	Soccer Fields	Open Play Areas	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playground Areas	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Areas	Restrooms	Biking Trails	Pedestrian Trails	Water Access / Views	Boat Launch	Indoor facilities	OTHER	
Open Space / Undeveloped Parks*																					
Ted Reep Park	1.5								x	x						x	x				
Higgins Park *	24																				
Bonnie Rae Park*	11									x											
Beaver Pond @ Eaglemont	30									x	x	x		x	x	x	x				
Open Space @ sewer treatment	15								x	x							x				

OTHER PUBLIC and PRIVATE RECREATION AREAS

In the City there are other lands used for recreation that are owned by other public agencies such as the Mount Vernon School District, Skagit Valley Community College, Skagit County Parks and Recreation, and private churches and schools

**Table 3.2
Summary of Other PUBLIC Recreation Areas**

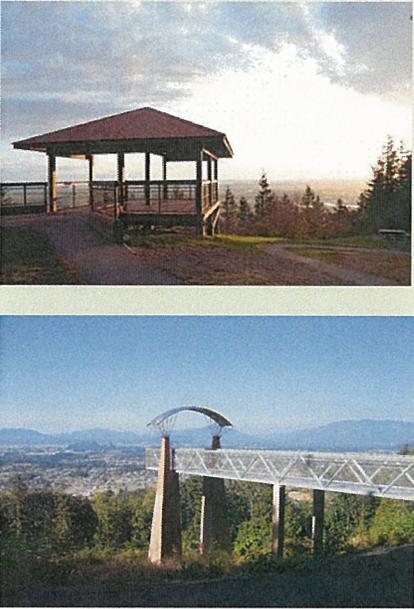
	Acre / distance	Reg. Baseball Fields	Reg. Softball Fields	Youth Base / Softball	Soccer Fields	Open Play Areas	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playground Areas	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Areas	Restrooms	Biking Trails	Pedestrian Trails	Boat Launch	Indoor facilities	Indoor Gyms / courts	OTHER
Elementary Schools																				
Centennial				x	x	x	x	x										x	x	
Jefferson				x	x	x	x	x										x	x	
Lincoln				x	x	x	x	x										x	x	
Little Mountain				x	x	x	x	x										x	x	
Madison				x	x	x	x	x		x								x	x	
Washington				x	x	x	x	x										x	x	
Middle Schools																				
LaVenture					x	x												x	x	
Mount Baker					x	x	x											x	x	
High Schools																				
MVHS		x	x		x	x	x	x										x	x	
Skagit Valley College																				
Dream Field Complex		x			x			x		x				x	x	x				
Covered Tennis Complex	1							x												
Skagit County Parks and Recreation																				
Skagit Playfield's			x			x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Cleveland Park	1					x	x	x				x								
Skagit Fairgrounds						x							x					x		

Table 3.3
Summary of Other PRIVATE Recreation Areas

	Acres / distance	Reg. Baseball Fields	Reg. Softball Fields	Youth Base / Softball	Soccer Fields	Open Play Areas	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playground Areas	Fishing	Nature Area	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Areas	Restrooms	Biking Trails	Pedestrian Trails	Boat Launch	Indoor facilities	Gym Space / Courts	OTHER
Private Schools																				
MV Christian				x	x	x	x		x									x	x	
Immaculate Conception				x	x	x	x		x									x	x	
Home Owners Assoc.'s																				
Skagit Highlands						x			x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Montreaux						x										x				
Rosewood									x											
Big Fir North																x				No Public Access
Maddox Creek																x				
Eaglemont									x							x				
Cedar Heights						x			x							x				
Highland Greens (just MF built – SF component yet to be developed)																				TBD
Haggen – SF component yet to be developed																				TBD
Stonebridge																x				
The Meadows						x														
Original Trumpeter Plat						x														
Eastmont (off of 28 th)						x														
Salem Village						x														No Public Access
Skagit Valley Mobile Manor (east side of 30 th)						x														No Public Access
Park Village Mobile Home Park off of Fir						x														No Public Access
Viewmont Mobile Home Park (off of 25 th)						x														No Public Access
Mountain Mobile Home Park (south side of Section)						x														No Public Access
Heather Village						x										x				No Public Access
Firwest Estates						x		x										x		No Public Access
Sandalwood						x			x											No Public Access
Other																				
YMCA														x				x	x	Swimming Pool
Eaglemont Golf Course														X				x		Golf Course

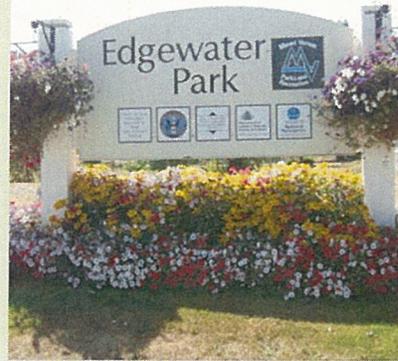
PARK DESCRIPTIONS

MVPR Summary of City Park Lands

Description	Image	Misc.
Regional Parks		
<p>Little Mountain Park</p> <p>Our largest and most impressive park, comprised of 522 acres, is located south of City limits. Follow the 1.5 mile paved road to the top of Little Mountain, an elevation gain of 934 feet. A covered viewpoint provides a spectacular look at the Skagit Valley, San Juan Islands, Olympic Mountains, and the tulip fields.</p> <p>The north viewpoint opened in the spring of 2004 with a spectacular view of Mount Baker. The park also provides numerous hiking and multi-use trails. Come and bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenic Skagit Valley.</p>		<p>Dedicated volunteer group of the year, the Mount Vernon Trail Builders, are adding high quality multi-use trails every month.</p> <p>Master plan completed in 2007.</p>
Community Parks		
<p>Bakerview Park</p> <p>This 40-acre park is located in the northeast quadrant of Mount Vernon. Facilities include four little league fields, three full size soccer fields, four basketball courts, two sand volleyball courts, disc golf course, a skate park with four ramps, outdoor barbecues, three children's play areas, picnic areas, public restrooms, concession stand, designated dog park, a 22,000 square foot indoor recreation center, and a BMX bike track. This park has something for the whole family!</p>		

Edgewater Park

Located in West Mount Vernon, this 65-acre park is located along the scenic Skagit River. Facilities include three regulation softball fields, a boat launch, a playground, and a large stage. Edgewater Park is home to The Fabulous 4th of July and the Highland Games.



Hillcrest Park

This 30.75-acre park is located in the middle of beautiful Mount Vernon. With picnic shelters, multiple playgrounds, sports facilities, and open space, this Mount Vernon gem has something for everyone.

Tennis courts have coin operated lighting for after dark play. Available for rent at Hillcrest Park are two large covered picnic areas, two small covered picnic areas, and the Hillcrest Lodge.



Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park has a fantastic playground, picnic tables, restrooms, a softball field, basketball courts, and an amazing spray park. There is also a boardwalk nature trail through the wetland area that connects the park to surrounding neighborhoods. Also located at Kiwanis Park are six outdoor exercise stations.



Award winning spray park is the largest in the County.

Lions Park

This park is located on the east bank of the Skagit River and is the hub of the Skagit Riverwalk and the head of the Kulshan Trail. Facilities include sheltered and unsheltered picnic areas, playground equipment, and public restrooms. A newly constructed trail connects to over one mile of pathways through classic Skagit Alluvial Forest. It is the hub of the Skagit Riverwalk and the head of the Kulshan Trail.



Located on the newly constructed Skagit Riverwalk Trail.

18th Street Park

Small teeball field and open space.



Skagit Riverwalk Park

Amenities will include restroom, seating areas, community events venue, and the Farmer's Market.



Under construction; will open late 2014

PUD Fields

This six-acre park has a regulation baseball field and soccer field and is located on Freeway Drive behind the Skagit PUD Building.



Neighborhood Parks

Pine St Plaza

This converted street ROW is a favorite gathering place for downtown employees, merchants and visitors during the work week and festivals alike.



Division St. Park

This neighborhood park located just east of Haggen offers a playground, picnic tables, and a basketball court. The soft rubber padding under the play equipment makes this park fun for all ages.

Bring a picnic and relax or bring your friends for a game of basketball.



6th Street Park

This great neighborhood park includes a basketball court, picnic area and playground.



Renovated in 2010

25th Street Playfield

Open grassy lawn areas for pick-up games, kites, etc...



Fire Station 3 Park

Picnic Benches and pathways.



Special Use Areas

Sherman Anderson Field

Home to the Mount Vernon Bulldogs baseball team, this 3.4-acre ballpark is located a half mile south of downtown on Cleveland Street. The ballpark is primarily used for baseball and includes full restroom facilities, concession stand, and grandstand seating for 1,500.



Eagle Rock Challenge

Eagle Rock provides opportunities for learning in a unique outdoor setting through activities and challenges set forth by professional facilitators. Each challenge presented to a group is utilized to enhance qualities such as creative problem solving, positive conflict management, leadership skills, and efficient use of resources. Programs incorporate experiential learning through team challenge activities and are designed to be accessible to people of various ages, physical levels, and abilities.



Linear Park

Maddox Creek Canyon Trail

A series of trails that can be accessed off of the Trumpeter Trail system to the east. These trails take users through heavily forested wetland areas to asphalt pathways, connecting the local neighborhoods. Trail surfaces switch from gravel to paved throughout the system, allowing hikers, walkers, and joggers to enjoy the shared use system.



Kulshan Trail

A multi-use paved trail that connects Mount Vernon's downtown area at Lions Park with commercial and residential areas to the east. This trail passes by several schools, salmon-rearing ponds, natural areas, a community garden, and Bakerview Park. Bicycle commuters, walkers, joggers, and skaters enjoy this shared use trail.



Trumpeter Trail

The north section of Trumpeter Trail travels on a paved trail through a wetland to LaVenture Road. The central and south sections of trail, utilize wide sidewalks and existing urban trails, allowing users to enjoy the narrow greenway.



Skagit Riverwalk Trail

Walk, run, stroll, or bike along the scenic Skagit River west of Main Street in downtown Mount Vernon. This new trail connects North Lions Park, Kulshan Trail, and downtown. Pass by Lions Park and stop for a play on the recently renovated playground, or sit along the trail and take in the breathtaking views of the Skagit River.



Open Space /
Undeveloped
Parks*

Ted Reep Park*

Seasonally available trails located on the Skagit River. Good wildlife viewing.



Higgins Park*

Undeveloped

Possible location for passive recreation; new Library setting.



Bonnie Rae Park*

Undeveloped

Deep ravines with salmon bearing Maddox Creek and wide open grassy areas.

Master planning scheduled for 2014 and 2015.



See this park next to the newly completed Anderson-Laventure Road.

Beaver Pond Park -
Eaglemont
Development

A series of walking and hiking trails around a beaver pond complex and high quality forested wetlands



CHAPTER 4

OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department contains three separate divisions managed by a Department Director. The Department Director reports directly to the Mayor. This Director is responsible for planning and administering the parks and recreation programs in the City.

The Parks and Recreation Department is outlined below:

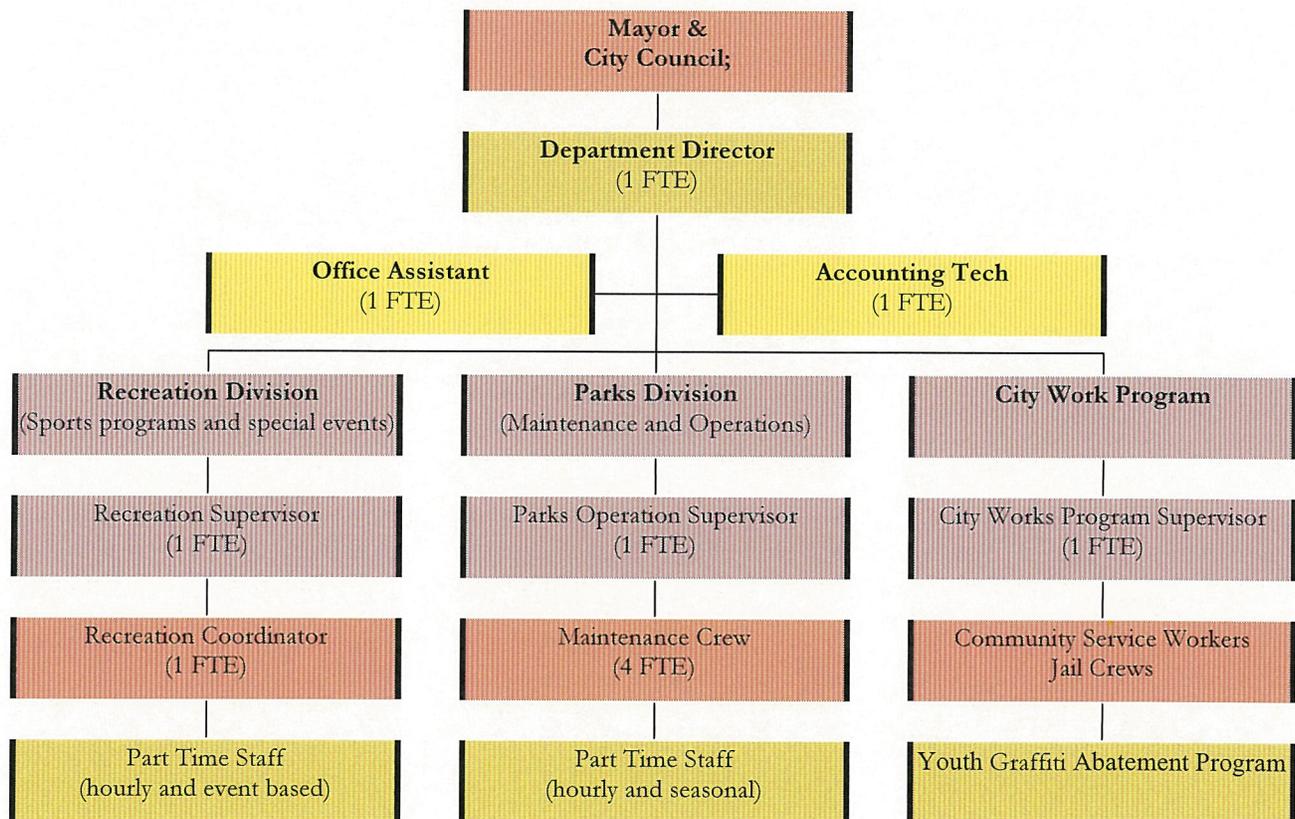


Figure 4.1
Parks and Recreation Department

During 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department employs 11 full-time employees. A review of past staffing levels shows a decrease in permanent full-time staff within the Department. In addition to full-time and part-time employees, the Department also employs over 35 contracted and seasonal employees. The number of contracted employees has remained relatively constant. Contracted employees are part time assignments such as referees and program aides, Eagle Rock Challenge Course facilitators, and project contractors.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division is responsible for overseeing personnel, purchasing, contract administration, budget, and the management of the other divisions. This division is also involved with planning, acquisition, design, development, special projects, grant preparation, and coordination of capital projects.

Each division within the Department operates relatively independently, yet the Administration Division is ultimately responsible for coordination between the divisions and with other City departments.

PARKS DIVISION

The Parks Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of existing City parks and recreation facilities. The Division is also responsible for the purchase and upkeep of maintenance materials, equipment and vehicles, and park security. Many of the smaller “green” spaces throughout the City fall under the responsibility of the Parks Division. Maintenance of these areas is handled through a maintenance contract managed by this division as well. The Operations Supervisor also participates in many planning projects and coordination of capital projects.

RECREATION DIVISION

The Recreation Division manages the City's recreation programs which include youth and adult recreation programs, sports leagues and tournaments, special events, classes and workshops, youth skills camps, and other special activities for youth, adults, and families. In many cases recreation staff will contract with a community expert who will run the program while the recreation staff coordinates and schedules the program.

Youth events include, but are not limited to; youth sports leagues and programs, toddler play groups, preschool sports programs, child and babysitting safety courses, dance programs, golf, basketball, football, tennis, and volleyball skills camps, and school vacation activities.

Adult events include, but are not limited to; dog obedience classes; recreational day trips; sports skills instruction classes, Eagle Rock Challenge Course programs, health, fitness, and cooking classes, and tai chi and qigong instruction classes.

Family events include, but are not limited to; Eagle Rock Challenge Course programs, recreational day trips, health, fitness, and cooking classes, and Geocaching and other outdoor activities.

Special events include, but are not limited to; The Hillcrest Haunted Forest, Father Daughter Valentine Ball, Geocaching Events, Fabulous 4th of July, Starlight Cinema Outdoor Movies,

Children’s Art Festival, Ray Reep Salmon Derby, Breakfast with Santa, and Children’s Shopping Extravaganza.

The Skagit Valley Recreation and Activity Guide, and the City of Mount Vernon web site, have become the main communication tools for these events. Programs offered by the division operate on a cost-efficient basis. That is, program fees and charges pay for the program expenses.

City Works Program Division

The City Work Program began in 1990 to help reduce the jail bill and generate more work-force for various maintenance projects in our parks and common areas. The division focuses on detention facilities, litter pick up and illegal dumping sites, trails and other special projects. This division also acts as the liaison between the Downtown Business Association and supervises the Youth Graffiti Abatement program (YGAP).

OPERATING BUDGET FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

The gross cost of parks and recreation services has averaged just over 3% of the City's total expenditures over the last five years. By comparison to other cities that provide parks and recreation services, this amount is about average. That being noted, the past 5 years have been very hard on non mandated services such as parks and recreation, therefore these numbers may not be ‘typical’ for anything other than a reflection of how each comparison city has chosen to respond to difficult economic circumstances.

**Table 4.1
Parks Operating Budget to Total City Expenditures**

Area	2012 Park and Rec Expenditures	2012 City Expenditures	Percentage of Park Expenditures to City Expenditures
City of Mount Vernon	1.55m	46.85m	3.4%
City of Anacortes	1.17 M	41.11 M	2.8%
City of Burlington	889 K	25.05 M	3.5%
City of Marysville	1.94 M	111.52 M	1.7%
City of Bellingham	7.29 M	80.70 M	9.0%
Average of non-MV cities			4.25%

COST OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Another means of analyzing an agency's level of parks and recreation services is to compare operating costs on a per capita basis. The gross cost per capita is the total cost of the services divided by the number of persons in the service area. However, this is not necessarily the true cost to the taxpayer because it does not reflect the net cost after revenue is deducted. Both costs are shown below for Mount Vernon for 2011. This assumes a 2011 City population of 31,743 persons.

**Table 4.2
Recreation Cost Per Capita**

Area	Population (2011)	Operating Budget	Gross Cost per Capita	Revenue	NET cost per Capita
City of Mount Vernon	31,743	1.55	\$51.03	217K	\$44.19
City of Anacortes	15,804	1.17	\$74.03	94K	\$68.08
City of Burlington	8,401	889K	\$105.82	187K	\$83.56
City of Marysville	60,020	1.94m	\$32.32	365K	\$26.24
City of Bellingham	81,862	7.29M	\$89.05	1.50M	\$70.72
Average of non-MV cities					\$62.15

RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Utilizing City owned buildings, as well as, other community facilities; Mount Vernon offers a wide range of recreation activities. The tables below, summarize recreation participation. The numbers represent the number of "hours," meaning one person participating in one activity in one hour.

**Table 4.3
Recreation Participation Hours Comparison
2006 – 2012**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Percent Change 2006-2012</u>
Adult Programs	286	1,963	586.36%
Youth Programs	13,294	1,268	*(90.46)%
Youth Sports	1,097	4,402	301.28%

TOTAL (All Activities)	14,677	7633	(47.99)%
------------------------	--------	------	----------

It is important to note that there are many other ‘hours’ of participation in passive recreational events that are not documented here. This includes time spent walking, hiking, running, or biking trails, being at the dog park, playing at the spray park, or just being at and enjoying one of Mount Vernon’s many parks. Since these activities are not documented, they are not included; however, it is reasonable to assume that the total hours of these non-formal activities far eclipse the total number of hours of structured recreation activities.

*It is also important to note that the decrease in participation hours from 2006 to 2010 reflects the phasing out of the after school programs that were held at elementary school sites and at Hillcrest Park. Several other organizations in Mount Vernon started offering similar after school programs and opportunities, example: YMCA and Boys and Girls Club. With the implementation of these programs, the City chose to not continue duplication of services.

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

There are several tools we use to acquire input from the public. It is our goal to extract information from a wide sample of residents and not just rely on those most able or willing to attend public meetings. The two main sources of information used to quantify community desires and establish program and/or facility priorities were household surveys and open house meetings. A detailed data table of the input from the two open house public meetings and the two-month long public input survey is found in appendices of this Comprehensive Plan. This chapter contains the summaries of comments we obtained through our interface with the public.

SUMMARY OF THE 2014 HOUSEHOLD PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

For the 2014 Comprehensive Plan Update, Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation (MVPR) prepared a public input survey that was delivered via the internet. This survey was open for the entire months of March, April, and May, 2014. The overall goal of the opinion survey was to provide MVPR with estimates of residents' preferences for parks and recreation facilities development and priorities for future planning. This survey was open to all residents of the City, as well as, non residents and was advertised in the following ways:

1. Two press-releases and subsequent public service announcements in the Skagit Valley Herald
2. An invitation, and multiple reminders were sent to the entire customer database of the Parks and Recreation Department
3. A link listing on the Mount Vernon splash page, as well as, the Parks and Recreation Department splash page
4. An invitation was sent to all City department heads
5. An invitation was sent to Parks Foundation Members for re-distribution to other user groups
6. The survey was advertised during the public meetings held in late 2013
7. The survey was advertised in all focus group meetings held in early 2014
8. The survey was advertised on TV channel 10
9. An article, including the web address to the survey, was printed in the Skagit Valley Herald
10. Information on survey and focus groups was mailed to all households in City utility bills

At the conclusion of the survey, over 721 households completed the survey. Once a household (computer) had completed the survey, software allowed the survey to be modified but not taken a second time. This placed some sidebars on attempts to complete more than one survey. The survey

was delivered over the computer in English but a printed version was made available in English as well as Spanish and Russian. Approximately 200 households completed the survey in this manner.

It is acknowledged that the public input survey was limited as use for representative data because participation was self selecting. This sampling of self-chosen participating households was just another tool utilized for obtaining input from the public. It is an augmentation of all other means of obtaining the public's recreational needs.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS:

The vast majority of people who participated in the opinion survey were from Mount Vernon. As is often the case with public input, the senior population participated in a greater proportion than the general population. It is interesting to note that 42% of respondents were age 50 or older. See the demographic summary below.

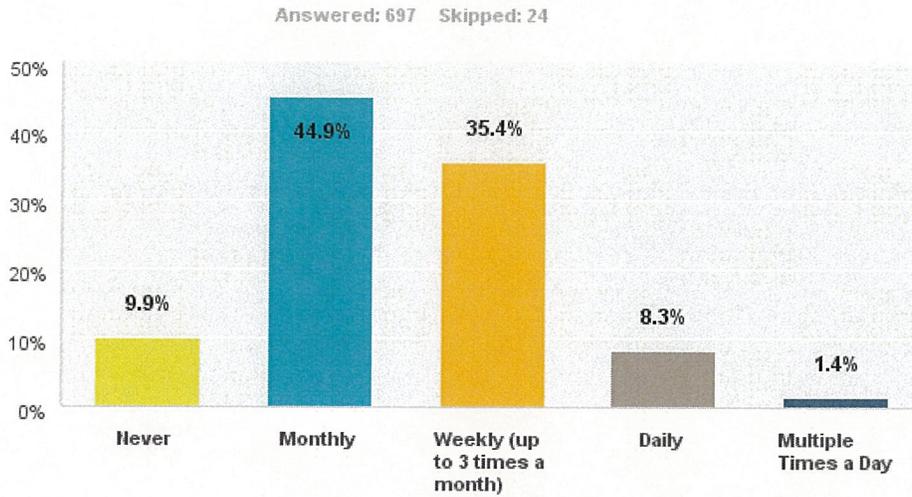
Table 5.1
Demographics
N= 716 HOUSEHOLDS

Age		Children at home	
17 or younger	2%	Yes	55%
18-20	1%	No	45%
21-29	13%		
30-39	26%	Residency	
40-49	21%	Resident of Mount Vernon	72 %
50-59	15%		
60 or older	22%		

Park Usage and Importance:

Nearly all (90%) of the respondents reported their household had used a park facility in the past 12 months. Of those, almost half (44%) reported that they use the park on a daily or weekly basis. (Figure 5.1)

Figure 5.1
Frequency of Park Use

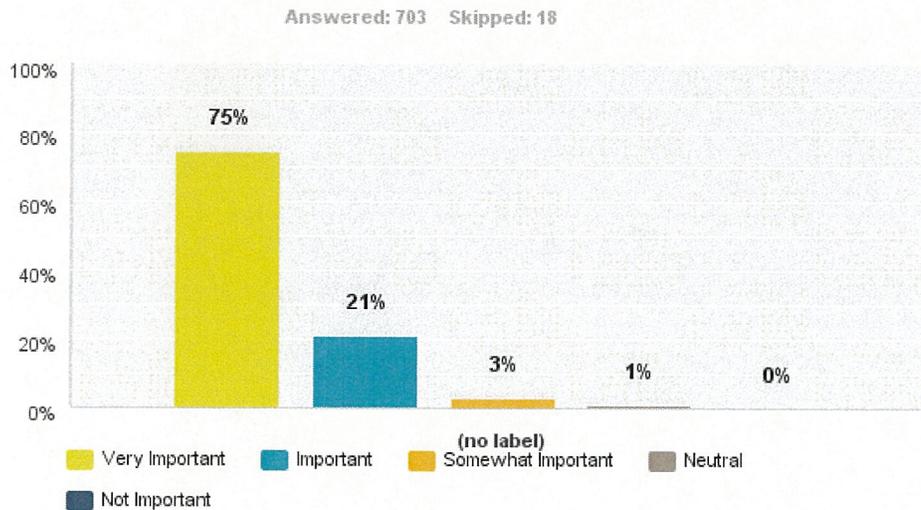


Of those who do not use Parks and Recreation Services (8%), the most prevalent reasons were that (1) they did not feel safe, (2) they use other facilities or exercise at home, and (3) they don't have time to use Parks and Recreation Services. (See Comments in Appendix 3).

Nearly all respondents (96%) ranked Parks and Recreation Services as Important or Very Important to maintaining the quality of life in Mount Vernon (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2
Importance of Parks and Recreation Services

Using the following scale, how important do you believe parks and recreation services and facilities are in maintaining the quality of life in Mount Vernon?



Ranked Priorities

Respondents were asked to RATE the importance or UN-importance of different programs and facilities to determine what was perceived as important. The table below reports the percentage of respondents that said the following activities or facilities were very important or somewhat important.

Table 5.2
Importance of Facilities and Programs

Facilities/Programs	Very or Somewhat Important
Parks (General)	96%
Trails and Pathways	93 %
Open Space or Natural Areas	87 %
Community Events	78 %
Sports Fields	79 %
Exercise/Fitness	77 %
Swimming Pool or Aquatic Center	76 %
Sports Courts	74 %
Dog Parks	57 %
Spray Parks	56 %
Skate Parks	45 %
Disc Golf	34 %
BMX Course	33 %

Residents were then asked to rank the top three priorities from the list above in an attempt to RANK these facilities and programs. These results are summarized in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3
RANKED Importance of Facilities and Programs

Facilities/Programs	
1. Trails and Pathways	HIGHEST
2. Open Space or Natural Areas	
3. Swimming Pool or Aquatic Center	
4. Sports Fields	
5. Parks (General)	
6. Community Events	
7. Disc Golf	
8. Exercise/Fitness	
9. Dog Parks	
10. Sports Courts	
11. Spray Parks	
12. BMX Course	
13. Skate Parks	LOWEST

It was anticipated that trails and sports fields/courts would be important to the community so each of these areas had a follow up question regarding prioritized preferences in each of those categories.

Trail Type Priorities

Table 5.4
RANKED Trail Type Priorities
N=432 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Nature Trails	358
2. Soft Surface walking trails	351
3. Paved linear multi-use trails (IE Kulshan)	306
4. Mountain Biking trails	133
5. Sidewalks	105
6. Other	25

Sports Fields Priorities

Table 5.5
RANKED Sports Field Priorities
N=410 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Soccer	276
2. General Open Field Space	254
3. Baseball	188
4. Basketball	139
5. Softball	134
6. Tennis	116
7. Other	37
8. Pickleball	30

Community satisfaction:

Another important factor queried in the survey was satisfaction with the current parks system. In general the community appears satisfied with the conditions and activities of the City parks in Mount Vernon. Little Mountain, which has undergone significant upgrades recently, is at the top. At the bottom is Edgewater Park.

Table 5.6
Existing Park Satisfaction
N=389-413 Households

Location	Very Satisfied/Satisfied with <i>Activities</i>	Very Satisfied/Satisfied with <i>Condition</i>
Little Mountains Park	72%	79%
Kiwanis Park	69%	73%
Hillcrest Park	72%	69%
Bakerview Park	61%	60%
Edgewater Park	52%	50%

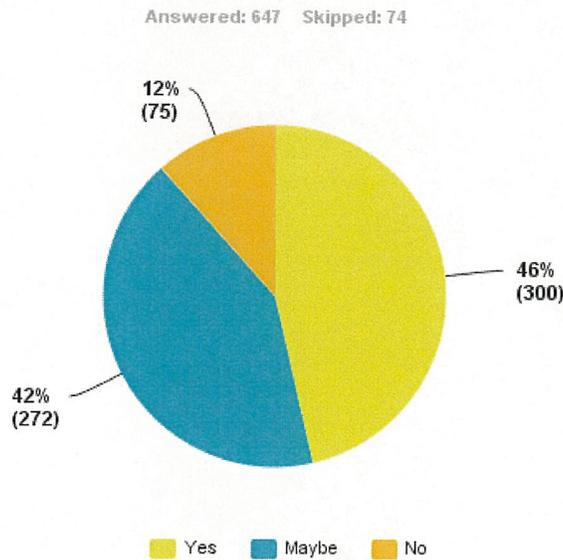
Park Funding:

Understanding how to pay for any increase in level of service is an important component in considering any desire for more park facilities. This survey asked respondents to consider a tax increase in the form of a levy. In other words, are people willing to “back their respective responses

with their money.” The data may have significant value if Mount Vernon residents ever decided to form a taxing district to support parks.

Figure 5.3
Park Funding

Some communities have chosen to tax themselves in order to increase the amount of parks and recreation in their community such as the Bellingham Greenways Levy and the 2013 Seattle Parks Levy. Would you support increased taxes or levies to support expanded or enhanced recreational opportunities in Mount Vernon?



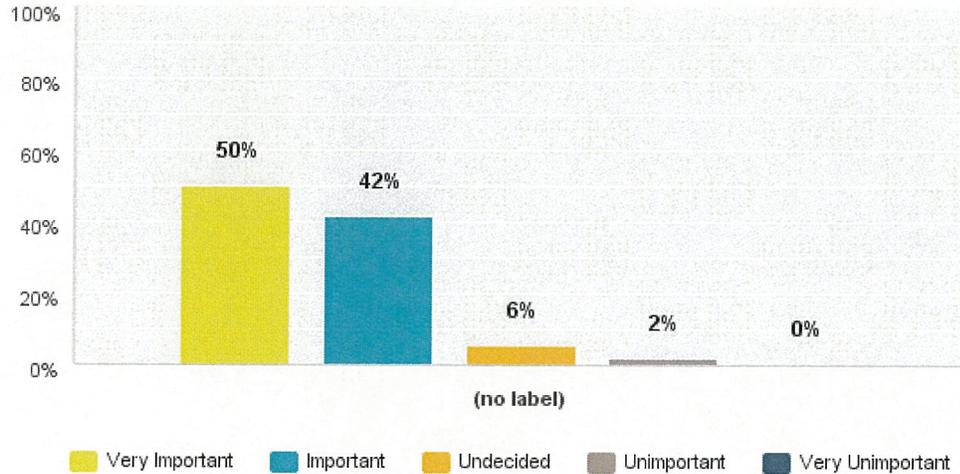
Recreation Programs:

Beyond facilities and sports programs, interest in community enrichment and recreation programs was surveyed. It can be seen that the vast majority of residents (92%) feel these programs are important.

Figure 5.4
Recreation Programs

How important do you feel community events, classes, sports programs, and enrichment activities are to quality of life

Answered: 641 Skipped: 80

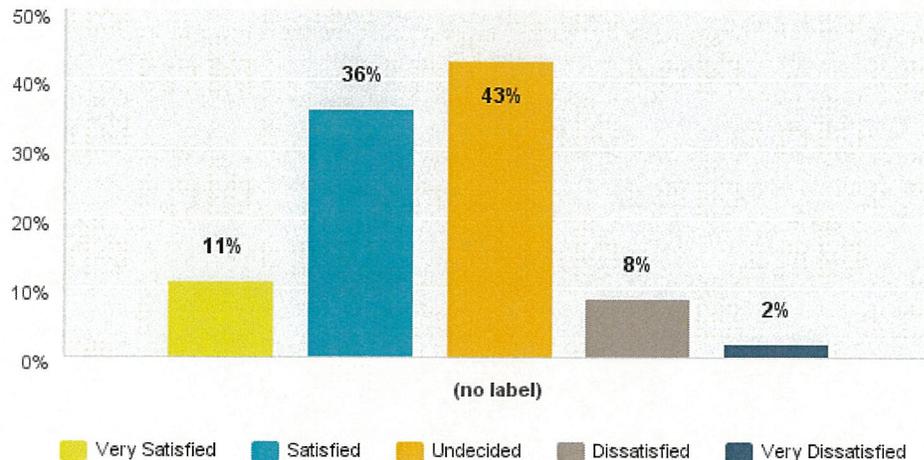


The follow-up question related to satisfaction with the selection of recreation activities offered by MVPR. There is greater satisfaction than not, but the greatest response is neutral or undecided.

Figure 5.5
Recreation Programs Satisfaction

How Satisfied are you with the selection of classes, sports programs, and enrichment activities currently offered by MVPR

Answered: 631 Skipped: 90



There was an open ended text follow-up question asking people what types of activities they would like to see. Following in Table 5.7 are the most requested program offerings.

Table 5.7
Open Ended Requested Offerings
Only offering with 15 or greater responses are listed

Program	Number times of requested
Outdoor Fitness / Hiking	27
Art / Technology programs	22
Yoga Dance / Tai Chi	20
Outdoor / Environmental Education	17
Programs for Adults	17

2014 PUBLIC MEETINGS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Two public meetings were held in the City during the Plan Update process. These meetings were multi-purpose; to inform people of what the existing system consists of at this time, to provide an overview of the activities of the past 6 years, (including improvements, program changes and acquisitions), and to hear issues, concerns and feedback on the services provided.

The meetings were held “open house” style with a series of boards placed around the room where participants could see a listing of facilities within a various ‘park type’ (IE community events OR trails OR sports fields, etc.). At each of these stations, participants were given the chance to ask any specific questions and comment about the type of facilities they preferred. Prompts were given in different ways in an attempt to allow participants to talk both about their “likes” and “dislikes”. For example, such prompts included: “What I like about ‘Athletic Fields’ in the parks system is...” Or “What I would like to see different about ‘Athletic Fields’ in the park system is...”. Participants were also welcome to register their open comments and a fair amount of people contributed with suggestions, comments, and/or support of park facilities, events, and offerings.

A number of those attending were there to promote a specific concern or recommend a specific interest be met. The complete list of comments can be found in Appendix One. The summary is listed below.

Table 5.8
Open House Comment Summary

Facility or Use	What I like most...	What I would like to see different...
Open Space/Natural Areas	Strong appreciation of Little Mountain Park. More areas with more viewpoints would be desired. More Trails (Multi-use) desired	Strong interest in connection of 'hill' area to Little Mountain, strong interest in additional Riverview Trails. Interest in more nature viewing and interpretation and removal of invasive plants
Linear Parks and Trails	Strong appreciation of Trails and Linear Parks. Strong appreciation of work being done at LMP. Interest in bike skills area at LMP. More areas with more viewpoints would be desired. More Trails (Multi-use) desired	Very strong interest in connection of trail system to other trails (local and regional) and to neighborhoods. Strong interest in expansion of trails and bike skills center. Some interest in upgrades such as signage, benches, clearing of trails, and maps
Community Enrichment (Special events, leagues, camps, etc.)	Appreciation of major community events	Provide more diverse events and advertise better.
Day Use / Playgrounds / Picnic	Strong appreciation of Kiwanis Park and Hillcrest Park. Belief that these areas are important and improve quality of life	Interest in connectivity of facilities and advertising/promotion of facilities to people. Affordable rates.
Athletic Fields / Courts	none	Backfill lost facilities. Cover tennis courts and add volleyball courts.

CHAPTER 6

PARK NEEDS

Identifying specific park and recreation needs is a difficult task, partly due to regional differences and a variety of community values that can be influenced by a number of internal factors. In essence, identifying recreation needs is the process of comparing the actual supply of existing programs and facilities to the demand demonstrated by local residents for programs and facilities. Historically, when calculating needs, National Standards were used for each type of major recreational facility. Because these standards were so wide-ranging, and covered a very expansive area, they created numerous problems and are therefore, no longer commonly used.

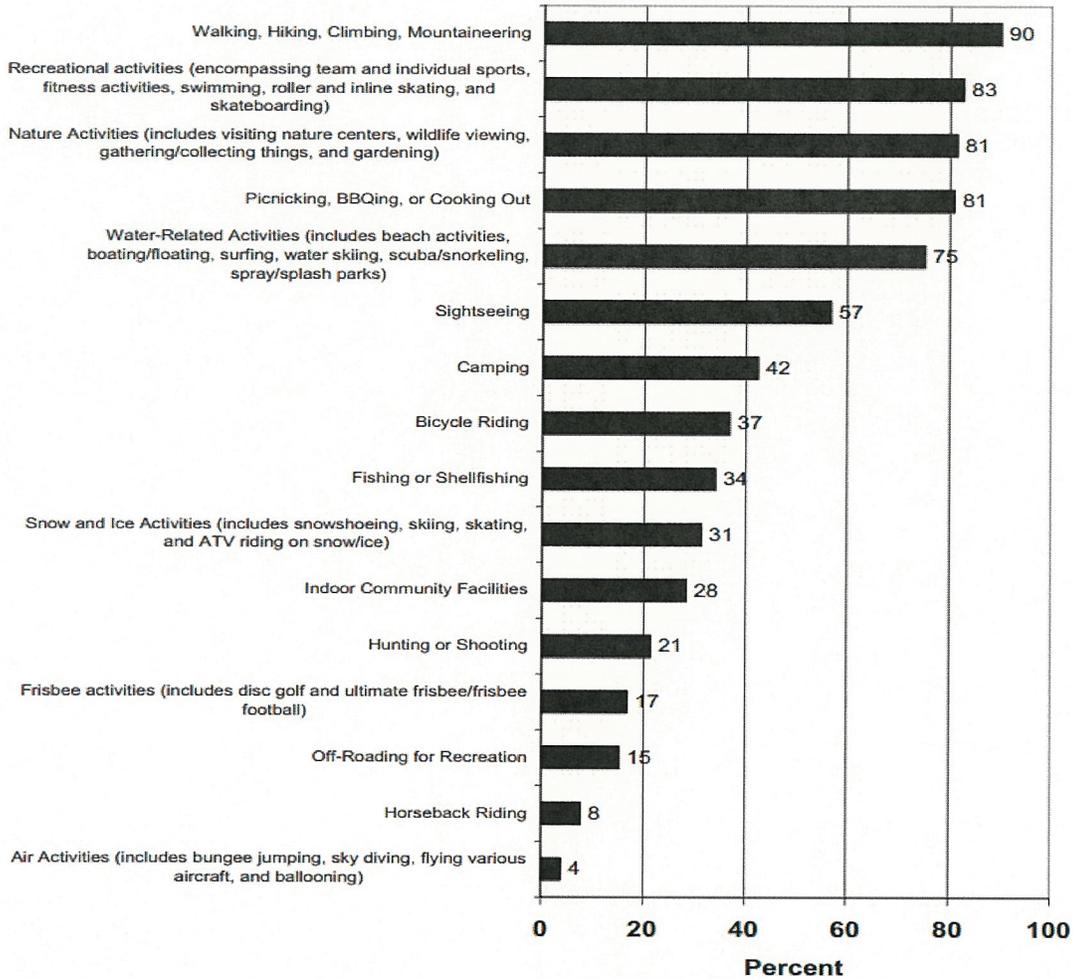
For the purpose of this plan, two main sources of information were identified to assess park needs. The first source, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) document, is a list of needs at the state level. The second was an analysis of Mount Vernon, specifically showing population ratio and facility condition level of service (LOS).

2013 STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING (SCORP)

This State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning document is developed to help park and recreation providers better understand the most important recreation issues statewide. Local governments statewide invest tens of millions of dollars each budget in outdoor recreation; from the purchase and development of park land, to salaries for staff charged with managing sites and facilities. The SCORP document is based on a statistically valid telephone survey, and is the benchmark in Washington State in terms of documenting parks and recreation needs.

The 2013 SCORP differs somewhat from previous SCORP data reflecting the shift in Washington State from a rural state to one where the majority of the citizens “live in town”. Not surprisingly, low-cost activities, easy or less strenuous activities, or activities that can be done close to home have relatively high participation rates: the category that includes walking is at the top of the list with a 90% participation rate among Washington residents, but also near the top are traditional recreational activities, or active activities, nature activities, and picnicking/BBQing. Information regarding level of participation is shown below in Table 6.1

Table 6.1
SCOPR Ranking of Major Recreation Activities and Level of Participation



A better understanding of recreational activities, as listed in Table 6.1 above, requires a breakdown of each of the graphed categories. Breakdowns of the top 5 categories are included below in table 6.2 to table 6.5; however, item # 4 “picnicking” is not broken down, as the category name is more self-explanatory.

Table 6.2
SCORP Participation in Walking, Hiking, Climbing, Mountaineering
Total Percent from Table 6.1 = 90%

Activity	Percent
Walking without a pet	71
Hiking	54
Walking with a pet	52
Climbing or Mountaineering	10

Table 6.3
SCORP Participation in Recreational Activities
Total Percent from Table 6.1 = 83%

Activity	Percent
Swimming (all, except at beach)	52
Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights	38
Playground use	37
Jogging or running	36
Weight conditioning	28
Basketball	17
Golf	16
Volleyball	10
Tennis	10
Softball	8
Soccer	7
Badminton	6
Baseball	5
Football	5
Roller or inline skating	5
Handball, racquetball, or squash	4
Skateboarding	3
Lacrosse	<.5
Rugby	<.5

Table 6.4
SCOPR Participation in Nature Activities
Total Percent from Table 6.1 = 81%

Activity	Percent
Wildlife viewing / photographing	59
Gardening, flowers or vegetables	57
Visiting nature interpretive center	29
Gathering / collecting things in nature setting	27

Table 6.5
SCOPR Participation in Water Related Activities
Total Percent from Table 6.1 = 75%

Activity	Percent
Swimming or wading at beach	39
Boating - any boating	36
Beachcombing	33
Inner tubing or floating	17
Using a splash park	8
Water skiing	7
Using a spray park	6
Snorkeling	4
Surfboarding	2
Scuba or skin diving	2
Wind surfing	1

Finally, it is illustrative to look at a completely un-categorized list of recreation participation as listed below in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6
SCOPR Participation in Recreation
No Categories

Activity	Percent		
Picnicking, BBQing, or cooking out	80.9		
Walking without a pet	71.3	Horseback riding	7.7
Wildlife viewing/photographing	59	Water skiing	7.4
Sightseeing	56.8	Snowboarding	7.1
Gardening, flowers or vegetables	56.7	Soccer	7.0
Hiking	63.9	Snowshoeing	6.7
Walking with a pet	51.6	Using a spray park	6.4
Camping	42.6	Badminton	6.0
Swimming or wading at beach	38.8	Baseball	5.4
Swimming in pool	38.2	Football	5.3
Aerobics, but not weights	37.8	Boating - using personal watercraft	5.2
Bicycle riding	36.9	Roller or inline skating	4.7
Playground use	36.9	Skiing, cross country	4.5
Jogging or running	36.2	Frisbee - disc golf	4.5
Swimming in natural waters	35.7	Handball, racquetball, or squash	4.2
Fishing or shellfishing	34.1	Snorkeling	3.7
Beachcombing	32.6	Boating - sail boating	3.5
Visiting nature interpretive center	29.2	Ice skating	3.3
Indoor community facilities	28.4	Frisbee - ultimate frisbee	3.0
Weight conditioning	27.6	Skateboarding	2.9
Gathering/collecting things in nature	27.2	Boating - whitewater rafting	2.8
Boating - motor boating	24.8	Snowmobiling	2.7
Shooting	17.4	ATV riding on snow or ice	2.4
Inner tubing or floating	17.1	Surfboarding	2.1
Basketball	16.8	Scuba or skin diving	1.6
Sledding, inner tubing, or other snow play	15.5	Flying gliders, ultralights, or other aircraft	1.5
Golf	15.5	Wind surfing	1.0
Off-roading for recreation	15.3	Sky diving/parachuting from plane/glider	0.8
Boating - canoeing/kayak	11.1	Bungee jumping	0.6
Skiing	10.4	Ice hockey	0.5
Volleyball	10.3	Lacrosse	0.4
Tennis	10.1	Paragliding or hang gliding	0.2
Climbing or mountaineering	10.0	Hot air ballooning	0.2
Hunting	9.4	Taking chartered sightseeing flight	0.2
Using a splash park	8.1	Rugby	0.2
Softball	7.8	Base jumping	0.0

Finally, Mount Vernon is a community in transition with an increasingly large Hispanic/Latino and minority population. Table 6.7 suggests a difference in participation rates between respondents who identified themselves as ‘white’ vs. ‘non-white’.

Table 6.7
SCORP - Activities with marked difference in participation
between white and non-white residents.

	Activity	Percent Participation by Those Identifying Themselves as White	Percent Participation by Those Identifying Themselves as Non-White	Percentage Point Difference
More Non-White	Jogging or running	34.44	46.22	11.77
	Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights	36.86	46.94	10.09
	Tennis	9.95	15.82	5.87
	Swimming in pool	38.45	44.30	5.85
	Basketball	16.01	21.62	5.61
	Weight conditioning	26.71	32.28	5.57
	Surfboarding	1.67	6.75	5.08
Excludes all activities with a difference of less than 5.00 percentage points				
More White	Visiting nature interpretive center	29.13	23.55	5.59
	Skiing, downhill	10.82	4.21	6.61
	Inner tubing or floating	18.53	11.66	6.87
	Gardening, flowers or vegetables	58.12	51.09	7.02
	Boating—canoeing, kayaking, rowing, manual craft	12.08	4.20	7.88
	Hunting or shooting	23.01	14.88	8.13
	Swimming or wading at beach	40.36	32.18	8.19
	Wildlife viewing/photographing	61.25	52.29	8.96
	Snow and ice activities	33.29	23.91	9.38
	Walking with a pet	53.50	44.06	9.45
	Boating—motorboating other than personal watercraft	26.07	15.25	10.82
	Gathering/collecting things in nature setting	28.49	17.28	11.22
	Beachcombing	34.09	21.03	13.06
	Boating—any boating	37.36	21.69	15.67

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of Service (LOS) is an attempt to objectively quantify recreation. Currently, there is no recreation planning model that takes multiple characteristics into account when measuring for success.

Quantity of parks in nearby communities

In the past, quantity of park acreage, as compared to local or similar communities, was used as a factor in evaluating potential parks needs. Though this information does provide a very broad brush form of comparison, it misses important need information such as park condition and specific community values. Simple park acreage quantity information is summarized below in table 6.8.

**Table 6.8
Parks Quantity**

Area	Regional	Community	TOTAL	AC/ 1000 pop
City of Mount Vernon (31,743)	522	168.25	690.25	22
City of Anacortes (15804)	2835	488	3323	210
City of Burlington (8,401)	NA	NA	327	39
City of Marysville (60,020)	NA	NA	435	7
City of Bellingham (81,862)	NA	1562	3306	40
Average of non-MV cities				74
Non MV cities excluding Anacortes				27

Modified Level of Service

Recognizing the shortcoming of simply comparing number of acres of one community to the next, this plan has prepared a modified Population Ratio Level of Service number that is specific to the City of Mount Vernon for Regional Parks, Community Parks, and Linear Trails. This figure includes the number of parks and trails available, plus factors such as condition are inventoried and included here. One of the main benefits of this method is the ability to track of progress in meeting the level-of-service over time, which allows the public to access if the City is meeting the determined future park needs.

The Importance of Community Parks and Linear Parks to Cities

Community and Linear Parks are particularly important to cities due to their connection with a community’s livability and quality of life. These types of parks are necessary to support current and future development in the City. In addition, impact mitigation fees are collected for these classifications of parks so it is important to provide as much direction in this area as possible.

Other park classifications, such as Regional Parks and Neighborhood Parks are typically less of a focus of city governments. Smaller neighborhood parks are often supplied and maintained by housing projects, Home Owner Associations (HOA’s) and developments. In Mount Vernon, when a new Public Utility District (PUD) is built, there is a requirement that 25% of the area be in open space that is not critical area and that 25% of that area be designed as usable park space. For Regional Parks, Mount Vernon has an outstanding asset in Little Mountain Park, which contributes significantly to the quality of life of residents. However, larger regional parks are very much the focus of State and County Park systems in our area that is so rich in recreational resources.

Quantity of Parks in MV

Table 6.9
Quantity of Community Parks

	Acres	Population
Bakerview Park	40	
Edgewater Park	65	
Hillcrest Park	30.5	
Kiwanis Park	9	
Lions Park	1.6	
18 th Street Park	1	
Skagit Riverwalk Park	.75	
PUD Fields	6	
TOTAL	168.25	
2012 Population		32,287
Acres Per 1000 residents	5.21	
RECCOMENDED LOS/1000		4.00 Acres

Table 6.10
Quantity of Linear Parks

	Miles	Population
Kulshan Trail	2.5	
Maddox Creek Trail	.75	
Skagit Riverwalk Trail (P 1 & 2)	.67	
Trumpeter Trail	1.1	
TOTAL	4.97	
2012 Population		32,287
Miles Per 1000 residents	.15	
RECCOMEMDED LOS / 1000		.15 Miles

Table 6.11
Quantity of Regional Parks

	Acres	Population
Little Mountain Park	522	
TOTAL	522	
2012 Population		32,287
Acres Per 1000 residents	16.17	
RECCOMENDED LOS/1000		N/A

Condition of Parks

Mount Vernon's parks range from in age from relatively new parks to parks over 30 years old. Over the past 6 years, substantial renovations have been made on some of the older parks in our inventory. The following is a ranking of the condition of these facilities:

COMMUNITY PARKS

Bakerview Park and Vaux Retreat Center	Condition Rank	7/10
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The day use picnic and playground facilities are in good shape. The sports fields' irrigation system is currently adequate. Recent improvements to the Vaux Retreat Center have that facility fully functioning. The new dog park is almost complete and well used. The BMX and skate park are in good shape.

Possible Improvements: The field drainage on two of the soccer fields is failing and in need of repair. The disc golf area is in need of proper drainage. Add small dog park to existing dog park footprint.

Edgewater Park	Condition Rank	6/10
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In 2007 the City completed a new, much needed restroom. The day use picnic and playground facilities are in good shape. The special events pavilion is in good shape. The conditions of the sports fields are adequate.

Possible Improvements:

The parking lot is gravel and user experience would be improved if it were paved. Due to development restrictions on lands adjacent to the Skagit River, the highest and best use may be for park-land. Possible expansion of the Park boundaries to the north and south should be considered.

Hillcrest Park	Condition Rank	6/10
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The Lodge has had several recent improvements including a new commercial kitchen and storage addition. A new restroom was installed to replace a failing structure. The day use areas and sport courts are in good shape. In 2014 tennis courts received updated surfacing and circulation from the parking lot to the Lodge was improved.

Kiwanis Park Condition Rank 9/10

This Park is the newest park in the system and not in need of any renovation.

Lions Park (combined) Condition Rank 8/10

With the addition of a new trail, North and South Lions Parks are better able to function as a single facility. A new play structure and updated site furnishings have been recently added to this Park, as well as, some trail development in the northern conservation area.

Possible improvements

Signage is old and hard to read and the chain-link fencing in the southern area is in need of repair due to erosion. The restroom may reach the end of its lifecycle in the next 3 years. The connector between the north and south areas could be improved with landscaping to mitigate road impacts. A footbridge pedestrian crossing over fish ladder would improve circulation.

18th Street Park Condition Rank 8/10

General open space used for little league and un-structured use, is somewhat undeveloped.

Possible Improvements

Backstop at little league field in need of repair.

Skagit Riverwalk Park Condition Rank 10/10

This park is scheduled to be completed in 2014 and is not in need of any renovation.

PUD Fields Condition Rank 8/10

Large open space and baseball field; used for soccer games, baseball games and tournaments. General field condition is good. Shared use parking with PUD is in good condition

Possible improvements

Addition of a permanent restroom facility.

LINEAR PARKS

Kulshan Trail	Condition Rank	7/10
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Paved surfacing is in adequate condition. Site amenities in adequate condition

Possible improvements

Surface repairs in specific locations related to tree roots. Expansion and connections to other trails. Trail lighting and other safety and security measures the entire length of the trail.

Maddox Trail	Condition Rank	9/10
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Crushed gravel surfacing in good condition. Site amenities in good condition

Possible improvements

Expansion and connections to other trails.

Skagit Riverwalk Trail	Condition Rank	10/10
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The facility is essentially in brand new condition

Trumpeter Trail	Condition Rank	7/10
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Paved surfacing adequate in condition.

Possible improvements

Surface repair in locations from tree roots. Addition of benches and site amenities. Expansion and connections to other trails

REGIONAL PARKS

Little Mountain Viewpoint Park	Condition Rank	8/10
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Over the past four years, by adding sustainable trails, the work of the Mount Vernon Trail Builders has been transforming the park toward its full potential in regards to trails. A public process Park Master Plan was recently completed that determined type and quantity of trails best suited for the park. Eagle Rock Challenge Course is a low and high element course that is located on the south side of Little Mountain Park. This facility hosts

contracted groups for various “challenge by choice” programs. This park also contains two spectacular viewpoints for the public to enjoy.

Possible improvements

Continued trail work, additional parking area, permanent restroom, interpretive signage, trail connections to neighborhoods, to Blackburn Road, and Bonnie Rae Park. Restroom and small storage facility for the Eagle Rock Course.

Table 6.12
Condition of Community Parks

	Out of a possible 10	Renovation Required
Bakerview Park	7	No
Edgewater Park	6	Yes
Hillcrest Park	6	Yes
Kiwanis Park	9	No
Lions Park	8	No
18 th Street Park	8	No
Skagit Riverwalk Park	10	No
PUD Fields	8	No
RECOMMENDED LOS	7 or higher	

Table 6.13
Condition of Linear Parks

	Out of a possible 10	Renovation Required
Kulshan Trail	7	No
Maddox Creek Trail	9	No
Skagit Riverwalk Trail (P 1 & 2)	10	No
Trumpeter Trail	7	No
RECOMMENDED LOS	7 or higher	

Table 6.14
Condition of Regional

	Out of a possible 10	Renovation Required
Little Mountain Park	8	No
RECOMMENDED LOS	7 or higher	

Projected Need for Community and Linear Parks

One of the most important questions is how much additional park space a community will need in the future. Using the LOS generated above, the projected need for community and linear parks is projected out to the year 2025.

Table 6.15
Projected Need - Quantity of Community Parks
LOS 4.5 Acres per 1000

	Population	Projected Population	Current Acres	Additional Acres Required
2012	32,287		168.25	--
2020		41,895		19.8
2025		47,900*		47.3

*Mount Vernon Community and Economic Development

Table 6.16
Projected Need - Quantity of Linear Parks
LOS .15 Miles per 1000

	Population	Projected Population	Current Miles	Additional Miles Required
2012	32,287		4.97	--
2020		41,895		1.3
2025		47,900*		2.2

*Mount Vernon Community and Economic Development

CHAPTER 7

USE PATTERNS

The public opinion survey results and the open house meetings provide a broad range and great quantity of subjective input. The SCORP document and the LOS standards combine to give MVPR staff an objective method to better distinguish the needs of Mount Vernon residents and aid in MVPR formulating plans to better serve City residents. Although the opinion survey, public input, SCORP and LOS standards provide a means of understanding resident needs, there are many variables these methods have difficulty in accounting for. To fully account for the missing information, knowledge from those using or overseeing the programs is needed. This “use pattern” information will be combined with other information gathered to more adequately decipher City residents’ priorities. This added information will provide the link and ultimately merge the surveys and LOS standards into a recommendation.

Use patterns can be analyzed in a variety of ways. Lack of facility space, a shortage of campsites, or an overrun trail system may lead MVPR staff or City Council to easily conclude needs which are not being met. In other cases, the analysis may be more ambiguous. The fact that a facility is being used under capacity may lead some to believe the needs are being sufficiently met. Whereas, the real reason the facility is being under used may be due to maintenance needs, expansion needs, or some other inadequacy. In other situations, there may be a surplus of baseball and/or softball fields on the west side of the City, but a shortage on the east side, even though the LOS standards indicate there is sufficient amount of fields City-wide. Because of all of these variables, it becomes necessary for MVPR Staff to look at specific user groups, facilities and/or programs to determine if in fact the needs of the community are being met. MVPR staff oversee facility use, have a current knowledge of the inadequacies and/or deficiencies of these facilities, and are positioned well for making this determination. In addition there are users in the community that are extremely knowledgeable and focused on various types of recreation. This process invited these users to participate on a series of focus groups to have a discussion and provide in-depth input into the area they are most knowledgeable and interested in.

Passive Recreation

Passive recreational activities involve recreational activities that although may be exertive, do not require a field or court and typically do not require the use of a ball. Also include dare activities that require less energy, such as walking, picnicking, boating, and wildlife viewing.

Group Picnic

Group picnic areas are needed throughout our community. The public has stressed a need for covered facilities with cooking capabilities. Mount Vernon has added covered picnic shelters at

Kiwanis Park. Overall condition of local group picnic areas is fair. Most parks would be improved with a simple shelter. The Hispanic community has called on many occasions in their pursuit of a shelter with cooking capabilities.

Wildlife Viewing

Mount Vernon is a hub of wildlife viewing opportunities. From the diverse landscape of the Skagit River floodplain on the west side, to the upland woods and wetlands of Little Mountain, Mount Vernon boasts the full range of the Pacific Northwest's beauty. Mount Vernon is recognized as being located on a major flyway for migratory birds and people from all over the state come to the area to view swans and other migratory species. The salmon runs of the Skagit are notorious for the fishery they provide, but the sight and story of salmon is equally compelling. Less dramatic but no less important wildlife can be seen in pockets of smaller parks like Kiwanis or Bakerview and the public is interested.

Public Shoreline

Mount Vernon is located on the third largest river west of the Continental Divide, a resource and water that characterize Skagit County as a unique and beautiful place. The enjoyment of the Skagit River is crucial to Mount Vernon residents. Private landholdings and developments are leaving residents finding fewer places for recreation opportunities along the shorelines.

Boat Launches

Mount Vernon provides water access opportunities to the Skagit River, primarily at Edgewater Park. The popularity of this access point and the popularity of boating reveal a shortage of adequate opportunities for watercraft enthusiasts. As Mount Vernon continues along its redevelopment plan, the pressure on these facilities is expected to increase. Adding to the shortage has been the decline in the number of water access points along county rivers over the last several years due to The Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department decommissioning many of their boat launches.

Focus Group Input

There is a desire for additional areas to see and enjoy wildlife. More areas to see and interact with the Skagit River should be a priority. There is an interest in environmental education that can be done in conjunction with Mount Vernon Schools. There is interest in providing playgrounds that are close to where people live. Community gardens, both ornamental and edible, also are seen as a need that is underserved. Time walking in a park was one of the most consistently requested and appreciated activities.

Although Mount Vernon has a good quantity of parks and open space, this focus group was most cognizant of the importance of continuing to acquire more park space as the population continues

to expand and cities continue toward greater density. Larger tracts should be prioritized over smaller tracts. Tracts that connect to existing parks should be priorities as well

Active Recreation

Active recreational activities generally involve a court or field and typically require the use of a ball or disc.

Youth Athletics

A major focus of Mount Vernon parks is youth athletics. Youth camps focus on the fundamentals, skills, sportsmanship, and fun that prepare young athletes to participate in youth leagues. There is a wide array of youth camps offered throughout the County with the City focusing on the youngest users. The City does not focus on adult sports leagues. Many youth leagues for soccer, baseball, and basketball are provided by private groups or associations.

Gymnasium Space

A cross-agency indoor gymnasium facility would serve both in an active and passive recreational capacity. Although Mount Vernon is limited in its ability to provide for adequate active recreational opportunities, the expense of an indoor recreation center is cost prohibitive, at least without a stable and dedicated funding source. A shared indoor gymnasium center would provide MVPR and its partners with the ability to better provide basketball leagues, volleyball leagues, tournament facilities, and a variety of other recreational opportunities. Mount Vernon should look to partner with empty building owners for possible short term space.

Swimming Pool

Mount Vernon is deficient in pools for its residents but somewhat less so than other communities as there are two small pools in Mount Vernon—one for health club members, and another at the YMCA. Anacortes has a multi-purpose pool. There is a need for a pool to accommodate the people of Mount Vernon. Although local and State surveys have indicated a strong need for a multi-purpose swimming facility, the cost of maintaining such a facility would require strong partnerships and dedicated funds.

Senior Baseball Fields

In Mount Vernon, the senior youth baseball programs are managed by several organizations. This includes Skagit Valley College, the local high school programs, Junior and Senior American Legion, Babe Ruth, Sandy Koufax, and Senior Little League. Mount Vernon currently provides a Senior Baseball facility, Sherman Anderson Baseball Field, and uses PUD property to provide a 90ft baseball field.

Adult/Junior Soccer Fields

The soccer program in Mount Vernon is managed by several organizations. This includes, but is not limited to; local schools and private groups. Soccer fields have a lower cost of maintenance and operation costs than other facilities and because of this are more abundant. Currently, there are sufficient facilities to meet the demand in Mount Vernon. A growing Hispanic population may increase the future needs. The City of Burlington is currently meeting the local regional need for soccer fields.

Softball Fields

The softball program in Mount Vernon is managed by several organizations. This includes, but is not limited to; the high schools and Skagit County Parks and Recreation. Skagit County Parks and Recreation is a regional provider of adult softball leagues in Mount Vernon.

Youth Baseball Fields

In Mount Vernon, there are several organizations involved in youth baseball. This includes four Little League programs and the YMCA. Currently, the local needs are being met, although the conditions of several fields need improvement. Lighted and artificial turf fields are increasing in demand and are needed throughout the County.

Special Use

Special-use facilities are provided by the private and public sectors, often in partnership. Golf courses are being provided by the private sector and the need is currently being met. Motorized trails are being provided for by the State Departments, such as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Walker Valley Lands. Other activities and facilities such as BMX parks, spray parks, skateboard parks, disc golf, etc. will be continually monitored for status of need. There appears to be interest in several of these activities and sufficient programming and facilities to accommodate current needs.

Focus group Input

In general, it is seen that Mount Vernon has enough sports facilities, but they are not as available as needed; primarily due to condition and weather related impacts. Soccer is still seen as a growing activity in Mount Vernon. Open and unstructured Gym Time is seen as a need. A warm water aquatic facility or recreational pool is also seen as a need. There was also a strong desire for more pickle ball opportunities indoor and outdoor within the City.

Trails and Pathways

Trails continue to be the most requested recreational need in Mount Vernon and the use that generates the highest level of community interest. City residents are interested in loop and linear

type trails as well as wide and connected sidewalks. While numerous trails exist throughout the City, residents like trail systems within walking distances of their homes. Even though trails are prevalent throughout many of the neighborhoods, the number and mileage is inadequately inventoried and accurate comparisons are difficult.

Trails are relatively inexpensive to build and maintain. Because of their low cost and popularity, MVPR will continue to provide trails when opportunities arise.

Focus Group Input

Citizens of the City continue to ask for trails that connect to other trails, connect to Little Mountain Park, connect to other parks, and connect to areas of importance like shopping, downtown and schools. Connections and access to the dike system was requested on numerous occasions, and the City is encouraged to address the challenges of public access, in a manner acceptable to private property owners, when it can. Connections of existing trails are the single most requested improvement to trails in Mount Vernon.

Linear trail systems such as the Kulshan and Trumpeter trails have missing links and acquisition will be necessary to see them for completion. Recent development projects in east Mount Vernon are creating a large and growing residential population with a need to connect to these large linear trails and the rest of the City.

Loop trails that serve as amenities to neighborhoods were seen as highly desirable. The neighborhood of Maddox creek was highlighted as a positive example.

Some maintenance concerns were raised regarding trails such as the conflict of paving around tree roots, encroaching brush and leaves. An upgrade to signage both to trails and within trail systems is seen as a strong need.

The tremendous amount of work being done at Little Mountain in building sustainable multi-use trails is recognized for the significant accomplishment it is and is encouraged to continue. The interest in expanding the trail system, adding parking, adding a bike skills center, and connecting to the community in a non-motorized fashion came up repeatedly. Connections to Little Mountain will require finding ways to work with private property owners and/or the consideration of property acquisition. Connections to neighborhoods and Blackburn Road should be examined.

Finally, the importance of promoting not just trails, but the culture of valuing trails, was suggested as a way to tie in the numerous benefits that trails can provide to Mount Vernon including the health, economic, transportation, and recreation for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Enrichment Programs and Events

The focus on youth programming is appreciated. There is a desire for more low cost programs. Programs and services should be coordinated with other cities and the county.

Special User Groups

Seniors

Recreation activities for senior citizens can be provided in as diverse a manner as programs targeting non-seniors. People of all ages and abilities have a desire to participate in parks and recreation and an activity doesn't have to be labeled "for seniors" to be enjoyable. Thinking through the things everybody enjoys is a good starting point in finding the best activities for seniors.

Outdoor activities such as fishing, gardening, bird watching, and hiking are popular. Sports such as golf, tennis, and pickle ball are traditional but individual activities like kayaking can be popular. Specific exercise programs like water aerobics, walking, yoga, or Tai Chi are popular and offered by both private & public organizations in the community.

Indoor activities can be just as popular, and the Mount Vernon Senior Center provides a range of classes and activities. Additional activities might include scrapbooking, journaling, breakfast, lunch, or dinner clubs, and creative writing.

Focus Group Input

Seniors enjoy being outdoors and especially enjoy the chance to be outdoors with others. Walking in general and walking in parks were the most desired activities. There was a theme that seniors do not feel safe in parks, or on trails, and many seniors expressed an interest in having a walking group for both the social and safety benefit. The "Silver Sneakers" program was suggested as a possible model.

More active recreation was of interest, as well as, sports that are low key. Bocce ball and a public golf putting green were highlighted as specific examples. Exercise stations on walking trails also had support as a way to expand the most popular activity of walking.

Latino Park Users

The Latino population is growing in Mount Vernon and represents just under 50% of the population. Visits to a park occur about once a week by 63% of the population, but participation in recreation programs is far lower than that. Reasons for lower participation include cost, lack of time and information about programs, fear that parks are not safe, and fear of authorities. The most desired park features is a play area and structures for children. Bakerview Park and Kiwanis Park are considered to be the favorite parks for the Latino community. There is a high desire for family type parks and covered areas for large gatherings.

Latino Focus Group Input

There is an overall appreciation of the park system and the number of parks that have a number of activities for people to do.

There was an interest in more of the parks, programs, and facilities being more accessible to the Latino population. This would include more printed materials in Spanish, TV advertisements in Spanish, and programs and events being advertised on existing Latino media such as local radio stations. Challenges to access include costs of events and cost of facility rental. There was a strong desire for a pool and a community center where individuals and families could congregate for things like dances and celebrations. Existing facilities that might accommodate similar events were seen as too costly. Finally there was a consensus on a desire for more local soccer fields, particularly ones designed to accommodate adult leagues, as most Mount Vernon adult soccer players travel to Burlington where fields are more readily available.

Teen Recreation

Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation strive to provide enriching recreational activities that challenge and motivate young people to learn new things. General areas include traditional sports and athletics to classes such as babysitting. The Eagle-rock challenge course is now open during periods for drop by, in hopes of attracting teens.

Teen Focus Group Input

Teens have positive memories of using parks but use them less than they did as elementary aged children. Many teens like to just 'hang out' at parks and Little Mountain is a favorite. Beyond hanging out, teen use often centers on specific activities, such as sports. The teen focus group documented a desire for increased tennis access that can be accomplished by adding wind screens to courts that are often unusable due to wind. There is also a desire for structured events like tennis tournaments.

CHAPTER 8

ANALYSIS

No single level of determining need is perfect. To determine Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation program and facility needs, the following methods of determining need were combined. The score derived from these combined elements will be used in establishing project priorities. In this chapter, “park type” is analyzed first, followed by “programs and facilities”.

In summary, our three methods of assessing need are:

1. **Level of Service (LOS) Standards and Results from SCORP**, which provide service levels based on population and provide guidance in establishing LOS standards for Mount Vernon.
2. **Public Input and Survey Results**, distinguish the recreational desires of Mount Vernon residents with a public opinion survey and two general open houses.
3. **Use Patterns and Focus Groups**, which provide fundamental information from those who use or oversee facilities and programs in Mount Vernon and indicate facility or program need.

Points are assigned based on the following criteria

1. **Mount Vernon Level of Service.**
 - a. MVPR service levels are below the LOS (5 points)
 - b. MVPR service levels are essentially the same as the LOS(<10%) (3 points)
 - c. MVPR service levels exceed LOS (1 point)

2. **Public Input** needs as expressed in the Public Opinion Survey and Open House
 - a. Highest level of need (5 points)
 - b. Some need (3 points)
 - c. Low level of need (1 point)

3. **Use Patterns** based on Mount Vernon’s existing programs and Facilities
 - a. Use patterns consistently exceed capacity of facility/program. (5 points)
 - b. Use patterns generally accommodated by facilities/programs. (3 points)
 - c. Facility/program can handle additional use. (1 point)

The scores will be combined and averaged to make a final determination of need for facilities and/or programs. The scores will indicate the needs based on the following levels of need:

4.0-5.00	High level of need.
2.0-3.99	Moderate level of need
1.0-1.99	Low level of need

ANALYSIS OF “PARK TYPES”

Mount Vernon parks are currently made up of four different “park types” as defined below. These parks are analyzed as to how they rank according to the data available. The rankings will help determine priorities.

Table 8.1
Point Rankings of Park Needs

Park Type	LOS	Public Input Survey	Use Patterns	Total	Average
Neighborhood	3	3	5	11	3.67
Community	3	3	3	9	3
Regional	1	5	1	9	2.33
Linear	3	5	5	13	4.33

Point rankings of park needs: According to the analysis, there is a high level of need for increasing the LOS of linear parks in Mount Vernon. There is a moderate to high need for community parks, neighborhood parks, and regional parks.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Score: 3.67

Level of Need: Moderate +

Neighborhood Parks are generally small, pedestrian oriented, and situated to serve residents of an immediate area. Recreational activities may include both passive and active uses, as well as, multipurpose facilities such as basketball, tennis, or play equipment. Passive uses include open play areas. Age appropriate needs of the surrounding community should be emphasized at a Neighborhood Park.

Neighborhood Parks may also feature natural or conservation areas. Passive recreational development includes boardwalks, nature trails, picnicking facilities, shelters, park benches, picnic

tables, environmental, cultural or historic interpretive facilities, and parking. Natural areas include streams, wetlands, forestlands, or even a unique natural feature. Such Neighborhood Parks may also function as a greenbelt or view shed on which there is no public access.

- 1) **Level of Service:** The state SCORP ranks playgrounds, walking, and wildlife viewing relatively high.
- 2) **Public Input Survey:** The survey shows Mount Vernon residents rank “Parks in General” very high, but there was modest documentation asking for more of them.
- 3) **Use Patterns:** Mount Vernon Neighborhood Parks are used moderately.
- 4) **Other Factors:** MVPR recognizes that provision of Neighborhood Parks is currently tied to the development of new neighborhoods. There are areas in Mount Vernon that were built before this was a common requirement, and there are significant areas in the City where there are no Neighborhood Parks.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Score: 3.0

Level of Need: Moderate+

Community Parks are generally bigger than Neighborhood Parks, and host a larger number and type of ball fields, facilities, and a variety of activities such as open space, BBQs, and picnic areas for larger gatherings.

- 1) **Level of Service:** The current LOS of Mount Vernon Community Parks is 5.21 acres/1000 people. Many of the uses that occur in a Community Park rank at the top of the SCORP, such as the catch all 'Recreational Activity' category (83% level of participation).
- 2) **The survey:** The survey showed a moderate level of need for Community Parks by demonstrating a high community ranking of facilities and programs that are generally provided at this type of park.
- 3) **Use Patterns:** Use patterns indicate a modest need for some sports field upgrades and improvements.

REGIONAL PARKS

Average Score: 2.33

Level of Need: Moderate -

Regional Parks are generally larger sites, that offer a variety of unique features or recreational experiences that serve the users beyond the City population. These may include one-of-a-kind natural, cultural, or historic features, water access, or a concentration of facilities that can accommodate large-scale events. Little Mountain Park is a Regional Park.

1) Level of Service: The current LOS in Mount Vernon is 16.17 acres/1000 people. In acreage, there is a surplus of Regional Parks in Mount Vernon through the planning horizon of 2025. Little Mountain Park is in transition and once fully developed will provide appropriate LOS for Regional Parks.

2) Public Input Survey: The public input survey shows a high level of need for types of recreation that regional parks typically provide. This includes walking, hiking and biking trails, shoreline access, park and picnic areas, indoor recreation facilities, and pools. All of these facilities would fit well within the definition of a Regional Park.

3) Use Patterns: Use patterns at current Regional Parks indicate the level of use is generally being met.

Linear Parks

Score: 3.5

Level of Need: Moderate+

Linear Parks are trails of City wide significance and a park where the trail is the main feature rather than a support feature of some other recreational use. The Kulshan Trail and the Skagit Riverwalk are Linear Parks.

1) Level of Service: The LOS is .15 miles per 1000. The SCORP indicates that walking, walking with a pet, and hiking are the three most participated in recreational activities in the state of Washington.

2) Survey: The surveys show a strong desire for walking, trail use, and by extension Linear Parks.

3) Use Patterns: Users indicate a great passion and commitment to maintaining and expanding the trail and Linear Park experience in Mount Vernon.

ANALYZING PROGRAM AND FACILITY NEEDS

Park types serve as the broadest method for analyzing parks, but a more specific analysis is needed for more accurate recommendations. This is accomplished by analyzing specific program and facility needs in a similar method used for measuring the need for “park type”.

Facility Type	LOS/ SCORP	Public Input Survey	Use Patterns	Total	Average
Non-motorized Trails	5	5	5	15	5
Day Use / Picnic / General Park	5	5	5	15	5
Public Shoreline	5	3	5	13	4.33
Open Space / Natural areas	5	5	3	13	4.33
Swimming Pools	3	5	3	11	3.7
Adult / Junior Soccer Fields	1	5	5	11	3.7
Environmental Education	3	3	3	9	3
Disc Golf	1	1	5	7	2.33
Youth Baseball Fields	1	3	1	5	1.67
Senior Baseball Fields	1	3	1	5	1.67
Softball Fields	1	1	3	5	1.67

Non-Motorized Trails Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates 90 percent of the population participates in walking, hiking, or jogging on non-motorized trails. It is the most popular recreation activity in the State of Washington.
2. **Survey Results:** The survey shows a strong desire for trails in Mount Vernon. The surveys consistently rate nature trail facilities as the most important, soft surface walking and/or hiking trails ranked second.
3. **Use Patterns:** The statewide patterns are consistent with local information; trails are the top ranked activity. Trails provide opportunities for wildlife viewings, bike riding, hiking, photography, walking pets, transportation, etc.
4. **Other Comments:** Trails continue to be the number one park need of both Mount Vernon and Washington State residents. People like to have an array of trail choices throughout the City. Linear Trails often provide connectivity from parks, schools, downtown, and many other locations. With adequate widths, they can also provide important transportation corridors. Additional ADA trails are needed in Mount Vernon. There are three types of trails that recreationalists specify in their needs analysis: linear transportation trails, loop trails, and destination trails.

Public Shoreline Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 59% of the population participates in nature viewing, which often occurs on shorelines, and 75% of the population participates in non swimming, water related activities.
2. **Surveys:** Open Space or Natural Areas are the second highest ranked facility in terms of importance.
3. **Use Patterns:** River access is declining as many sites have become inoperable. The sites that do exist are distributed sporadically. When river fish are running, the MVPR Department is inundated with phone calls and visits from concerned recreationalists about the deficiency in regards to river access. There is a deficiency in the amount of public shoreline access in Mount Vernon, especially in regards to lakes and rivers.

Open Space or Natural Area Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 59% of the population participates in nature viewing.
2. **Surveys:** Open Space or Natural Areas are the second highest ranked facility in terms of importance. It was ranked by 89% of the respondents as important. Nature Trails were the highest ranked type of trail.
3. **Use Patterns:** The desire for the acquisition of natural areas was consistently mentioned throughout the planning process. The balance between providing appropriate recreational access and preserving for habitat value was mentioned on several occasions as an important factor.

Swimming Pools Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 52% of the population participates in swimming pool activities.
2. **Surveys:** The survey shows a desire for a large indoor pool with 72% of respondents ranking it as important.
3. **Use Patterns:** A warm water, indoor, recreational swimming pool has been a long-term existing need in Mount Vernon and Skagit County. The Fidalgo Pool in Anacortes is not accessible to users in the central and eastern portions of the county. The YMCA Pool in Mount Vernon is used by three high school swim teams and has programs starting at 5am and often going until 9pm daily. Current participation in swimming is about 35% lower in the local region, than other regions surveyed. Much of the difference is likely due to the lack of facilities.
4. **Other Factors:** The economic reality of maintaining a pool would require a significant cross-agency partnership, private or other, along with a fee system. The City does not have the capacity to support a pool. The YMCA pool was built many years ago and is aging

rapidly. Other pools are privately owned or require monthly memberships. Swimming pools are often forced to depend on levies, and history shows a fluctuation in community support.

Day-Use / Picnic / General Park Areas Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 80.9% of the population participates in picnicking.
2. **Surveys:** Surveys show that general park use is important to 97% of the respondents, the highest in this category.
3. **Use Patterns:** Mount Vernon operates several group picnic areas that are often reserved to capacity during the summer.
4. **Other Factors:** The residents of Mount Vernon like to see picnic shelters as a part of their Regional and Community Park facilities. There is also a need for shelters with “kitchen type” cooking capabilities. The growing Latino population is increasing the need for picnic shelters.

Softball Field Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 7.8% of the population participates in softball.
2. **Surveys:** Surveys indicate a lower ranking of softball fields in Mount Vernon.
3. **Use Patterns:** The Skagit Valley Playfields, operated by Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR), are a regional draw for league play and tournaments. The fields are used to capacity during the summer months. The current number of leagues and teams is showing trends of increase.

Disk Golf Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 4.5% of the population participates in disc golf.
2. **Surveys:** Surveys have shown a lower ranking of disc golf facilities.
3. **Use Patterns:** Use patterns at existing courses indicated a moderate level of use; however, interest is beginning to increase.
4. **Public Input and Other Factors:** This use is attractive in that it can be a low impact overlay use on trails or open space, providing recreation with a minimal investment. The new course at Bakerview Park was installed with a cost-sharing partnership of a local disc-golf club.

Adult / Junior Soccer Field Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 7% of the population participates in soccer.
2. **Surveys:** Soccer fields were the most requested of all sport field types.

3. **Use Patterns:** The current supply of soccer fields is challenged by the demand, primarily because the fields are not capable of supporting the amount of play they can be subjected to and need to be closed for periods of time to allow the turf to recuperate.
4. **Public Input and Other Factors:** Although soccer fields are relatively abundant, the Latino population is the largest growing ethnic group in Mount Vernon and soccer is extremely popular with that group. The demand increases as their local numbers increase.

Senior Baseball Fields Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 4% of the population participates in baseball.
2. **Survey:** Survey respondents indicate a modest ranking for baseball fields.
3. **Use Patterns:** Mount Vernon currently provides a high quality field at Sherman Anderson, the home field for the Mount Vernon High School boys' baseball team, as well as, many local and State tournaments. The 90ft baseball field at PUD is used as a secondary field.

Youth Baseball Fields Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 4% of the population participates in baseball.
2. **Surveys:** Indicate a modest ranking for baseball fields.
3. **Use patterns:** The needs are being adequately met in Mount Vernon.

Environmental Education Score Derivation

1. **SCORP:** Indicates that 29% of the population participates in visiting nature interpretive centers.
2. **Surveys:** Nature Trails were the most requested trail type. Open Space and Natural Areas were the second most requested facilities.
3. **Use Patterns:** NA
4. **Public Input and Other Factors:** This use is attractive in that it can be an addition to many existing facilities either in the form of an interpretive sign or possibly an interpretive kiosk.

CHAPTER 9

RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION LIST

The following projects are based on the needs compiled from the following:

1. Public Input: Surveys and Open House
2. Level of Service: State wide trends and population based service levels
3. Use Patterns: Input from recreation service providers and focus groups

Project priorities are sorted in order using the three above criteria. In sorting projects by priorities, financial issues are also considered. Considerations can include constraints due to a lack of resources required to develop, maintain, and operate facilities. Within a broad range of project priorities, the City needs to be flexible to changing conditions and opportunities that may arise. The priorities are categorized as follows:

Level 1 Need (High Priority):

Projects in this category typically fall under the Department's first priority of "maintain Level of Service and taking care of what we have." In addition, these projects may have demonstrated the highest level of need in some or all of the categories of public input, use patterns, and level of service. Finally, economic feasibility or potential cost recovery is considered.

Level 2 Need (Moderate to High Priority):

Projects in this category have a moderate level of need as measured by a composite of public input, level of service analysis, survey results, and/or economic feasibility.

Level 3 Need (Low to Moderate Priority):

Projects in this category have some level of need as measured by a composite of public input, level of service, survey results, and/or economic feasibility.

Level 4 Need (No to Low Priority):

Projects in this category have no projected need as measured by a composite of public input, level of service, survey results, and/or economic feasibility. These projects are not listed in analysis.

INDEX TO RECOMMENDATIONS & RANKINGS

Level 1:

Trails Development

- Skagit Riverwalk Trail Expansion and Development
- Trail Development at Little Mountain
- Kulsan Trail Upgrades

Park Development

- Edgewater Park Renovations
- Trail Support Facilities and Connectivity at Little Mountain

Park Planning

- Bonnie Rae Community Park Master Plan

Level 2:

Trails Development

- Kulshan and Trumpeter and Riverbend Cutoff Trail Expansions and Connections

Park Development

- Neighborhood Parks in Underserved Areas
- Field Improvements at Bakerview Park

Planning

- Aquatics Center and Swimming Pool

Acquisition

- Little Mountain Expansion

Programs and Activities

- Targeted Population Activities

Level 3:

Park Development

- Ted Reep Park Improvements
- Bonnie Rae Development

Planning

- Higgins Park Master Plan
- Open Space Park Development
- Community Center

PROJECT AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Following is a description of the above recommended projects. To assist in comparison they will be presented within the following categories.

1. Trails
2. Park Development Plans
3. Acquisition Opportunities
4. Planning Opportunities
5. Programs and Activities

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Trails continue to be the most in demand recreational facility by Washington and Mount Vernon residents. The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) surveys show similar trends. The SCORP document makes recommendations for local agencies and encourages trail opportunities. This documentation paired with the community response indicates that trails need to be provided for at every opportunity.

The recommended recreational trails plan includes a combination of loop, destination, and linear type trails. To complete these sections it will require, in some cases, access easements or outright purchase of property. In other cases where no other options exist, the route may need to utilize existing road right-of-ways to complete a segment. A description of the major recreation trails found in the plan is described below.

Level 1 – Trail Development

Skagit Riverwalk Trail Expansion and Development – Phase 3

This Linear Park project is unique in that it is integrated into a major City-wide redevelopment effort which speaks to the communities valuing trails and water access. Phase 2, completed in 2014, connects Lions Park North to downtown, all along the Skagit River providing shoreline and wildlife viewing and a real multi-use trail experience. Phase 3 will continue the trail to south of town and

terminate at a trailhead with restrooms, immediately adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Much of this phase will be located on a dike system, located on property owned by the City.

Trail Development at Little Mountain

The implementation of the master plan at Little Mountain Park has been dramatic over the past 5 years; opening up for recreation areas that have long been under used, and also protecting the natural resources of other areas of the Park for wildlife and the ecosystem. This has been done with a partnership between the City and a dedicated group of citizens, the Mount Vernon Trail Builders. This incredibly productive partnership should continue to be nurtured and encouraged as a highest priority as Little Mountain Park continues to enhance the trail experience and protect the resource it is located within. Since the approval of the LM MP in 2009 the trail builders have developed within the area identified for multi-use trails, approximately 5 miles of trails. The MP, when drafted in 2009, provided a conceptual layout of possible trail connections without the benefit of survey and on the ground analysis. This area may be able accommodate more miles of trails due to design elements such as switch backs, and it appears a greater capacity for trials may exist. As development at LMP approaches build-out, the Master Plan should be reviewed for a possible update. This may include expanding the area for multi-use trails. An update to the LMP will require public process and participation before changes can be made to expand the multi-use zone beyond existing boundaries.

Kulshan Trail Upgrades

This trail is second only to Little Mountain Park as a topic in this plan process. The comments center on the desire to enjoy the facility, while requesting an increase in safety and security. Citizens reported, at all opportunities, that their use of this facility has changed due to a perception of safety concerns. Under the priority of taking care of what we have, and the importance of trails to this community, upgrades to the Kulshan Trail receive a level 1 ranking.

Improvements should contain a 5' vegetation setback along the entire trail. The next 10 feet should ensure the trees remain intact; however, a thinning of all line-of-site vegetation should be done in order to eliminate possible hiding opportunities. Finally, motion activated lighting can be implemented along the trail to further address the concern for safety and all damaged or older amenities should be replaced.

Other Proposed Trail Development and/or Acquisition

In addition to the trail routes described above, trails should be developed in existing and proposed Open Space and day-use areas. There is considerable desire for the public to have more access to this region's dike and levee system for recreation trail access. Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department should continue to be open to opportunities to assist and partner with the local Dike Districts, and property owners, to facilitate appropriate access onto the dike systems.

Level 2 - Trails

Kulshan and Trumpeter Trail Expansions and Development

These two trails are the primary Linear Trails in the City. Their expansion and connections to facilities and other trails will benefit to the community in many ways. Connections may be accomplished with easements as part of other development projects, or outright acquisition. Where the ideal trail profile of a detached multi-use surface is not possible due to pre-existing development, enhanced sidewalks may be implemented to provide the expanded connections. Trumpeter Trail ideally will be expanded north through the Kulshan Trail all the way to Ted Reep Park and south to Bonnie Rae Park. The Kulshan Trail should be expanded to the east, ideally to the edge of City limits and possibly all the way to the Skagit County portion of the Centennial Trail, which is currently being developed in the vicinity of Big Rock.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

Level 1 – Park Development

Edgewater Park Renovation

Edgewater Park is the second largest park in Mount Vernon, but its level of use is far below that. The sports fields' drainage and turf condition is poor; the parking is not organized and consists of dusty gravel. There are many acres of shoreline that might contain trails and wildlife viewing that are currently un-used. As Downtown Mount Vernon expands and develops, the importance of this Park will increase well beyond the current programming of two major City festivals. Finally, Community members have envisioned a pedestrian connection between Edgewater Park and

Downtown. This might be planned with the Park renovation, or as part of the eventual improvement of the State Route 536 Bridge. This project is elevated to a Level 1 under the priority of “take care of what you have”.

Trail Support Facilities and Connectivity at Little Mountain

As the trails continue to improve at Little Mountain, more and more users will begin to use the facility both for trail use and the other passive recreation offerings the park has. It is critical that the appropriate support facility be provided for the users benefit, as well as, a way to keep the resource intact. Specifically, the Park is in need of restrooms. The vault toilet that was built years ago is undersized, and at the end of its productive lifespan.

Additionally, parking areas need to be formalized, expanded and managed. Currently, parking is limited to small designated parking areas. The Park is frequented by many users, forcing people to park their cars on the shoulder of the roadway. As use of the Park increases with the addition of a mountain bike skills center, the need for additional, formalized parking will increase. The addition of the mountain bike skills center will allow bike users a place to practice away from other trail users, ultimately creating a more cohesive experience for all users throughout the Park.

Beyond providing vehicle parking at the facility, trail connections from the center of the city should be prioritized and pursued. Ideally a detached trail connection, on both the east and west sides of Little Mountain Road could be established for the central and eastern parts of the city to walk or bike to the park. Finally, as the city grows and Little Mountain Road must be improved, bike lanes and shoulder improvements should be supported to greatly increase the non-motorized access to this important park.

Level 2 – Park Development

Neighborhood Parks in Underserved Areas

The mapping of Neighborhood Parks (see appendix) clearly shows that there are areas of Mount Vernon that have far fewer neighborhood, or walk-to, parks. These neighborhoods tend to be older and denser. Possible acquisition of small parcels should be considered as property becomes available, but partnerships can be immediately explored with property owners of vacant lots for possible interim uses. It is recommended that these small Neighborhood Parks be developed with direct engagement of each of the neighborhoods.

Field Improvements at Bakerview Park

The athletic fields at Bakerview Park receive a tremendous amount of play. The soccer fields in particular can be rendered un-usable after a single weekend in the wet months of spring. Adding to this pressure is the loss of a full size soccer field that was located on private property on 15th Street that was taken out of commission by the property owner in 2013. Improvements to drainage and turf surfacing would allow the remaining fields at Bakerview Park to receive many more hours of play per year. At some point, artificial turf for some, or all of these fields should be considered.

Level 3 – Park Development

Ted Reep Park Improvements

The recently completed wetland banks and seasonal trail at Ted Reep Park is being discovered by the citizens of Mount Vernon. This area would also be an unparalleled wildlife viewing park for migratory birds and salmon returning up the Skagit River. The relatively low riverbank could be considered for a hand boat launch during lower flow periods as well as fishing. The high priority of Open Space and Natural Areas, and the number one requested trail type; Nature Trails, could be accommodated well at this site.

Bonnie Rae Park

This parcel, located on the south side of Mount Vernon, was purchased in 2008 and a master plan process began in 2014. This park will become more and more important as residential populations continue to expand to the south and east. The proximity of Bonnie Rae Park to Little Mountain creates the potential for a trail connection. The Bonnie Rae Park Master Plan is not completed as of the writing of this plan.

PARK ACQUISITION

Park land acquisition is important in planning for the park system of the next generation.

Level 2 – Park Acquisition

Little Mountain Park Expansion

Although Little Mountain Park is a large and diverse resource for the City of Mount Vernon, there will come a time when development will completely surround it and expansion will no longer be possible. As opportunities currently become available, the City should consider acquisition of nearby and adjacent parcels. Partnerships with Skagit Land Trust and other agencies may allow this to be a more feasible, and affordable, option for the City.

PLANNING

Planning consists of a process where the Parks and Recreation Department will work with the community in order to determine what the most appropriate type of recreation and park facilities are needed.

Level 1 - Planning

Bonnie Rae Community Park

Purchased in 2008 and on one of the newly finished Anderson-LaVenture road, no plan to date has been prepared for this 9 acre parcel with wide open fields and a deeply wooded ravine with a salmon bearing stream. Located next to Little Mountain and near dense portions of housing, working with the community on a vision for the park is a high priority

Level 2 - Planning

Swimming Pool and Aquatics

Pools consistently score high in planning processes and this plan is no exception. The economic reality however of operating and building a pool makes it likely that a pool will need to be an interagency effort. Mount Vernon should participate in any agency planning that involves a pool or aquatic component in the Mount Vernon service area as its citizens are very likely to be users.

Level 3 - Planning

Higgins Park Masterplan

This 24 acre parcel on Division Street is located in the center of Mount Vernon. Much of what was originally tilled as a homestead has converted to wetlands over the past 10 years, according to a reconnaissance study done in 2013. It is recommended that the Community be engaged in the development of a master plan for this undeveloped parcel and look at possible uses for passive recreation and/or Community Center or Library.

Open Space Park Development (Unnamed)

This 15 acre series of parcels is located immediately on the Skagit River and adjacent to the southern Riverwalk Trailhead and restroom currently in construction. This relatively unknown piece of property affords great river access and, with the completion of the Skagit Riverwalk, may be a destination park. It is recommended that the Community be engaged in the development of a master plan for this undeveloped parcel.

Mount Vernon Community Center

Meeting space, classroom space, gym space, and even a warm water pool have been shown as priorities of the Community for the last 15 years. The Latino focus group in particular showed high interest in a community center. As Mount Vernon continues to grow, the ability of the Community to afford such a facility becomes more and more reasonable. When the City feels it is within 5-7 years of constructing some version of a Community Center, it is recommended that a master plan be developed.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITES

Level 2 – Programs and Activities

Affordable Park Activities

All forms of input indicated a general satisfaction with recreation programming offered. The largest need was shown to be for free and affordable activities; they are appreciated and highly desired. The Starlight Cinema Outdoor Movies is highlighted as an appreciated example of the types of activities people are interested in.

Latino Park Users

In order for effective communication with the Latino population all materials should be presented bilingually, and through a medium that is more accessible to this population. The focus group highlighted radio such as KSVR as a possible source. Social media and internet is currently not popular. Involving Latino leaders in planning of recreation events may also increase participation within this group. Finally, there is a desire for adult soccer leagues to have a low cost place to play games. Currently much of the Mount Vernon adult soccer community plays in Burlington as the field damage caused by adult cleats has forced the Parks and Recreation Department to restrict use. A solution to the current situation would be highly desirable by the Latino Community.

Senior Park Users

Implement senior centered casual events such as walking groups. Add activities that seniors can benefit from at current parks, such as exercise stations. Playgrounds are great but serve only the youngest where an exercise station is suitable for all ages.

Teen Park Users

To more fully engage teens in parks, teens are interested in enriching recreational activities that challenge and motivate them to learn new thing. Traditional sports that are not currently offered by other agencies, at a less competitive level, and specialized programs and events from digi-arts to talent shows, could further engage this segment of the Community.

MEETING ADA REQUIREMENTS

In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and in 2011 provided an update which is the most recent in a series of laws relating to handicap access. The intent of this law was to strengthen the accessibility requirements for all facilities used by the public. As it relates to parks and recreation facilities, the law is intended to ensure that a person with a disability has the same opportunity to achieve their recreation goals as those without a disability.

Essential to the ADA is the belief that services, programs, and facilities shall be provided in the most integrated setting possible. A public agency is not obligated to guarantee participation but to only provide the opportunity. In addition, structural changes are not necessarily required if other methods will result in equal access.

The definition of disability varies widely and includes a variety of impairments and limitations. This includes people with mobility impairments, visual limitations, hearing impairments, mental disabilities, learning impairments, and emotional disabilities. In addition, it includes elderly citizens, as well as, people with temporary disabilities, such as a broken arm or leg. It is estimated that 57% of the population has some sort of disability or physical limitation.

MEETING ADA REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING FACILITIES

The approach to meeting accessibility requirements for existing parks and recreational facilities is based on the significance and/or relative level of development of the site. The more significant and intensively used a recreation area becomes, the greater the accessibility must become. Recreation areas that are highly developed such as Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks or Special Use Areas require a high level of accessibility. These types of recreation areas should be accessible to people with all types of disabilities. In contrast, a very passive area, such as natural open space that has little development and is seldom used, requires less accessibility.

Where evaluation of existing facilities becomes difficult is when an accommodation would result in a substantial economic burden or would require a major change to the nature of service. Under these conditions, a park and recreation agency may refuse to make the accommodations. However, determining a substantial economic burden is difficult.

Factors that should be considered include; the cost of change as it relates to the overall operating budget of the agency, the actual cost of the change, the number of individuals who would benefit, and the availability of existing funds within the current operating budget.

MEETING ADA REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW FACILITIES

Meeting ADA requirements for new development is easier and slightly different. The development of new parks and recreation facilities allows a greater flexibility in terms of design opportunities for those with disabilities. Because the intent of ADA is to provide a disabled person with the opportunity to experience a full range of recreational opportunities, new parks and recreation facilities should be designed to provide experiences for all ability levels. Individuals with disabilities who enjoy a challenge should be accommodated, as well as, those who prefer easier outdoor recreation experiences. Ideally, individual sites should provide a full range of opportunities for those with disabilities.

However, due to the size and physical characteristics of some sites, offering a variety of ability levels is not always possible. Due to their size, larger sites often have a greater opportunity for accommodating varying levels of development and as a result may require greater accessibility. In general, recreational facilities should provide the highest practical level of access to people with disabilities, though sometimes, that access to facilities may be limited due to physical features of the site.

ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following is the basic accessibility requirements as identified by the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. These standards should be modified according to the level of accessibility required of the site.

1. Parking/Access Routes

- a. One designated handicapped space per 25 total spaces
- b. Eight wide parking spaces with 5' wide access aisle for cars and 8' access aisle for vans.
- c. 50% of handicap spaces for cars and 50% spaces for vans.

2. Pathways/Trails/Ramps

- a. A handicap accessible pathway must be provided to all features of the park.
- b. Ramp required if slope is greater than 1:20 (5%).
- c. Maximum slope on ramp is 1:12 (8%).
- d. Ramp landings 5 feet by 5 feet for every 30 inch rise.
- e. Ramp width is 3 feet minimum.
- f. Two inch high curbs are required along edge of ramp.
- g. Ramp must have a hard non-slip surface.
- h. Handrails are required on ramps and trails with steep cross slopes.
- i. Pathways and trail grades should not exceed 1:20 (5%).
- j. Width of pathways and trails for one-way access is 4 feet and for two-way is 5 feet.
- k. Tactile warnings should be provided along surfaces of potentially dangerous areas.

3. Restrooms

- a. Connection between restrooms and pathways should be hard surfaced.
- b. Facilities such as toilets, stalls and sinks should be designed to meet accessible requirements.

4. Playgrounds

- a. Connection between playground and parking should be hard surfaced and meet required design standards.
- b. Entrance to the playground should be appropriately signed.
- c. Pathway from the entrance of the playground to the primary play area shall be fully accessible.
- d. At least 30% of the play equipment shall be accessible and easily reached from the playground path of travel.
- e. The playground equipment should encourage interaction between children with and without disabilities.

- f. The sensation of activity (such as swinging, spinning, etc.) shall be equally available to those with disabilities.
- g. Surface material beneath the play equipment should be firm and level to permit unassisted travel by a person in a wheelchair.

5. Picnic Areas

- a. Locate on level grade.
- b. Pad beneath the picnic pad should be hard surfaced.
- c. Connection between picnic pad and pathway should be hard surfaced.
- d. Facilities such as tables, benches, and grills should be designed to meet accessible requirements.

6. Waterfront

- a. Some portion of the beach must be firm to the water's edge.
- b. Access into the water must be firm and safe.

7. Fishing Facilities

- a. The connection between the fishing pad and pathway should be hard surfaced.
- b. A curb and/or railing should be provided at water's edge.
- c. Two accessible fishing stations are required for each accessible parking space.
- d. Each fishing station should consist of a linear foot of fishing on a dock or 5 linear feet of fishing area on shore pads.
- e. Shade and shelter should be provided for each station.

8. Boating Facilities

- a. Docks, piers and gangways must meet accessible pathway and ramp requirements.
- b. Curbs and/or railings are required.

9. Information/Signage

- a. Site information related to accessibility should be made available in public documents.

- b. If the park has an entrance that is not accessible, then a sign must be provided indicating where an accessible entrance is located.
- c. Site signage is required that designates if the park is accessible for those with disabilities.

CHAPTER 10

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Recommendations for park sites, trails, and other facilities are discussed in the preceding chapter. Resources to develop these improvements are identified in this section and will come from many sources. Some of these funding sources are new to the City, whereas others have been used in the past. The intent of this chapter is to identify a six year strategy for funding parks and recreation improvements. Because of limited capital improvement revenue streams, Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation (MVPR) is required to find creative means of finding monies to fund projects. Funding can come from grants and non-profit organizations. MVPR is constantly looking for ways to fund acquisition and development projects. Some of those potential sources are listed in this chapter.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS

The following themes will guide the implementation of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Mount Vernon Parks Will:

- Focus on the maintenance and upgrade of existing parkland for regional and community use.
- Pursue opportunities for expanded use of existing developed and undeveloped parks.
- Develop and maintain partnerships to improve the delivery of Regional and Community Parks.
- Explore innovations in planning, development, and ongoing stewardship/management of parks and recreation.
- Solicit community input and support through programming and public involvement.
- Work with other community groups, agencies, and individuals to partner in park acquisition and development.

Acquisition Priorities:

- Acquisitions which expand and improve existing parks.
- Acquisition of critical habitat and natural area.
- Acquire property and/or facilities that fill priority needs of Mount Vernon residents.

CAPITAL FACILITY PLANNING

Major Park capital improvement projects funded by Mount Vernon are through an established planning tool known as the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It identifies, prioritizes, and determines capital needs for the entire City. The CIP is the major planning tool for park related facilities including; parkland acquisition, development, redevelopment, and renovation. The CIP is a 6-year financing plan, evaluated and updated every year by the Mount Vernon City Council and the Mayor. This plan is the primary guide for parks related CIP project listing.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL FACILITY PLANNING

In 1989 the Growth Management Act fundamentally changed the way in which public infrastructure was provided. Essentially, the GMA required jurisdictions to identify necessary infrastructure needs, and develop clear funding plans to meet those needs. This narrowed the list of projects on many jurisdictions' capital improvement programs; only those projects with a reasonable chance of funding were to be included. By creating finite plans which are tied to the available financial resources, the GMA essentially mandated that governments "live within their means."

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

1.) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Fund:

A special fund created by the Legislature for recreation and wildlife groups with the intent of preserving wildlife habitats and open space and developing recreation areas. For the 2011-20113 Biennium, the legislative appropriation is \$42 million. In recent years this budget has been as high as \$100 million.

2.) Property Transfer Excise Tax (Real Estate Excise Tax - REET):

A tax assessed on the sale of property and administered by local counties and cities. Revenue can only be used to finance capital facilities specified in the local government's Capital Facilities Plan. This fund is well below historical averages due to the lack of activity in real estate sales, however, it is slowly recovering at the time of this plan.

3.) City General Fund:

This category includes general funds allocated to the Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation for annual expenditures and capital development. This has been reduced significantly over recent years, due to budget constraints.

4.) **Park Impact Fees:**

Development fees imposed by a City for park land acquisitions and development. Fees charged to developers are typically based upon a set amount per residential unit. This amount is calculated to represent the development's share of public improvements necessitated by growth.

Credits can be given to developers that contribute land, improvements or other assets. Funds must be used for capital facilities required by growth, and not for current deficiencies in levels of service. Fee revenues cannot be used for operations.

5.) **Short Term Special Levy:**

A property tax for construction and/or operation levied for a set number of years (typically 1-3 years). A special levy requires a 60% voter approval.

6.) **General Obligation Bond:**

A property tax for the sale of construction bonds. The tax assessment can be levied up to 30 years. Passage requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last election. This approach is usually used for major projects.

7.) **Revenue Bonds:**

Revenue from the operation of the facility pays for the capital cost and debt service. This does not require a vote of the people.

8.) **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):**

These are grants distributed from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Grants pay matching funds of the cost of acquisition and development. At one time, this was a major funding program for recreation programs. The program is administered locally by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

9.) **Department of Ecology:**

Grant monies are available from the Coastal Zone Management account and pay up to 50% of the project cost. They are primarily used for shoreline acquisition and public access.

10.) **HUD Grants:**

Grant monies are available from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for a wide variety of projects. Most are distributed in the lower

income areas of the community. Grants can be up to 100% of project cost. Funds may not be used for maintenance or operation of existing facilities.

11.) Aquatic Land Enhancement Fund:

This program, funded by the State Department of Natural Resources, will fund for acquisition and development of waterfront parks, public access and environmental protection. Within this fund is the "Wetland Stewardship Grant Program." This program will fund for the acquisition of locally significant wetlands and water access.

12.) Initiative 213 Boating Funds:

Funds received from boating gas taxes are allocated to marine-related projects. A 50% match is required.

13.) Certificates of Participation:

A lease purchase approach in which a City or County sells Certificates of Participation (COP's) to a lending institution. The City or County pays off the loan from revenue produced by the facility or from its own general operating budget. The lending institution holds title to the property until the COP's are repaid. This procedure does not require a vote of the public.

14.) Volunteer Efforts:

Volunteers can be quite effective in terms of contributing cash, materials, or labor.

15.) Transfer of Development Rights:

This is a process wherein the development rights of a specific parcel of desired open space land is transferred to a second parcel of land more suitable for development. The second parcel is then permitted a higher level of development. If the two parcels are owned by two different land owners, the increased value of the second parcel is given to the owner of the first parcel.

16.) City Work Program (CWP):

An alternative to jail time is for offenders to provide community services such as working on a park maintenance crew or providing other recreation services. This is a cost savings to the City for labor.

17.) Utility Tax:

Cities can charge a tax on the gross receipts of electric, gas, garbage, telephone, cable TV, water/sewer, and stormwater service providers. Revenue can be used for capital facilities acquisition, construction and maintenance.

18.) Urban Forestry Grants:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers two funding grant programs in the area of urban forestry. The first is funded by the US Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. Urban street tree planting programs are sometimes funded by this method. A 25% match is required. The second program is for educational and technical assistance and is funded by the US Forest Service. A local match is also required for this program.

19.) ISTEA:

The "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991" provides funding for bicycle transportation facilities, including new or improved lanes or paths, traffic control devices, shelters and parking facilities.

20.) Donations/Foundations:

Private donations and foundations are important sources of funding for park projects.

21.) Councilmatic Bonds:

Bonds issued by a City or County. Does not require a vote of the people but must be paid out of the annual operating budget.

22.) User Fees:

Cities, counties, and special purpose districts can charge fees for use of facilities or participating in programs. They are often entrance fees or registration fees.

23.) Transportation Improvement Board Account:

Cities, counties, and transportation benefit districts can apply for these funds through the State Transportation Improvement Board. Funding is provided annually for projects to alleviate and prevent traffic congestion caused by economic development or growth. The

proposal should be multi-agency, multi-modal, congestion related, related to growth, and have a 20% local match.

24.) Local Option Vehicle License Fee:

Cities can charge up to \$20 per vehicle registered in the city, with proceeds to be used for "general transportation purposes". Revenues are distributed back to the city.

25.) Life Estate or Living Trusts:

This is the donation of a property to a public agency with the provision that the donor may live on the site as long as desired.

26.) Resource Management:

The County could acquire and dedicate the revenues of specified properties to certain programs or departments. For instance, revenues from sale of gravel at a gravel pit could be allocated to recreation programs or used to acquire and develop park properties.

27.) Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team (WA-CERT):

The Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team was created as part of the Economic Adjustment Initiative (EAI) that began in 1993. This program provides technical assistance and financing support aimed at encouraging economic diversification in timber dependent communities.

28.) Cell Tower Lease Agreements:

Cities can lease space to Cell Companies and dedicate these funds for Park Capital Improvements. There is a current lease agreement involving space on Little Mountain and the City's water tower.

29.) Rock Quarry Royalty:

The city...

APPENDIX ONE

OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

On November 19th and 25th, approximately 43 people participated in an open house where in an unguided format they were encouraged to speak with staff and each other regarding what was working and what may be different for the various parks in Mount Vernon.

Open Space/Natural Areas

What I like most about the Open Space areas owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- Little Mountain is wonderful. Very well maintained. Trails are great for walking, biking and running.
- More natural areas with viewpoints to observe local flora and fauna would be wonderful.
- The Parks Department investment in open space shows the commitment to our quality of life.

11/25/13

- Develop more preservation of trails for hikers, bikers, etc.
- Little Mountain Viewpoint is a true dream for tourists and locals. We always take visitors up there.
- I like focusing on “natural areas” and using that definition.

Summary:

Strong appreciation of Little Mountain Park. More areas with more viewpoints would be desired. More Trails (Multi-use) desired

What I would like to see different regarding Open Space owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- Hopefully the Hidden Lakes Property can be acquired, or a way to work with the owners can be found. Connecting the Eaglemont Development to Little Mountain with a Multi-Use Trail needs to happen.
- Take advantage of Skagit River Access and develop Ted Reep Park.
- It would be great to find a way to connect Eaglemont to Little Mountain Trails without driving.
- Can the City do more regarding invasive plant removal and native plant restoration?

11/25/13

- Little Mountain hiker only trails need upgrading and maintenance.
- Word “passive” hard to fit in where a lot of “activity” takes place. Good idea but word is misleading.
- More promotion/advertising of existing open space areas so more people will use them.
- Word “passive” seems negative.
- More designated areas for bird and animal habitat recognition signs, etc.
- Trails South through Edgewater Park would provide views of river.

Summary:

Strong interest in connection of ‘hill’ area to Little Mountain, Strong interest in additional Riverview Trails. Interest in more nature viewing and interpretation and removal of invasive plants

Primary Use (Currently)

Little Mountain Viewpoint Park
Beaver Pond at Eaglemont
Lions Park North

Secondary Use

Edgewater Park

Linear Parks and Trails

What I like most about the Linear Parks owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- I love the work that's gone into developing trails within the City and Linear Parks. Thank you!
- It would be nice to incorporate bee/bird/butterfly corridors along linear parks or open spaces.
- I am very glad to hear about the bike skills park being developed at Little Mountain. I think it will encourage more youth involvement in the outdoors.
- Very impressed with multi user trails at Little Mountain. Continue developing and maintaining sustainable system.
- Like concept of trail already existing.
- Good job on all the excellent trail developments at Little Mountain.
- Excited for possibility of Bike Skills Park.
- Love the Parks System, LOL, MAV

11/25/13

- Fabulous for comparatively safe travel for walkers, cyclists and school kids.
- Lion's North is a good extension of the Riverwalk, next hope for more to the north.
- Skagit Riverwalk Trail is a gem!
- Expand linear trails, especially in new developments.

Summary:

Strong appreciation of Trails and Linear Parks. Strong appreciation of work being done at LMP. Interest in Bike Skills area at LMP. More areas with more viewpoints would be desired. More Trails (Multi-use) desired

Primary Use

Maddox Creek Trail
Kulshan Trail
Skagit Riverwalk Trail
Trumpeter Trail
Wal-Mart Trail

Linear Parks and Trails (continued)

What I would like to see different regarding Linear Parks owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- Looking forward to Bike Skills Park on Little Mountain Park.
- Place importance on inter-connector trails for bike and walking throughout City.
- With the increase of use of Little Mountain Park a parking lot at the entrance to the Park is now a priority.
- Connect Parks and Trails. More parking at Little Mountain Park. Connector trail to Little Mountain from Downtown Mount Vernon.
- Goal to connect Kulshan Trail with Centennial Trail.
- Opening up access onto the dikes for walking and biking would be a huge asset.
- Horse Trails Equine Facility.
- I would like to see more connection of the existing trail and parks with safe bike and walking access.
- Can City trails be extended to create a network? Example-extend Trumpeter Trail North to Kulshan.
- Post a City Trails map with total miles at the new park at the revetment. Provide suggested routes/loops.
- Bike Skills Park.
- Improve Trail signage on Little Mountain Trails. Wood signs fit the forest area.
- A great deal can be learned by following examples set in Anacortes; the ACFL Trails. Connectivity to neighborhoods and partnering with private property owners.

11/25/13

- More connector trails between parks.
- Term "Linear" is confusing.
- "Linear" is confusing. Use a different word, i.e. urban, connected, inter-urban.
- Linear trails would benefit from benches. Moms and old folks need them for rest.
- We need to extend Kulshan Trail on PUD right of way East to get to College Way.
- Not clear if Little Mountain Trails are included here.
- We need to connect neighborhoods to Skagit Highland Trail system. Also can City get access to Big Tree trails?
- Can we connect Trumpeter Trail South to Blackburn Road and eventually East to Eaglemont?
- Ted Reep Trail needs to have trees and shrubs removed in a few places to open up views of Skagit River.

Summary:

Very strong interest in connection of trail system to other trails (local and regional) and to neighborhoods. Strong interest in expansion of trails and bike skills center. Some interest in upgrades such as signage, benches, clearing of Trails, and maps

Community Enrichment

(Special events, leagues, camps, etc.)

What I like most about the Community Enrichment managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- Loved the organization and level of participation for Haunted Forest. Very Professional.
- The community events sponsored by the Parks Department are a great asset and strengthen our community.

11/25/13

- Movies in the park have been great.
- 4th of July Fireworks are great.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Major Events</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Haunted Forest Starlight Cinema-Outdoor Summer Movies Fabulous 4th of July Ray Reep Salmon Derby Father Daughter Valentine Ball Children's Art Festival Breakfast with Santa & Children's Shopping Extravaganza</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Other Events</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eagle Rock Challenge Course Programs Youth Camps Youth Sports Leagues Youth & Adult Activities and Classes</p>

Summary:

Appreciation of major community events.

What I would like to see different regarding Community Enrichment managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- Within families diverse interests exist.
- Having these parks linked to Little Mountain Trails would be wonderful.
- Fit a course in gravel pit. None in state nearly as good.
- Increased level of marketing for events. More signs, advertisements, online, newspaper. Whatever it takes to get the people out there.

11/25/13

none

Summary:

Provide diverse event and advertise.

Neighborhood Parks

What I like the most about the Neighborhood Parks areas owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- I appreciate the inclusion of small parks serving neighborhoods in the overall parks system.

11/25/13

none

What I would like to see different regarding Neighborhood Parks areas owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- The clustering of neighborhood parks are an opportunity to look at connectivity corridors.

11/25/13

- Volleyball would be nice in more parks.

Primary Use

Division Street Park

6th Street Park

25th Street Park

Fire Station 3 Park

Bakerview Court

Day Use/Playgrounds/Picnics

What I like most about the Day use areas owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

- I've been told by some people who recently moved to Mount Vernon that one of the features that drew them to the town was the Parks System-diversity, management, inspiration.
- Kiwanis Spray Park is brilliant.
- Update the Skagit Board Park.
- Hillcrest is the heart of the Parks system, full of history, beauty and pride of place.
- Connectivity
- Hillcrest Park Rocks!

11/25/13

- Kiwanis Park is the greatest for kids, especially the water park.
- These are important areas which contribute to making Mount Vernon a livable City and desirable to live in.

Summary:

Strong appreciation of Kiwanis Park and Hillcrest Park. Belief that these areas are important and improve quality of life

What I would like to see different regarding Day Use areas owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11.19.13

- Would like to see a way to make information more accessible to general public. Kiosk? Or Several Kiosks.
- Wonderful Trail-Riverwalk to Bakerview
- These are all wonderful resources. Connecting them with trails and connecting them to Little Mountain should be our goal.

11/25/13

- More competitive prices for Hillcrest Lodge compared to McIntyre Hall for reunions, etc.
- Could we do wading ponds in some of the parks.

Summary:

Interest in connectivity of facilities and advertising/promotion of facilities to people. Affordable rates.

Primary Use

Bakerview Park
Hillcrest Park
Kiwanis Park
Lions Park South

Secondary Use

Edgewater Park
Overlook Area at Skagit Highlands

Athletic Fields/Courts

What I like most about the Athletic Fields areas owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

None

11/25/13

- The fields are great and taken care of.
- These fields are an important and necessary part of our community.

What I would like to see different regarding Athletic Fields owned and managed by Mount Vernon:

11/19/13

None

11/25/13

- Since Immaculate Conception fields going away, use Salem Lutheran Field on Hoag Road.
- The 15th Street Playfield has closed due to Immaculate Conception Church expansion. Will there be a replacement?
- More volleyball opportunities in Mount Vernon Parks, especially in neighborhoods.
- Mount Vernon could use covered tennis courts.

Summary:

Backfill lost facilities. Cover tennis and add volleyball.

Primary Use

Bakerview Park

PUD Fields

18th Street Play Fields

Sherman Anderson Field

Kiwanis Park Softball

Secondary Use

Hillcrest Park Fields

Other Comments

11/19/13

- Connect Trails within City
- Work on connecting trails for bikers and walkers. Currently many trails go nowhere
- There are two obvious clusters of parks. Each should be connected to Little Mountain by multi use trails.
- These maps should be posted in MV Parks. Trail signs need improving on Little Mountain.
- Work on acquiring Hidden Lakes.
- Require developers not only to develop a park in neighborhood, but also connect parks via trails or walking/biking routes.

11/25/13

- Good idea to include Latino community. Please reach out to them and get them involved.
- Buy right of ways from property owners to allow trails on dike system.

APPENDIX TWO

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

In the month of February and March, citizens were invited to participate in a focus group discussion of various areas related to Parks and Recreation. This was set up to be a conversational and interactive discussion of the various areas shown below. There is no data for the enrichment program as there were no attendees.

Comprehensive Plan Update Focus Group Meetings

Join in one of the Comp Plan Focus Group Meetings to share your input and discuss with other community members ways to improve our City of Mount Vernon Parks.

Schedule of Focus Group Meetings:

February 18th ~ Passive Recreation

February 25th ~ Trails

March 4th ~ Enrichment Programs and Events

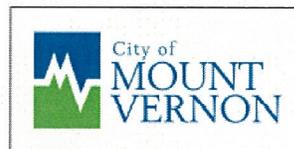
March 11th ~ Active Recreation

March 18th ~ Seniors

March 25th ~ Teens

All Focus Groups will meet at the Vaux Retreat Center at Bakerview Park from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. The Vaux Retreat Center is located at 3011 East Fir Street in Mount Vernon.

Call Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation to be added to our contact list for Focus Groups or for more information at (360)336-6215 or email us at mvparks@mountvernonwa.gov



Passive Recreation Focus Group Agenda

(Passive Recreation- Kind of activities that happen in a park that don't involve sports or competition, non-organized. Enjoying open space.)

2/18/14- Vaux Retreat Center

1. What are the strengths of Passive Recreation in the Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation system that we need to build on?

- Feel good about what we have but more is always better, would like to encourage more acquisitions for the future.
- There are quite a few areas passive in nature, in the future as population grows could be converted to active if needed. Wish the areas we did have were better known, it is amazing how many people don't know they are there.
- Dog waste stations are great
- Picnic Areas
- Events during special holidays
- Walking Trails

2. What are the two or three most important long-term needs for Passive Recreation in Mount Vernon?

- Acquisition- looking for large tracks (such as near Little Mountain), connections to other public lands along river.
- Purchasing properties in town so everyone is within a few blocks of park space, walkable
- Connection with school system for education opportunities, get kids connected with outside, with the river, etc. Possibly having a focus group for teachers. There is 40 acres at Madison School that is a possibility in future if bond passes.
- Beaver Ponds and other critical areas would be a great place for parks, education and securing habitats. There is a series of beaver ponds that connect, being able to connect those in the future would be great.
- Preservation of natural habitat where people can walk and "be in nature" and observe nature.
- Gardens to commemorate; seek beauty and or inspiration
- A community garden with plats available for citizens to grow veggies or other things.

3. What are the most significant challenges for Mount Vernon in meeting those needs (response to Q2)?

- Funding
- Need to attract more volunteers
- Providing benches for people, people especially seniors need places to sit
- Availability of land within ¼ mile of every home in Mount Vernon
- Identifying natural habitat areas in the City and begin acquisition.
- Identify where specialty gardens can be located, design with input from citizens. Fund the gardens install and maintenance.

4. How can this Comprehensive Plan help to overcome those challenges?

- Setting priorities
- To get money from any funding sources we have to have the Comp Plan in place
- Identify the needs of the unserved citizens.
- Address siting issues
- State goals to achieve during a certain time period

5. Are there any specific Passive Recreation activities or facilities that are currently not available in Mount Vernon that could be considered in the future?

- Open space/wildlife habitat/critical areas- natural areas you could just enjoy
- Educational Infrastructure- Opportunities for environmental education
- Senior trails where no wheels are allowed (ex. Bikes, trikes and scooters) pedestrian only, paved, not steep, similar to Kiwanis.
- A formal memorial garden where veterans and members of our community can be honored and where ceremonies could be held.
- A community garden site in a fertile valley area where citizens can “rent” a plot to garden.
- Add and preserve habitat in the Maddox Creek drainage area.

6. Are there any specific operational or maintenance issues related to Passive Recreation that need to be addressed?

- Eradication of invasive species or at least control (ex. English Ivy).
- Restrooms and vandalism
- Litter is always an issue. Having available trash receptacles seems like they help.
- A foundation could be set up with Skagit Foundation to accept donations for creating and maintaining gardens in Mount Vernon for funding and maintenance.
- Port-O-Potty vandalism

7. What potential partnerships could be encouraged to help meet the needs or overcome the challenges for Passive Recreation in the Mount Vernon?

- Schools and education
- Senior projects
- Eagle Scouts
- Large businesses that donate money (ex. Walmart)
- Connections with Service Clubs
- Doctors clinics and medical clinics
- Skagit Valley Hospital (it is a health issue)
- Haggen’s
- Disney’s Give a Day, Get a Day brought in a ton of volunteers.

- There are service organizations, veterans organizations, garden clubs, farmers etc. who could come together to help plan and fund passive recreation.

8. Map Exercise...

- Safe connection from Hillcrest to Little Mountain with sidewalk the whole way (need from Jefferson School on LaVenture to Little Mountain)

Other notes:

- There are many adults and elders who live in Mount Vernon who are not being served by passive recreation opportunities. The City has done a commendable job with parks and facilities for children and active adults but what about those who want to be inspired or enjoy walking or strolling through a lovely garden or through a natural area. What about creating a site to honor our citizens and heritage. We have no sites of beauty or inspiration! We have no sites where nature and the arts meet in harmony. We have very few sites away from noise, people and untouched by development.

Vaux Retreat Center – 6pm to 7pm, 2/25/14 –

1. What are the strengths of Trails in the Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation system that we need to build on?

- We have an interesting geography/landscape with variety- Farmlands, rivers, hills, etc.
- City doesn't have high density which is a plus for building trails and green belts, it is good to address the now before things fill in while there is the potential for urban wildlife corridors.
- A lot of good trails and a lot of diversity
- Not just an interesting landscape for locals, but also good for tourism to draw people in. The Skagit Riverwalk will be a great addition.
- Strong recreational community with Skagit Runners, Mount Vernon Trailbuilders, runners, walkers, bikers, etc. There are several at the meeting tonight from Skagit Runners.
- Great crosswalk with the flashing lights on LaVenture by the school, crossing for Kulshan trail. Would be great to have the same for the crossing of Kulshan across 18th Street also.
- Lots of green belting opportunities
- Lots of opportunities to draw tourists
- Many established trails
- Connectivity between neighborhoods and surrounding communities.
- Interested citizenry-under utilized
- Multiuse Trails
- Promoting Cycling
- Connectivity to and from Little Mountains wonderful trails. Connecting the Maddox Creek development and Eaglemont area to Little Mountain. The southern and eastern trail heads are getting a lot of biking/hiking traffic which is good!

2. What are the two or three most important long-term needs for Trails in Mount Vernon?

- On multiuse trails such as on Little Mountain when humans and bikes are on trails there needs to be some kind of warning system used such as bells/horns for bikes.
- Great crosswalk with the flashing lights on LaVenture by the school, crossing for Kulshan trail. Would be great to have the same for the crossing of Kulshan across 18th Street also.
- Connectivity through the City, Parks, Downtown, Little Mountain and in the greater plan to Centennial Trail.
- Maintenance – there is a huge section of the Kulshan Trail that needs to be repaved by the Habitat for Humanity. Can also be improved there with landscaping and cutting back of the roots and brush.
- On Maddox Creek trail there is a steep section where it leaves the neighborhood, gets slick with leaves on trail
- Connectivity issues -Trail from near elementary trail into Kulshan. Also from the college to 30th there are some parts with no bike lane, need the connectivity. Would also like to see Kulshan continue to Highway 9 to Centennial Trail.

- It was brought up if there was access to the trail along river by Salem Lutheran, didn't even realize it was there. A need would be to advertise these trails that are available better to the public.
- Trail by the Habitat for Humanity then doesn't seem to keep going, noted that it does but it is not very well marked. The sidewalks are 10 feet there to continue it on. Signage would be good for this.
- At Maddox Creek the area around the holding ponds would be a good area to develop trails around.
- For walking it would be nice to have some more soft surface trails.
- Other than the website, which is helpful, there need to be other means for advertising to the public about Parks activities, etc., such as with a welcome aboard package (such as the one through the Chamber) and means of advertising more through social media such as FaceBook.
- Nature Trails that are on the urban fringe such as Ted Reep Park, Barney Lake, etc. And we really need to explore the dikes, the potential is there
- Have a promotional open house on specific trails at certain times to invite the public in to learn more about them (publicity of trails).
- Would like to see more trails maps, including on the web.
- Maintenance/Upkeep- repairing, brushing
- Signage/Advertising- Increasing awareness
- Increase number of trails
- Parking
- Bathrooms
- Connect Centennial Trail with Snohomish and Whatcom Counties and Cascade Trail and Tommy Thompson
- Dike Trails-connect riverfront trail to dikes
- Expand trail system in Little Mountain to Devil's Mountain and connect with trails in the City greenbelts.
- Loops
- Separation from traffic
- Soft surface walking trails
- Easier access to the trails in Little Mountain Park from town
- Connections to other communities
- Connect existing trails (inner City)
- Develop dikes as intracounty trails (Conway, Fir Island, Tommy Thompson)

3. What are the most significant challenges for Mount Vernon in meeting those needs (response to Q2)?

- Funding
- Connectivity comes down to property issues and easements. Need to make sure City Council knows the importance.

- When developments put in green space to satisfy some type of development requirement and then they privatize it, that shouldn't be allowed.
- Obtaining Property Easements or land agreements to purchase land-not a huge culture of trails across private lands such as in for example Mazama, where it is the norm then that builds pressure and then it creates a momentum and acceptance of it, so property owners that don't allow it are the exception.
- Challenge to teach trail etiquette
- Instill in the community how important trails are- such as when we ask for funding through taxes getting more people to support it. Such as with the Bellingham greenways levy which came from grass roots.
- More volunteer opportunities advertised and available
- Tying greenbelts in to school system.
- Working with other departments/private property owners (dikes)
- Staffing/Manpower
- Finding a way to keep trails safe (keeping potentially dangerous or unsavory characters away)
- Obtaining money to build parking and bathroom facilities
- Getting citizen cooperation emphasizing importance of trails and green belts for healthy communities.
- Cooperation with private land owners
- Money for trail development
- Development blockage (private ownership)

4. How can this Comprehensive Plan help to overcome those challenges?

- Helps to apply for funding and support in local government
- Reminds people how important these things are-raise public awareness
- Opportunity to reach out to our groups and have people take the survey and get that input
- City Council meeting-importance of trails to well being, quality of life, health maintenance for all, reduction of auto use and carbon footprint

5. Are there any specific Trails activities or facilities that are currently not available in Mount Vernon that could be considered in the future?

- Garbage cans and Doggy Bags
- Flashing Safety Crossings on 18th Street (Kulshan Trail) - like the one on LaVenture (Kulshan Trail)
- Would like to see Maddox Creek developed more
- Bike lanes that disappear need to have continuity and connectivity. In addition there are some narrow bike lanes and they drop off to catch basin so to avoid going into that you have to go into the lane of traffic.
- Mile Markers
- Porta potties maintenance
- Large scale-long distance hiking/and or paved bike paths
- Dike trails

- Interpretive nature trails-Barney Lake
- Destinations-coffee shops, etc.
-

6. Are there any specific operational or maintenance issues related to Trails that need to be addressed?

- Pleasantly surprised to see that when roots are coming up across asphalt, that eventually those do get fixed.
- Need increased signage in the Little Mountain area, particularly interior
- Safety on trails doing some cleaning and making more attractive and inviting, working on aesthetics can keep the riff raff out. The eastern part of Kulshan is good, the western part needs some help. Needs to be safer, upgraded, landscaped, patrolled, adopted.
- Small section of Maddox Creek trail that runs through the neighborhood that is weedy and not well maintained, and it is not clear if it is the City's or HOA (Larry asked her to stop by office and show us where that area is so we determine what should be done).
- Can we stipulate that when new trails go in that they have to be up to the City standards? That is something we have talked about with our planning department.
- Restrooms at the top of Little Mountain.
- Parking-Especially on Little Mountain Trail, both lots are too small and on Kulshan Trail, maybe more would come use the trail if they could park nearby on either end.
- Good signage to include proper use of trails.
- Loop around Edgewater Park
- Local in town trails see too much litter. Advertise set dates for the community to "attack" problem areas.
- Kulshan Trail needs to be brushed of blackberries, especially between 30th and Waugh. Regularly sweep Kulshan for leaves and glass debris with the City street sweeper.

7. What potential partnerships could be encouraged to help meet the needs or overcome the challenges for Trails in the Mount Vernon?

- (Gabriel Zaldivar) -Military- Every week volunteers being asked for volunteer projects. One of the top things military is looking for now is volunteer hours, people want to do it and they get better evaluations for doing it. One project he is interested in is the two overlooks at Little Mountain, getting volunteers to clean up the trash down the mountain below those overlooks.
- Skagit Running Club- Would be interested in sponsoring a piece of trail and putting up signage. Also local companies such as Starbucks, Walmart, Etc.
- Build Better Relationships with Dike District- Larry did discuss the success we have had working with Dike District and that they have been cooperative and helpful. Private property is where it has been more difficult.
- It is good to see the Mayor going out and doing walks on the trail with the Community.

- Having a volume of partners instead of one part that does a lot may be more successful, then that gives each partner their own specific niche. (This from Chris Agnew with National Outdoor Leadership Schools, who he thinks may be able to partner with parks on teaching trail etiquette.)
- Get neighbors of the specific Parks/Trails to take some ownership in their area.
- DNR
- Skagit Land Trust- need to develop better partnership with the City
- Local Businesses-for adopting trails/volunteering for clean up
- Boy Scouts
- Local Clubs- such as Skagit Runners (* would like to talk about adopting a trail)
- Schools
- Real Estate Developers
- Partnering with County for Loop Trails
- Social Media Volunteer
- Neighborhoods where families use in town trails. Kulshan neighborhood is a prime/positive example.
- YMCA organize regular days/activities that emphasize pride in Bakerview Park.
- Tie litter pick up to the BMX events, soccer events (before the events even begin-dedicate just 15 minutes to kids picking up litter. Create a pattern.)

8. Map Exercise...

- Look at acquisition at Blodgett Road where there is the private land with all the no trespassing signs. It is supposed to be a trail, offers a connection between 15th Street and Blodgett.
- Hook up Blackburn with connectivity to Trumpeter- Maddox Connection
- Connect Blackburn to Maddox Creek Trail – Eaglemont to Blackburn Connection
- Thunderbird to Skagit Highlands, then to Big Rock
- Loop Trail at Edgewater Park
- Little Mountain Loop
- Connection of Kulshan to Trumpeter Trail

Active Recreation Focus Group Agenda

3/11/14- Vaux Retreat Center @ 6pm

1. What are the strengths of Active Recreation in the Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation system that we need to build on?
 - Parks Department is willing to open up and let us express input and listen, and sees the vision for what the needs/wants are
 - Looking for opportunities for age groups that are not being met
 - Integrate plans with the county also and the school district to take care of meeting public needs

2. What are the two or three most important long-term needs for Active Recreation in Mount Vernon?
 - Something that is easy and doesn't take a lot of money, need more activities that are low cost, multigenerational and lifelong (ex. Disc Golf)
 - Coordinated efforts for use 24-7-365 for maximum usage, as we become more crowded, need to have maximum use of facilities. Examples are all weather fields, lighting on fields to keep them open later, flex scheduling (for example if something is cancelled now it is available for something else. Give people the freedom to use it)
 - More public visibility- online option to view availability of facilities and see what activities are happening and available.
 - Multiple uses going on at one time, for example one team warming up on the outfield while another team finishing a game, perhaps cages on one end of it. So groups are piggy backing off of each other to allow for more usage.
 - Need for more family centered active recreation such as the Daddy/Daughter Dances, Family Dances, etc. & Seasonal indoor activities
 - Gym Space
 - Leisure Activity Pool

3. What are the most significant challenges for Mount Vernon in meeting those needs (response to Q2)?
 - Costs and Funding
 - Participation on the backend to help maintain fields, etc. and to volunteer
 - One idea to help with getting people to help is to offer teams discounts on fees if they could do follow up and at the end of usage to the clean up maintenance, etc. This helps cut down on maintenance fees.
 - Aquatic Centers offer an amazing family opportunity
 - Gym space is a challenge, not a lot of indoor recreation space.

4. How can this Comprehensive Plan help to overcome those challenges?

- Overlapping planning with Skagit Count Parks and Recreation, good to keep discussions happening.
 - Having things like these focus groups is a good way to see others views, good way to bring groups together for conversation.
 - Begin with the end in mind, in six years this is what we would like it to be. Still need to understand what it takes for the personnel and resources. That then rolls back to defining budgets and fees that are required. Then when we come to fight a battle we know what is needed, this is what we would like it to be, but this is what we are going to need to make it happen.
5. Are there any specific Active Recreation activities or facilities that are currently not available in Mount Vernon that could be considered in the future?
- All weather fields & lighting- these can help to accommodate a lot of activities
 - Outdoor trails system with workout stations (PARS stations) such as used to be at the college.
 - Gym Space
6. Are there any specific operational or maintenance issues related to Active Recreation that need to be addressed?
- For us it is bodies for staffing
7. What potential partnerships could be encouraged to help meet the needs or overcome the challenges for Active Recreation in the Mount Vernon?
- Examples of ones that have come up are partnership with the military and the partnership we currently have with the Trail Builders
 - It would be nice to have a list on the web of who are your partnerships with and also to have a list of links to connect with groups such as pickleball, disc golf etc. (we have the ability to link with our Quality of Life page on the web)
 - Long term approaches need to include aging and how we can keep the recreation for the aging community.
8. Map Exercise...
- One of the opportunities that exists is the master plan coming up for Bonnie Rae Park
 - Division Street is still classified as future park, we are going to need to do some mitigation, also a potential site for future library.
 - Looking below Anderson road from Anderson to Hickox there is areas-in last plan looked at 40 to 50 acres there.
 - PUD- we have a 90 foot baseball field and one full size soccer field, if we wanted to fix up the soccer field would never go away
 - 10 acre spot at the County line, we have potential easements there for a trail connection. The big challenge is connecting between there and Lowe's.

- The way to get grants is to have interagency or multijurisdictional agreements/partnerships. So with example above you could have County, City and PUD tie together for grants.
- There is some talk of a pedestrian/bike bridge going across river.

Seniors Focus Group Agenda

3/18/14- Vaux Retreat Center @ 6pm

1. What are the strengths of Parks and Recreation for Seniors in the Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation system that we need to build on?
 - Variety of walking paths (brought up question of where walking path is at Ted Reep Park)
 - Exercise stations at Kiwanis Park, it would be nice to have those at other parks
 - Glad to have programs with Recreation Without Borders
 - Leisure Guide is great
 - Department pays attention to graffiti and it is promptly taken care of
 - Safe trails to walk on away from traffic
 - Recreational trips to various areas around the Northwest including walks and hikes in Skagit County that are fairly inexpensive.
 - Mount Vernon parks are very well done and maintained. Having said that, seniors feel that walking paths have many trip hazards with tree roots pushing up through the blacktop.
 - Walking thru area at Kiwanis Park.
 - Continue the senior dances at Hillcrest.

2. What are the two or three most important long-term needs for Seniors Parks and Recreation use in Mount Vernon?
 - Exercise Stations- In some cities they have circuits (she had attached an example of one in a city in Germany to her focus questions). Physical fitness trails. Putting these stations next to parks with children helps to connect the generations. With covered areas for rainy days
 - Safety on Trails- Dogs are loose, can knock seniors down. Also a lot of drinking on the trails and broken glass. Also important that people should not confront people that are drunk on the trails. Another safety concern is bicycles on trails with Seniors walking who are hard of hearing, can't tell they are coming and they come fast. Would be good to have some education for cyclists to warn walkers, saying "on the right" or "on the left"
 - Would like to have inmates doing clean up on the walking paths where there is a lot of wet leaves and branches that have come down. Also there are roots coming up that are a trip hazard.
 - Would be nice to have more garbage cans, but wonder if people would use them. They also add another maintenance issue. It would be nice to have bags so if there wasn't garbage cans you could take those with you. Larry suggested using the give a bag take a bag containers that are located at the mutt mitt stations.
 - Fences are falling down on the trail from LaVenture up to Haggens. It may be time to get rid of them.
 - I would like to see better enforcement of the leash law with fines. Too many people let their dogs off leash on the trails.
 - No fires or fire crackers allowed.
 - Leader led hikes/walks-exercise with companions

- No trip hazards
 - Making the City parks “elderly friendly” and encouraging elders to use them.
 - Provide a bus and driver to pick up “housebound” seniors in the morning and transport to senior center for lunch and then return them home. (Renton has such a program).
 - Hold classes and events of interest to seniors.
 - Provide “easy trails” or paved walkways for seniors to walk or be pushed through a natural area.
3. What are the most significant challenges for Mount Vernon in meeting those needs (response to Q2)?
- Funding
 - Manpower
 - Finding the space for parks is a challenge. Brought up the question of if there are areas to be developed, discussed Higgins property and Bonnie Rae Park.
 - Suggested to put one of the exercise station circuits on the Skagit Riverwalk, it would help to bring seniors downtown.
 - Make awareness of the need to pick up trash by everyone using these areas. Dog owners must clean up their dogs messes by bags supplied.
 - Cost to maintain the walking paths. Fences are destroyed by vandals and litter is everywhere. Parks and Recreation is short of employees. Put the young offenders to work cleaning and repairing walking paths.
 - Finding the “will” to provide some activities and events for older adults since most of these are focused on the young.
4. How can this Comprehensive Plan help to overcome those challenges?
- Will point out needs and wants of community- helps then to present it to City Council
 - Brings awareness to the community-awareness and education to younger people
 - Incorporate a space for seniors into park planning so that as funding is requested through taxes and grants this will be a natural part of the process and not something taken on as an afterthought.
 - News Articles, schools, clubs
 - Trail signage just makes a target.
 - Give the trails priority status in your plan.
 - Focus on 2 or 3 parks in which to begin with goals stated.
5. Are there any specific Seniors activities or facilities that are currently not available in Mount Vernon that could be considered in the future?
- Silver Sneakers-Seniors exercise program. Some insurances cover it, such as Regence and Group Health
 - A putting green
 - Bocce Ball Park- a lot of seniors play
 - More access to walking on the dikes
 - More waking paths with exercise stations

- A park walk aimed at seniors 2 to 3 days a week
 - A social event seasonally with food, music, etc.
 - A bus to pick up housebound seniors to transport to Senior Center and then home again.
 - Set up Senior mentor opportunities.
6. Are there any specific operational or maintenance issues related to Seniors use of Parks and Recreation that need to be addressed?
- Tree roots are destroying the blacktop in some areas
 - Leaves and branches over trails- risky walking, trip hazards
 - If you can promote a feeling of safety on the trails-patrols, lights, etc. but know these things take money.
 - Remove tree roots that can trip walkers
 - Broken down fences
 - Paved walkways need to be kept clean of debris
7. What potential partnerships could be encouraged to help meet the needs or overcome the challenges for Seniors in Mount Vernon?
- Military- Whidbey
 - Adopt a Trail/Park/Open Space Programs
 - Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
 - Partner with the downtown association to place on exercise circuits someplace in the revetment project. An area that should be safe, centrally located and accessible with the added benefit of bringing people to the business district and shopping.
 - Stonebridge residents do try to keep the walking path to Haggens' clean of litter, which is impossible. Trash containers might help but that creates another job for an understaffed department.
 - The City and County
 - Senior and Adult mentor program- like "adopt" a grandparent or "adopt" a family
8. Map Exercise...
- Bakerview would be a good area for exercise stations, particularly on Kulshan heading toward Waugh Road. It is quiet there and you don't have to worry about baseball.
 - 18th Street may be good for Bocce Ball, etc. Then grandparents can go with kids.
 - Bonnie Rae may be a nice place also for Bocce Ball or a putting green and also a nice place for walking trails
 - I noticed a walking path mentioned off of Hoag Road but could not locate it on the Skagit County Walking Trail Guide.
9. Other Notes:
- Trail from LaVenture to Haggens had 8 fires set on the trail this summer
 - Linda brought up some discussion of programs. The group noted they would like to see more leader lead hikes and walks. Exercise with companions. It was noted they may want

to do another survey directed toward programming. Other ideas were, Silver Sneakers, Putting green, Bocce Ball, Beginning Pickle Ball Instruction, Indoor place to walk also.

- Would like to see sidewalks on Section

Teens Focus Group Agenda/Questionnaire

3/25/14- Vaux Retreat Center @ 6pm

- Would like to see more start up programming for tennis, he feels there is some for the young kids, but then miss an area between then and the high school, miss the middle school age group. Any tennis programs for outside of school would be great. Tennis tournaments would be something he would like to see happening also.
- Would like to see lights on the outside courts at the college. Nice that we have the option of lights on the courts at Hillcrest. Would be nice if there was some sort of wind barrier for the courts at Hillcrest in the winter and fall.
- Uses Little Mountain for hiking and biking, Little Mountain is probably the most used for older teen age group. Bakerview is used probably more for the middle school age and younger age groups.
- Kiwanis Park is more popular with the younger age group than with the teens.
- Have heard of ERCC but has not been there. The key club had been interested in using it before, but the fact that they had to rent it was intimidating. It was discussed it would be nice to have it open to the public a different times to be able to come in and use.
- Would be nice to have an affordable tennis tournament during the summer and to advertise with tennis teams. \$40 was on the high end to pay, he would pay anything under \$25 because he is very into tennis, for those that aren't as into it he would suggest a price point of \$12 or less. It is nice to have enough people sign up that you have to break up into divisions. Late June or early July would be a good time.
- A lot of people use the basketball courts at Hillcrest also. Teens will post on facebook that they are going to play a game of basketball at Hillcrest if anyone wants to join.

5/6/14- Vaux Retreat Center @ 6pm

1. Strengths

- Meeting the needs of the Community
- Natural beauty - open space, trails, incorporating nature around us
- Good number of parks
- A lot of parks that are multi use, number of things happening at once, emphasize family users, something for everyone
- The City works with community, good working relationship, City is available to help when needed, responds quickly. Would like to see the City let more groups know about potential partnerships
- “Adopt-A-_____” programs, promotes ownership and sense of responsibility, really love the expanded “Adopt a Park” and “Adopt an Open Space” programs.
- Parks are strategically placed, good placement around the entire City
- Water Park is great, need more of them
- City employs open minded staff who really listen

2. Most Important Long Term Needs

- Community Center for Latino Group
- Dance classes, dance specific rooms, locations set up for dance
- Multicultural Community Center
- Relay information from MVPR in Spanish
- Swimming pool, a community pool
- More soccer fields, youth and adult
- Covered sports facilities, soccer fields with covers

3. Challenges (response to Q2)

- Materials printed in Spanish, multi language publications
- More ways to register, more convenience to users
- Reach broader community - utilize public TV, Spanish station
- Utilize Spanish radio stations
- Fees are high, more free programs, free events, free facilities
- Lights at Kiwanis Park
- Basketball hoops are too high for children, need short hoops for younger kids

4. How can Comp Plan overcome those challenges?

- Inclusion method, reaching other groups
- Gathering community input
- Inviting groups that may not include themselves

5. Specific activities/facilities

- Swimming pool
- Additional soccer fields
- More basketball courts, indoor soccer fields, tennis courts, more indoor athletic facilities
- Free programs; zumba, dance, sports, etc
- Discovery type park for preschooler and younger
- Covered areas (facilities) at all parks
- Family activity opportunities, preferably free

6. Operational and/or maintenance issues

- More soccer fields
- Fields should be turf to allow more year round play
- Develop more fields (turf) and renovate existing fields to turf
- Seek help for local companies/businesses who could offer help, either financial or otherwise

7. Potential partnerships

- YMCA
- Skagit Valley College
- Skagit County Parks and Recreation
 - *Those 3 in talks regarding community center/pool, MVPR should be involved
- Library, include community center/facility in the new library building
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local community clubs - Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, etc.
- Public schools
- Leadership Skagit - community projects
- Girl & Boy Scouts - Eagle Scout Projects

APPENDIX THREE

SURVEY RESULTS

In the month of January through April, citizens were invited to participate in an internet based community opinion survey. Results were limited to one per computer.

The City of Mount Vernon is updating it's Parks and Recreation Plan and is seeking your input. The purpose of this plan is to provide direction to the City as we plan any improvements to the Parks and Recreation system over the next 6 years. It is very important that citizen input is considered in evaluating possible projects. Some of the types of questions you will be asked include:

-Does the City need more park space? If so what kind?

-What are the most important types of recreation and events for you and your family?

Who should complete this survey? We ask that one person per household complete this survey but please keep in mind all household members when answering each question.

The survey should take approximately 5 to 7 minutes to complete. We ask your help in letting your neighbors and friends know about this survey and encouraging them to complete it as well.

Mount Vernon has over 860 acres of park land including nature trails, playfields, sports fields, paved trails, a spray park, and more. Our larger facilities include Little Mountain Park, Edgewater Park, Hillcrest Park, Bakerview Park, The Kulshan Trail, Trumpeter Trail, and Kiwanis Park.

For a complete listing of parks and facilities please visit our website at

<http://www.mountvernonwa.gov>

This survey is scheduled to close on May 30, 2014. You are welcome to come back and edit your responses as many times as you like before that date. However, only the last entry will be counted.

Please contact the Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department with any questions or comments you may have.

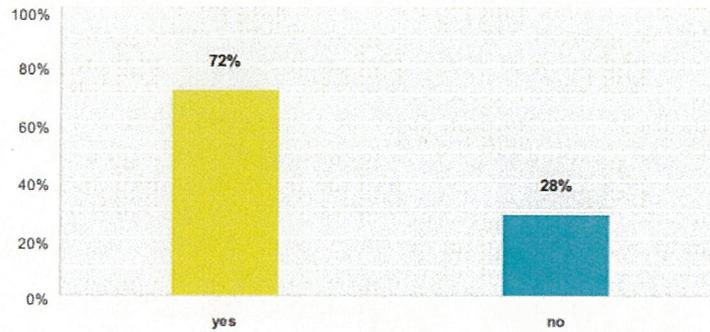
Thank you for your time.

360-336-6215

Question One

Q1 Are you a resident of Mount Vernon?

Answered: 716 Skipped: 5

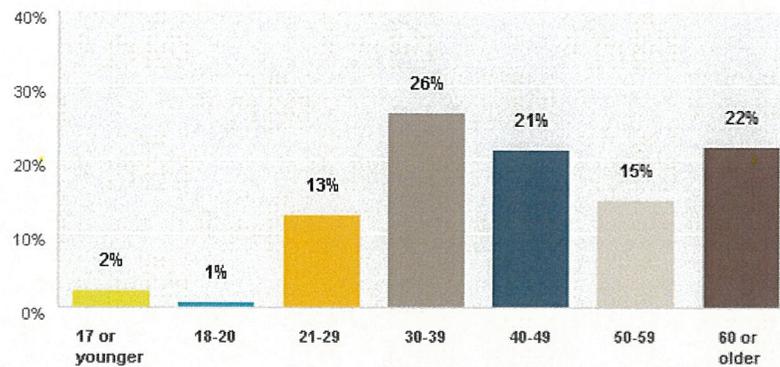


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
yes	72%	514
no	28%	202
Total		716

Question Two

Which category below describes your age group?

Answered: 716 Skipped: 5

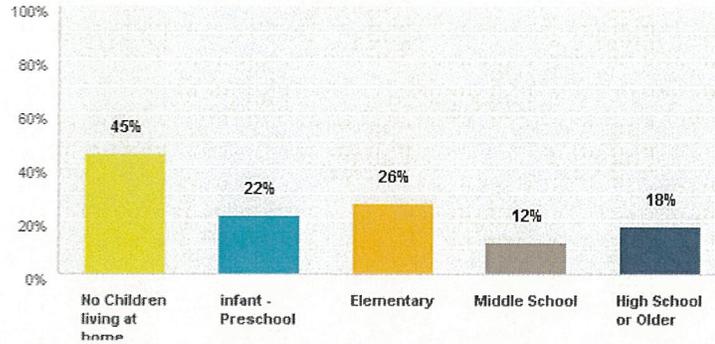


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
17 or younger	2%	17
18-20	1%	6
21-29	13%	90
30-39	26%	189
40-49	21%	153
50-59	15%	105
60 or older	22%	156
Total		716

Question Three

If there are children living in your home, what age group describes them best? (check all that apply)

Answered: 701 Skipped: 20

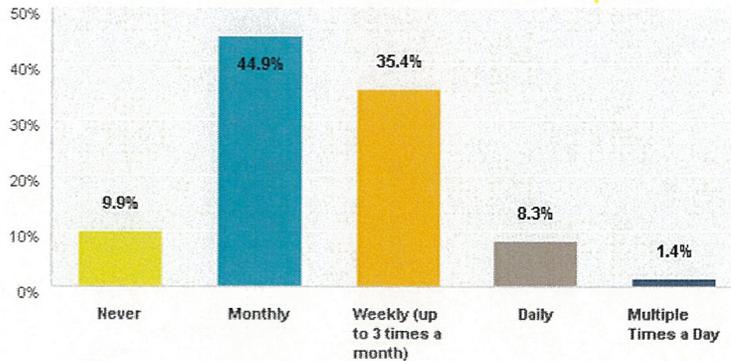


Answer Choices	Responses
No Children living at home	45% 316
infant - Preschool	22% 155
Elementary	26% 185
Middle School	12% 84
High School or Older	18% 126
Total Respondents: 701	

Question Four

In the last 12 months, how many times have you visited a Mount Vernon Park?

Answered: 697 Skipped: 24

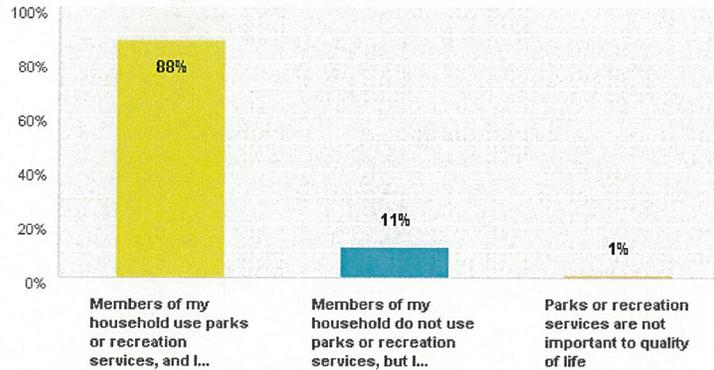


Answer Choices	Responses
Never	9.9% 69
Monthly	44.9% 313
Weekly (up to 3 times a month)	35.4% 247
Daily	8.3% 58
Multiple Times a Day	1.4% 10
Total	697

Question Five

Which **ONE** of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about parks or recreation services in our community,

Answered: 697 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses
Members of my household use parks or recreation services, and I believe these services are important to quality of life.	88% 612
Members of my household do not use parks or recreation services, but I believe these services are important to quality of life.	11% 79
Parks or recreation services are not important to quality of life	1% 6
Total	697

Question Six

If members of your household do not use parks or recreation services, and/or you do not believe these services are important to quality of life, please explain why in the box below.

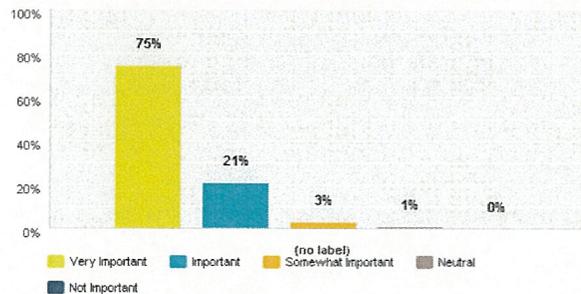
1. The parks are very important for our children
2. The park closest to me has removed the smaller children's play area and the previous equipment was sub-par. Also the drainage of rainwater at the parks is not very efficient. We are not very aware of the services that the parks and recreation department offer. They are not advertised very well. The activities I am aware of are usually at inconvenient times or not appropriate for smaller children as well.
3. We live in Whatcom County and use the parks/recreation services there, but still think it's important to community.
4. Great to get outdoors and be active
5. It is just never on the top of our list to do
6. My daughter works out at home and on our treadmill, walks outside and has a bike.
7. Parks and recreation programs are fundamental to healthy, vibrant communities!
8. I was using the dog park regularly until my dog got ill with coccidia. I no longer use that park and there is no other area for my dog to run around. Parks are on the top of my list of important areas in a community. I am looking for trails of all types to walk and hike on easily. I would use them almost daily.
9. I tend to use parks in Kirkland where my grandchildren live and participate in sports, etc. I do use MV parks on occasion but not with an regularity.
10. You take away far more quality of life from Mount Vernon citizens than you provide, your paycheck is stolen money destroying the quality of life from those it is taking from, (and I don't need to tell you how draining your retirement benefits will be on the productive class for the rest

- your miserable existence). Good use of stolen money, another useless poll.
11. I don't feel safe using Little Mountain.
 12. We use them sometimes, but we also live in an area that has trails. We are just sometimes too busy to use the parks enough. Also I would prefer a 10 mile running trail along the river!
 13. Frustrated because I have signed my children up for 3 classes/sports in the last two years, got them excited about the classes, and then had the classes cancelled. I gave up and moved to Burlington Parks and Rec
 14. good places are too crowded
 15. We used to use parks a lot when my kids were little. Now they are in sports and we live on 5 acres, so need to use facilities. Plus we live in Burlington.
 16. OVER 80 YEARS OLD
 17. Allows for community comraderie, activities for people of all ages, place to relax, have fun
 18. We have a lot of other commitments so we just don't get much of a chance to.
 19. I am doing outdoor activities - golfing, hiking that do not use the parks
 20. I would use the park more if I felt safer bringing my young children there
 21. I used to use the Kulshan trail at least three times a week for walking from Waugh Road to Laventure Road and back. But the last two years the grass and shrubs have grown too tall and one can not be aware of what is around you. As a senior walking alone that is a very scary thing not knowing what may lay in wait for anyone using the trail. I have seen people walking out of the woods that look as though they are living in the area which can be unsettling. I used to feel safe walking there but no longer.
 22. no time for use
 23. Creating and maintaining parks and recreational services add to the quality of life for all of us in the greater community.
 24. Security is a big issue, influencing which parks I use
 25. N/A
 26. We don't use services because we stay too busy working and caring for responsibilities. Even if I had some spare time, I don't have a use for the parks or the recreation services. I prefer the locations of the state parks. I don't avoid the parks I just have no use for them. In my opinion, they're designed for community members. I live west of MV on the flats. My parents live near the trails and would use them for walking, but they're not safe. I've asked my father to avoid them.
 27. No children to take but graffiti and other criminal activity at parks makes me uncomfortable.
 28. Programs offered not of interest, or not offered at a convenient time
 29. Being active young or old is important and our City Parks is the way in which to attain that goal.

Question Seven

Using the following scale, how important do you believe parks and recreation services and facilities are in maintaining the quality of life in Mount Vernon?

Answered: 703 Skipped: 18

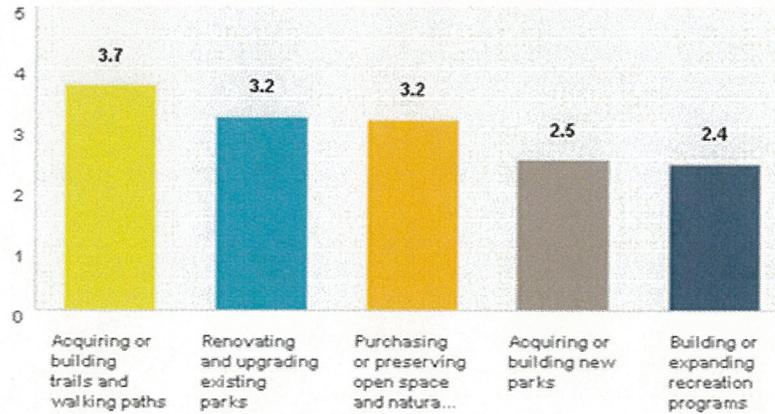


	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Not Important	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	75% 525	21% 148	3% 22	1% 7	0% 1	703	4.69

Question Eight

If Mount Vernon were going to expand its parks or recreation services to meet the needs of the growing population, how would you rank in priority each of the following areas. (1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority)

Answered: 643 Skipped: 78

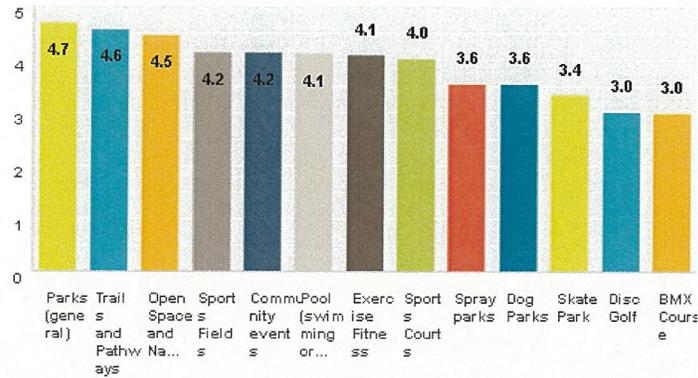


	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Ranking
Acquiring or building trails and walking paths	36% 234.0	26% 166.0	18% 117.0	13% 86.0	6% 40.0	643	3.73
Renovating and upgrading existing parks	18% 115.0	26% 167.0	22% 140.0	26% 168.0	8% 52.0	642	3.19
Purchasing or preserving open space and natural areas	22% 144.0	21% 136.0	20% 128.0	22% 140.0	15% 95.0	643	3.15
Acquiring or building new parks	8% 52.0	14% 92.0	27% 171.0	22% 140.0	29% 188.0	643	2.50
Building or expanding recreation programs	15% 98.0	13% 82.0	14% 87.0	17% 109.0	41% 266.0	642	2.43

Question Nine

Please evaluate the importance of several types of facilities or programs.

Answered: 670 Skipped: 51

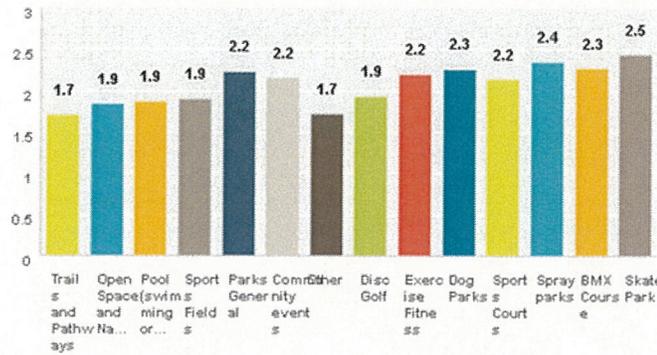


	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Somewhat Unimportant	Unimportant	Total	Average Rating
Parks (general)	75% 491.0	21% 139.0	3% 21.0	0% 3.0	0% 2.0	656	4.70
Trails and Pathways	69% 449.0	24% 154.0	6% 37.0	2% 12.0	0% 2.0	654	4.58
Open Space and Natural Areas	64% 423.0	23% 154.0	8% 56.0	3% 22.0	1% 4.0	659	4.47
Sports Fields	47% 306.0	31% 206.0	15% 101.0	4% 29.0	2% 15.0	657	4.18
Community events	40% 256.0	39% 255.0	18% 114.0	2% 15.0	1% 6.0	646	4.15
Pool (swimming or Aquatic facility)	47% 304.0	29% 188.0	18% 114.0	4% 25.0	3% 18.0	649	4.13
Exercise Fitness	40% 264.0	37% 245.0	17% 111.0	4% 23.0	2% 14.0	657	4.10
Sports Courts	37% 237.0	37% 242.0	20% 129.0	4% 28.0	2% 13.0	649	4.02
Sprayparks	25% 160.0	31% 199.0	27% 174.0	11% 73.0	6% 42.0	648	3.56
Dog Parks	23% 152.0	34% 218.0	25% 163.0	12% 76.0	6% 40.0	649	3.56
Skate Park	16% 103.0	29% 190.0	36% 234.0	11% 70.0	8% 51.0	648	3.35
Disc Golf	11% 70.0	23% 149.0	38% 248.0	14% 90.0	14% 91.0	648	3.03
BMX Course	9% 55.0	24% 152.0	42% 273.0	11% 71.0	14% 93.0	644	3.01

Question Ten

Please review the list again.
 What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priorities for Mount Vernon. Only your top 3 votes will count.

Answered: 651 Skipped: 70

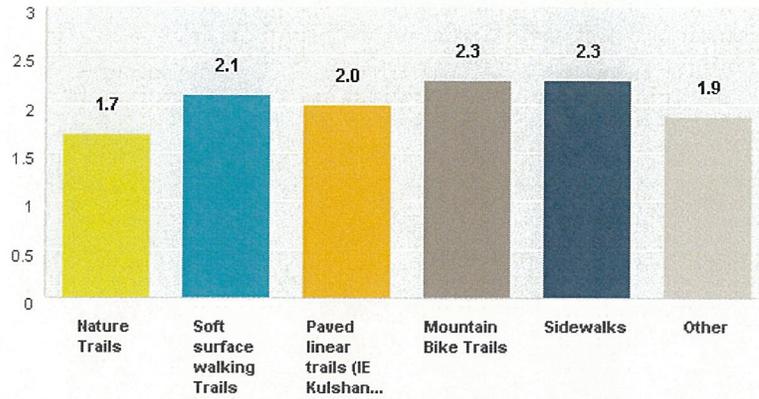


	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Trails and Pathways	47.53% 173.0	34.07% 124.0	18.41% 67.0	364
Open Space and Natural Areas	36.99% 108.0	41.10% 120.0	21.92% 64.0	292
Pool (swimming or Aquatic facility)	40.43% 93.0	30.87% 71.0	28.70% 66.0	230
Sports Fields	41.30% 78.0	27.17% 50.0	31.52% 58.0	184
Parks General	29.15% 65.0	18.83% 42.0	52.02% 116.0	223
Community events	23.14% 28.0	38.02% 46.0	38.84% 47.0	121
Other	60.00% 27.0	6.67% 3.0	33.33% 15.0	45
Disc Golf	48.57% 17.0	8.57% 3.0	42.86% 15.0	35
Exercise Fitness	18.89% 17.0	41.11% 37.0	40.00% 36.0	90
Dog Parks	14.77% 13.0	43.18% 38.0	42.05% 37.0	88
Sports Courts	17.74% 11.0	50.00% 31.0	32.26% 20.0	62
Sprayparks	14.06% 9.0	35.94% 23.0	50.00% 32.0	64
BMX Course	13.43% 9.0	44.78% 30.0	41.79% 28.0	67
Skate Park	10.53% 4.0	34.21% 13.0	55.26% 21.0	38

Question Eleven

There are many types of Trails in Mount Vernon. What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd TRAIL priorities for Mount Vernon.

Answered: 637 Skipped: 84

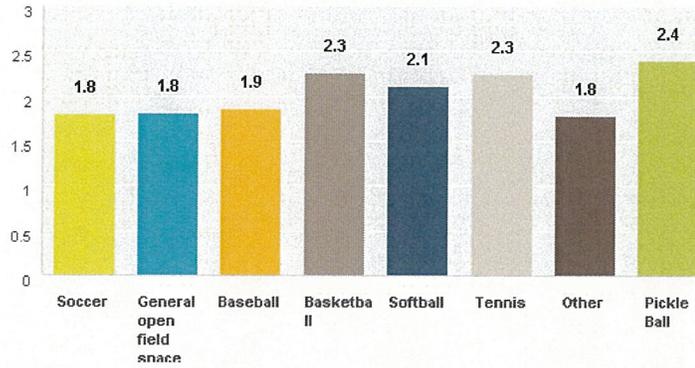


	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Nature Trails	50.29% 258.0	30.41% 156.0	19.30% 99.0	513
Soft surface walking Trails	24.06% 115.0	41.63% 199.0	34.31% 164.0	478
Paved linear trails (IE Kulshan Trail)	36.16% 162.0	28.79% 129.0	35.04% 157.0	448
Mountain Bike Trails	19.09% 42.0	36.36% 80.0	44.55% 98.0	220
Sidewalks	21.52% 34.0	32.28% 51.0	46.20% 73.0	158
Other	46.34% 19.0	19.51% 8.0	34.15% 14.0	41

Question Twelve

There are many types of sports fields and courts in Mount Vernon. What would you rank the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd **SPORTS FIELDS** priorities for Mount Vernon.

Answered: 614 Skipped: 107



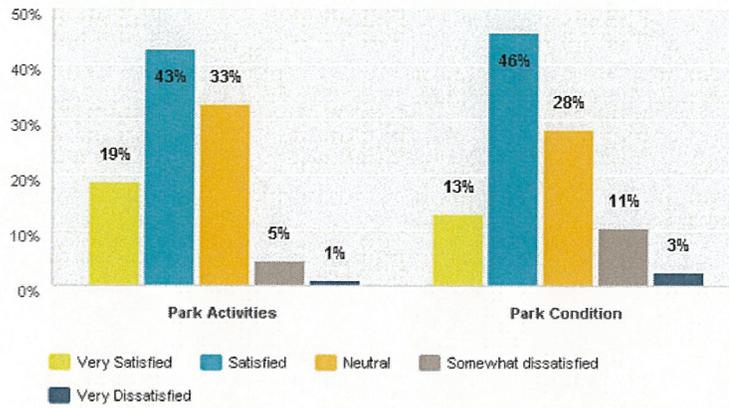
	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Soccer	45.52% 183.0	29.10% 117.0	25.37% 102.0	402
General open field space	47.62% 160.0	24.11% 81.0	28.27% 95.0	336
Baseball	39.33% 118.0	35.00% 105.0	25.67% 77.0	300
Basketball	14.88% 32.0	44.19% 95.0	40.93% 88.0	215
Softball	20.10% 41.0	48.53% 99.0	31.37% 64.0	204
Tennis	20.71% 35.0	33.14% 56.0	46.15% 78.0	169
Other	53.03% 35.0	15.15% 10.0	31.82% 21.0	66
Pickle Ball	18.00% 9.0	24.00% 12.0	58.00% 29.0	50

Question Thirteen-Seventeen

Park Activities and Condition

Bakerview Park

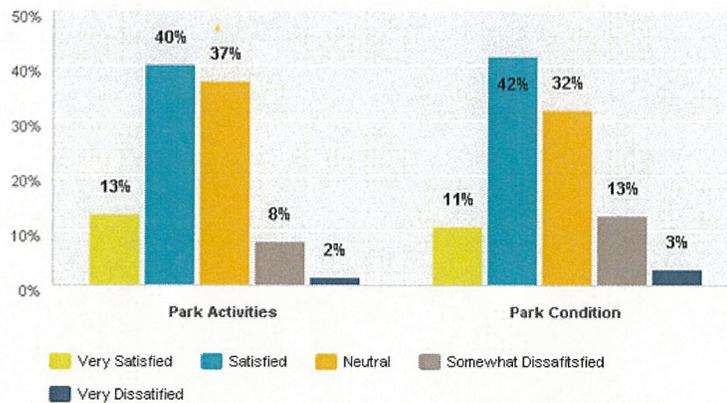
Answered: 615 Skipped: 106



	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Park Activities	19% 111.0	43% 253.0	33% 194.0	5% 27.0	1% 6.0	591
Park Condition	13% 76.0	46% 268.0	28% 165.0	11% 62.0	3% 15.0	586

Edgewater Park (West Mount Vernon)

Answered: 596 Skipped: 125

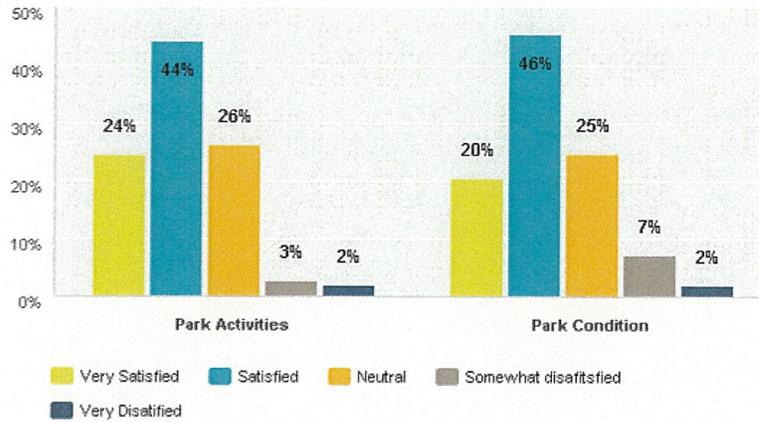


	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Park Activities	13% 75	40% 231	37% 214	8% 46	2% 9	575
Park Condition	11% 59	42% 230	32% 177	13% 70	3% 16	552

Park Activities and Condition (continued)

Hillcrest Park

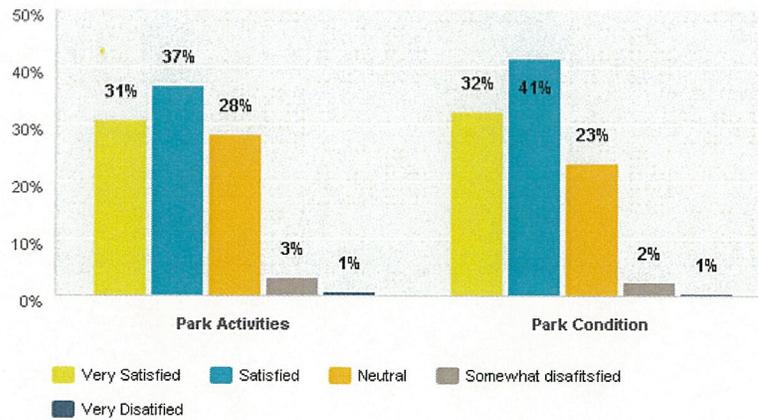
Answered: 612 Skipped: 109



	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Park Activities	24% 145	44% 263	26% 156	3% 17	2% 12	593
Park Condition	20% 118	46% 264	25% 143	7% 42	2% 12	579

Little Mountain Viewpoint Park

Answered: 610 Skipped: 111

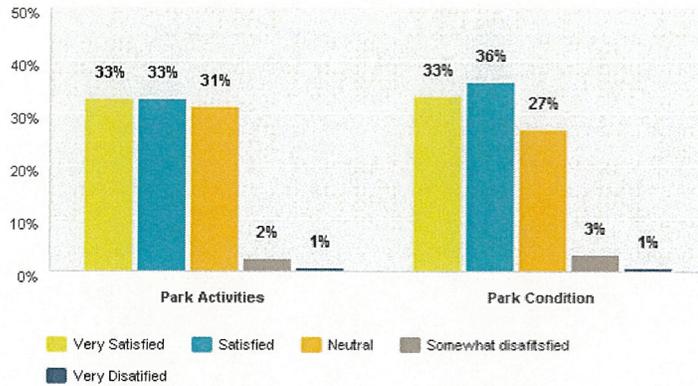


	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Park Activities	31% 182	37% 219	28% 168	3% 20	1% 5	594
Park Condition	32% 186	41% 238	23% 134	2% 14	1% 3	575

Park Activities and Condition (continued)

Kiwanis Park

Answered: 599 Skipped: 122

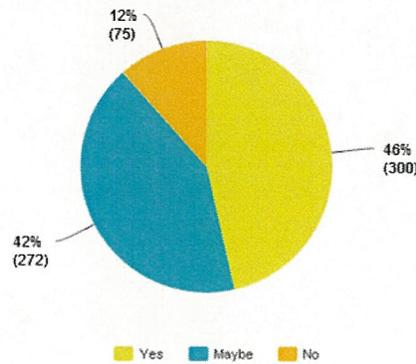


	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Park Activities	33% 190	33% 191	31% 182	2% 14	1% 5	582
Park Condition	33% 190	36% 206	27% 154	3% 18	1% 5	573

Question 18

Some communities have chosen to tax themselves in order to increase the amount of parks and recreation in their community such as the Bellingham Greenways Levy and the 2013 Seattle Parks Levy. Would you support increased taxes or levies to support expanded or enhanced recreational opportunities in Mount Vernon

Answered: 647 Skipped: 74

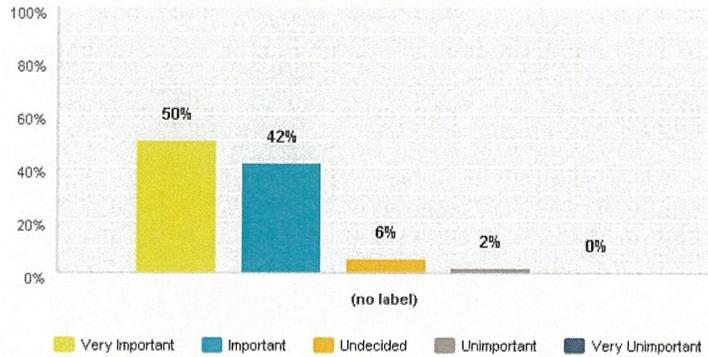


	Yes	Maybe	No	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	46% 300	42% 272	12% 75	647	1.65

Question 19

How important do you feel community events, classes, sports programs, and enrichment activities are to quality of life?

Answered: 641 Skipped: 80

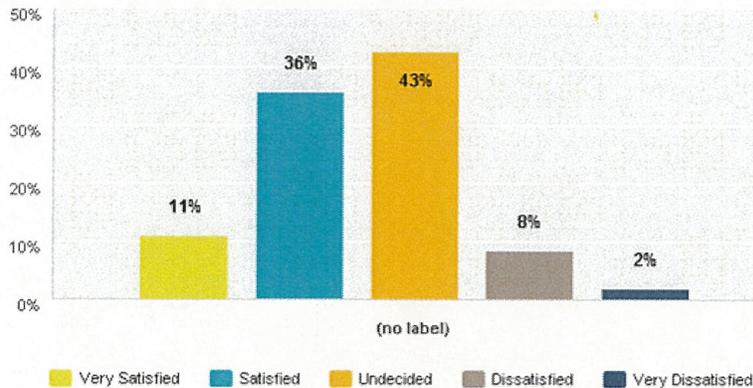


	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	50% 321	42% 267	6% 36	2% 14	0% 3	641	4.39

Question 20

How satisfied are you with the selection of classes, sports programs, and enrichment activities currently offered by MVPR?

Answered: 631 Skipped: 90



	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Undecided	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	11% 70	36% 226	43% 269	8% 53	2% 13	631	3.45

**What classes, sports programs, or enrichment activities
would you like to see offered?**

1. basketball
2. satisfied
3. zumba classes, art classes, dance classes
4. volleyball class
5. volleyball, tennis - I am not satisfied with the cost and that you don't tell people
6. more toys for kids
7. variety of activities and training for kids
8. exercise in fresh air
9. soccer
10. a place to skate
11. free physical training
12. tennis, swimming
13. The parks are very important. Our kids need them for a healthy life. Need park safety for our small children
14. zumba
15. games for kids
16. sports programs
17. painting, music or dances, art, instruments
18. swimming, day camps, walks
19. soccer games
20. zumba
21. Events with cultural music
22. cultural classes
23. cultural classes
24. kids soccer
25. football, soccer, baseball
26. soccer for kids
27. cultural events
28. all age programs, all cultures and recreation
29. more funds for fun classes
30. soccer
31. "outside zumba classes
32. summer activities and sports for kids"
33. walks because there are many obese people that don't like to move or walk
34. swimming classes
35. exercise and outdoor games
36. swimming, art, decorations, gardening, ballet (free or low cost) for kids in preschool and primary

37. The programs they actually have, the teachers don't look very engaged and they don't give quality classes and they should because prices aren't very accessible
38. lack information
39. They exist - soccer, baseball
40. recreation programs for kids and exercise classes (zumba)
41. A place to swim
42. tennis and basketball practice
43. martial art classes, walks
44. swimming, soccer
45. More activities for those that have special needs children-sports, swim lessons, classes, etc.
46. pool
47. pool
48. gym
49. soccer
50. pool, swimming lessons, art classes
51. multicultural because there is a lot of diversity in the city
52. Pickle Ball
53. I don't know
54. Swimming lessons, first aid/ cpr, self defense, martial arts, art classes
55. "The only place I know of that actually offers classes for 5 and under is YMCA.
56. I would like for the park and recreation to offer classes for infants-5 years old like sign language, music/play time, art classes. There just isn't enough things for that age group in the community UNLESS you are POOR and state pays for your child to get help to catch up developmentally."
57. More safer trails and parks.
58. kids dance classes. parent fitness classes at the same time. Offer these classes quarterly not just seasonal (kids dance classes in the fall).
59. archery
60. "Frequent basketball Activities, with small basket ready for youth; also more attention and care to the basketball fields..
61. In addition more support with the payments for low income
62. families and in your office you don't have a charm person to give info. couple a times I have gone for some info some of them don't pay attention to your needs(at hillcrest office)"
63. free zumba, soccer for kids, art projects
64. Art classes, Language classes etc
65. "Mexican folkloric dancing
66. World dancing classes (African, Bollywood etc)
67. Cultural arts and crafts
68. Foreign cooking"
69. Events/ activities for special needs kids.
70. Free or low cost family activities
71. music, summer camps for children which covers all age groups, more art, nature, wild foraging
72. Adult baseball!!!
73. More variety more often
74. Adult tackle football

75. Knitting, sewing, book club, more parent/child activities
76. Soccer, basketball, baseball.
77. There should be some free classes, at least some. Many people cannot pay \$40 or \$50 for a class or event. It seems like there should be more of a mix--I think many more people would enter in if this was the case.
78. A way to get over the bridge or across the street by the waterfront safely
79. soccer, volleyball, and kids camp activities
80. More Tia chi/yoga type fitness, crafts during the winter months, bike repair, one day field trips, gardening/civic beautification (how to make your yard look nice)
81. Younger kid summer camps. 4 & 5 year olds.
82. parent and child classes etc that would allow for socialization and fun and getting to know people in community.
83. archery
84. Volleyball & swimming.
85. Expanded Silver Arrow Bowmen archery park.
86. More cultural inclusion.
87. dog agility training in an agility park; community gardens (pea patches) on vacant city land; fitness course
88. more tennis
89. More archery
90. Travel trips for under advantage kids so I can take foster kids on more trips
91. Archery!
92. Field Archery. Olympic sport. Youth involvement. Great local instructors teaching indoor now, no place to shoot field archery though.
93. ASAP: After school archery program of USA archery.
94. not just offered but more public awareness and advertisement for when activities will start and what is happening
95. More archery classes
96. Archery Classes
97. Archery at Silver Arrow Bowmen
98. Archery, Nature Classes, Environmental.
99. Archery programs at Silver Arrow Bowmen
100. Archery, Bowhunter Education
101. ALL TYPES. Some spanish classes for children would be great as would possibly sign language, sports for smaller children, arts and craft opportunity, cooking classes, exploration classes all aimed at younger participants.
102. Archery
103. Archery
104. Archery
105. Archery
106. Swimming. .. Swim teams
107. Archery and bow hunting
108. More sports for kids
109. Environmental classes, programs, activities--climatology, forestry, botany, geology, wildlife, etc.

110. Language classes for kids, specifically Spanish classes for kids. Science enrichment classes for kids.
Art classes for kids.
111. Outdoor volley ball, running track
112. I like all the ones that are currently in place, although a swim item would be nice
113. Gentle and beginning yoga, water classes (need pool)
114. Science-related workshops for school-age (it is too far to take kids to the Pacific Science Center!)
115. bmx for different age groups so the big kids are not with little ones.
116. MORE YOGA AND DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS
117. Archery
118. Classes are too expensive
119. Less expensive ones. It is hard for middle class families to afford the programs.
120. Outdoor fitness
121. Running, hiking, cycling
122. Adult non-competitive sports, more variety in preschool-aged sports, more outdoor adventure outings (picnics, snowshoeing, hiking, etc.), yoga, exerci
123. I would like to see some art type activities for kids, Meet and greet BBQ or Picnic, Computer/console gaming parties/tournament.
124. I haven't a family. Focus on families. TV-less Tuesdays or something for families on Sundays open. I don't play tennis, but like that you have it in Mount Vernon at school and college,
125. Swimming
126. I believe the Parks & Rec departments offers a great deal of sport programs, but I believe drama/inprov clubs and/or classes would be a great addition.
127. golf
128. Baseball tournaments
129. Tai Chi
130. It would be awesome if MVPR offered a outdoor soccer league for adults.
131. photography, kayaking
132. more programs for adults
133. Pickleball! It is a true multigenerational sport!
134. Extending the Eaglemont trail up the hill to the new Eaglemont Center.
135. Yoga, swimming
136. We love the kids classes, but wish they were at better times of day, we can't always bring our kids to these because we work.
137. Hiking excursions into the cascades
138. yoga, other exercise programs
139. I don't currently participate in any of the programs/classes. although I have lived and worked in the general area since 1993. I have only lived in Mt Vernon for 1 year. I previously live 20 miles north. although I used the park facilities previously, I now live much closer to all of the facilities.
140. More crafts and gardening
141. It would be nice to have a mailer sent out quarterly to residents of Mount Vernon so we know what is available. I do try to look at the website when I remember.
142. I would like to see the prices drop!
143. Don't know.
144. More things for adults

145. weight management through a variety of adult activities
146. More activities that get us to broaden our skills.
147. Tennis clubs, beginner--novice level hiking clubs, litter-removal park support teams (adopt-a-park community group organization).
148. Badminton
149. Outdoor circuit training.
150. Good question. Anything that gets kids outside and off the couch.
151. More classes that target the mid-range of ages. Lots available for younger kids and through senior activities.
152. MV needs the full gamut -- youth to senior, pools, gym, fields, etc. The question is , who should supply these and how is the responsibility split among the city, county, YMCA, etc. I would like to see a council of all these groups to meet regularly to be sure that, among yhem, these needed services are being provided.
153. Continued and expanded advanced tai chi
154. I don't have young kids now, so I am not sure what is available now.
155. Senior swim
156. Disc Golf 101
157. MOVIE IN THE PARK IN THE SUMMER. EVERY FRIDAY. OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL. NOT MANY PLACES KIDS CAN SWIM IN THE SUMMER.
158. Art
159. dog training, activities for preschool age kids.
160. A disc golf course
161. Nature trails and hiking groups. Also a walking group would be nice.
162. Disc golf
163. The disc golf community is growing worldwide, but it is very small in Skagit County. If we had a good enough course, the revenue that Disc Golf could bring to Skagit County would be amazing.
164. DISC GOLF
165. Disc Golf tournaments!
166. Youth disc golf clinics.
167. Motorcycle/atv riding programs
168. senior maintenance
169. I just want the ones offered to be followed through on...maybe more visibility of programs so people see they are available.
170. Anything is better than what it is now.
171. More programs for toddlers and preschoolers.
172. unknown i have yet to see my options
173. Perhaps some "get to know your parks" Saturday morning classes focused on vegetation, nature walks, hiking -some sort of letterbox trail perhaps -designed for adults! It's possible that I miss hearing about events and activities also.
174. Environmental conservation/preservation awareness
175. After school programs for elementary children geared toward outdoor education. Sports programs, and social programs.
176. mentoring opportunities to link seniors with kids who have few or no role model adults to support their activities and inteterest

177. more adult classes in the evening
178. I'm not familiar with the classes, sports programs and enrichment activities that are offered by MV
179. Seems to be a pretty diverse offering of activities and personally I like kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing, and might only suggest some singles activities.
180. Cooking and baking classes in the lodge. Maybe pickle ball instruction and league.
181. Photography for dummies
182. Ice Skating/Hockey, designated downhill mountain biking trails
183. YOGA
184. More senior activities
185. Birdwatching, Little Mountain Trail classes, Adult fitness classes
186. Arts/music
187. More mountain bike activities, clubs, etc.
188. open gym volleyball and basketball
189. I think there are too many duplication of programs in our community between the city, YMCA, & County. I think the city should put its resources toward expanding parks, paved trails, acquiring more land for parks.
190. Swimming
191. We haven't accessed the classes but I believe they are important for many of our residents and hope they can be affordable to allow our low income neighbors more access.
192. I'd like to see more community events, like a picnic and bands or music but not oompa oompa music, I want Sousa or something old timey for my children. Nothing from other countries.
193. Walking trails. Also soccer fields take up space and can't be used for other things.
194. Skateboarding instruction class, Bmx class
195. Running races, youth races and triathlons
196. lighted walkways for evenings, walking areas cleared of close foliage
197. More Rec Leagues
198. walking/social groups for active seniors
199. more adult arts and crafts classes
200. More options for Tai Chi (weekend class)
201. Arts and crafts, mini camps
202. I personally am seldom aware of events other than the "major" community events that Parks offers. In the distant past, a newspaper like period distribution of events available for the next quarter or season was printed but I haven't seen it in the recent past.
203. More classes for adults.
204. senior walking group
205. More classes on enjoying and preserving natural environment including plants and animals
206. Yoga for kids. Tai chi. Field trips.
207. more leagues, activities for adults
208. more free classes on art and dog activities.
209. You do a great job offering a wide selection of classes and programs.
210. Soccer
211. I would like to see more things to do for seniors

212. More arts, yoga, tai chi, general health - walking clubs, gardening seminars, local neighborhood meetings, garden initiatives to help neighborhoods 'perk up' and maybe even become spring time 'destinations' similar to CandyCane Lane is at Christmas.
213. I can't think of any.
214. More senior activities. Swim facility!!!
215. Unknown. Kids are at the age where we are too busy with them but they aren't quite old enough for activities
216. Art classes for adults, short hikes/native plant & wildlife hikes, sign language for babies & parents, Spanish and other languages, landscaping for wildlife classes
217. Kid hiking & outdoor education. I wish we could have some sort of rowing club on the river. Sure would enhance the downtown area and new revetment scene.
218. Why not work with the YMCA?
219. volleyball
220. I am not qualified to answer this question since my main choice of exercise is walking, so naturally I would opt for more walking areas with exercise activity along the way.
221. I tried on with my son several years ago. Organizers were disinterested and just there. Not much fun for the money. Maybe organize free walking/bike tours.
222. BMX, swimming, exercise, arts.
223. "MORE DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS ONLY
224. SWIMMING
225. ZUMBA
226. COOKING"
227. I'd like to see some programs offered for the ropes course and more classes for older kids - both sports and art.
228. Bike friendly streets
229. Beginning walking for fitness several times. One offering is not enough.
230. I think things are limited by available facilities, but would love more adult fitness (not just team stuff) and indoor kids stuff in winter; a community fitness facility w/ pool (or partnership with YMCA to expand access for community) would be great.
231. More activities that families can do together without large fees, game nights, movie nights. Classes in any topics that interest people; photography, writing, crafts, offered at times working people can attend as well as during the day. Many of the sports activities are so expensive perhaps more could participate in basic field games or skills like a mini Olympics; free throws, long passes, relays and so forth.
232. senior walking group
233. It would help if fees to participate were reduced or non-existent
234. Unsure. I probably wouldn't use them myself, but feel a good selection of activities at a reasonable cost would be beneficial to the community. I think a good age group to target is the 12-15 years old youth. Find out what they want and need. That is a critical time in their lives to keep them busy and yet supervised.
235. Programmers are doing a great job with what they have to work with.
236. More outdoor education for children and adults. We need a better skate park but in a visible location. don't duplicate or compete with other community organizations.
237. gardening classes, activities that connect kids to nature, community gardens

238. Grown up Soccer, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, horse back riding, swimming
239. "Foraging workshops - we have tons of native edibles, but very few opportunities to learn about them.
240. Sustainable living stuff - beekeeping, gardening for wildlife, etc."
241. i haven't really noticed what programs are available.
242. More adult exercise classes, adult art classes, adult classes in general
243. Environment, Sustainable premaculture, raingardens, neighborhood vegetable gardens
244. focus on maintaining first class fields,trails and outdoor courts.
245. family yoga, youth dance, family cooking classes, more family focused activities
246. Naturalist programs, runs
247. I attend first baptist church in sedro Woolley. I help coach girls basketball, soccer and t ball. Of sedro Woolley. So, def things with the church, YMCA, boys and girls club, paddle boats, capture the flag, races, bike races.
248. Environmental education, Salmon Festival, coach pitch, soccer, basketball, tours of wetlands and their importance, Salmon habitat restoration and maintenance, offering extra credit for students involved. gardening project, food and garden practices. Most important, I would like to see Mt. Vernon offer more rain garden tours and building of rain gardens throughout our parks and roadsides
249. One concern I have is that it seems like some programs for kids start before or right around 5pm. I'm not sure what kind of parents are able to get out of work in time to have young kids dressed for sports and ready to go by 5pm, so why can't these events start a little later? We're not all stay-at-home parents. It seems like most of the cool kid activities around here happen well before I get out of the office.
250. I don't know, I think they are important but personally I am most active in running and find enough of that outside the city park system.
251. Anything for adults
252. Rarely see any advertisements except on one reader board. Are they kept up online?
253. Not sure at this moment
254. There's lots of neat ideas, but they're so expensive!
255. More dog obedience classes.
256. Cooking, trips to N. Cascades.
257. Yoga - for adults and also for kids
258. community yoga, and continuing ed classes (such s photography, naturalist classes, kid-specific naturalist day trips)
259. More things for promoting ecology and the uplifting of our spirits and souls. Rain gardens, native plants garden and trail, environmental/climate change friendly parks. Classes like Tai Chi, walking meditation, native plant use for adults. Programs for children; environmental protection, water conservation, science and ecology, life skills, and enrichment programs like the Kulshan program. Embrace stewardship of our community and our planet (litter does NOT just happen!).
260. I don't know of any specific activities. I don't feel like I really know what programs are offered. I feel like I am pretty savvy with finding programs and looking for things for my son, yet I feel like unless I hear from my friends I have no idea what programs are available in our area, whether it is through parks and rec, ymca, skagit county . . . it would be nice to have a central place to look for community activities and offerings whether they are city, county, YMCA, county museum . . .

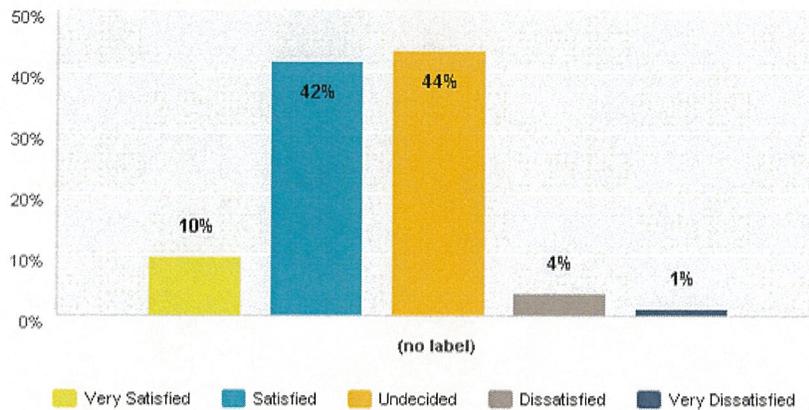
261. Bike races, rides
262. More exercise options for all ages. We need an aquatic center and sports courts.
263. I don't know what 's currently offered. All programs should be self-supporting. Suggestions: sports, dance, art, hobbies (knitting, model building, stuff like that), music (community band)...
264. The activities should be mainly for the youth.
265. Agility dog sports!
266. Dog training classes, dog agility sports. We've regulated dogs everywhere to be on-leash. Dogs need to exercise. They need to run. People need to be taught how to train their dogs to obey so we don't have the problem dogs.
267. arts & crafts realm
268. yoga for seniors
269. Adult classes. Day trips.
270. more activities to build community
271. Kickboxing, martial arts
272. Snowshoe trips, origami classes, active activities for families to participate in together.
273. Entry level football for young elementary students.
274. Classes for children and parents. Classes to help people get into shape.
275. Mountain bike trail, motocross track and bmx trails
276. not sure
277. Youth sports enhancement camps
278. Yoga, Orienteering, X-country for all ages
279. yoga, pottery, volleyball
280. skiing
281. Ones with an emphasis on learning and appreciating the natural history of our city parks: the plants, birds, geology, other aspects of the general ecology. Activities could be offered in partnership with organizations such as the Audubon Society and WA Native Plant Society.
282. I tend to not be utilize these. However, I recognize that others do. So this is important.
283. I'm happy with what you now offer. There is a good variety of programs for all ages and multiple interests.
284. womens and or childrens self defense class
285. I am not aware of what is currently offered by Mount Vernon sports programs.
286. Softball leagues, basketball tournaments, after school activities
287. More art & specialized classes. We often go to Burlington P&R. They seem to offer more for the kids.
288. Sports/dance for kids, painting/pottery, kids crafts, cooking
289. "kids art classes
290. kids language classes. weekly Spanish class"
291. I'd prefer if some of the sports programs for early elementary were offered on Sunday afternoons.
292. running, walking and hiking programs.
293. Adult leagues for soft ball, baseball. Classes. Evening drop in activities for youth.
294. softball,basketball, more outside activities.
295. yoga, senior/adult programs, family activities, all arts!
296. "more adult classes (or advertistement of them (adult dance classes - hip hop salsa bellydancing
297. adult art classes - not jsut for seniors"

- 298. More sports and programs aimed at school age kids - it seems like most sports opportunities are aimed at young kids, 6 and under, and those through the County are aimed at older middle school/high school age.
- 299. broader range, feels like its the same classes over and over again.
- 300. more exercise classes
- 301. "dog agility training at Bakerview
- 302. A community garden on the land at the now vacant lot at 8th and Fulton (one block north of Highland) with mentors on organic gardening methods"
- 303. More fitness, youth enrichment, arts and crafts for youth and adults, cultural programs.

Question 22

How satisfied are you with the community events currently offered by MVPR?

Answered: 615 Skipped: 106



	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Undecided	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	10% 60	42% 256	44% 268	4% 23	1% 8	615	3.55

What community events would you like to see offered?

1. walking for Mount Vernon residents
2. cultural diversity of countries community events
3. more community services
4. movies in the park
5. kids training
6. promote more sport
7. Kermes
8. families
9. activities painting murals in the parks
10. walks, concerts, live music
11. more living together
12. kid events
13. for kids
14. I don't know the events and haven't been invited. I don't know what events there are, but i like crafts
15. events with horses
16. free activities in the community streets with the help of parks and recreation and the mayor.
Instructions on how to be a healthier community
17. make the parks bigger
18. more familiar
19. Festivals
20. walk, job, bicycle
21. walking competition
22. music for youth and more sports
23. Plan events in public parks. Bike track and soccer tournaments
24. zumba, ceramics, watercolor
25. dont know where to get event information
26. Events for young, youth, and grandparents
27. musicians, clowns, skating
28. fun competitive sports
29. Cinco de Mayo celebration and Sept 16th
30. Events focusing on latinos. The exsisting events are boring for latinos
31. recreation events
32. walks, mexican fairs and events
33. musical
34. musical
35. musical events for children

36. any events that reflect the culture and environment of the people who live in the community to promote the importance of taking care of the community and building self-esteem
37. I don't know
38. "More family math and science nights.
39. Play grounds with actual sand but no dogs allowed on because of the health concerns.
40. More water parks like kiwians"
41. More diversity places
42. art classes, drama classes, kids art contest or exhibits. Cultural dance for kids
43. more murals, free events
44. Diverse Cultural events
45. More festivals, more celebration of diversity things
46. "Penguin DIP
47. Fiestas Patrias September 16th (Mexican Independence Day)
48. International Women's Day (march 8)"
49. Zumba classes
50. more live music, more events which appeal to many demographics of citizens
51. Ones held are good. Would like to see more performances in summer -- music, theater etc
52. More dinner events at Hillcrest, perhaps a monthly Spaghetti Feed run by a different church or school each month
53. Soccer
54. Some free introductory and/or beginning classes for adults, as well as for children. Some could be for both. For example, the library is having programs on gardening and MONA has a monthly free family art class for kids and adults combined. Let's be more creative. For example, we could have community dog walks.
55. What I really would like to see is some online registration. It would be great to spiff up and get a nice website for the department that better talks about the events and allows you to register online.
56. Volunteer opportunities to support the city (park clean up, trail maintenance, planting flowers etc)
57. More summer movies!
58. archery
59. More festivals and more amusement parks
60. fishing derby and/or returning salmon festival to edgewater park
61. park clean-up days for the whole community to help out.
62. More activities for all ages
63. Archery Tournaments!
64. Safety day including things like fire, bike/skateboards, personal safety on trails and especially Eddie the eagle gun safety all in one.
65. Archery, Survival, family orientated learning about the environment.
66. All kinds. We lack activities that are family friendly for younger ages.
67. Outdoor festivals
68. Biathlons... bike/run ... run/archery ... run/shoot ...
69. I would like to see the Silver Arrow Bowmen Events posted on the Parks department website so that more people would know about the EXISTING events being offered on parks property.
70. Archery and bow hunting tournaments

71. Discussion of the need for a county-class arboretum.
72. July 4th celebration, April or Oct. Make a Difference Day, State Legislator Forum
73. I have not been to many of them, so making a judgement would be unfair
74. How about organized walking clubs, accessible for seniors, that meet weekly on different days and hours around town, to encourage adults to exercise together by walking (and talking!)
75. Annual events like a community safety fair like Oak Harbor does. Parades, family activities. Ways to interact as a community that don't cost money.
76. More events geared towards hispanic community
77. more utilization of Hillcrest park lodge with programs such as dance, education, neighborhood driven activities
78. preschool and toddler educational events
79. Nothing comes to mind
80. Farming, planting, landscaping
81. I would LOVE to see a Mother/Son dance offered perhaps for Mothers day.
82. I'm challenged by wanting involvement at city activities and events.
83. More carnivals, showings, and fundraisers.
84. Can't think of any.
85. concerts
86. I love the movies in the parks
87. Hikes or walks for all ages. Dog walks.
88. More multicultural awesomeness
89. Environmental programs about conservation, recycling, rain gardens, using native plants, bus or bike to work, anti litter and community improvement for kids.
90. well chaperoned dances for the youth with a snack bar available.
91. More health related options.
92. Self defense and safety courses for park users, 3-on3 basketball tournament (city wide).
93. Tar and feathers
94. More outdoor concerts.
95. Music on Fridays or Saturdays up on the Revetment. Bring more events and dollars to downtown.
96. Senior day trips
97. SEE 21
98. Mother/Son dance! We have a father/daughter dance, why not mother/son?
99. Disc Golf Tournaments
100. A Professional Disc Golfers Association sanctioned event would be great!
101. more disc golf events.
102. "master gardner
103. financial retirement planning"
104. Free events
105. More events at fair grounds such as rummage sales, festivals, ect. More classes for kids and parents.
106. Events that bring neighborhoods together based on the park they are near (perhaps?) -potlucks, walking or exercise activities for a group, the Haunted Forest continued, evening movies, perhaps some wild edible trails or interpretive signage? Maybe volunteer maintenance work parties, if that is needed.

107. block parties for particular streets and communities, meet and greets with local EMS, city officials and parks employees.
108. A skate park similar to the Burlington/SW? skate park and more covered shelter picnic areas for family events.
109. I think its wonderful that the mayor is setting such a great example in being active and enjoying our parks. Il would love to see that continue. Also, how about an ivy pull (or holly removal) at Little Mountain or Hillcrest Park?
110. Not sure at this time.
111. Really like fourth July fire works .Geocashing events are fun with the community.
112. Annual dog park fund raiser held downtown. Block off1st street, invite all dogs!
113. We have thoroughly enjoyed the Mayor's month long fitness events and would like to see those continued and even expanded.
114. Something new and different. Same special events have been going on for years and they need to be replaced!
115. I wonder if Parks and Rec could help bridge the racial divide in our community, bringing together our Hispanic and white neighbors in fun ways
116. I'd like to see rides offered to Seattle for events, like the Seahawks superbowl thing, and picnics and good music. It doesn't have to be free, I could pay. I prefer not Latin music or events, those scare me because Hispanics are mean to me, a young Hispanic man tried to grab me off my bike after his friend threw gravel on me with his car, and the gravel cut me. I was just riding my bike past where the gravel was supposed to hit him--and I got grabbed! Also sometimes they stare at me because I am a really, really white person and look weak I guess. I can't help my skin color it won't tan! I feel left out when there are Hispanic events because they are mean to me and I don't start it!
117. Community BBQ or picnic.
118. enjoy 4th of July celebration
119. More music/plays in the park
120. family fun night(bouncy hose,games,etc), family bingo night, more family movie night edgewater, lincoln, pine square, etc
121. Game/ card nights. Dancing
122. more family events, more often. tie with library, schools, etc
123. More concerts in the park, art walks. I officially sound old. Sorry, don't have young kids anymore.
124. Can't think of any.
125. More volunteers in the parks organization, opportunities, events.
126. See above... how about a brainstorming session to generate a list of community events that would involve neighbors?
127. I can't think of any.
128. "The Salmon Festival in Edgewater Pk is great!
129. How about some board game afternoons (Hillcrest & Bakerview); sing-a-longs (hootenanys!) Neighborhood gatherings - targeting folks who live near each park (potluck picnic, games like tug-o-war, egg-in-spoon races, jump rope, hoola-hoop, etc.)"
130. cinco de mayo festival
131. I'd like to see Summer Street Dances! Block parties would be great for getting folks out to meet their neighbors. This doesn't have to be organized by the city. but it could be strongly supported

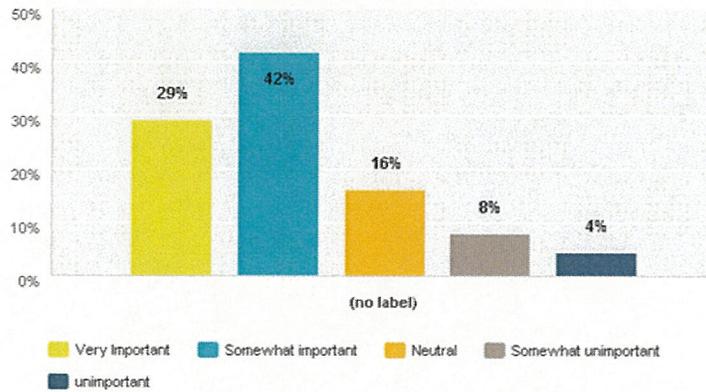
- by the city, by allowing us to block off a minor street to use as a party venue. Even Alley Parties would be great. I think it would encourage community pride.
132. I think there is a good selection now
 133. I am not sure what to suggest but would like to see more events on the Skagit River, especially after the flood wall is completed and the upgrades completed on the revetment.
 134. More neighborhood focused events. More food, wine, and beer events. More arts events and music events.
 135. Walking group for social and fitness.
 136. I dislike saying I am dissatisfied with events currently offered it is just that I would like to see more. I know there are limited resources but perhaps low cost activities could be offered so more citizens can participate.
 137. low cost senior trips
 138. Again, the descriptions of events and activities sound good but prices should be reduced or non-existent.
 139. Unsure . Maybe more concerts in the park, or a dog 'fashion show', or a bike rodeo, or other things that are fun for both spectators and participants.
 140. These should be supported from our elected officials. More events bring in more people and give MV a name on the map.
 141. This holds no interest for me at this time, but I feel it's important to the community.
 142. "Open Streets event for walking and biking.
 143. Bike to Work promotion"
 144. parade
 145. I love the tulip festival art fair in April. It would be nice to see that happen more often. Maybe a Harvest Festival or Christmas Art Fair..
 146. I'm not familiar with what IS offered since I'm not a MV resident. Only way I see info is if I happen to drive by the readerboard downtown (which isn't a place I go frequently). Would be good to advertise opportunities more.
 147. i like how the salmon run is a city-wide event, i think we need more community harvests. There are abundant resources in this area like black berries which many people harvest, it would be nice if the city made that official. public space could be used for fruit trees, it's a food security issue but also people would be more appreciative of their environment if it were tasty.
 148. nutrition, fitness, organized free walks perhaps led by volunteers
 149. Princess events, dress up and play pretend parties for the youth. Weddings, girls night out, farmers market, flea market, paintball in the woods, group walks on trails, side walk sales, BBQ, firework shows, camping with family events.
 150. Keep the Soap box derby! Gardening plot for education or signs at hillcrest with names and uses for the different plants, identification trail for educational purpose, like the Pamona Grange Samish fish hatchery has in their trail. A convenient, local trail would be nice to take the kids from schools
 151. The outdoor movies are a great addition so I hope those keep going.
 152. Don't know.
 153. What do you have?
 154. More events celebrating our Latino community.
 155. Concerts

156. no ideas come to mind offhand
157. Ecology events. Permaculture events. Healthy living events. Love the children's art festival.
158. What are the ones currently offered? Where do I find them?
159. Bike races, rides
160. I think MVPR does the best it can with the resources available.
161. I don't know which events are sponsored by MVPR.
162. a dog show. More than what is offered at the County Fair.
163. Working dog shows and exhibition events.
164. more outdoor concerts, plays, performing artists e.g. story tellers, environmental education about our resources and how to take care of them
165. Theater/movies in the park (family fun)
166. Community Swap Meets on weekends with proceeds to charity.
167. Fast pitch tournaments
168. soap box derby needs to return
169. MTV 1/2 marathon / x-country
170. I would take my family to summer movies in the park if they were on a Saturday night instead of Friday night.
171. I tend to not be utilize these. However, I recognize that others do. So this is important.
172. I haven't attended any of the community events so don't have an opinion about this.
173. swimming pool, its a safety issue not very many children are learning how to swim properly. YMCA pool at its capacity and not really the responsibility of non profit to make sure our kids have an opportunity to learn something that could save lives.
174. I think the City is doing a pretty good job, I'm not sure what I would add right now, other than maintaing what we currently have.
175. Events for families. Affordable or free events.
176. more fishing derby
177. Concerts, I like the movies they did last summer
178. We haven't participated in any of the events yet.
179. Not really sure... something for adults. Most of the events I see are tailored to kids or people with kids.
180. Concerts in the parks, earth day celebrations
181. family activities, arts
182. I think those offered now are very well done.
183. keep building them up. :)
184. Neighborhood events, free low/cost family activities.

Question 24

Mount Vernon has a strong arts community and works with donors and volunteers regarding the acquisition and placement of public art in public spaces. Using the following scale, how important do you believe public art is in maintaining the quality of life in Mount Vernon?

Answered: 634 Skipped: 87

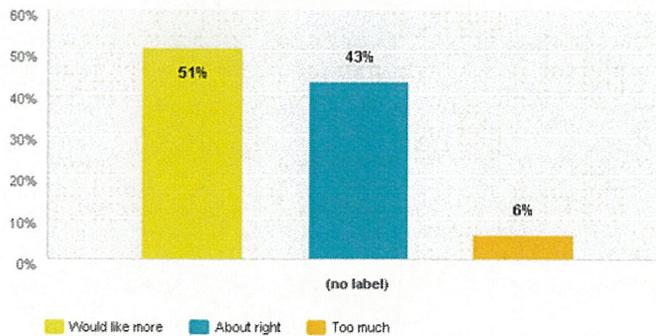


	Very Important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	unimportant	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	29% 185	42% 267	16% 103	8% 51	4% 28	634	3.84

Question 25

Using the following scale, what is your opinion regarding the amount of public art in Mount Vernon

Answered: 621 Skipped: 100



	Would like more	About right	Too much	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	51% 317	43% 266	6% 38	621	3.90

Question 26

Where in Mount Vernon would you like to see public art?

1. Here at SVC
2. College
3. yes
4. parks around latino restraurants
5. In a wall (mural) in a park
6. parks
7. Edgewater
8. Downtown
9. in the parks
10. College
11. Hillcrest Park
12. in the parks
13. for all parks to be free and economical
14. Bakerview
15. fairs in the parks
16. In the parks
17. in streets
18. in the streets
19. in the parks
20. schools or parks
21. Library, Parks
22. art in parks
23. parks
24. parks, multicultural
25. Murals in the walls, Edgewater, Downtown
26. Old Mount Vernon
27. galleries
28. Bakerview
29. Parks
30. In fields
31. only in galleries
32. parks and schools
33. parks, downtown, schools
34. In the parks, streets
35. center of MV
36. Edgewater
37. town
38. In the parks, college, streets

39. Hospitals, parks, schools, college
40. In the parks and areas for all to see
41. parks
42. downtown
43. Downtown, Riversie, College way
44. fairs, museums
45. SVC
46. Downtown
47. In the Parks
48. Hillcrest Park
49. Downtown
50. Downtown
51. live public art
52. Murals on Building Walls
53. Downtown
54. diversity, multicultural
55. Downtown, SVC, Streets, Parks
56. where it can be seen and appreciated
57. Flower Art
58. I don't know
59. along Kincaid freeway access
60. No more. It's foolish money spend on stuff that looks like garbage.
61. As many as possible.
62. up on the Hill, at schools
63. Music, paint, folkloric dances classes from diverse part.of.the community
64. on the trails, down town MV
65. Parks - Sculptures.
66. Downtown Mt.Vernon, AT parks
67. "Along the public trails
68. On public buildings"
69. Downtown
70. On the sides of buildings.
71. Parks and walking areas
72. It would be great to see it on the streets, in downtown -- on the corners, on the sides of buildings, etc.
73. Performance art (music, theater) in parks or downtown as part of street fairs
74. Downtown -- tied thematically with the river, include business zone and new river front development
75. City Hall, Parks, community places, schools
76. I not shure,
77. Along the river. Downtown. In the parks and any other public spaces.
78. Redo the mural on the old county parks and rec building; really, really need Mexican-influenced art
79. At the entries the gateways to the natural beauty of the local farmland and the San Juans.
80. in the parks and along the roads.

81. Gateway areas, and Bakerview Park
82. Downtown. In parks.
83. In the parks and at the entrances to the city, along bridges and random spots. Someone put a pink flamingo on the new roundabout on Anderson. I thought it was hilarious.
84. not
85. overpasses, roundabouts.
86. Downtown and in public areas.
87. At more parks and updated ingress and egress in and off freeway ramps
88. Near the reventment
89. riverfront
90. Everywhere
91. alley ways as mentioned before. I think it is a great idea along with being well lit
92. Schools, parks, downtown.
93. Everywhere
94. Would rather see the memorial bridge painted. By artists with tulip themed graffiti. That would be incredible.
95. Old downtown
96. Along the river
97. Little Mountain Park
98. on the sides of old commercial city stores
99. Downtown
100. Undecided
101. Throughout the city.. not just downtown. ...
102. Everywhere.
103. Downtown
104. Freeway exits and entrances.
105. Parks
106. downtown
107. Downtown to encourage visitors
108. On the grassy corner coming up Kincaid street/broadway
109. where it can be seen by people driving by
110. MORE IN HOSPITALS AND WAITING AREAS AROUND THE CLINICS AND VET OFFICES
111. the riverfront and downtown area
112. Everywhere,
113. At all city owned areas, parks, pine square, riverwalk, new commercial development
114. In the parks or un-used space along the roads.
115. parks
116. All over
117. on an art trail
118. Murals, unusual places that would be fun to discover, along trails
119. Downtown, in parks, near freeway entrance/exit
120. Kiwanis Park, Little Mountain.
121. Anywhere and everywhere. Sculptures too. Permanent features and large bodies of work.
122. Downtown

123. I would like to see more in the parks themselves.
124. In the Alleys downtown to try and keep them from being "icky" places.
125. downtown
126. College Way and Riverside
127. In Parks
128. parks and main streets
129. Near freeway and downtown where visitors and residents alike can see and enjoy
130. In all public spaces
131. along the new waterfront
132. More are sculpture in parks and entering/exiting the city
133. Downtown
134. Downtown, College Way.
135. On the revetment.
136. In road medians. Especially along side the freeways
137. Downtown and College Way
138. river front
139. Along the waterfront in Edgewater Park for example. Opportunities for more local artists to compete to have their artwork purchased and displayed in the community. I am really not overly familiar with all the current public artwork in Mt Vernon, so I can't speak very knowledgeably about the subject.
140. Downtown
141. Murals in random places by local artists
142. In public buildings and schools--not in parks
143. Skagit Community College Campus, Old Downtown
144. down town
145. parks and trails
146. This is not an important issue for me.
147. In and around the new floodwall and renovation of riverfront area.
148. Murals
149. College Way exit to city-
150. At our gateways. Like the new signage as you come in from La Conner! Looks much better.
151. Near parks in residential areas.
152. Art to some is a urinal to others. So put that "art" in some bathrooms and see how long it lasts.
153. Downtown
154. "along the new revetment, on the lawn in front of Mount Baker Middle School,
155. in roundabouts, in the median on the new south Laventure extension, Bakerview Park"
156. I think we have enough public art.
157. Downtown
158. downtown/riverwalk
159. Downtown and riverfront
160. Downtown, river front, parks, bridges. We need something in the area of the dead malls of the 1970s, which is now a monument to the failure of land use planning back then.
161. Why not have more Art Fairs where artists can sell.
162. Everywhere

163. In the parks
164. I like art, I don't care for the cost, Kinda like the "Balls" at the transfer station. What are they anyways
165. NEUTRAL
166. Downtqwn. And in parks farm town. County seat
167. Downtown and in the parks.
168. Down town and/or viewable from freeway
169. Downtown and in the schools.
170. Parks
171. Downtown
172. Downtown, within our Parks, at other public gathering places (transit facilities, etc)
173. Adjacent to "ugly" areas maybe?
174. I would love to see the new downtown waterfront add an art walk along the boardwalk!
175. mall
176. ANYWHERE - IF YOU HAVE BEEN TO EUROPE, YOU APPRECIATE PUBLIC ARE IN PUBLIC SPACES
177. Parks, and in areas that usually look visually displeasing and need improving. Downtown.
178. downtown
179. Parks and open wall areas that could be graffiti targets.
180. parks, downtown, under the 2nd street bridge(both sides) in the main alleys
181. It seems public art is purchased without community input. I would like to see more murals, community gardens, perhaps functional art -interesting chairs or tables for use by park patrons.
182. Atop of little Mtn & riverside park
183. downtown, parks, medians, sidewalks, buildings.
184. downtown, freeway off ramps
185. Near the Kincade freeway areas in and out of town. Should be more visually appealing & inviting to reflect the culture of MV
186. EVERYWHERE!
187. in parks, at schools and libraries, downtown (I like the Mr Gates statue), on public infrastructure (like the mural on the retaining wall at Lincoln school)
188. Not sure
189. public areas, parks, new water front area, pillars in the water.
190. Downtown and Bakerview park and West Mount Vernon
191. Downtown
192. New water front walk & other parks
193. I'd like the public art present to be kept in very good condition ie murals repainted on a regular basis
194. Parks, downtown, library, city government buildings
195. When the waterfront project is complete, it would be nice to see something in that area.
196. ?
197. Where ever it would get the most exposure! Perhaps in the new downtown area? Public art would be amazing to enrich public life, but is a lower priority to increasing trails.
198. The new river boardwalk area.
199. In parks
200. Along river

201. The new waterfront would be excellent. Bakerview could use more to celebrate healthy sport activity
202. No more of the Skye type paintings on the wall around town. That makes us look CHEAP!!!
203. Westside MV
204. Main street, Library, Courthouse
205. on river trails
206. exit ramps, shopping areas, general public areas
207. West Side area
208. outside library, at parks
209. At the parks, downtown, near the college
210. Parks, downtown
211. Hoping to see a lot more along the new riverfront development. Would like to see more at gateways to the city (Kincaid at I-5, College Way at I-5, Anderson Road at I-5)
212. On facilities like a new library. In parks.
213. downtown
214. Downtown. Create a new sculpture park.
215. First Street. Hillcrest Park. Lions Park. Revetment. I-5 corridor.
216. I personally don't need to see it all about town, especially at the price.
217. Downtown
218. High visibility areas.
219. Downtown, by the City Parking area on Cleveland
220. Not sure. Maybe when the floodwall is complete, along the river there. (elevated, of course)
221. waste of money
222. no where I would rather see the money spent on the parks maintenance
223. in and around the new revetment, along fences on Kulshan trails (by the way fences are horrible - Mt V should develop and enforce good fence rules. Nothing worse than walking along a sidewalk between a tall solid fence and a road - or two tall solid fences. Feels like a prison
224. I don't care.
225. At major intersections and along thoroughfares.
226. Would love to see downtown
227. Waterfront park. Library, with talks from artists..
228. Around Safeway, RiteAid, strip mall area
229. Parks, downtown, new Riverwalk area
230. water front
231. Certainly on the revetment, and throughout downtown. And we have ENOUGH TULIP ART. We need some art that is more contemporary, less tulip-centric and "cute". Lets raise the bar. It's a way to encourage a user friendly and vibrant downtown scene.
232. Cleveland park
233. in Parks
234. downtown and in the parks, around the library, city government buildings, railroad and bus depot
235. in all parks and on the revetment when completed. The 2nd street overpass is a lovely example of public art being very visible and an enhancement to the overpass.
236. Art should only be on public property if it is donated. Save our money for items for kids to enjoy.
237. Downtown. Along Riverside Drive. Along College.

238. MURALS ON THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS

239. I'd love to see something at the corner of College Way and Riverside - it's the busiest intersection in town and easily the ugliest! Downtown. At BakerView Park. (The piece at Edgewater is very nice).
240. Mall areas Wal Mart, Riverside and College Way
241. Old downtown riverwalk development
242. parks
243. Most of Mount Vernon's art installations are enjoyable and add to the area with the exception of the ugly white balls located at the train depot.
244. "Bakerview park is kind of a big empty looking space. It could use something.
245. Along the river- on the boardwalk could use some art. I think the far south end would be a good place for that. People could start at Lion's Park and walk the full length of the Riverwalk and boardwalk to see the cool piece of art at the end of the walk. (but first that needs improvement itself, with better benches for example and erosion control on the one side and replacement of the wood slats)
246. It would be interesting to have something at the north end of Riverside Avenue prior to going over the bridge into Burlington, and also on the other side of the street for traffic coming into Mt. Vernon from Burlington. Just something to make the distinction between the two cities, and unique to Mt. Vernon."
247. Parks, downtown and trails
248. "Little Mountain Park, Kulshan Trail, Riverwalk North
249. think about creating a park arts walk"
250. Can you spruce up College Way?
251. ALL OVER
252. Downtown and near park trails where people will see it when they're going slow enough to appreciate it. Also where kids will see it too.
253. Riverfront
254. Along riverfront and plazas
255. Everywhere - conventional art would be best suited for downtown, but various native gardens and such could be a great fit in other areas.
256. we need murals, really good murals, those cyclopes by the train tracks are a little weird. hire some kids to do murals once a year. it would put their need for personal expression to good use.
257. downtown, parks, walkway along river
258. along the embankment, with use of native vegetation
259. sculptures outdoors
260. On the side of buildings, down town area for sure. Creations, sculpture, seating, chalk art, on the ground. Allies, random walls around town.
261. On the Carnation building I would love to see art like the Baker painting hiding in alley on tri-dee building. The baker painting on the building is really special and more art downtown would be beautiful because Mount Vernon and all of Skagit is a very special, beautiful place. Rain gardens are art and displayed in them can be working fountains, stones, and beautiful plants
262. River front.
263. areas that can be maintained and portected
264. Dont want any

265. Parks, public spaces
266. Downtown area
267. College way, riverside
268. I suppose start with the waterfront project and the city entry points.
269. Along trails, especially art that will keep graffiti artists from tagging. Mural art on walls of downtown MV buildings would be interesting.
270. If Bonnie Rae's wet area next to So Laventure were to be a series of rain gardens with a trail and native plants, I would like to see art along the trail. It could be like Bellingham's rose garden, but it would be our rain garden and native plant park! UNIQUE and carbon friendly. On the 19th street side I would like to see a toddler park with artistic Skagit County themed play structures like a boat/hollow logs/salmon//tractor/bridge also UNIQUE...it would take artists to design the play structures (like at the mall).
271. The new downtown area. Entrances to our city.
272. Downtown, alleys
273. Downtown
274. Nowhere ~ I don't value man-made art.
275. Art is important to the community in my opinion. But it is not something that I personally am interested in.
276. Bakerview Park
277. library
278. Everywhere!
279. The painting on the Kulshan Trail is nice, more paintings on the trail itself would be enjoyable.
280. Parks and places visible from I-5
281. Waterfront
282. around our schools, downtown, in the parks, in public buildings
283. Don't care
284. I love the salmon sculpture in Edgewater Park. Things for kids to climb on and use their imagination.
285. All over.
286. Downtown
287. Traffic intersections where pedestrians also cross.
288. Trails with sculpture, parks, new waterfront downtown.
289. on the waterfront
290. on the revetment with a theme that is year round to bring people into town to look at river and enjoy a well planned theme, going beyond tulips.
291. Thinking of the parks, I think the most fitting places are the more developed parks and the more developed portions of the largely natural areas, such as Little Mtn. So, the summit area of Little Mountain Park, the playground/picnic area of Lions Park, etc. I don't know whether or not the Parks Dept. would have a role in placing public art in the city other than in the parks themselves, but I favor public art in those types of areas too.
292. The new flowwall plaza.
293. At the new Riverside area under construction along the former revetment.

294. I'd love to see more murals depicting life in Skagit County. For example, I love the mural on the Park and Rec building in Mt. Vernon. I also love the tulips imprinted in the concrete of the overpass.
295. At the parks and on or around the new flood wall.
296. Parks or walkways
297. Key locations entering the city, parks
298. Downtown, at parks, Skagit Valley College
299. Downtown maybe.
300. In places with high traffic & visibility/lighting so that it will be less likely to be vandalized.
301. All kinds of places - streets, parks, bridges, etc.
302. roadsides and in parks
303. Road sides.
304. downtown, with the parks themselves, new boardwalk
305. downtown (old town
306. New waterfront area
307. In the parks, its the perfect place for all to enjoy. Or in the ugly places along the road side so all can enjoy as you drive by.
308. "Revetment
309. Kulshan Trail
310. All parks
311. Any public land or building (wall murals are an example)"
312. waterfront
313. downtown
314. on the reventment when it is completed
315. New revetment area
316. College Way Area
317. Down Town, in parks, around the city

When thinking about themes for public art, what is one word you would use to describe Mount Vernon to someone new to the area?

1. Interesting
2. It is a clean city with little sports activities little activities for kids
3. no
4. home to artists
5. well hidden you cannot see
6. Tulips
7. attractive
8. it is attractive
9. there are not many activities and we need them
10. it is in very quiet and clean areas
11. very clean parks
12. Mount Vernon is a nice place to live
13. it is interesting to discover MV
14. happy, natural, fun
15. Mosaics
16. Not much but there are many libraries, a lot of reading is good
17. calm
18. It's Regular
19. boring
20. i don't know where these events are
21. it's there
22. regular
23. Bohemian
24. Its good to have a better way of life
25. good place to live
26. sometimes and it depends
27. Its a poor art
28. Perhaps
29. landscapes
30. i don't public art
31. place with a good view
32. green areas and crystal waters
33. creative
34. very calm
35. Marvelous
36. Stop, Win
37. good

38. If they were Spanish, they would feel like they were fellow citizens. If they were from other nations they would feel welcome too
39. simple
40. peasant art
41. Agriculture
42. wonderful
43. Poor
44. Future City with Art
45. Art
46. Nature
47. Nature
48. Natural
49. Nature
50. diversity, multicultural
51. Nature
52. we care
53. Flower Town
54. I don't know
55. I too am new to the area and can't recall many art pieces.
56. blah
57. n/a
58. Unique
59. easy to get around
60. "MULTICULTURAL AREA
61. OR DIVERSITY"
62. water
63. Tulips
64. Natural
65. Floral.
66. Classic
67. cultural
68. Blah -- no theme that I am aware of, minimal public art
69. agriculture
70. "Nature
71. Riverwalk"
72. multicultural
73. its all tulips. Would be nice to branch out a bit
74. Nature
75. laidback
76. Related to Mount Vernon: - we have the fish at Edgewater, the statue on 1st, love the chalkboard on Tri Dee, the concrete tulips DT-MV, the patterns on the new bridges, Jackie's flags on the bridge.
77. don't know
78. metal.
79. Agriculture and flowers mainly daffodils and tulips

80. Eclectic
81. farmland
82. agricultural
83. Vistas
84. Fish, tulips, farming,
85. Tulips. One hit wonder :)
86. Tulips
87. Farming
88. Friendly
89. Beauty
90. old time mount Vernon pioneers
91. Local
92. Agricultural
93. Inspiring
94. Tulips
95. tulips
96. Nature
97. Outdoors
98. the skagit river and the tulips
99. Hard to find
100. ecotourism. community-- like the works of (the late) Richard Beyer. There is a sculpture of his on the street in Chelan, and in Seattle
101. Tulips
102. mulit cultural
103. FARMLAND
104. Tulips
105. "minimal with a no master plan ie train station piece
106. failure to control removal of trees in established areas when development occurs, Cherry trees on Cillege way & every tree on the new Celtic facility"
107. beautiful
108. Natural
109. Puget Sound
110. farming
111. Bountiful Skagit Valley - nature, growing, sustenance
112. Fertile
113. Cultural
114. "FYI, The Granery Blg is falling apart, exterior.
115. Lousy vibe there. Wish it could be a huge attraction possibility, what with it being in a hub area. EDASC D. Wick needs to have young progressive people to help in new projects in his field."
116. Modern
117. Active
118. Green and clean
119. sunsets
120. river

121. Historical
122. Tulip Festival
123. natural
124. quaint
125. Tulips
126. Northwest-inspired
127. uterus. The art across from the Co-op looks like a uterus and ovaries, really!
128. Tulips and salmon
129. Farmland
130. Historic.
131. A excellent Mayor.
132. Sculptures
133. Cheesy tulips
134. heritage
135. Verdant. I think of the rich heritage of the many crops grown in one of the most soil-rich areas of the world. What about a park where public art is developed from creative children in the community.
136. socialist/communistic
137. Breathtaking
138. Botanical
139. tulips
140. river
141. cultered
142. Local
143. "Gateway to Ocean and/or mountains
144. The Skagit River is also super scenic!"
145. Eclectic
146. Art could be better themed to local geography and Native American and pioneer history.
147. Handcuffs
148. Skagit
149. innovative
150. synergy
151. Balance
152. Lacking
153. nature/NW
154. Diversity
155. How much the previous Mayor spent on the "art" at the SKAT Station.
156. Not a good question
157. Tulips
158. SCULPUTRES MAYBE
159. Nature
160. Tulips
161. Skagit river, farms, tulips
162. Eclectic.

163. Festive
164. Flowers
165. Random
166. Growing
167. Americana
168. New and natural
169. NATURE
170. Agricultural
171. river
172. Tulip, farming, fishing
173. rain
174. tulips
175. Metal work, botanical garden
176. Recreate!
177. diverse
178. Agriculture
179. diverse
180. river
181. Picturesque.
182. Tulips
183. unimaginative.
184. Tulips
185. Northwest
186. Beautiful
187. Active
188. Farms
189. Diverse
190. Rustic
191. Natural
192. I like to tell them about the scribbles by the freeway East of the old Carnation intersection; and the fallopian tubes my daughter showed me at Carnation Intersection (on the East end of downtown). I think its funny. We call the thing by US Bank downtown with the statue of the guy, "The Gallows" because it doesn't seem to be for anything useful.
193. Not improtant to me
194. Family
195. Farming/ Rural
196. river
197. rural
198. Outdoorsy
199. Natural beauty
200. variety of outdoor assets
201. Tulips
202. Farmy?
203. agri-urban

204. Winsome.
205. Tulips
206. Nature. (Variety)
207. Agriculture/tulips.
208. natural
209. Farm area and friendly people and small community
210. natural
211. River
212. tulip
213. Diverse
214. Strange.
215. Progressive
216. Colorful
217. Farm community concerned for the environment.
218. Tulips
219. varied
220. tulips
221. Forget the THEME altogether. We need diversity!
222. Plants, especially tulips and daffodils
223. Salmon fishing
224. nature
225. Charming
226. Art should only be on public property if it is donated. Save our money for items for kids to enjoy.
227. Nature
228. FRESH FARM PRODUCE
229. Diversity (environment and people)
230. Nature
231. relaxed
232. diversity
233. mountain theme
234. Any theme relating to nature, agriculture and fishing industry is a positive
235. Post-agricultural.
236. lacking
237. Gateway
238. Agrarian
239. HISTORICAL
240. River, Farmers, families, I also think of gardens as being art. Nice rose gardens, rain gardens, native plant interpretive gardens are neat... Art can be educational and teach people about their area. Interpretive signs in along nature trails can be fun too. Showing people how the water sheds work so they don't dump crap in the rivers...Give them a new appreciation for the beautiful place we live in.
241. crossroads
242. Nature
243. Integrated

244. ?
245. "one word? abundant. fruitful, lush, rich.
246. we have old growth forests and farmlands, wilderness and cultivation go hand in hand here."
247. Healthy
248. "reflecting our multicultural community
249. reflecting our natural beauty"
250. agricultural
251. Small agricultural and commercial town
252. Farming
253. river
254. Spontaneous.
255. Creative and Natural, Historical and rich with natural resources.
256. hometown
257. Lame
258. farms
259. eclectic, fish/river, ...
260. Junk stores
261. local history
262. Mount Vernon is... Hispanic, agriculture, flat, river.
263. friendly, small town feel
264. Town by the river
265. River--as in a river runs through it
266. Farm
267. Farming
268. Northwest Pacific Coast and Random Modern
269. How about one phrase? "The natural world" - tulips, snow geese, eagles, Skagit River, also agriculture
270. natural
271. River
272. Centered between mountains and sea. Endless activities within reach.
273. Still has the "small town" feel.
274. Farming would be an appropriate theme, but unfortunately we are known for drugs and homelessness now.
275. expanding....
276. Eagles.
277. rivers
278. "Tulips.
279. But honestly, I would tell someone thinking about moving here to not do so because of crime rates and hang activity. I am moving soon!"
280. Trees
281. Tulips
282. river town
283. home-grown

284. The Skagit River and its watershed. I think it would be so cool to have a large mural of the entire, broad watershed so we would appreciate the value of the land, top soil, rivers, fish - it feeds our agricultural economy. Open space, desired lifesyle.
285. Folky.
286. Farming related
287. Irresitable
288. celebrate the river
289. There is none except for the Skagit Station
290. Sorry, I can't be that concise!
291. The river, mountains and trees. Tired of tulips.
292. Applicable to our lifestyle and heritage (i.e. the wood carving at Hillcrest and the Salmon at Edgewater).
293. nature inspired, thinking of metal salmon at edgewater park.
294. River and or Mountains.
295. Farming
296. Natural elements, things that conside with MV
297. tulips
298. Natural beauty
299. agriculture and nature
300. Nothing there.
301. water, mountains
302. okay.
303. The tulips are everywhere... which is nice... but I would love to branch out of that theme.
304. The heart of an agricultural community
305. people
306. Riverfront
307. outdated
308. tulips, Skagit River

Question 28

What cities have you visited that have high quality outdoor public art?

1. none
2. Anacortes
3. Eastern Washington
4. Seattle
5. none
6. france and very nice photos
7. SanFrancisco
8. Los Angeles

9. in Seattle
10. Oak Harbor
11. Anacorts, Oak Harbor, Mount Vernon
12. none
13. Mexico
14. Bellingham, Seattle, Wenatchee
15. Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco
16. Orlando, FL; Miami, FL; Seattle, WA
17. Los Angeles
18. Wenatchee
19. Mexico, Guadalajara
20. In Mexico
21. Seattle
22. Columbia, Chile, Argentina, France
23. none
24. Seattle
25. None
26. Seattle
27. Seattle
28. Seattle, Bellingham
29. Seattle
30. "Buenos Aires, Argentina
31. Bogor, Columbia"
32. Seattle, Mexico
33. Seattle, Las Angeles
34. Seattle
35. CA
36. San Francisco
37. California
38. Everett, Bellingham
39. Seattle
40. Seattle
41. Bellevue
42. seattle
43. mount vernon
44. Seattle Arts
45. Anacortes
46. can't say, even going to Seattle and seeing their art downtown is non attractive.
47. Seattle
48. Minneapolis, Chicago, Omaha
49. "SEATTLE,
50. OREGON,
51. SAN FRANCISCO,
52. LA"

53. Tucson, Mexico City, Seattle
54. Anacortes
55. Seattle, Portland
56. "Duncan Canada has a totem pole walk with descriptions.
57. Tacoma and Portland Oregon are great art areas."
58. San Francisco, Sedro Woolley
59. Seattle, Spokane, Chicago, Ketchikan, Bellingham
60. seattle & bellingham
61. "Seattle
62. LaConner"
63. Chicago
64. anchorage alaska
65. "Seattle
66. Chicago"
67. Anacortes, Coupeville, Seattle, San Francisco
68. "LaConner ,Wapato, Anacortes - Sedro Woollees has it's logging community theme.
69. I like sympolic art - historical art."
70. Bellevue and Redmond
71. Seattle Portland
72. Seattle, Minneapolis/St Paul, NYC, Portland, oh and Milton-Freewater in Oregon has Prince Frogs. :)
73. seattle
74. Seattle a lot.
75. Renton, Kenmore, Bellevue and bellingham
76. St. Louis, Seattle
77. Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, San Diego
78. Bellingham
79. Bellingham, Seattle
80. Seattle
81. New York City parks
82. Bellingham, Portland, Boise, Seattle, Chicago, Santa Fe, Austin.
83. LaConner, Bellingham
84. Louisville. Dubai. Seattle. Las Vegas.
85. quality public art is different than what is presented in mt Vernon. too much money is spent on
pseodo art
86. Seattle
87. Seattle
88. Seattle, Eugene, Portland, Sun River.
89. Chicago
90. Anacortes
91. Seattle
92. Sedro Woolley Winthrop
93. Seattle, Mukilteo, Bellingham
94. Seattle
95. Laconner, Seattle, Bellingham

96. Paris, Vienna, Venice, London
97. Seattle, Beyreuth
98. San Diego
99. Seattle, Minneapolis, Bellingham
100. Seattle, Wenatchee
101. Bellingham, Leavenworth, Yakima
102. Palm Springs, CA
103. PORTLAND, OREGON
104. portland
105. Anacortes
106. Seattle
107. Seattle, santa fe springs, ca
108. seattle tacoma laconner
109. bellevue and redmond
110. redmond wa
111. Seattle
112. Seattle, Portland,
113. Bellevue
114. Lompoc, CA
115. Seattle
116. Chicago, Anacortes
117. Seattle
118. San Francisco! Seattle! San Antonio. Kirkland on the water
119. Seattle
120. La Conner, Leavenworth (Seasonal), Walla Walla
121. seattle, bellingham
122. Vienna
123. Washington DC, Philadelphia, Seattle, Vancouver BC, New York New York, Baltimore
124. Bozeman, MT
125. Bellingham, Bend.
126. LaConner, Bellingham, Seattle, Twisp
127. Seattle
128. Seattle
129. Bellingham, Wwu campus
130. Chicago
131. Washington dc
132. The murals in Sedro-Woolley are nice.
133. Boise, chicago
134. Seattle, Stockholm, London, Vancouver, San Francisco
135. Seattle, Walla Walla
136. Wenatchee has some interesting public art along the river bike path. The sculpture park out in the San Juan Islands is a wonderful use of art, open space and a walking trail.
137. St. Augustine, FL
138. Mexico City. Portland. Guadalajara. Vancouver BC.

139. "Kansas City, MO, Paris, Oslo, Norway.
140. Examples of poor quality/distracting outdoor public art I have seen include: The Western Washington University Campus, Shoreline, WA,"
141. Oak Harbor and Seattle
142. Bellevue
143. Bellingham Seattle
144. Seattle, Minneapolis, New York,
145. Seattle and some surrounding areas, Actually it has become more popular everywhere.
146. Edmonds, Bellingham
147. Anacortes
148. Anacortes & La Conner.
149. Langley, WA; Bellingham, WA; LaConner, WA.
150. Kiev.
151. Minneapolis
152. Florence, Paris, Chicago, Seattle, Everett, Anacortes, LaConner
153. Vancouver BC
154. Vancouver BC is my favorite place to be outside. Their parks, artwork, and community involvement are what we should be aspiring to model.
155. Santa Fe, Seattle, La Conner
156. Portland
157. Anacortes, LaConner
158. Vancouver and Seattle
159. Seattle, Bellingham
160. Paris, France
161. Very few - most of it is poor quality conceptual art. Vancouver BC and Seattle both have sculpture parks, but that is limited area. Love the dragons in Chinatown in Seattle.
162. Chicago; Grand Rapids, MI
163. Kirkland, Seattle
164. Seattle
165. Boston- historical
166. Portland, Seattle
167. Bellingham
168. Ellensburg
169. Everett
170. Ellensburg, White Center, Aberdeen, Seattle, Bellevue
171. Bellevue - the Downtown Park is my favorite park in the state!
172. Seattle, Boise
173. SEATTLE, WENATCHEE, LAS VEGAS,
174. Bellingham, Seattle, San Francisco
175. Laconner!
176. Seattle, Florence, London
177. Bellingham, Seattle, Portland
178. Bellingham, Seattle, Louisville KY, Spokane, San Francisco

179. Bellingham, Bremerton, (waterfront park, largely funded by the Puget Sound Shipyard, it is a great public park!!!), Seattle
180. Seattle, Phoenix, Spokane
181. Chicago, San Francisco
182. seattle
183. Bellingham, Chicago (loop area)
184. "Seattle - sculpture park
185. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico - waterfront walkway with sculpture
186. Redmond, Oregon - city website has link to public art locations, they has enlisted local artists and teachers to create a mural, etc."
187. N/a
188. Seattle, Bellingham
189. Seattle, Renton, Anacortes
190. "Corvallis, OR.
191. Port Townsend
192. Bellingham"
193. Seattle, Kansas City
194. Hugo, OK - this is a small community but they have capitalized well on what makes them special - "Circus Town USA", and it is a welcoming feeling to see the art representing them around town.
195. Bend, Ore
196. Waupun, WI
197. New York!
198. Bellingham, Seattle
199. Seattle
200. With the age of the kids we are not usually into other cities at this time.
201. Not important to me
202. Bellingham
203. Seattle
204. Seattle, Chicago
205. "LaConner
206. Chicago"
207. Chicago
208. Boston
209. seattle
210. Seattle, Bellingham
211. Kirkland, Port Townsend, Friday Harbor
212. Seattle; Portland; Vancouver, B.C.; La Conner; Anacortes
213. Chicago, Melbourne, Philadelphia
214. Seattle WA, Austin, TX
215. anacortes
216. There isn't a question about this but I think we need a community center. The old senior center is dated, and the main room is awkward to use as people have to go through it to get to the dining room. The Alf Christianson seed plant location would be better as a new library and community gathering space than a jail.

217. Portland. Sacramento. NYC. Washington DC. Chicago.
218. "seattle
219. San Francisco"
220. I have not.
221. seattle, Portland.
222. Seattle
223. Chicago, New York, Bellingham
224. Everett, Seattle, Spokane, Bellingham.
225. Seattle
226. bellingham
227. Florence, Italy
228. Lynnwood
229. Seattle, Spokane, Raymond, WA
230. Seattle, Bellingham.
231. Seattle, Bellingham
232. Portland
233. Seattle, Chicago, Anacortes, La Conner, Toppenish
234. Kirkland wa
235. Bellingham, Seattle, Puerta Vallarta, Portland, Portsmouth NH.
236. Spokane
237. Seattle, Chicago
238. Kansas City, Seattle, Wash.DC, Dallas
239. Seattle and what a waste of money
240. La Conner
241. Seattle, LaConner, Anacortes Tommy Thompson Walking Path, Boise
242. Art should only be on public property if it is donated. Save our money for items for kids to enjoy.
243. Seattle, Bellingham
244. Milwaukee. Western Washington University. Saint Louis. Washington, D.C.
245. Seattle
246. Bellingham WA and Portland, OR
247. Seattle
248. San Antonio and Washington D.C.
249. Kirkland wa
250. Hilton Head, Charleston, Boise, Bellingham
251. "Spokane has nice art along the river and in the park downtown. It includes both abstract art, and recognizable, hiistorically based pieces of sculpture. Their giant red wagon is both interesting to look at and fun to use. They have a fountain in the downtown area that is recognizable as a large flock of birds, without being individually precise birds. the water shoots up around them and they have concerts there and it is lovely. Anacortes has a lot of 'art', not all of which i think is quality. Nevertheless, it adds interest to the environment. But they paid too much for it - which seems to be the case for most abstract art.

Their murals are fun. Sedro woolley has a nice theme going on with the log carving art. Some of the coastal cities like Forks, or Seaside OR have pieces that capture their past as well as other interesting pieces. I prefer art that is at least recognizable as being something - either an

item showing a part of a city's history or their culture or industry. More abstract pieces, such as a sun radiating hope, or a butterfly depicting change, should look like a sun or a butterfly to some degree. a big round blob or a wiggly piece of metal that requires an extended explanation isn't art i want to spend my tax dollars purchasing. Bellingham has an art sculpture garden that has pieces of both kinds. But the best one there is a large piece done in a slightly abstract manner that depicts suffering children. it is amazing to look at and grabs your senses. The much touted art on Seattle's waterfront is mostly a bunch of indecipherable hunks of metal. Some of that is okay, but they went too far with that style."

252. LA Conner, Bellingham, Raymond
253. Anacortes, LaConner
254. Bellingham, Seattle
255. OLD TOWN MT.VERNON
256. Blaine has a great sculpture park. The Tommy Thompson trail in Anacortes has nice art along it and they are adding more all the time. Roche Harbor has great public art and gardens all over. Friday Harbor has a rain garden with interpretive sign right in the middle of town. So cool.
257. Redding, CA !!; Denver, CO
258. Bellingham, Portland, Hood River
259. "Redding, Ca
260. Boise, Id"
261. Seattle, Portland, San Diego, Honolulu
262. "austin, seattle. i miss the art in austin, it was very democratic, by the people, for the people, with consent of the governed. not just corporate sponsored art. there wasn't a huge crack-down on illegal art, often (graffiti) artists would do a work and people would decide to leave it up if it was good enough. it gave us a strong sense of community. people felt they could express themselves."
263. "seattle
264. bend, or"
265. Walla Walla
266. Port Townsend
267. Wenatchee
268. Boston, almost every major city in Europe-Vancouver, Montreal
269. Seattle, mount Vernon and New York.
270. Tualip casino roundabouts have beautiful art themes. That would be incredible to see some Native American metal work put downtown. Portland has many paintings and functional rain gardens that display the water thru metal work running into the gardens that filter and flow water runoff. I have seen this in parts of Seattle.
271. "Florence, Italy
272. Boston, MA
273. Stockholm, Sweden"
274. Juneau , Portland, Seattle, Petersburg, Mt. vernon
275. Bozeman Montana
276. Wenatchee

277. New York, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Paris, London, Taipei, Bangkok, Madrid, Perpignan, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Montreal, Atlanta, Houston, Austin, Vancouver, Vilnius, Charlotte, etc.
278. Seattle, Miami
279. Seattle and Salt Lake City have outdoor fountains that are considered art, but are actually really fun. Also, San Diego's Chicano Park is a beautiful celebration of the area's Chicano culture.
280. Kirkland
281. Bellingham is doing ok. Squamish? Issaquah? Spokane, Seattle, Philadelphia.
282. Bellingham (Wwu) , Seattle, laconner ,
283. "Coer d'alene, ID
284. Seattle, WA"
285. Eugene, Portland, Seattle
286. Riverside, CA; Seattle, WA; Bilbao, Spain;
287. Bellevue!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! WOW! have you been on their fountain trail east of Bel Square?
288. Anacortes, Bellingham, Seattle, Vancouver BC
289. Can't think of any besides B'ham and Seattle which are larger cities.
290. Portland, Seattle
291. Santa Fe, NM, New York City, Anacortes WA
292. I avoid cities and don't take time to explore art when I must visit one.
293. Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, Mount Vernon
294. Munich, Germany
295. seattle
296. La Conner, Bellingham
297. Bellingham, Seattle
298. Bellingham
299. DC
300. "Bellingham and Edmonds,WA; Sheridan,WY;
301. Cincinnati,OH"
302. Washington, D.C., Seattle, San Diego
303. Bend, Oregon
304. Paris, France. London, England. Seattle, Washington. Portland, Oregon. Bellingham, Washington.
305. Seattle, Chicago
306. Seattle, NYC, London La Conner, San Mateo, Amsterdam
307. Arlington, Anacortes, Seattle, Chicago
308. Bellingham
309. Seattle Center, Salt Lake, LaConner
310. I haven't looked at it systematically, but I'd say La Conner has done well in this area. The other positive examples in my experience are all much larger cities: Seattle, Chicago, New York, etc. I wouldn't want Mt. Vernon to emulate what Sedro-Woolley has done with chain saw art. Anacortes' murals depicting people and other aspects of the city's past are well-done, but again I wouldn't want to see Mt. Vernon simply copying that.
311. Bellingham
312. Seattle, Bellingham
313. Port Angeles and Anacortes. Specifically thinking about the wall murals.

314. San Francisco
315. San Francisco
316. Bend OR.
317. Seattle, Bellingham
318. Seattle, Bellingham
319. Portland
320. Joseph, OR - bronzework
321. Bellingham, Vancouver, BC
322. seattle
323. Seattle, Laconner.
324. "portland
325. bellingham
326. seattle"
327. Chicago
328. Seattle, Bellingham, Vancouver
329. Bellevue
330. Seattle, Toppenish, Ellensburg
331. seattle
332. Anacortes
333. Seattle, WA Yuma AZ Renton, WA Redmond, WA
334. LaConner, Washington DC
335. Seattle
336. Seattle, Bellingham, Houston

APPENDIX FOUR

LATIO POPULATION OUTREACH

Although the public input survey was open to all residents the responding level of Latinos was not commensurate with the demographics so Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation explored additional ways to gather input from this segment of the population. Skagit REACH participated in the execution of this public input survey, because of their relationships with the Latino community. Including Latinos in this survey is essential to structuring parks and recreation opportunities to meet the needs of Mount Vernon's diverse population.

The translation of the survey into Spanish was completed by REACH program staff.

The same survey that was designed by the Parks and Recreation Department of Mount Vernon in order to provide direction to the city as they plan improvements to the parks and recreation system over the next 6 years was used in this outreach.

The results of this input is folded into the rest of this document but remain intact as a stand-alone appendix for future analysis.

Methodology

Skagit REACH promoters conducted 106 public input surveys in Spanish by visiting Skagit Valley College, community agencies, and Latino neighborhoods. The survey included both quantitative and qualitative questions. Sea Mar Skagit REACH staff analyzed only the qualitative questions. In addition, we conducted 21 public input surveys in English since the SVC survey population was not exclusive to Spanish speakers.

Summary

Respondents explained why they were satisfied or dissatisfied with Mount Vernon Parks.

(Questions 13-17)

Bakerview Park

46 surveyed (representing 43% of all respondents) answered this question with the following responses:

- 6% said it is clean
- 5% said it is spacious and it is in good condition
- 3% said it is a highly visited, familiar, and popular
- 2% said it is strategic to have different sports courts, especially soccer fields
- 2% said it is an organized and clean space
- 2% said the sports fields needs maintenance
- 2% said the bathrooms need maintenance, cleaning, and more soap
- 2% said there was trash on the ground and dirty facilities
- 2% would prefer more options for kids' play areas
- 1% said their children enjoy this place
- 1% said they like the indoor space
- 1% said they appreciate the surveillance cameras

- 1% said it is they only park that visit
- 1% said it needs more benches
- 1% suggested paving the volleyball court
- 1% said it requires more monitoring for crime
- 1% said it is frequented by gangs
- 1% suggests that it should have a drinking fountain
- 1% wish there were more trees
- 1% said it would be ideal if there was a spray park area
- 1% said people do not pick up after their pets
- 1% said they don't have access to the soccer fields
- 1% don't know about planned recreation activities going on in the park
- 3% did not know this park

Edgewater Park

40 surveyed (representing 38% of all respondents) answered this question with the following responses:

- 2% said it is a nice place
- 3% said it stays clean
- 1% said it is an advantage to have bathrooms
- 1% said that being near the water makes it special
- 1% like when rockets are set off (could mean fireworks)
- 1% did not know about the park, but the salmon event helps identify this park
- 1% said it is large
- 1% said it is well maintained
- 3% don't go there often
- 2% said the grass needs to be cut more often
- 2% said there is high humidity and mud in the parking lot
- 2% said it needs cleaning
- 2% said it needs a drinking fountain
- 1% said it is too far from neighborhoods
- 1% said the bathrooms are often closed
- 1% said that more picnic tables are needed
- 1% said they would like another baseball field
- 1% said that crossing Memorial Highway by the crosswalk is not safe for pedestrians
- 1% said there are few activity options for kids
- 12% did not know this park

Hill Crest Park

Surveyed (representing 37% of all respondent) answered this question with the following responses:

- 3% said children have very wide space to play
- 2% said it is a good place
- 2% said they feel very comfortable in the park
- 1% said they like shade from the trees
- 1% said there is a very nice forest to explore
- 1% said beautiful vegetation
- 1% said it is always clean and well maintained
- 2% said it has too much shade from trees
- 2% said it is very dark
- 2% said the misuse of drinking fountain, because people let their dogs drink water there (put prohibition notices)
- 2% said it needs maintenance
- 2% do not know activities of park
- 3% said it has dirty facilities and full trash cans
- 1% said park is sad
- 1% said it is not a safe place

- 1% said they would like more activities for children in the park
- 1% said people do not pick up after their pets
- 9% said they did not know

Little Mountain Viewpoint Park

Only 37 surveyed (representing 35% of all respondents), answered this question with the following responses:

- 8% said they enjoyed the beautiful view and nature and that it is a very special place
- 2% said it is clean
- 1% said it is a quiet place
- 4% said they do not know the activities of the park
- 2% said it needs a drinking fountain
- 2% said it is not a safe place
- 2% said it needs bathrooms
- 1% said there are groups of youngsters to ingest alcoholic beverages
- 13% said they did not know

Kiwanis Park

41 surveyed (representing 39% of all respondents) answered this question with the following responses:

- 5% said it is very appropriate for children, they enjoy this park very much, especially in the summer
- 3% said the water spray area makes this park a very special
- 1% said the water spray area and playground nearby is very convenient because parents can care for their children, while they have fun
- 2% said park is clean
- 4% said they know where it is but they have not visited park
- 2% said they like the park
- 1% said park is an excellent place
- 1% said park is ideal to have a tennis court there
- 1% said it is in good condition
- 2% said they are not aware of the activities taking place in this park
- 1% said park needs maintenance
- 2% said it is unsafe because the passage of cars is too close to the play area of the children and there is no obstacle, mesh or barrier between the street and park
- 4% said park needs some shade, could be of trees
- 12% said they did not know

(Question 21)

What classes, sports programs, or enrichment activities would you like to see offered?

56 of those surveyed (representing 53% of all respondents) answered this question with the following:

- 7% soccer trainings and tournaments
- 5% cultural events and programs
- 6% sports and recreation programs for children in all seasons of the year
- 5% dance programs and zumba

- 4% physical activity programs or events and outdoor recreation with access to all
- 3% arts and crafts programs like painting, music, and gardening
- 3% baseball practice and games
- 2% walks, especially for those with weight issues
- 2% roller skate programs and appropriate space for skating
- 2% volleyball program
- 2% free classes so that low- income people also have the opportunity to participate
- 2% tennis program
- 5% swimming programs
- 1% picnic days
- 2% basketball practice
- 1% martial arts classes
- 1% some current classes are low quality because they are led by uncommitted teachers. Would like more accessible and better level classes.

(Question 23)

What community events would you like to see offered?

35 surveyed (representing 33% of all respondents) answered:

- 11% sports events that are entertaining and competitive, and promote free physical activity in the community. Examples included are hiking, marathons, soccer tournaments, bike races, and zumba.
- 6% would like to see Latino community events such as bazaars, fairs, and festivals with music, food, games, and activities for children.
- 5% cultural events that celebrate diversity, where the entire community can participate in crafts: painting murals on the streets, ceramics, watercolor, or any kind of talent.
- 3% community events, festivals, and movies in the parks
- 2% events focused on children
- 2% music and multicultural concerts
- 1% events with horses
- 1% ecological tours
- 2% mentioned that they wanted to know what events are currently being offered because they do not know about any

Art Section

(Question 26)

Where in Mount Vernon would you like to see public art?

69 surveyed (representing 65% of all respondents) gave their opinions:

- 21% In parks
- 7% Downtown
- 6% SVC
- 7% On the streets
- 4% Schools
- 3% Edgewater
- 2% Hillcrest Park
- 2% Bakerview Park
- 2% Hospitals
- 2% Fairs performed in parks
- 1% Library
- 2% Galleries
- 1% Around fields
- 1% Walls of parks
- 1% Anywhere
- 1% Farmers Markets

- 1% Museums

- 1% Around restaurants

(Question 27)

When thinking about themes for public art, what is one word you would use to describe Mount Vernon to someone new in the area?

41 surveyed (representing 39 % of all respondents) mentioned words that describe the public art of Mount Vernon:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% Cradle of artist (a place where artists can grow) • 1% Literary • 1% Verarte (looking at art) • 1% Bohemian • 1% Natural • 1% Quiet • 1% Good to live • 1% Funny • 1% Calm • 1% Multicultural • 2% Attractive • 2% Interesting • 1% Mosaic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% Green Crystal • 1% Pleasant • 1% Simple • 1% Cheerful • 1% Washarte (watching art) • 1% Hop (unsure of meaning. Possibly hip hop?) • 1% Soloarte (unique art) • 1% Stayart (permanent art) • 1% Winner • 1% Creative • 1% Good • 1% Tulip art • 1% Wonderful • 1% Good view |
|---|---|

*Some surveyed preferred to give their perceptions of art in the city, instead of a word to identify it.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% have not seen public art in the city • 1% does not like existing art • 1% in the future we can have a city with art—right now there isn't much • 1% Invisible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% Mediocre • 1% Boring |
|---|--|

(Question 28)

What cities have you visited that have high quality outdoor public art?

75 surveyed (representing 71% of all respondents) named cities they have visited with quality outdoor public art:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17% Seattle • 5% Bellingham • 3% San Francisco • 3% Los Angeles • 2% Anacortes • 2% California • 2% Oak Harbor • 2% Wenatchee • 2% Buenos Aires-Argentina • 2% Bogotá- Colombia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2% Medellin- Colombia • 2% México • 1% Placita Olvera-Los Angeles • 1% México (livestock fairs) • 1% Washington East • 1% Orlando • 1% Everett • 1% Oregon • 1% Bellevue • 1% Paris- France |
|--|--|

- 1% Santander- Colombia
- 1% Cartagena- Colombia

- 1% Mexico City
- 15% Do not know