

2014 PRO Plan Update
Public Visioning Workshop
6-20-13

What do you like best about the current park system? (#)= number of times an item was mentioned.
Similar items are grouped together

Variety of neighborhood and community parks, Availability (quantity of parks, lots of them), Abundance of parks, Variety of parks, Variety of size/types : Boulevard & Padden, Available space at parks (6)

Trails, trails that connect neighborhoods (4)

Habitat in large parks, protected open space, protected natural features (4)

Safe, well-kept parks (some), good maintenance compared to other cities. Well-maintained trails (3)

Access, Connectivity, Bike access (3)

Pool, Use the pool 3-4 times a week, very satisfied with pool. (2)

New parks, Possibility for new parks (2)

Boulevard Park

Lake Padden

Cornwall Park - pickleball

Cornwall Park, Lake Padden, Whatcom Falls and totally enjoy the nearby parks. Wow!

Disc Golf @ Cornwall

Playgrounds

Benches

Waterfront parks

Dog off leash @ Squalicum Creek Park

Football, softball fields

Size, situated around people

Neighborhood parks have character

Parks that connect neighborhood - social connections

Well used

What don't you like about the park system? (#)=number of time item was mentioned. Similar items are grouped together

Inadequate riparian buffers, Habitat connectivity not included in master planning - waterfront specifically, Intensity of use not considered in terms of ecological impacts, Planning and developing for wildlife - back burner to people, No mitigation for impacts to wildlife, Better separation between people and wildlife (7)

Lack of interpretive signs on impacts of dog poop and walking in some areas, Dogs off leash, Dog waste on fields, Dog waste on trails (4)

Not enough maintenance, Lack of maintenance, Dirty restrooms, Maintenance should be pro-active vs. reactive. (4)

Water quality, temp control and air quality at the pool are sub-par, inconsistent out, always bad. Arne Hanna pool - ventilation is an ongoing health issue. Pool needs upgrade: ultraviolet (3)

Not enough parks north of I-5, Everyone doesn't have access to walk into a park (2)

Lack of good access to restrooms early in day, No soap dispensers in restrooms (2)

Not enough recycling, Need more recycling bins, garbage cans (2)

No alcohol allowed, Strict rules - should have different rules for different activities (2)

Didn't see "gardens" mentioned in plan, More emphasis on gardening & community food (2)

Erosion of Padden shoreline

No outreach to fishers @ Padden

Safety - break ins

Users are charged high fees - rental rates, Increase in fees for Cornwall Park

Online comment tracker needed for Pro Plan

No facility reservation online

Facility access not equal for all users

Not enough kayak access

Fecal coliform in Lake Padden

Cornwall Park is stagnating - no expansion or improvements

Designation of Northridge as a community park

Lack of water faucets

Lack of pickleball courts

Need more waterfront parks

Lack of disc golf (Cornwall is busy) - spread out over city

Trees from parks are damaging neighboring homes (Cornwall Park, Northridge Park)

More user friendly webpage - follow up w/public, input

Pool is at capacity - need more public pool space

Fields

Poor condition of fields, Poor maintenance of Geri Fields, Holes in outfield at Squalicum Creek Park, Bloedel, Padden, Cornwall - practice fields in poor shape, Garbage, Graffiti and other vandalism (6)

Public Safety around Geri Fields, Lack of security (2)

Not enough fields for kids/youth under 14

Expensive fees led to exodus to Ferndale

Pressure for lacrosse fields

Fees should be used for field maintenance

Clarify role of user/sponsor/lessee vs. city park or police staff

Trails

Not enough signs to direct people to trails, Not enough trail signage at entrance to trails/parks, Lacking: way finding - Samish (3)

Not enough trails, Lack of trail connectivity (2)

Muddy-drainage issues

N. Galbraith/Birch St trailhead overflow

Not enough parking

Want more - but how to maintain?

Trash cans

Engaging/outreach

Vegetation mgmt.

Trail crews can't keep up

Trail gaps - Samish Hill, Bay to Baker/Sunset Pond

What would you do to improve the park system? What would you like to see more of? (#) = Number of votes for a particular item. Each participant received 4 stars to select their priority items. Similar items are grouped together

Disc golf park at Little Squalicum Park, Padden, or Van Wyck (24), More disc golf (8)

Facilities & Fields for baseball, fastpitch (25) More improved multi-sport use fields (Padden) (4)

Mountain bike skills park (22) More mountain bike trails, connections for youth (7)

A pool in N. Bellingham (10) New 50 meter indoor pool (8) Outdoor swimming pool (4)

Clean-up of R.G. Haley site, Cornwall Beach and develop a park on the waterfront, waterfront access, trails. (12) Overwater walkway from Boulevard to Cornwall, trail @ Cornwall Beach (6)

More trails, connectivity (8), Connectivity from neighborhood trails to large crosstown trails (4), More parks/trails north of the freeway (3), Complete the Barkley-Chandler trail (goes to Bristol Court) (1), Lighting on some of the more popular trails (1), More Cordata trails (1)

Gardening programs like Portland's produce for people model (10), Develop community gardens permaculture & teaching gardens at Squalicum Creek Park (6); More neighborhood managed gardens (2),

Maximize green space and minimize pavement/impermeable surfaces (8)

Lower Fees -trade volunteer hours for fees (8)

City-wide conservation strategy incorporated into PRO Plan. Identify target areas for conservation. Biodiversity. Prevent fragmentation. (8)

Outdoor programs for special needs young teens (7)

Spray park in N. Bellingham (7)

Cost analysis of events - economic benefit of recreational events (6)

Pro Plan goals to specifically address habitat concerns (6)

More kayak/canoe access and launch sites (6)

How to enjoy your park - "Parks 101", take responsibility of parks/parks etiquette & stewardship (4)

Summer swim league (4)

Bike racks (4)

More user group engagement = volunteers, more support, example: York & Rock Hill (4)

More communication, signage so people are conscious of other user types (4)

Wayfinding signs on trails (4)

Off-leash dog parks in under-utilized/problem sites like MHP (3)

Keep Woodstock Farm open (2)

Off-leash dog trails (2)

School swim lessons (2)

Planning trails for Chuckanut Ridge to control social trails (2)

Pedestrian access to waterfront while the development is happening (2)

Revenue generating ideas - advertising at Civic (2)

More lighted ball fields (2)

Public Works & Parks, city dept.'s coordinate trails, streets, crosswalks (2)

More/better maintenance = more play, more events (2)

Volunteer Coordination, what can volunteers do, where is help needed, list of work areas (2)

Avoid trail blazing (2)

Composting, permaculture (2)

Convert unused tennis courts into pickleball courts; four PB courts fit in one tennis ct.; pickleball will increase use of existing tennis courts.

Flexibility in waterfront parks to account for contamination

Planning for mitigation for more trains along waterfront (sound barriers)

Public access to the pier at Little Squalicum Park

More challenging disc golf course

Wildlife watching programs

Road from Galbraith to town is dangerous (Samish Way)

QR codes on signs

Working w/school dist. on walk to school routes

Dealing with environmental concerns at the beginning of the planning process

Present the waterfront plan to the community and ask for support.

Limited time periods for bikes on Taylor Dock

Bellwether to Fairhaven: continuous waterfront connected trail

More connectivity - some trails end on busy streets

By-pass trails to get you through town without dealing with traffic

More continuous trails, no gaps. Woburn/RR trail good example

Complete trail so there are no gaps

Waterfront trails

Ease of communication w/city

Neighborhood based bike parks

Youth facilities

Programming in under-used parks (Maritime Heritage Park): awareness, monitoring, volunteer interest, new open spaces

Adaptive/health/accessibility programs for veterans and disabled

Improved accessibility @ Parks

More staff

Volunteer Programs

Outreach for fields and trails

Opportunities

Disc Golf Clinics

Exempt some programs from rental fees.

Community pick-up games (softball, kickball, baseball, etc.)

Sea to Ski Trainings

Different ways to access park facilities (non-motorized)

Expand existing areas (like Padden)

More salmon restoration

More trash cans & doggie pots

More maintenance staff

More in King Mtn area

Better mapping

Better security patrol

More interaction with user groups

Northside neighborhood parks

Grass fields turn into mud fields

Recycling

More edible landscapes & community gardens for condos/apts.