



City of Stevenson

Phone (509) 427-5970

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7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371

Stevenson, Washington 98648

March 2024 Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024

6:00 PM

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Public Comment Expectations:

In Person: Attendees at City Hall should follow current CDC and State guidance regarding use of masks, social distancing, and attendance.

Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85637388112> Conference Call: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 ID #: 856 3738 8112

Commenters must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair. Individual comments may be cut off after 3 mins. Disruptive individuals may be required to leave the meeting. Persistent disruptions may result in the meeting being recessed and continued at a later date.

Tools: *6 to mute/unmute & *9 to raise hand

2. Public Comment Period: (For items not located elsewhere on the agenda)

3. Minutes: February 12, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

B. New Business

C. Old Business

4. Zoning Text Amendment: Q/A Workshop with Public about Street Side Setback Amendments in the R2 and R3 Districts

5. Floodplain Management: Public Hearing on a Necessary Amendment to SMC 15.24

6. Planning Commission Vacancy: Review Statement of Interest, Interview Candidates, & Recommend City Council Action

7. Parks Plan: Reviewing full draft of Parks Plan

D. Discussion

8. Thought of the Month:

-Housing Affordability/Financial Market

Incentives: <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2024/3/4/how-fannie-mae-puts-a-chokehold-on-local-home-financing-solutions>

-Housing Affordability/Mortgage Interest Deductions:

<https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/2020/5/priced-out-why-federal-tax-deductions-miss-the-mark-on-family-affordability>

9. Staff & Commission Reports: Septic/Sewer Discussion, Trees, Shoreline Permit, Parking

E. Adjournment

DRAFT Minutes
Stevenson Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024
6:00 PM

Planning Commission Chair Breckel called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. A quorum was present. There were significant technical issues with the sound quality for remote participants.

MEMBERS PRESENT

PC Chair Jeff Breckel; Commissioner Anne Keesee, Commissioner Auguste Zettler, Commissioner Charles Hales.

STAFF PRESENT

Community Development Director Ben Shumaker, Planning & Public Works Assistant Tiffany Anderson

GUESTS PRESENT

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

Mary Repar

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Public Comment Expectations

Shumaker explained use of tools for remote participants: *6 to mute/unmute & *9 to raise hand. Commenters must raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair. Individual comments may be limited to 3 minutes. Disruptive individuals may be required to leave the meeting. Persistent disruptions may result in the meeting being recessed and continued at a later date.

2. Public Comment Period

(For items not located elsewhere on the agenda)

Mary Repar spoke about SR 14, undergrounding utilities and broadband expansion. The Planning Commission meeting minutes from January 22nd, 2024 were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Zettler, seconded by Commissioner Keesee.

3. Approval of minutes

January 22nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Planning Commission meeting minutes from January 22nd, 2024 were approved unanimously following a motion by Commissioner Zettler, seconded by Commissioner Keesee.

B. New Business

4. Planning Commission Vacancy

It was decided to hold the vacancy open for another month and interview the current applicant at the March 2024 meeting.

5. Zoning Text Amendment:

Review Discussion Draft & Establish Public Involvement

The Planning Commission discussed a draft zoning code text amendment submitted by City staff in furtherance of the work plan established in January 2024.

The draft included 3 potential changes:

- 1) Amending Use Allowances in the R3 Multi-Family Residential

District; codifying a 2022 use interpretation related to Salons;

2) Amending the Street Side Yard Setback standard in the R2 Two-Family Residential District, reducing or increasing the setback on site specific bases;

3) Amending the Street Side Yard Setback standard in the R3 Multi-Family Residential District, reducing or increasing the setback on site specific bases and aligning it with the Front Yard Setback standard in that district.

Following a brief discussion, the Commissioners opted to have Shumaker notify the affected property owners and then determine whether to hold a hearing.

6. Floodplain Management:

Review Discussion Draft and Establish Public Involvement
FEMA has been working to revise potential flood zones in order to update flood insurance rates. Affected property owners have been sent revised maps of floodplains. The new regulations will be codified in the federal register and the city needs to have consistent regulations in place to ensure property owners are covered by the applicable flood insurance. It was agreed to contact the affected property owners and hold a public hearing at the March 2024 Planning Commission meeting.

C. Old Business

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Updates from Subcommittee leads

Annexation Policy: The Committee has met, but there is not much to report on until the sewer issue is resolved.

Downtown Parking: A final Parking Committee meeting will be scheduled to review the most recent information and determine any zoning changes the study may result in.

D. Discussion

8. Thought of the Month:

Critique of Suburbanization
(Racebased<https://www.theatlantic.com/books/archive/2024/01/ben-jamin-herolddisillusionedsuburbs/>)

9. Staff & Commission Reports

Parks Plan

The updated plan was recently received. Next step is a SEPA analysis, with public engagement efforts. The Parks Plaza project is being revised.

A short discussion took place on current legislation affecting housing.

E. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Johanna Roe.



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Ben Shumaker
DATE: March 11th, 2024
SUBJECT: Residential Street Side Setback Requirements; Periodic Zoning Use Review

Introduction

The Planning Commission is asked to engage with the public on a potential zoning code text amendment. The proposal was submitted by City staff in furtherance of the work plan established in January 2024. The proposal involves greater flexibility for (re)development on corner lots in the R2 and R3 districts.

The public is asked to engage with the Planning Commission to ensure the draft is as acceptable as possible before next steps are initiated.

Potential next steps include:

- Making a recommendation to the City Council to approve the amendments
- Altering the current draft amendments for future consideration
- Conducting additional public outreach/ holding a Planning Commission public hearing on amendments
- Abandoning the amendments and moving on to other matters

Public Involvement

As requested by the Planning Commission, staff contacted all corner lot owners subject to this potential change. See Attachment 1. The public release draft mailer addressed the potential changes to street side setbacks by showing the changes in tabular form and including the a figure demonstrating the pedestrian visibility area. The mailer included information about tonight's Planning Commission review and encouraged recipients to contact the City with questions. None have. Note: The mailer focused on the potential setback change and did not broach the topic of Salons in the R3 District. As discussed at the February meeting, this amendment could incorporate the 2022 Planning Commission interpretation which considered Salons as a potential conditional use in the R3 District.

The workshop Q/A session scheduled for tonight will make use of the County Assessor's online mapping system to demonstrate the effects of the potential change on an as necessary basis.

Next Steps

The selected next steps will be implemented. A SEPA threshold determination will be issued. The City Council will hold a public hearing at their regular meeting.

Prepared by,

Ben Shumaker
Community Development Director

Attachment

- 1- Draft Amending Ordinance
- 2- City of Stevenson Zoning Map



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Property Owner
FROM: Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director
DATE: February 16th, 2024
SUBJECT: Corner Lot Setback Changes – Considering Adding Flexibility

Introduction

The City Planning Commission is considering changes to the setbacks applicable to your property. The changes being considered would increase the developable area on your property. The change acknowledges that development on many of the lots in Stevenson’s residential core do not meet the current requirement. The proposed flexibility on these lots would not come at the expense of pedestrian or vehicular safety. The change would only apply to the R2 Two Family Residential and R3 Multi-Family Residential Districts. Broadly this involves the areas 1) between Rock Creek Drive and Hot Springs Alameda, 2) between Vancouver and Del Ray avenues, 3) along lower Frank Johns Road, 4) along Lutheran Church Road, and other smaller pockets of town. This letter is to inform you about the draft amendment and how you can be involved in its review.

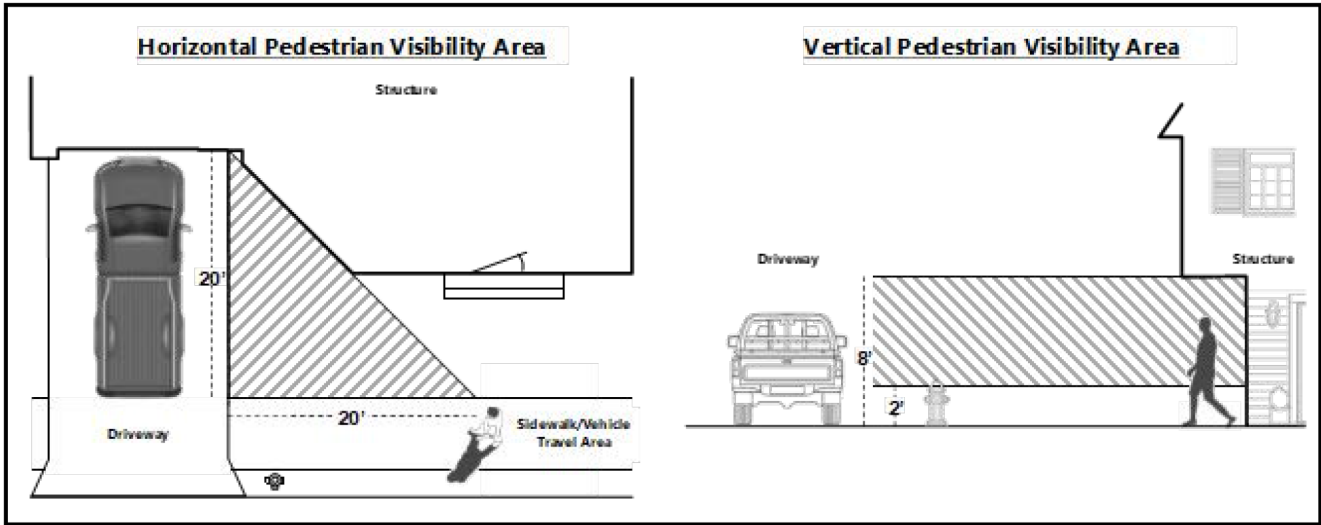
Change Considered

Currently, the City of Stevenson Zoning Code requires buildings on your property to be set back at least 15 feet along street side of corner lots. The proposed change would reduce that requirement to 10 feet.

District	Maximum Height of Building	Minimum Setbacks				
		Front	Side, Interior	Side, Street	Rear, Interior Lot	Rear, Through Lot
R1	35 ft	20 ft	5 ft	15 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
R2	35 ft	20 ft	5 ft	10 ft ^{3,4}	20 ft ¹	20 ft
R3	35 ft	10 ft ^{3,4}	5 ft ²	10 ft ^{3,4}	20 ft ¹	20 ft
MHR	35 ft	30 ft	15 ft	20 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
SR	35 ft	30 ft	15 ft	20 ft	20 ft	20 ft

1-5ft for residential outbuildings that are both 12 ft in height or less and 200 sq ft in size or less
 2-A 10-foot setback is required when adjacent to an R1 or R2 district.
 3-See also SMC 17.15.130.B.3.
 4-However, no structure shall be located within a pedestrian visibility area (SMC 17.10.632).

The reduction would apply differently where there is a street side driveway. In such cases, areas would need to be kept clear to facilitate drivers’ ability to see pedestrians and other vehicles:



Effect

What does this mean for you?

- Vacant Land: If you own vacant land, your development options will expand. More territory will be available for building in the street side yard. Your choice of driveway location will determine how much territory this will be.
- Previously Developed Property. If your land already has a building on it, then these changes will have little impact on you in the short term. If there are preexisting buildings in the setback or pedestrian visibility areas, the change would not require you to bulldoze anything. In the longer term the City expects the changes to benefit properties like this. Currently, in the case of fire or other calamity, such buildings would not be allowed to use their current footprint. If the change is made, fewer of you would be compelled to build something other than what was lost. Based on a preliminary, desktop analysis, several of you could be in this situation.

Zone	Total # Parcels	Corner Parcels		Suspected Nonconforming Corner Parcels	
		#	%	#	%
R2	90	30	33.3%	12	40.0%
R3	113	30	26.5%	6	20.0%

The figures above are approximate based on review of aerial photographs and assessor's parcel maps. This method has many inherent limitations.

Timeline

The Planning Commission will hold an informational workshop and Q/A session on **Monday, March 11th at 6:00 pm**. Attendance at the public hearing is possible both in person at City Hall (7121 East Loop Road), via conference call (+1-253-215-8782 or +1-346-248-7799 ID #: 856 3738 8112), or via webinar (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85637388112>).

Questions and written comments can be submitted in advance of the workshop to planning@ci.stevenson.wa.us

CITY OF STEVENSON
ORDINANCE 2024-

AMENDING THE STEVENSON ZONING CODE (SMC TITLE 17); PROVIDING DIMENSIONAL FLEXIBILITY NEAR STREETS IN THE R2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND R3 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS; AND CODIFYING A USE INTERPRETATION RELATED TO SALONS IN THE R3 MULTI-FAMILY DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, dimensional flexibility in the R2 Two-Family and R3 Multi-Family residential districts is an important component of implementing SMC 17.12.050, which establishes these districts as less restrictive than other districts and embracing the challenge of construction/reconstruction on lots in these districts which are not as wide as lots in other districts; and

WHEREAS, dimensional flexibility near streets should not come at the expense of pedestrian convenience or safety and safeguards are required to ensure vehicles in driveways do not overhang into streets and pedestrians can be seen near driveways; and

WHEREAS, the following use interpretations conducted under SMC 17.12.020 have been reviewed for inclusion in the periodic amendment included in this ordinance:

- ZON2022-04 related to Personal Service (salon) uses in the R3 Multi-Family District; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is adopted under the City’s municipal authority under RCW 35A.63.100; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance implements 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 3.1, 3.2, 3.6, and 7.2; and

WHEREAS, the City Council provided notice and held a public hearing prior to adoption of this ordinance pursuant to RCW 35A.63.070; and

WHEREAS, the City has reviewed the provisions of this ordinance according to the State Environmental Policy Act and determined it is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact; and

AND WHEREAS, the Stevenson City Council finds that the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare would be served by the amendments herein,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON, STATE OF WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 – Section 17.13.020 – “General Sales or Service Uses” shall be amended by adding the underlined text as shown in Exhibit ‘C’. The amendments add “Salon” as a specific

subcategory of the “Personal Services” use category. All other provisions of Chapter 17.13 shall remain in effect without amendment.

Section 2 – Section 17.15.040– “Uses” shall be amended by adding the underlined text as shown in Exhibit ‘B’. The amendments establishes “Salon” uses as a conditional use in the R3 Multi-Family Residential District. Notwithstanding the amendments made via Section 3, below, all other provisions of Chapter 17.15 shall remain in effect without amendment.

Section 3 – Section 17.15.060– “Residential Dimensional Standards” shall be amended by deleting the ~~struck through~~ text and adding the underlined text as shown in Exhibit ‘A’. The amendments alter the street side yard setback in the R2 Two-Family and R3 Multi-Family residential districts. Notwithstanding the amendments made via Section 2, above, all other provisions of Chapter 17.15 shall remain in effect without amendment.

Section 4 – This ordinance affects the Stevenson Comprehensive Plan and Title 17 of the Stevenson Municipal Code only insofar as set forth herein. All other provisions of Title 17 shall remain in full force and effect, and that where the provisions of this ordinance are the same as the provisions they replace, the provisions of this ordinance shall be interpreted as a continuation of those previous provisions and not as a new enactment.

Section 5 – If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Ordinance, or its application to any person, is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, said decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 6 – This ordinance shall become effective following passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed by a vote of _____ at the City Council meeting of _____, 2024.

SIGNED:

Scott Anderson, Mayor of Stevenson

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

Robert C. Muth, City Attorney

Leana Kinley, Clerk/Treasurer

17.15.060 Residential dimensional standards.

A. Compliance Required. All structures in residential districts must comply with:

1. The applicable dimensional standards contained Table 17.15.060-1: Residential Dimensional Standards.
2. All other applicable standards and requirements contained in this title.

Table 17.15.060-1: Residential Dimensional Standards						
District	Maximum Height of Building	Front	Minimum Setbacks			
			Side, Interior	Side, Street	Rear, Interior Lot	Rear, Through Lot
R1	35 ft	20 ft	5 ft	15 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
R2	35 ft	20 ft	5 ft	15 ft 10 ft ^{3,4}	20 ft ¹	20 ft
R3	35 ft	10 ft ^{3,4}	5 ft ²	15 ft 10 ft ^{3,4}	20 ft ¹	20 ft
MHR	35 ft	30 ft	15 ft	20 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
SR	35 ft	30 ft	15 ft ¹	20 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft

1-5 ft for residential outbuildings that are both 12 ft in height or less and 200 sq ft in size or less

2-A 10-foot setback is required when adjacent to an R1 or R2 district.

3-See also SMC 17.15.130.B.3.

4-However, no structure shall be located within a pedestrian visibility area (SMC 17.10.632).

B. Exceptions. The following exceptions are permitted to the standards of Table 17.15.060-1:

1. Properties receiving approval to deviate from standards according to SMC 17.38 - Supplementary Provisions.
2. Properties obtaining variance approval in accordance with SMC 17.46 - Adjustments, Variances, and Appeals.
3. Properties receiving modification approval in accordance with SMC 17.17 - Residential Planned Unit Developments.

17.15.040 Uses.

- A. Types of Uses: For the purposes of this chapter, there are 4 kinds of use:"
 - 1. A permitted (P) use is one that is permitted outright, subject to all the applicable provisions of this title.
 - 2. An accessory (A) use is permitted on properties containing permitted uses, provided that:"
 - a. The accessory use or activity may be regarded as incidental or insubstantial in and of itself or in relation to the principal use on the lot; and
 - b. The accessory use or activity is commonly or frequently associated with the principal use on the lot.
 - 3. A conditional (C) use is a discretionary use reviewed by the Planning Commission according to the process and criteria in SMC 17.39 - Conditional Uses.
 - 4. A prohibited (X) use is one that is not permitted in a zoning district under any circumstances.
 - 5. When a letter or use category is not listed in this table, an interpretation may be initiated under SMC 17.12.020.
- B. Use Table. A list of permitted, accessory, conditional and prohibited uses in residential districts is presented in Table 17.15.040-1: Residential Districts Use Table.

Table 17.15.040-1 Residential Districts Use Table					
Use	R1	R2	R3	MHR	SR
Residence or Accommodation Uses					
Dwelling					
Single-Family Detached Dwelling	P	P	P	P	P
Mobile Home	X	X	X	P	X
Travel Trailer	—	X	—	—	X
Accessory Dwelling Unit (SMC 17.40.040)	A	—	—	—	A
Multi-Family Dwelling	C ¹	P	P	C ¹	C ¹
Temporary Emergency, Construction or Repair Residence	C ²	C ²	C ²	—	C ²
Townhome (SMC 17.38.085)	—	C ⁸	P	—	—
Renting of no more than 2 rooms, rented by the month or longer, provided the parking requirements of SMC 17.42 are met.	A	A	A	A	A
Boarding House	C	C	C	—	C
Residential Care					
Adult Family Home	P	P	P	P	P
Assisted Living Facility	—	—	C	—	C
Nursing Home	—	—	C	—	—
Overnight Lodging					
Vacation Rental Home	P	P	P	P	P
Bed & Breakfast	C	C	P	C	C
Hostel	C	C	P	C	C
Hotel	X	X	C	X	C
Campground	X	X	X	C	C
Dormitory facility related to a public, private or parochial school	C	C	C	—	C
Miscellaneous Incidental Uses					
Residential Outbuilding	A/C ^{3,4}	A/C ^{3,4}	A/C ⁴	A/C ^{3,4}	A/C ³
Swimming pool, spa or hot tub, and associated equipment	A	A	A	A	A
Buildings and uses related to, and commonly associated with a mobile home park such as a recreation area, laundry, facility office, and meeting rooms	—	—	—	A	—
General Sales or Service Uses					
Electric Vehicle Station					

Restricted Access, Gradual Charging EV Station	A	A	A	A	A
Restricted Access, Rapid Charging EV Station	C	C	C	C	C
Public Access, Gradual Charging EV Station	—	—	C	—	—
Street—Side Access, Gradual Charging EV Station	—	—	C	—	—
Retail and wholesale sales of agricultural and animal products raised or produced on the premises	—	—	—	—	A
Rental Operations	—	—	—	—	—
Self-Storage Units	—	—	—	—	X
Professional Office	—	C	C	—	—
Veterinarian	—	—	—	—	C
Child Day Care Facility					
Family Day Care Home	P	P	P	P	P
Mini-Day Care Center	C	C	C	C	C
Child Day Care Center	—	C	C	C	C
<u>Personal Services</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Salon</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Home Occupation	A	A	A	A	A
Transportation, Communication, and Utility Uses					
Public Transportation Stops and Shelters	—	—	—	—	C
Boating Facility or Overwater Structure ⁹	See SMP				
Parking Facility					
Accessory Parking	A	A	A	A	A
Non-Accessory Parking	—	—	—	—	C
Utility or Communication Facility	C	C	C	C ⁵	C
Wireless Telecommunications Facility⁶					
Minor Wireless Telecommunications Facility	P	P	P	P	P
Intermediate Wireless Telecommunications Facility (SMC 17.39.170)	C	C	C	C	C
Major Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (SMC 17.39.170)	C	—	—	—	C
Wind Power Generation Facility⁶					
Minor Wind Power Generation Facility (SMC 17.39.165)	C	C	C	C	C
Hazardous Waste Storage	C	C	C	C	C
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Uses					

Public Assembly	-	-	-	-	-
Wedding Venue	—	—	—	—	C
Park, Playground or Outdoor Recreation Area	C	C	C	C	C
Golf Course	—	—	—	—	C
Education, Public Administration, Health Care, and Other Institutions Uses					
Public, Private or Parochial School	C	C	C	—	C
Nursery School or Similar Facility	—	—	—	C	—
Library	C	C	C	—	—
Government Administration Building	—	—	C	—	—
Fire, Police, or Emergency Services Station	C	C	C	—	C
Hospital	—	—	C	—	—
Church or Other Religious or Charitable Organization	C	C	C	—	C
Cemetery or Mausoleum	—	—	—	—	C
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting Uses					
Subsistence or hobby type gardening	P	P	A	P	P
Indoor or Outdoor Horticultural Activity	P	P	P	P	P
Nursery	—	—	C	—	P
Farm Animals (SMC 17.40.095)	C ⁷	X	X	X	P
Urban Farm Animals (SMC 17.40.095)	A	A	A	A	P
Pets	A	A	A	A	A
Kennel	C	X	X	X	C
Miscellaneous/Other Uses					
Signs listed with a "C" in Table 17.15.145-1 and any other sign identifying and/or related to any conditional use or existing nonconforming use.	C	C	C	C	C
Signs identifying and/or related to any principal or accessory use allowed in this chapter.	A	A	A	A	A

1-Conditional use permits for Multi-Family Dwellings which exceed the maximum number of dwelling units allowed in SMC Table 17.15.050-1 are only considered when submitted as part of an R-PUD proposal under SMC 17.17 - Residential Planned Unit Developments.

2-A conditional use permit is only required for a temporary emergency, construction or repair residence after the expiration of the initial 6-month grace period.

3-Up to 4 residential outbuildings on a property is considered an accessory Use. When at least 4 residential outbuildings already exist on a lot then an additional residential outbuilding is considered a conditional use. During the conditional use review process, the planning commission may establish size, serial proliferation and other limitations on such buildings.

4-A residential outbuilding that is subordinate to the main use on the lot is considered an accessory use. A residential outbuilding which is not subordinate to the main use on the lot is considered a conditional use. During the conditional use review process, the planning commission may establish size, serial proliferation and other limitations on such buildings.

5-Despite the general exclusion of overhead elements from this use category, any utility or communication facility in the MHR district with an overhead element greater than 35 feet is considered a conditional use.

6-See also SMC 17.36-WW Wind/Wireless Overlay District.

7-In granting a conditional use request for farm animals in the R1 district, the planning commission shall find, at a minimum, that the proposal is compliant with the performance standards in SMC 17.40.095.

8-Townhomes in the R2 District are subject to review according to the density and parking requirements of the R3 Multi-Family Residential District and shall connect to the municipal sewer system.

9-See SMC 18.08 and the Shoreline Master Plan for use allowances related to this use category.

17.13.020 General sales or service uses.

General sales and service land uses comprise the vast majority of establishments typically associated with commercial land use. The general sales or service uses considered by the Stevenson Zoning Code appear in Table 17.13.020-1.

Table 17.13.020-1: General Sales or Service Uses		
Use	Description	Reference
1. Automobile Service Station	A commercial establishment for the sale on the premises of motor vehicle fuel, including electrical energy, and other petroleum products and automobile accessories, and for the servicing, lubrication and minor repair of automotive vehicles. Unless specifically listed in the district, Automobile Service Stations include Battery Exchange Stations, Vehicle Repair, Carwashes and Public Access, Rapid Charging EV Stations.	RCW 35A.63.107
a. Battery Exchange Station	A staffed or fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a process which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and requirements set forth by Chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.	RCW 19.27.540, RCW 19.28
b. Carwash		
c. Vehicle Repair		
2. Electric Vehicle (EV) Station	A public or private parking space (1)served by equipment designed specifically to transfer electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other energy storage device in an electric vehicle, (2) meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by Chapter 19.28 RCW, and (3) is consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540. Electric vehicle stations are distinguished by the following types of access and charging levels:	RCW 19.27.540, RCW 19.28, RCW 35A.63.107
a. EV Station Access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Public Access EV Station" is available for use by the general public and not located on a public right-of-way. Examples include stations at a park & ride lot, a public library lot or a shopping center lot. 2. "Restricted Access EV Station" is restricted to authorized users and not located on a public right-of-way. Examples include stations at a single-family home, designated employee parking areas, or fleet parking areas not accessible to the general public. 3. "Street-Side Access EV Station" is available for use by the general public and located on a public right-of-way subject to 	SMC 12.02

	the rules adopted under SMC 12.02 - Use of City Rights-of-Way.	
b. EV Station Charging Level	Charging level categorizes the indicators of electrical force, or voltage, at which an electric vehicle's battery is charged: 1. "Gradual Charging EV Station" operates on a circuit no greater than 240 volts of alternating current. This includes what the industry currently refers to as levels 1 and 2 charging stations. >2. "Rapid Charging EV Station" operates on an industrial grade outlet greater than 240 volts of alternating current. This includes what the industry currently refers to as Level 3 charging stations.	
3. Retail	Commercial establishments providing merchandise for sale directly to the consumer. Retail establishments may also provide after-sales services, such as repair and installation. Unless specifically listed in the district, Retail Sales include all subcategories listed herein.	
a. Outdoor Recreation Store	A Retail use specializing in sporting goods or equipment related to outdoor recreational endeavors (e.g., water sports, bicycling, skiing, fishing, photography, camping and hiking).	
b. Specialty Food Shop	A Retail use carrying specialty food items (e.g., coffee, tea, confectionery products, nuts, spices, gourmet foods, etc.).	
c.	Specialty Retail Shop	A Retail use specializing in one type or line of merchandise (e.g., antiques, apparel, books, games, jewelry, shoes, stationary, etc.).
d.	Retail and wholesale sales of agricultural and animal products raised or produced on the premises.	
4. Bank or Financial Institution		
5. Rental Operation	Commercial establishments providing tangible goods (e.g., personal items, consumer electronics, furniture, clothing, tools, machinery, equipment, etc.) or other items of value to customers in exchange for a periodic rental or lease payment. Unless specifically listed in the district, Rental Operation includes all subcategories listed herein.	

Exhibit C- Amendment to SMC 17.13.020

a. Recreational Equipment Rental	A Rental Operation leasing equipment for recreational activities (e.g., water sports, bicycling, skiing, fishing, photography, camping and hiking).	
b. Self-Storage Units	A Rental Operation leasing space (i.e., rooms, compartments, lockers, containers, or outdoor space) where clients store and retrieve personal property.	
c. Truck, trailer or equipment rental	A Rental Operation leasing large vehicles and equipment (e.g., trucks, moving vans, buses, semi-trailers, utility trailers, travel trailers, recreational vehicles, off-road vehicles, etc.) when drivers or operators are not provided.	
6. Professional Office	Commercial establishments performing professional, scientific, clerical, and technical services for others. Unless specifically listed in the district, Professional Office includes all subcategories listed herein.	
a. Veterinarian		
7. Food Services	Commercial establishments preparing and serving food and/or beverages for consumption on or off the premises. Unless specifically listed in the district, Food Service includes all subcategories listed herein.	
a. Drive-Through Food Service		
b. Mobile-Food Cart	A Food Service use that is conducted from a motorized vehicle, a non-motorized cart or a unit that is similarly designed to be readily movable.	
c. Tasting Room	A Food Service use conducted as an incidental use to an on-premises brewery, cidery, distillery, winery or food processing use. A Tasting Room providing food service products from the on-premises processing use may also serve food and beverages processed at off-premises establishments.	
8. Child Day Care Facility	A building or structure in which an agency, person or persons regularly provide care for a group of children for periods of less than 24 hours. Child Day Care Facility includes family day care home, mini-day care center, and child day care center.	RCW 35.63.170, RCW 35A.63.210, RCW 35A.63.215
a. Family Day Care Home	A day care home for the care of 6 or fewer children during part of the 24-hour day, located in the dwelling of the provider under whose direct care the children are placed.	
b. Mini-Day Care Center	A child day care facility providing care during part of the 24-hour day to 12 or fewer children in a facility other than the family dwelling of the person or persons under whose direct care the children are placed, or for the care of 7 through 12 children in the family dwelling of such person or persons.	

Exhibit C- Amendment to SMC 17.13.020

<p>c. Child Day Care Center</p>	<p>A day care facility that provides for the care of 13 or more children. If located in a private family residence, the portion where the children have access must be separate from the family living quarters, or that portion of where the children have access must be used exclusively for their care during the hours that the child day care center is operating.</p>	
<p>9. Personal Services</p>	<p>Commercial establishments providing individual services generally related to personal needs. Unless specifically listed in the district, Personal Services includes all subcategories listed herein.</p>	
<p>a. Recreation Services</p>	<p>A Personal Services use providing services related to recreational amenities, including lessons and tours for such activities as water sports, bicycling, skiing, fishing, photography, camping and hiking.</p>	
<p><u>b. Salon</u></p>	<p><u>A Personal Services use providing services related to barbering, hair styling, or the cosmetic arts (e.g., makeup, skin care).</u></p>	
<p>10. Home Occupation</p>	<p>A commercial activity that: (a) is conducted by a person on the same residential district or legacy home lot where such person resides; (b) provides each outside employee with a legal off-street parking space; and (d) is not so insubstantial or incidental or is not so commonly associated with the residential use as to be regarded as an accessory use (see SMC 17.10.020), but that can be conducted without any significantly adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhood.</p> <p>Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a use may be regarded as having a significantly adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhood if: (a) goods, stock in trade, or other commodities are displayed; (b) more than 2 nonresidents on the premises are employed in connection with the purported home occupation; (c) it creates objectionable noise, fumes, odor, dust or electrical interference; (d) there is any exterior manifestation of the home occupation, except for an allowed sign no larger than 2 square feet pertaining to the home occupation; or (e) more than 25% of the total gross floor area of residential buildings plus other buildings housing the purported home occupation, or more than 500 square feet of gross floor area (whichever is less), is used for home occupation purposes.</p>	<p>SMC 17.10.020, SMC 17.13.010</p>



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Ben Shumaker
DATE: March 11th, 2024
SUBJECT: Floodplain Management Program – Public Release Draft

Introduction

The Planning Commission is asked to engage with the public on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-required amendments to Stevenson Municipal Code Chapter 15.24 – Flood Plain Management Regulations (Attachment 1). The amendments are necessary to stay in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a federal program initiated to stabilize/create the insurance market for property threatened by flood hazards. Property owners in the City seeking coverage under this program rely on the City’s compliance with the federal regulatory program. This compliance must occur by May 22nd, 2024.

The public is asked to engage with the Planning Commission to ensure the draft is as acceptable as possible and to understand next steps for all involved.

Draft Amendment

See Attachment 1. At its February meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed a draft amendment that had been prepared by FEMA to ensure consistency with their expectations. That draft was cleaned up for public release and sent to all current and new flood plain property owners. The draft highlighted areas believed to be voluntary changes. At the same time, staff asked FEMA some clarifying questions about the changes. The answers to those questions added some additional required changes and determined that some of the previously-considered voluntary changes were actually required. The draft presented tonight is the most recent draft. The primary change between the two involves an expanded definition of flood, which now includes some types of land movement. This expanded definition does not change the map where flood insurance is required. It does, however, expand the insurance coverage options available to property owners.

Yellow highlighting in the draft indicates new items from the previous FEMA draft. Blue highlighting indicates ordinance language that is optional but not mandatory. The optional language provides for a better functioning regulatory program and does not involve additional regulation.

Scope of Applicability

As noted at the previous meeting, the updated maps are based on recent scientific data and broadly reduce the area where these regulations apply.

	Current, 1980s-Era Maps	New, 2020s-Era Maps
Parcels in Special Flood Hazard Area	64	66
Structure in Special Flood Hazard Area	7	3

Source: FEMA Region X Mitigation Division

Public Involvement

As requested by the Planning Commission, staff provided all current floodplain property owners a notice of this potential change along with a copy of the initial public release draft. The notices included information about tonight's Planning Commission review and encouraged recipients to contact the City with questions. Two did. Both inquired about links to the changed maps. One also discussed how the regulations interact with the Shoreline Master Plan. NOTE: the Planning Commission requested, and the notices included a statement that tonight's meeting would be a public hearing. Unfortunately, no public notice was placed in the newspaper advertising the meeting tonight as a public hearing. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the ordinance.

Next Steps

No recommendation is expected tonight. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the current draft ordinance at their March meeting. Staff hope the Planning Commission will listen to the public tonight and request any necessary changes be added to a SEPA Review Draft ordinance. Once done, Staff will initiate Growth Management Act (GMA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review procedures using the SEPA review draft. A recommendation of approval can be expected as early as the April regular meeting.

Prepared by,

Ben Shumaker
Community Development Director

Attachment

- 1- Updated Public Release Draft Amendment, SMC 15.24 – Floodplain Management Regulations

Chapter 15.24 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

15.24.010 Statement of purpose.

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by methods and provisions designed for:

- A. Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous to health, safety and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- B. Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- C. Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters;
- D. Controlling filling, grading, dredging and other development which may increase flood damage; and
- E. Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards in other areas.

15.24.020 Definitions.

Unless specifically defined in this section, words or phrases used in this chapter shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this chapter its most reasonable application.

"Alteration of watercourse" means any action that will change the location of the channel occupied by water within the banks of any portion of a riverine waterbody.

"Appeal" means a request for a review of the floodplain administrator's interpretation of any provision of this chapter or a request for a variance.

"Area of special flood hazard" means the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

"Base flood" means the flood having a one percent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year.

"Base Flood Elevation (BFE)" means the elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the base flood.

"Basement" means any area of the building having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides.

"Development" means any manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials located within the area of special flood hazard.

"Elevation certificate" means the official form used to track development, provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances, and determine the proper insurance premium rate with Section B completed by community officials.

"Existing manufactured home park or subdivision" means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

"Expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision" means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including

the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

"Flood or Flooding" means

- 1) general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
 - a) The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
 - b) The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
 - c) Mudslides (i.e., mudflows) which are proximately caused by flooding as defined in paragraph (1)(b) of this definition and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current.
- 2) The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding as defined in paragraph (1)(a) of this definition.

"Flood elevation study" means an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and/or flood-related erosion hazards. Also known as a Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

"Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)" means the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administrator has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

"Flood Insurance Study" means see Flood Elevation Study.

"Floodplain or flood-prone area" means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source. See "Flood or flooding."

"Floodplain administrator" means the community official designated by title to administer and enforce the floodplain management regulations.

"Floodproofing" means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents. Flood proofed structures are those that have the structural integrity and design to be impervious to floodwater below the Base Flood Elevation.

"Floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

"Functionally dependent use" means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, and does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

"Highest adjacent grade" means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

"Historic structure" means any structure that is:

- 1) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- 2) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- 3) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which

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- have been approved by the Secretary of Interior; or
- 4) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
- a) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, or
 - b) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

"Lowest floor" means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this chapter found at Section 15.24.090(A)(2) of this chapter.

"Manufactured home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include a "recreational vehicle."

"Manufactured home park or subdivision" means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

"New construction" means structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

"New manufactured home park or subdivision" means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

"Person" means a natural person, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns; a firm, partnership, corporation or association, its or their successors or assigns, or the agent thereof; and state and local governments and agencies.

"Recreational vehicle" means a vehicle which is:

1. Built on a single chassis;
2. Four hundred square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
3. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
4. Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

"Start of construction" includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement or other improvement was within one hundred eighty days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the state of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

"Structure" means ,for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

"Substantial Damage" means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

"Substantial improvement" means any repair, reconstruction or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed. This term does not, however, include either:

1. A project for improvement of a structure to correct previously identified existing violations of state or local health, sanitary or safety code specifications that have been identified by the local code enforcement official and that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
2. Any alterations of a "historic structure," provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."

"Variance" means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of the floodplain management regulations.

15.24.030 Chapter applicability.

1. This chapter shall apply to all areas of special flood hazards within the jurisdiction of the city.
2. All development within special flood hazard areas is subject to the terms of this chapter and other applicable regulations.
3. In the interpretation and application of this chapter, all provisions shall be:
 - a. Considered as minimum requirements;
 - b. Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and,
 - c. Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under state statutes.

15.24.040 Basis for establishing the areas of special flood hazard.

The areas of special flood hazard identified by the Federal Insurance Administrator in a scientific and engineering report entitled "The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Skamania County and Incorporated Areas" dated May 22, 2024, and any revisions thereto, with accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) dated May 22, 2024, , including any revisions thereto, and any revisions hereafter, are adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this chapter. The FIS and FIRM are on file at City Hall, 7121 East Loop Road, Stevenson, WA.

15.24.044 Penalties for Noncompliance.

No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this chapter and other applicable regulations. Violations of the provisions of this chapter by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions), shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this chapter or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days, or both, for each violation, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the City from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

15.24.046 Abrogation and Greater Restrictions

This chapter is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this chapter and another ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

15.24.048 Warning and Disclaimer of Liability.

The degree of flood protection required by this chapter is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur on rare occasions. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This chapter does not imply that land outside the areas of special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. This chapter shall not create liability on the part of City of Stevenson, any officer or employee thereof, or the Federal Insurance Administration, for any flood damages that result from reliance on this chapter or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.

15.24.050 Establishment of development permit.

- A. A development permit shall be obtained before construction or development begins within any area of special flood hazard established in this chapter. The permit shall be for all structures including manufactured homes and for all other development, including fill and other activities.
- B. Application for a development permit shall be made on forms furnished by the floodplain administrator and may include but not be limited to; plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing the nature, location, dimensions, and elevations of the area in question; existing or proposed structures, fill, storage of materials, drainage facilities, and the location of the foregoing. Specifically, the following information is required:
 - 1. Elevation in relation to mean sea level, of the lowest floor (including basement) of all structures;
 - 2. Elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any structure has been floodproofed;
 - 3. Certification by a registered professional engineer or architect that the floodproofing methods for any nonresidential structure meet the floodproofing criteria in Section 15.24.080(B); and
 - 4. Description of the extent to which a watercourse will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development.

15.24.060 Designation of the floodplain administrator.

The building official for the city is appointed as floodplain administrator to administer and implement this chapter by granting or denying development permit applications in accordance with its provisions.

15.24.070 Duties and responsibilities of the floodplain administrator.

Duties of the floodplain administrator shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Permit Review.
 - 1. Review all applications for development permits to determine that the permit requirements of this chapter have been satisfied;
 - 2. Review all applications for development permits to determine that all necessary permits have been obtained from those federal, state or local governmental agencies from which prior approval is required, including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 USC 1334.
- B. Use of Other Base Flood Data. When base flood elevation data has not been provided in accordance with Section 15.24.040, the floodplain administrator shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize any

base flood elevation and floodway data available from a federal, state or other source, in order to administer Sections 15.24.090 and 15.24.100.

C. Information to be Obtained and Maintained.

1. Where base flood elevation data is provided through the Flood Insurance Study, FIRM, or required as in subsection B of this section, obtain and record the actual (as-built) elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new or substantially improved structures, and whether or not the structure contains a basement. Recorded on a current elevation certificate (FF 81-31) with Section B completed by the local official;
2. For all new or substantially improved floodproofed nonresidential structures where base flood elevation data is provided through the FIS, FIRM, or as required in Subsection B of this section:
 - a. Obtain and record the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure was floodproofed; and
 - b. Maintain the floodproofing certifications required in Section 15.24.050(B)(3);
3. Maintain for public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of this chapter.

D. Alteration of Watercourses.

1. Notify adjacent communities and the Department of Ecology prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Insurance Administration.
2. Assure that the flood carrying capacity of the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse is maintained..

E. Interpretation of FIRM Boundaries. Make interpretations where needed, as to exact location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions). The person contesting the location of the boundary shall be given a reasonable opportunity to appeal the interpretation. Such appeals shall be granted consistent with the standards of Section 1910.6 of the rules and regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program (24 CFR 1909, etc.).

F. Base Flood Elevations may increase or decrease resulting from physical changes affecting flooding conditions. As soon as practicable, but not later than six months after the date such information becomes available, the Floodplain Administrator shall notify the Federal Insurance Administrator of the changes by submitting technical or scientific data in accordance with Volume 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 65.3. Such a submission is necessary so that upon confirmation of those physical changes affecting flooding conditions, risk premium rates and floodplain management requirements will be based upon current data.

G. Notify the Federal Insurance Administrator in writing of acquisition by means of annexation, incorporation or otherwise, of additional areas of jurisdiction.

15.24.075 Variance procedure.

A. Appeal Board.

1. The appeal board as established by the city council shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this chapter.
2. The appeal board shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the floodplain administrator in the enforcement or administration of this chapter.

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3. Those aggrieved by the decision of the appeal board, or any taxpayer, may appeal such decision to a court of competent jurisdiction.
 4. In passing upon such applications, the appeal board shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, standards specified in other sections of this chapter, and;
 - a. The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
 - b. The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
 - c. The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;
 - d. The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
 - e. The necessity to the facility of a waterfront location, where applicable;
 - f. The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding or erosion damage;
 - g. The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
 - h. The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and floodplain management program for that area;
 - i. The safety access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
 - j. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the flood waters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; and
 - k. The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems, and streets and bridges.
 5. Upon consideration of the factors set out in subsection (A)(4) of this section and the purposes of this chapter, the appeal board may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.
 6. The floodplain administrator shall maintain the records of all appeal actions and report any variances to the Federal Insurance Administration upon request.
- B. Conditions for Variances.
1. Variances may be issued for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, or restoration of historic structures upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure and the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure;
 2. Variances shall not be issued within a designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
 3. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
 4. Variances shall only be issued upon:
 - a. A showing of good and sufficient cause;
 - b. A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant;

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- c. A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
 - d. A showing that the use cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. This includes only facilities defined in Section 2.0 {or the numbering system used by the community} of this ordinance in the definition of "Functionally Dependent Use."
5. Variances as interpreted in the National Flood Insurance Program are based on the general zoning law principle that they pertain to a physical piece of property; they are not personal in nature and do not pertain to the structure, its inhabitants, economic or financial circumstances. They primarily address small lots in densely populated residential neighborhoods. As such, variances from the flood elevations should be quite rare.
 6. Variances may be issued for nonresidential buildings in very limited circumstances to allow a lesser degree of floodproofing than watertight or dry-floodproofing, where it can be determined that such action will have low damage potential and otherwise complies with Section 15.24.080.
 7. Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice that the structure will be permitted to be built with a lowest floor elevation below the base flood elevation and that the cost of flood insurance will be commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.
 8. Records of all variance actions, including justification for their issuance, shall be maintained.

15.24.080 General standards for flood hazard reduction.

In all areas of special flood hazards, the following standards are required:

- A. Anchoring.
 1. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads including the effects of buoyancy.
 2. All manufactured homes must likewise be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement, and shall be installed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage. Anchoring methods may include but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors (Reference FEMA's "Manufactured Home Installation in Flood Hazard Areas" guidebook for additional techniques).
- B. Construction Materials and Methods.
 1. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage.
 2. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.
 3. Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air-conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be designed and/or otherwise elevated or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
- C. Utilities.
 1. All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the system;

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2. New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the systems and discharge from the systems into floodwaters; and
 3. On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.
- D. Subdivision Proposals.
1. All subdivision proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage;
 2. All subdivision proposals shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize flood damage;
 3. All subdivision proposals shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood damage; and
 4. Where base flood elevation data has not been provided or is not available from another authoritative source, it shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed developments which contain at least fifty lots or five acres (whichever is less).
- E. Review of Building Permits. Where elevation data is not available either through the Flood Insurance Study or from another authoritative source, applications for building permits shall be reviewed to assure that proposed construction will be reasonably safe from flooding. The test of reasonableness is a local judgment and special consideration should be given to historical data, high water marks, and photographs of past flooding where available. **The lowest floor elevation of 2 feet above highest adjacent grade will be the minimum requirement.**

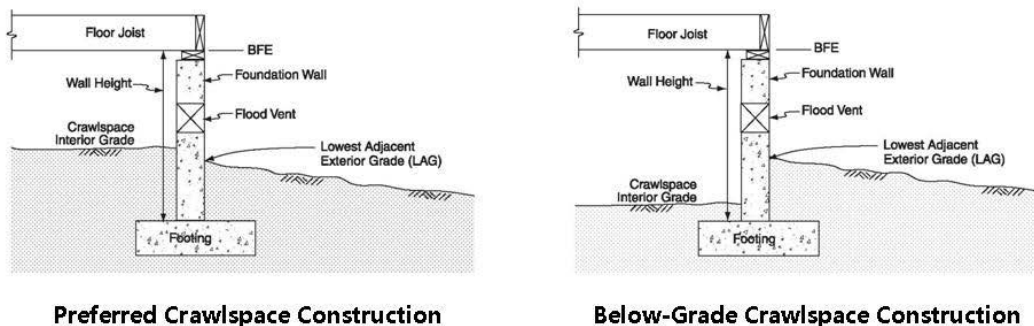
15.24.090 Specific standards for flood hazard reduction.

In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in Section 15.24.080(B), the following provisions shall apply:

- A. Residential Construction.
1. New construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above base flood elevation.
 2. Fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding are prohibited, or if used solely for parking, access or storage shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or must meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 - a. A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
 - b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
 - c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
- B. Nonresidential Construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall either have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated one foot or more above the base flood elevation; or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall:
1. Be floodproofed so that below one foot or more above the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water;

2. Have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy; and
 3. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting provisions of this subsection based on their development and/or review of the structural design, specifications and plans. Such certifications shall be provided to the official as set forth in Section 15.24.070(C)(2).
 4. Nonresidential structures that are elevated, not floodproofed, must meet the same standards for space below the lowest floor as described in subsection (A)(2) of this section.
 5. Applicants who are floodproofing nonresidential buildings shall be notified that flood insurance premiums will be based on rates that are one foot below the floodproofed level (e.g. a building constructed to the base flood level will be rated as one foot below that level). Floodproofing the building an additional foot will reduce insurance premiums significantly.
- C. **Manufactured Homes.**
1. All manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved on sites shall be elevated one foot or more above the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement.
 2. A plan for evacuating residents of all manufactured home parks or subdivisions located within flood prone areas shall be developed and filed with and approved by appropriate community emergency management authorities.
- D. **Recreational Vehicles.** Recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones A1—30, AH, and AE on the community's FIRM shall either be:
1. On the site for fewer than one hundred eighty consecutive days;
 2. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use; or;
 3. Meet the permit requirements of Section 15.24-.050 and the elevation and anchoring requirements for manufactured homes in Section 15.24.080(A).
- A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.
- E. **Below-Grade Crawlspace.**
1. The interior grade of a crawlspace below the BFE must not be more than 2 feet below the lowest adjacent exterior grade, as shown in FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01 and SMC Figure 15.24.090-1.

Figure 15.24.090-1



-
2. The height of the below-grade crawlspace, measured from the interior grade of the crawlspace to the top of the crawlspace foundation wall must not exceed 4 feet at any point.
 - a. The height limitation is the maximum allowable unsupported wall height according to the engineering analyses and building code requirements for flood hazard areas. This limitation will also prevent these crawlspaces from being converted into habitable spaces.
 3. There must be an adequate drainage system that removes floodwaters from the interior area of the crawlspace. The enclosed area **should be adequately flood vented per SMC 15.24.090(A)(2) and** should be drained within a reasonable time after a flood event. The type of drainage system will vary because of the site gradient and other drainage characteristics, such as soil types. Possible options include natural drainage through porous, well-drained soils and drainage systems such as perforated pipes, drainage tiles, or gravel or crushed stone drainage by gravity or mechanical means.
 4. The velocity of floodwaters at the site should not exceed 5 feet per second for any crawlspace. For velocities in excess of 5 feet per second, other foundation types should be used.
 5. Below-grade crawlspace construction in accordance with the requirements listed above will not be considered basements.
 6. Buildings constructed with subgrade crawlspace in the Special Flood Hazard Area may have a 20% increase in flood insurance premiums.

15.24.092 AE and A1—30 Zones with base flood elevation by no floodways.

In areas with base flood elevations (but a regulated floodway has not been designated), no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A1—30 and AE on the FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.

15.24.094 Floodways.

Located within areas of special flood hazard established in SMC 15.24.040 are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters that can carry debris, and increase erosion potential, the following provisions apply:

- A. Prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development unless certification by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
- B. Construction or reconstruction of residential structures is prohibited within designated floodways, except for (i) repairs, reconstruction, or improvements to a structure which do not increase the ground floor area, and (ii) repairs, reconstruction or improvements to a structure, the cost of which does not exceed 50% of the market value of the structure either (A) before the repair, or reconstruction is started, or (B) if the structure has been damaged, and is being restored, before the damage occurred. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or to structures identified as historic places, may be excluded in the 50%.

-
- C. If section A of this section is satisfied, all new construction and substantial improvements shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of this chapter.

15.24.110 Repeal of conflicting ordinances and provisions.

All ordinances or provisions of this code which are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter shall be and the same are repealed.



Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Flood Stuff

carlsonandhood@earthlink.net <carlsonandhood@earthlink.net>

Sat, Mar 9, 2024 at 9:15 AM

To: Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Pat Hood <pathoodart@earthlink.net>

Hey Ben,

Just looked at the Planning Commission packet and I saw all the flood plain stuff. To my knowledge, we didn't get any notification regarding the issue. You may or may not be aware of our water issues, but let me recap:

1) Our yard fills with water at some point nearly every year. We had minor flooding out there twice this year. If you look at our property compared to the Birkenfeld's, you'll notice that their property is about 30" higher than ours. This happened in the 50's when Birkenfeld Sr dredged and made the property that exists now. As Ken Woodrich pointed out, that actually violates a current law called The Common Enemy Law. Surface water is, in effect, dammed up and pools in our property. There is a culvert under the Birkenfeld property that Grandpa Shippy (with the help of the County) put in back in the 50's to help mitigate some of our yard issues.

2) During big rain events, the sewer backs up and comes out of the man-hole that is at the end of both properties near the footpath. This is exacerbated by the power going out and the pump station nearby shutting down. When the sewer gets backed up, it comes up into our sink in the basement and overflows. Fun stuff.

3) We have 5 sump pumps in our basement to handle the water issues, otherwise our basement would flood regularly.

4) All of these issues are made worse by the fill that is the field next to us, as well as the fill that is *still* in the cove (for some reason). It was at it's worst when the big dredging happened in 2007 and all that wet muck sat out there. The ground water was stifled in it's search for release. After a portion of the fill in the cove was removed, our water issues were lessened somewhat.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...

Jeff



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Ben Shumaker
SUBJECT: Planning Commission Vacancy

Introduction

The Stevenson Planning Commission is given the opportunity to interview individuals interested in filling the current vacancy on the Planning Commission and recommend one individual for appointment by the City Council.

Selection Process

Interview Process: The Planning Commission should gauge potential members according to the answers the candidate gives on the statement of interest form, the interview questions, and/or any other factor about the candidate's suitability. The preliminary set of questions below help to guide the meeting process. The Planning Commission should feel free to deviate from the suggested questions.

1. Why do you want to be on the Planning Commission?
2. Will you be able to devote sufficient time to your duties as Planning Commissioner?
3. Is there anything about you or your activities in the City that is likely to cause conflicts of interest in the future?

Deliberation Process: After the interviews, the Planning Commission may ask the members to voluntarily leave the Planning Commission chambers to have frank discussions. Despite such a request, the candidates are not obligated to exit. However, if they do, they will be invited back into the session prior to any decision.

Recommendation Process: After deliberation, the Chair may call for or make a motion **"to recommend the City Council appointment of _____ to serve on the Stevenson Planning Commission."** If a motion carries, the Chair can move on to the next agenda item. If the Planning Commission is unable to agree on a recommendation, it can request further recruitment, or it can recommend the City Council hold its own interview process.

Attachments

- Statements of interest



City of Stevenson Planning Department

(509)427-5970
ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Individuals Interested in the Stevenson Planning Commission
FROM: Ben Shumaker, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Statement of Interest

Thank You for Your Interest!

Please take a brief moment to fill in the forms on this sheet. This will give us an idea of who you are and how you will be able to help contribute to our Planning Commission.

Name: TONY LAWSON **Email Address:** tlawson517@gmail.com
Address: 722 N W ANGEL HEIGHTS RD. STEVENSON 98648
Preferred Phone: 503 481 3796 **Alternate Phone:** _____

Availability:

Are you able to attend meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00pm? -Yes -No

Residency/Citizenship:

Are you a resident of Stevenson? -Yes -No

Are you a citizen of the United States? -Yes -No

Your Age: --25 or younger -26-35 -36-45 -46-55 -56-65 -66 or older

Areas of Interest

Please place a mark next to the topics that interest you (please limit your response to three (3) topics):

- Land Use (Subdivision/Zoning Controls) Housing
- Capital Facilities (Water/Sewer/Stormwater) Transportation (Auto/Bike/Pedestrian/Parking)
- Economic Development (Industry/Tourism) Parks, Recreation, & Open Space
- Scenery & Aesthetics (Signage/Architecture) Environment & Sustainability
- Other (please specify): _____

Background/ Statement of Interest

Please use the space below to provide us with a brief statement about yourself and why you want to be involved with the Planning Commission (attach additional sheets as necessary):

SEE ATTACHED

ANTHONY LAWSON

722 NW ANGEL HEIGHTS ROAD, STEVENSON, WA 98648

tlawson517@gmail.com / 503-481-3796

City of Stevenson Planning Commission

Ben Shumaker, Community Development Director

7121 East Loop Road
Stevenson, WA 98648

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am interested in being considered to fill the vacant City of Stevenson Planning Commissioner position. I am providing this letter so that you might get to know me a bit better.

I am a retired, 67-year-old father of two. My wife and I moved to Stevenson from Hillsboro, Oregon almost 3 years ago. I was born in Mt. Vernon, Washington and resided in Hillsboro, Oregon for 28 years prior to moving to Stevenson.

My work experience has been:

- Construction Contractor in California
- Field Service Engineer, IBM
- Computer Operations Manager. Syntex Corporation
- National Service Manager, Syva Medical Diagnostics
- Stay at Home Dad, 12 years
- Field Service Engineer, Agilent Technologies, Cancer Diagnostics
- I have managed large groups of people and multimillion dollar budgets.

I have worked on four different nonprofit boards.

- Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum (Current Treasurer)
- Bethany Village HOA
- South Redwood City Residents Association
- Frithwood School Board of Governors

My work on the various boards included budgetary oversight, arbitration with residents, lobbying the City Council, presenting capital improvement requests to the Borough Council and various management oversight.

I would be quite happy to fill the position of Planning Commissioner if you so desire.



CITY OF STEVENSON

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan



Prepared by:



dcgwatershed.com

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sevaworkshop.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you for the active participation and input from the community leaders including residents, the Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, the City Council, City staff, community organizations, frequent parks system users, and others who contributed to this PROS Plan.

Mayor

Scott Anderson

City of Stevenson Staff Team

Ben Shumaker,
Community Development Director

Tiffany Andersen,
Planning & Public Works Assistant

Carolyn Sourek,
Public Works Director

Leana Kinley, IP City Administrator

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Advisory Committee

Pat Albaugh, Executive Director,
Port of Skamania

Ingrid Colvard, Superintendent,
Stevenson-Carson School District

Tom Delzio, Stevenson Community
Pool District Commissioner

Alex Hays, Manager of Cultural
Events and Recreation,
Skamania County

Tom Lannen, District 2 Chair,
Skamania County

Expanded Advisory Committee

Pat Albaugh, Executive Director,
Port of Skamania

Dave Cox, City Council Member,
City of Stevenson

Tom Delzio, Stevenson Community
Pool District Commissioner

Jonathan Dexter, Utility
Maintenance Worker, City of
Stevenson Public Works

Ed Farrell, Grounds/Maintenance/
WHSE Supervisor, Stevenson-Carson
School District

Alex Hays, Manager of Cultural
Events and Recreation,
Skamania County

Tom Lannen, District 2 Chair,
Skamania County

Kelly O'Malley McKee, Executive
Director, Downtown Association/
Farmer's Market

Carolyn Sourek, Director, City of
Stevenson Public Works

Louise 'Lou' Palermo, Executive
Director, Columbia Gorge Museum

Stakeholders Interviewed

Pat Albaugh, Executive Director,
Port of Skamania

Andrea Byrd, Representative
Stevenson Community Pool

Ingrid Colvard, Superintendent,
Stevenson-Carson School District

Tom Delzio, Stevenson Community
Pool District Commissioner

Lonnie Gates, Resident,
Representative of senior citizen
community

Justin Gross, Resident, and small
business owner (Big River Grill
and SKA. CO. Skates)

Alex Hays, Manager of Cultural
Events and Recreation,
Skamania County

Ken Levy, Resident, Representative
of wind sport community

Torrey Lindbo, Representative,
Columbia Gorge Running Club

Kelly O'Malley McKee, Executive
Director, Downtown Association/
Farmer's Market

Kara Owen, Director of Group
Sales, Skamania Lodge

Carolyn Sourek
City of Stevenson Public Works

Louise 'Lou' Palermo, Executive
Director, Columbia Gorge Museum

City Council

Dave Cox

Michael D. Johnson

Lucy Lauser

Kristy McCaskell

Pat Rice

Planning Commission

Jeff Breckel

Charlie Hales

Anne Keesee

David Ray

Auguste Zettler

Consultants

DCG/Watershed

SEVA Workshop



Pebble Beach

Executive Summary

Stevenson is a small town with community access to a wide range of parks, trails, and open spaces.

The process of creating this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) has engaged stakeholders and public entities in a conversation that the city hopes will lead to parks that are higher quality, better funded, and wider serving. Most of these public spaces are not owned or maintained by the city. The city recognizes this and relies on collaboration and shared resources to meet the community’s parks and recreation needs.

The impetus for creating this plan was the recognition by the City of Stevenson that many

lucrative grant funding opportunities require the adoption of a PROS Plan. Further, the adopted plan would require documentation that would demonstrate needs, community outreach, and consensus on priorities and recommendations. The city prioritized the formation of an Advisory Committee to collaborate on this plan to build relationships and define shared values between the entities that provide recreational opportunities to the public. In sharing an understanding of public needs and a vision for the future, the hope is that each entity can also share in working toward the solution.



MISSION:

To enhance Stevenson’s recreational and gathering spaces in ways that increase access to the area’s natural beauty and cultural heritage, for residents and visitors of all ages.

Gropper Loop Park

This PROS Plan is the first one created by the city. It builds upon recent planning projects including the recently updated 2022 Comprehensive Plan, the recently adopted 2023 Public Shoreline Access Plan, and the missions, plans, and visions of other stakeholders in the community. The intent of this plan is to create a six-year short-term vision for capital improvements, as well as a 20-year long-term vision for planning, operational, and capital projects. Projects identified by public agencies with an adopted PROS Plan are considered eligible for grant applications for six years from the date of adoption through Washington State’s Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The following is a summary of the plan results and recommendations:

GOAL 1: MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE

Ensure that parks are well-maintained, aesthetically pleasing, and safe for community use. Enhance the quality of park facilities and maximize the lifespan of park infrastructure. Fund, support, and implement site-specific maintenance projects, tailoring efforts to address the unique needs of individual park facilities.

GOAL 2: LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT WE HAVE

Establish a community-focused approach to parks and recreation to create a more prominent presence of parks within the community, integrate park planning with city planning, and build organizational capacity for effective program management.

GOAL 3: FILL GAPS AND CONNECT PEOPLE TO WHAT WE HAVE

Improve access and connectivity to parks, ensuring equitable distribution, legible and accessible pathways, and inclusive amenities. Identify and address gaps in park coverage and create a connected sidewalk and trail network.

GOAL 4: IMPROVE AND EXPAND WHAT WE HAVE TO MEET DIVERSE COMMUNITY NEEDS

Develop a balanced system of recreational facilities, lands, and programs. Provide vibrant, accessible, and inclusive community spaces catering to the recreation needs of residents and visitors of all ages. Offer year-round recreational opportunities, activate underutilized spaces, address community desires, and ensure inclusivity for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Capital Improvement Projects (6-year timeframe).

- 1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection
- Stevenson Park Plaza
- County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch
- West Waterfront Trail
- Gateway Landscape Improvements
- Piper Road Trail

This plan identifies community-driven recommendations to improve and enhance parks, recreation facilities, trails, programming, and related services over the next 20 years. It will guide park enhancements in line with the city’s cornerstone principles: a desire for a high quality of life, natural/scenic beauty, a healthy economy, and an active waterfront.

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01

Community Profile



Stevenson’s character and identity is inspired by its proximity to natural areas and its relationship to the waterfront.

Stevenson Community Profile

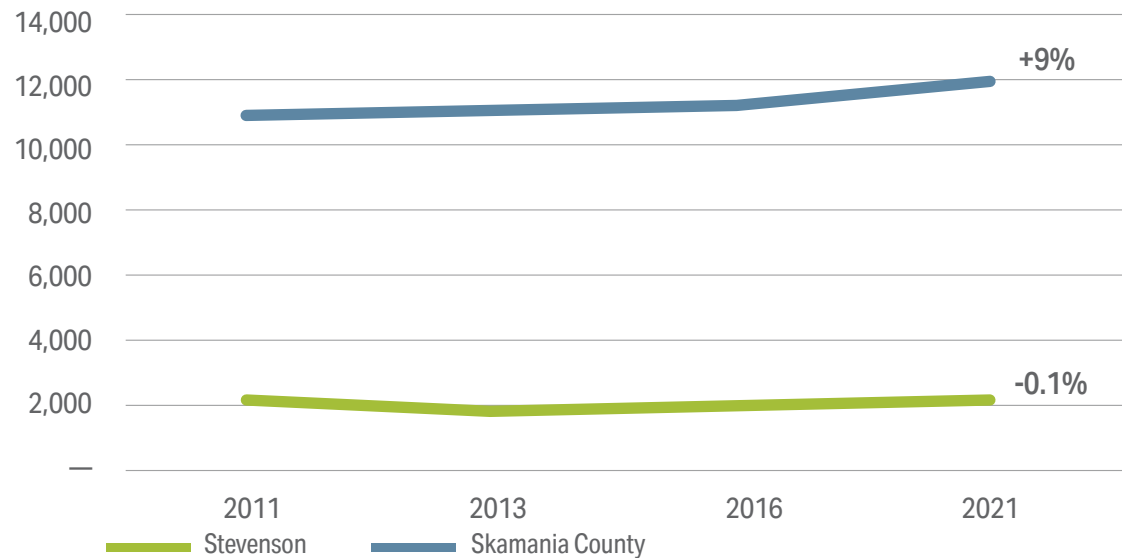
COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The City of Stevenson is 1.8 square miles (or 1,135-acres), located in southwest Washington along the Columbia River.

It is the county seat and one of two cities in Skamania County, and includes a large proportion of natural resource and forest lands. For purposes of this project, the Study Area includes the City of Stevenson and its unincorporated urban growth area (UGA) as shown in Exhibit 1.2. All data presented in this report includes both the City and its UGA under the umbrella of “Stevenson”, unless otherwise noted.¹ This area includes 63.5-acres of parks and open space and 2.9 miles of trails.

The population of Stevenson is 2,049 and has remained consistent in size over the past decade (2011-2021).² While Stevenson’s population has been stable, the countywide population for Skamania County has increased 9% over the same 10-year period, concentrating in unincorporated areas. See Exhibit 1.1. In Skamania County, unincorporated areas account for almost 80% of the population.³

Exhibit 1.1: Population for Stevenson and Skamania County, 2011-2021



1 - ACS data is summarized at the Census tract level, which may include a handful of individuals outside the UGA
 2 - 2,049 population estimate reflects OFM 2022 data. 2011-2021 estimates from ACS 5-year estimates.
 At the time of making this profile, this was the most current data available.
 3 - OFM population estimates, 2021

Stevenson at a Glance



Population: **2,049**



Size:
**1,135-acres, with
63.5-acres of park space**



Median Household
Income: **\$63,860**



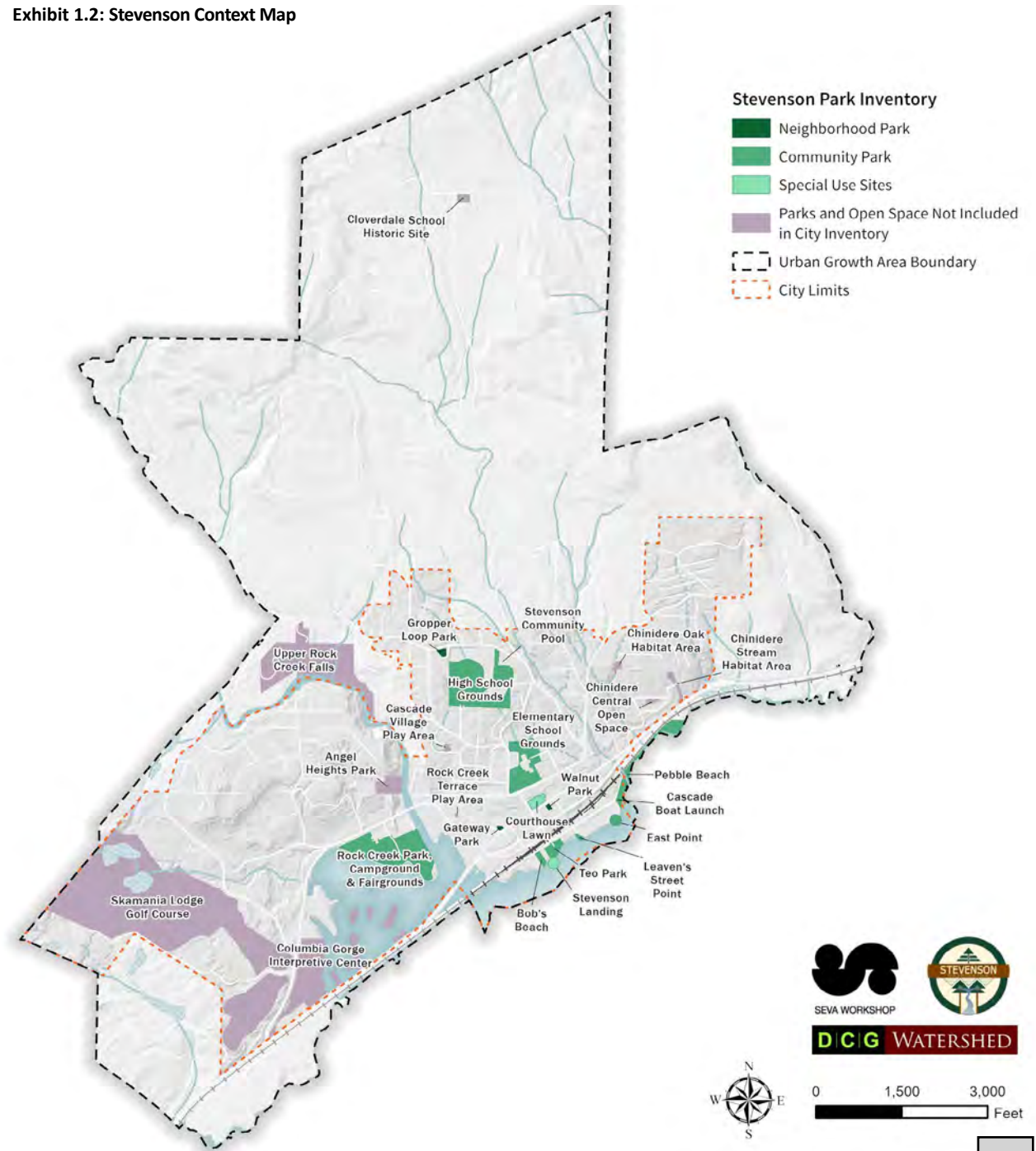
Race/Ethnicity: **84% White,
6% Hispanic, 10% non-Hispanic
People of Color**



Population with a
Reported Disability: **13%**

Sources: OFM population estimate for 2022;
ACS 5-year estimates, 2021.

Exhibit 1.2: Stevenson Context Map





Demographic profiles provide a snapshot of the City's current or previous population. However, community makeup will shift over time and the hope for a PROS Plan is to develop a durable system of amenities that provides high quality of life to an evolving community. The needs of both current and anticipated future residents should be considered.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

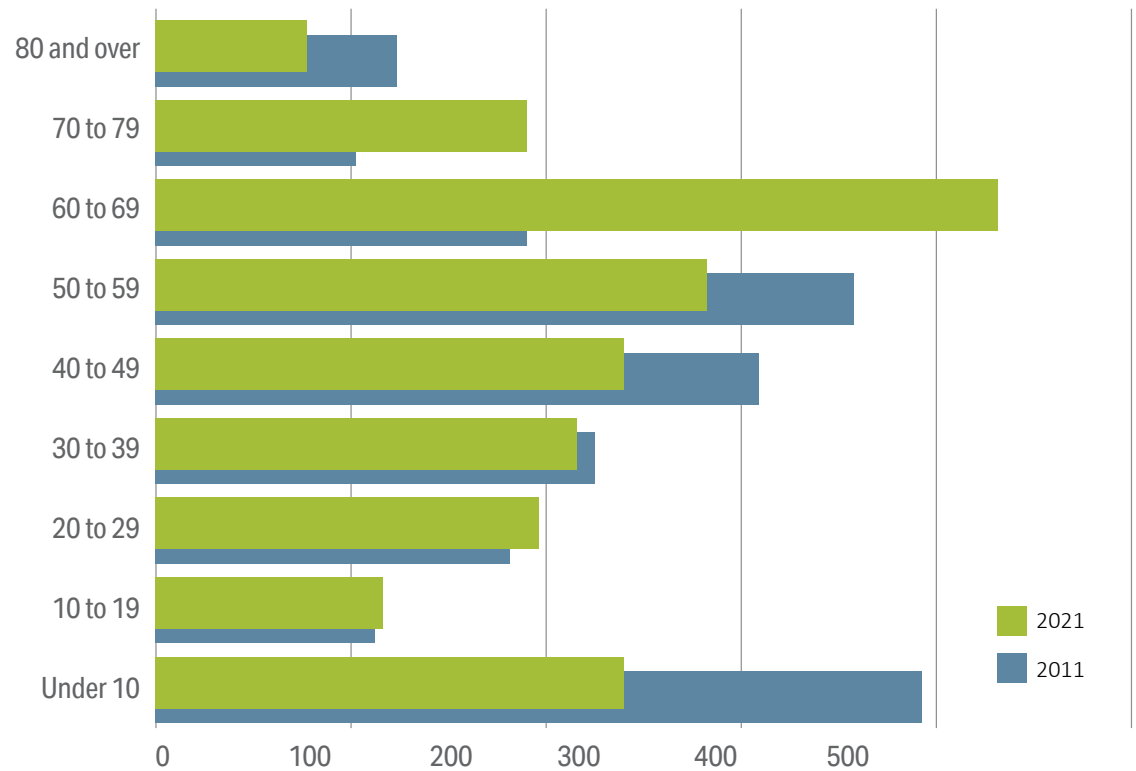
Stevenson's population is trending older.

Compared to 2011, the current population has lower proportions of children under 10 and adults in the 30-59 age range. There are higher proportions of adults aged 60-79, a bracket that often includes many retirees. The population of children and adults aged 10-39 has remained relatively stable. See [Exhibit 1.3](#).

The aging population trend is observed in household composition as well, with a decrease in households that have children.

Today in Stevenson, 23% of households include children. In 2011, 28% of households had children.⁴ Given the age shifts observed in [Exhibit 1.4](#) (page 11), many of the added household types without children are likely to include adults aged 60-79. These trends may impact the types of parks and recreation services that will best meet the needs of Stevenson's population in the coming years.

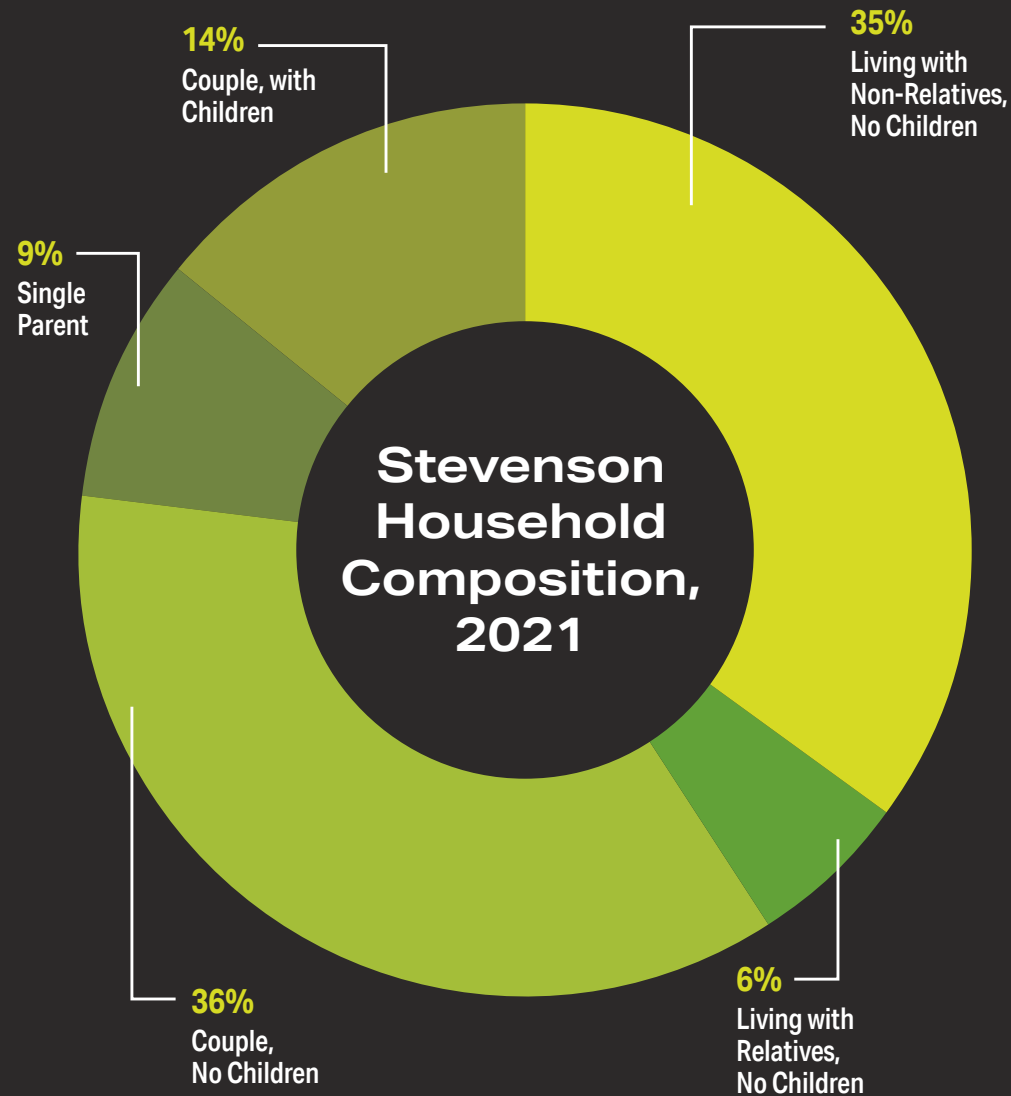
Exhibit 1.3 Stevenson Population by Age, 2011 & 2021



Sources: ACS 5-year estimates B01001, 2011 & 2021; Seva Workshop, 2023.

4 - ACS 5-year estimates B11005, 2011.

Exhibit 1.4: Stevenson Household Composition, 2021

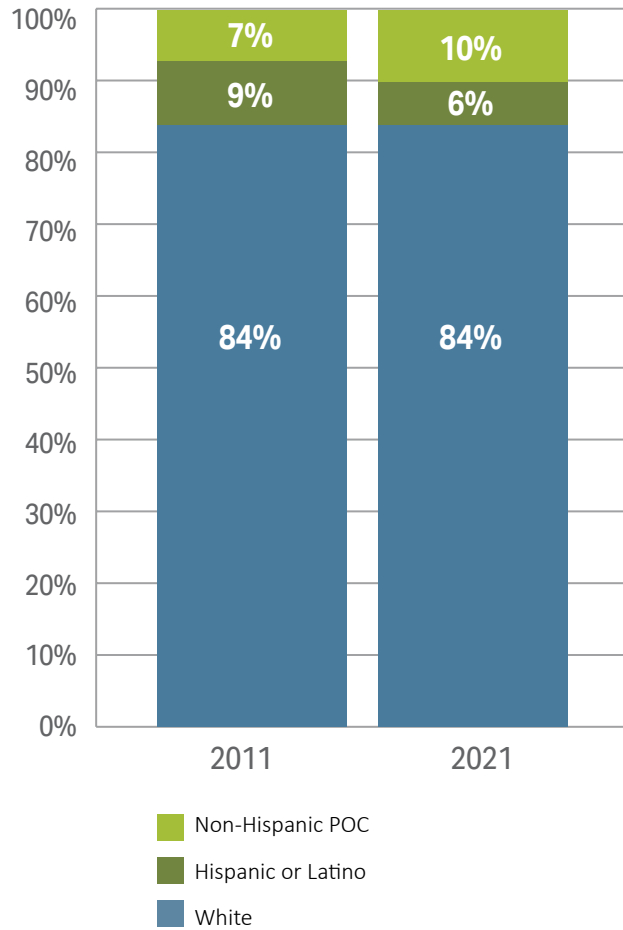


In 2021, 23% of Stevenson households include children. This represents a 4% proportional decrease from 2011, or a reduction of 39 households. This aligns with the population pyramid shifts, which show significant reduction in the population aged under 10 years old. The aging community may have different desires for investments in the park system.

Sources: ACS 5-year estimates B11005, 2021; Seva Workshop, 2023.

Stevenson’s population is 84% White (non-Hispanic), 6% Hispanic or Latino, and 10% Non-Hispanic People of Color. This is reflective of demographic trends across the County, although notably different from statewide demographics of 66% White, 13% Hispanic or Latino, and 21% Non-Hispanic People of Color as shown in [Exhibit 1.5 and 1.6](#).

Exhibit 1.5: Stevenson Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2011 and 2021.



Sources: ACS 5-year estimates B03002, 2021; Seva Workshop, 2023.



Exhibit 1.6: Stevenson Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2021.

RACE / ETHNICITY	STEVENSON POPULATION	% OF TOTAL	% OF TOTAL, WA STATE
American Indian/Alaska Native	38	2%	1%
Asian	4	0.2%	9%
Black	4	0.2%	4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	1%	1%
Other race	98	5%	0.4%
Two or more races	46	2%	6%
Hispanic or Latino	120	6%	13%
White	1,672	84%	66%
TOTAL POPULATION	1,994		

Sources: ACS 5-year estimates B03002, 2021; Seva Workshop, 2023.

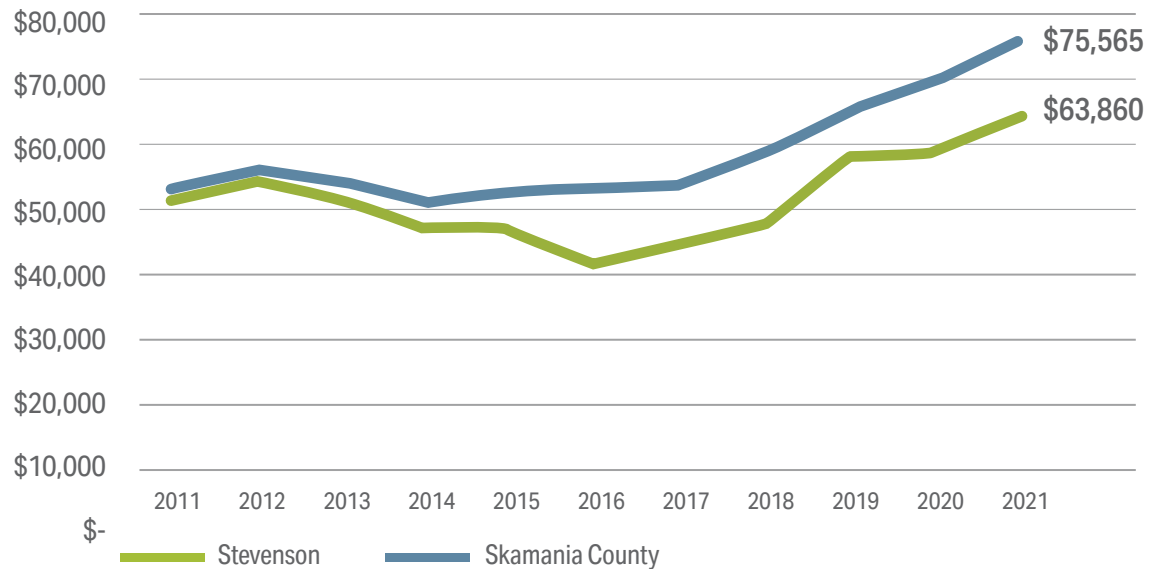


Stevenson households have lower incomes and have seen slower income growth over the past decade than those in Skamania County overall. The median household income in Stevenson is \$63,860. This is 15% lower than the median household income in Skamania County.⁵ In 2011, median incomes in Stevenson were similar to those for the county overall. However, from 2011-2021 the median income in Stevenson County grew by 24% while the median income in Skamania County grew by 43% over the same period. See [Exhibit 1.7](#). This information might suggest that Stevenson households were hit harder by impacts of the 2008 recession and continue to struggle with a full recovery.

Over half (58%) of Stevenson’s households have incomes that qualify at low-income levels or below. In 2021, households in Skamania County were considered low-income at \$77,350 or less.⁶ By this definition, approximately 18% of households are low-income and 40% are very- or extremely-low income. See [Exhibit 1.8](#) for details. Households with lower incomes are likely to benefit more from publicly accessible resources such as parks and trails, as they may lack access to quality outdoor space in their personal living situation.

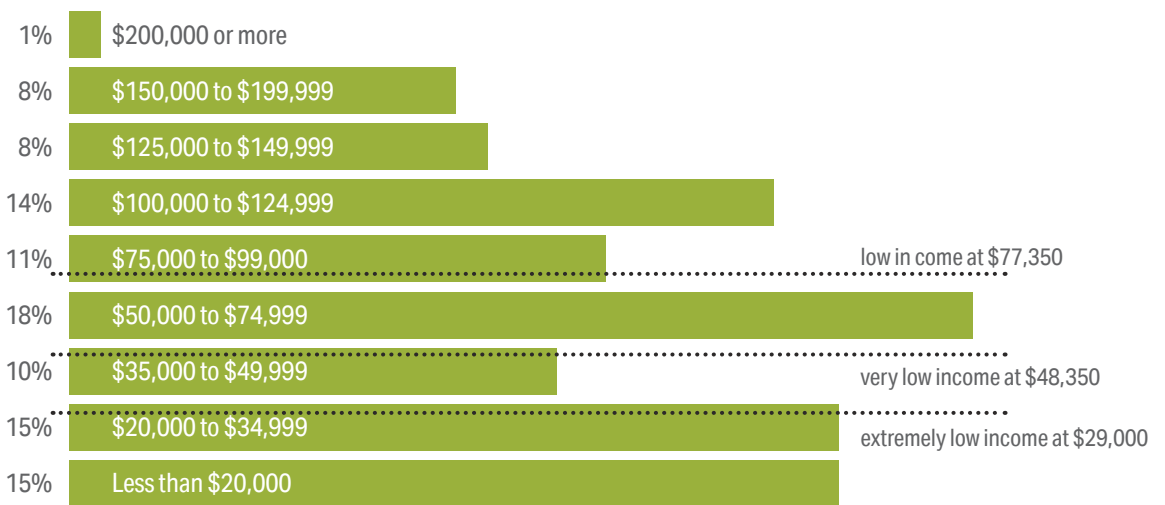
5 - ACS 5-year estimates B19013, 2021.
 6 - Based on HUD income limits, aggregated at the regional level, for FY 2021. Low-income thresholds are established at 80% of median household income, very-low income thresholds at 50%, and extremely low-income at 30%.

Exhibit 1.7: Median Household Income in Stevenson and Skamania County, 2011-2021.



Note: Each estimate reflects a 5-year summary of data. Therefore, impacts from events such as the 2008 recession are shown with a delay, as pre-2008 income information impacts estimates through year 2012.
 Sources: ACS 5-year estimate B1903, 2011-2021; Seva Workshop, 2023.

Exhibit 1.8: Household Incomes in Stevenson, 2021.



Sources: ACS 5-year estimates B19001, 2021; HUD income limits for the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro metro area, 2021; Seva Workshop, 2023.



Skamania County Fairgrounds in Stevenson, WA
 Source: Skamania Lodge

7 - Based on information available about cruise ship capacity and trip frequency from American Cruise Lines and American Queen Voyages. Assumes 121 trips annually across six vessels.

8 - Washington Department of Revenue [2019 Fair Report](#).

9 - SDA Branding Survey, 2021

TOURISM AND VISITORS

The Stevenson community attracts a wide network of visitors who enjoy the scenic landscape, the Columbia River, the Gorge winds, and regional events and festivals. Some visitors are once a year and event-specific, while others come regularly to enjoy the farmer’s market and waterfront amenities. A 2021 survey from the farmer’s market identifies between 280-450 annual visitors to Stevenson’s Downtown, with more than half of these visitors coming on a weekly basis. Downtown visitors, both residents and from outside communities, report enjoying the charming, small town feel; the beautiful surroundings; and a sense of friendly community spirit.⁹

Cruises and the County Fair attract up to 41,000 visitors each year, in addition to a selection of additional events and festivals hosted each year in the city. This list highlights Stevenson’s biggest tourism drivers:

- **Cruises.** Throughout summer months, two different river cruise lines with six vessels offer trips up and down the Columbia River,

stopping in Stevenson. If fully booked, these trips have the capacity to bring 21,000 visitors to Stevenson annually.⁷

- **The County Fair.** The Skamania County fairgrounds are located in Stevenson, hosting the annual Skamania County Fair and Timber Festival in August. Estimated attendance is 20,000.⁸
- **Events and Festivals.** A wide variety of events and festivals are held in Stevenson each year, including events, music festivals, and holiday celebrations.
 - Country Chic (craft bazaar)
 - Sip & Stroll (food and beverage tasting event)
 - Gorge Blues and Brews (music festival)
 - 4th of July Celebration
 - GorgeGrass (music festival)
 - Stevenson Waterfront Music Festival
 - Show & Shine (car show)
 - Christmas in the Gorge



02

Parks Inventory and Level of Service



Parks Inventory

The purpose of the parks inventory is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing recreational and open space resources within the City of Stevenson planning area.

This inventory extends beyond city-owned and maintained properties, and includes Skamania County, Port of Skamania, Stevenson-Carson School District, and Stevenson Pool District facilities within Stevenson that support public access and opportunities for recreation for the community. The assessment includes a report on the supply and condition of existing recreational facilities including the following key elements:

- Ownership and classification
- Supply and condition: outlines the current state of recreational facilities, noting

conditions and highlighting any weaknesses or areas requiring attention.

- Natural resources
- Other: programmed events, planned projects, or other notable features

The inventory serves as a foundation for proposed projects, allowing for a comprehensive evaluation of the condition, functionality, and sustainability of maintaining existing facilities. It identifies weaknesses and potential areas for renovation or replacement, and provides indicators of usage levels. The evaluation of level of service informs the needs analysis and identifies the capacity of the current inventory, determining whether facilities meet the demand for recreational activities.

In the 2022 Comprehensive Plan, Stevenson's parks are categorized into four classes based on size, characteristics, general use, and service area. The classifications in Stevenson's comprehensive plan included:

- Class I: Pocket Park
- Class II: Passive Green or Blue Space Park
- Class III: Neighborhood/Community Park
- Class IV: Sacred Places

These classifications no longer fully capture the diverse range of services and experiences that parks provide in the present day. As the city looks to enhance the parks and recreation system, there is a need to update these classifications.



Teo Park

Moving forward, this plan will adopt new classifications, grounded in National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) guidelines, which encompass three main categories: Parks and Recreation, Open Space, and Trails. The comprehensive plan should be amended to avoid conflicts between plans.

PROPOSED PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

1. PARKS AND RECREATION

a. Neighborhood Parks I

Neighborhood parks are relatively small, community-oriented spaces designed to serve the recreational needs of residents within a specific locality. These parks often feature playgrounds, green spaces, and amenities for passive and active recreation, providing a local gathering point for families and individuals. Neighborhood parks are located throughout the community to encourage access by walking, biking, and transit. Vehicular parking is not typically provided at Neighborhood Parks.

b. Community Parks II

Community parks are larger in scale and designed to serve a broader population, often drawing visitors from throughout Stevenson and outside of the community. They offer a wider range of recreational facilities and amenities to meet the needs of a wider user group. Community parks cater to a diverse set

of recreational interests. Community parks are typically located centrally within community to encourage access by walking, biking, transit, and vehicles. Vehicular parking is typically provided at Community Parks.

c. Special Use Sites III

Special use sites refer to areas within the parks and recreation system that have specific, unique purposes. Special use sites are typically tailored to meet distinct community needs or provide unique recreational experiences.

2. OPEN SPACE

In a community like Stevenson, the concept of open space extends beyond formally designated areas outlined by zoning or land use codes. Apart from designated open spaces or habitat areas, additional areas are safeguarded by critical areas ordinances, including shoreline and stream buffers, wetlands, and geologically hazardous zones, such as steep slopes. These preservation measures intend to preserve ecological health, biodiversity, and promote community well-being by limiting impact to these spaces to trails and passive recreation opportunities. It is important to recognize that areas outside critical zones lack the same level of protections, making them susceptible to potential land cover changes as Stevenson experiences growth. Despite existing open space requirements and development

incentives within city limits, there arises a need for a comprehensive inventory of preserved open spaces and perceived open areas in the future. Such an inventory would facilitate a thorough understanding of the potential impact of future development on the overall open space network, ensuring a balanced approach to urban expansion while preserving the ecological integrity of the community.

3. TRAILS

Trails are designated pathways or routes designed for walking, hiking, biking, or other recreational activities. They can traverse various landscapes, including parks, natural areas, and urban spaces. Trails provide opportunities for outdoor exercise, connectivity between different areas, and a means for individuals to explore and appreciate the surrounding environment. They can vary in length and difficulty, catering to a diverse range of users and recreational preferences. In addition to the recreational value of trails, these corridors often double as wildlife corridors.

Exhibit 2.1 locates existing park and recreation resources within Stevenson.

The following inventory identifies city and non-city owned and maintained parks and open spaces. **Exhibit 2.2** Summarizes the condition and amenities within those spaces.

Exhibit 2.1: Stevenson Parks Network by Ownership

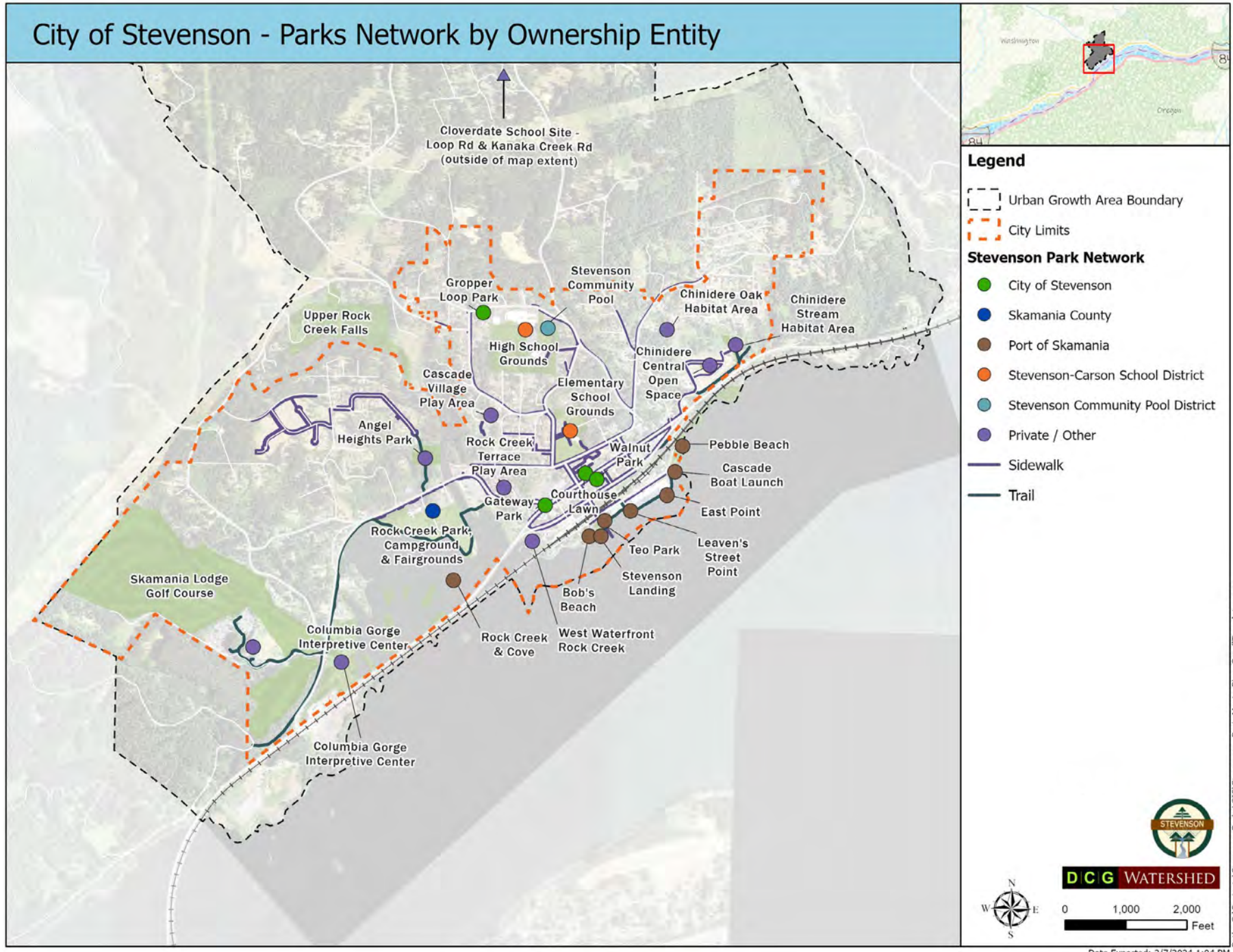


Exhibit 2.2: Existing facilities and amenities.

Park Name	N = Neighborhood Park C = Community Park SU = Special Use Site	Total (Count of Parks)	Gateway Park	Gropper Loop Park	Walnut Park	Stevenson High School	Stevenson Elementary	Stevenson Community Pool	Rock Creek Park & Fairgrounds	Bob's Beach	Teo Park	Leaven's Point	East Point	Cascade Boat Launch	Pebble Beach	Stevenson Landing	Skamania County Courthouse Lawn
Park Class			N	N	N	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	SU	SU
Total Acres		62.5	0.1	0.5	0.2	26.5	9.5		22.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.3		1.1
Active Recreation	Baseball/Softball Field	0						X									
	Basketball Court	1						X									
	Swimming Pool	1															
	Track	1				X											
	Fitness Equipment	0															
	Football Field	1				X											
	Soccer Field	1				X											
	Tennis Court	1				X											
	Skate Park	0						C									
	RV Camping	1							X								
	Boat Launch	1												X			
	Concession Stand	1				X											
	Fishing Access	3							X					X	X		
Passive Recreation	Flexible Use Lawn Area	9				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
	Picnic Shelter	1							X								
	Outdoor Musical Play Equipment	2								X	X						
	Play Structure	3					X		X		X						
	Dog Park	0															
	Water Feature (Pond/Lake)	8							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Adjacent Water Feature	1							X								
	Natural Area/Open Space	1							X								
	Interpretive Elements	6			X				X		X	X	X				X
	Trails (Soft-Surfaced)	1													X		
Trails (Hard Surface)	5							X		X	X	X				X	
Amenities	Barbecue	0															
	Bench	8	X		X		X	X	X	X				X			X
	Bike Racks	3	X		X												X
	Bus Shelter	1	X														
	Changing Shelter	2								X				X			
	Community Garden	1							X								
	Informational Kiosk/Sign	4	X		X				X					X			
	Drinking Fountain	2											X	X			
	Flagpole	2							X								X
	Parking - Off Street	6				X	X	X	X	X					X		
	Picnic Tables	5			X		X		X					X			X
	Restroom	4							X	X	X			X			
	Shade Structure	1					X										
Waste Receptacles	3			X				X					X				



Gateway Park

City of Stevenson

GATEWAY PARK

A 0.12-acre site located to the northeast of the intersection of Second Street and Rock Creek Drive in downtown Stevenson, Gateway Park was constructed in 2000 to beautify and soften the western entrance to downtown Stevenson. The park includes landscaping, irrigation, a bench, a bike rack, a bus shelter with a bench, rock walls and pillars, a Stevenson sign, a trash receptacle, and seasonal decorations.

The landscaping is showing signs of stress including areas of the lawn that are not being irrigated, shrubs that have died back, and a line of declining trees separating the park from the adjacent gas station. This site is underutilized as a space for community uses or gatherings. Although named Gateway Park, there are minimal features or indicators that this site identifies one of the gateways into downtown.

Classification: **Neighborhood Park**

Natural Resources: Ornamental landscaping

Other: Planned projects include irrigation repair



Walnut Park

WALNUT PARK

A 0.19-acre property located on the south side of Second Street between Russell Avenue and Leavens Street, Walnut Park adds pleasant greenery to Downtown Stevenson’s urban fabric. As part of 2004’s Second Street improvement project, this park was rehabilitated and now includes landscaping, tables, benches, bike racks, trash cans, rock retaining walls, interpretive signage, a directional kiosk, an in-pavement dance tutorial, and pavers purchased through community donations. The central space of the park is currently being leased by the adjacent business during the summer months to be used as an outdoor dining area.

Classification: **Neighborhood Park**

Natural Resources: The site contains a legacy Walnut tree that provides both shade and character to the site. A few younger walnut trees are also located on the site.

Other: Leased as an outdoor dining area

GROPPER LOOP PARK

A 0.54-acre site located on the south side of Gropper Road between its two intersections with Gropper Loop Road. The tree and grass open space is the result of a realignment of Gropper Road. Other than a series of decorative trees encircling the area and regular mowing, the site has never been developed or maintained for active park purposes.

Classification: **Neighborhood Park/Undeveloped**

Natural Resources: Street trees and unirrigated lawn

Other: N/A



Gropper Loop Park



Rock Creek Drive Multi-use trail

ROCK CREEK DRIVE MULTI-USE TRAIL

The Rock Creek Drive multi-use trail is an 8' wide asphalt paved trail, approximately 0.35-mile long, connecting Mallicott Road to the Mill Pond Trail. The trails converge at the intersection of SW Rock Creek Drive and SW Skamania Lodge Way.

Classification: **Trail**

MILL POND TRAIL SIDEWALK CONNECTOR

This 0.5-mile trail begins at Columbia George Interpretive Center Museum as an accessible concrete sidewalk and follows along the shoreline of Rock Cove, connecting to an extension of this trail on the Skamania County Fairgrounds. The trail along SW Rock Creek Drive and on the County Fairgrounds total 1.8 miles.

Classification: **Trail**

ANGEL HEIGHTS TRAIL

The Angel Heights trail is a 0.2-mile asphalt paved trail connects the Angel Heights neighborhood down the hill to the County Fairgrounds and is maintained by the city.

Classification: **Trail**

UNCATEGORIZED CITY LAND

Although not specifically inventoried in this plan, the city owns many uncategorized spaces such as underutilized areas, vacant lots, rights-of-ways, and utility corridors that hold significant potential to contribute to parks and recreation goals. These areas are maintained and indistinguishable from private land in most instances. They contain no amenities such as benches, trash cans, or signs.

Classification: **N/A**

Natural Resources: Some areas have been planted with street trees and provide stormwater management.

Other: N/A



Mill Pond Trail



Skamania County Fairgrounds



Courthouse Lawn

Skamania County

ROCK CREEK PARK, CAMPGROUND & FAIRGROUNDS

Rock Creek Park and the Fairgrounds are located on a 31-acre site owned by Skamania County between Rock Cove and Rock Creek. The site is home to many festivals and events, including the long-standing county fair which has been in Stevenson since 1908. The park offers camping, a place for leashed dogs, open fields, parking, picnic areas, a shelter, a play area, restrooms, and a viewpoint. Also on the site is a community garden, a decommissioned skate area, an arena, barns, and trails along Rock Cove. The Hegewald Center community center and a footbridge across Rock Creek provide connections for the larger Stevenson community. The property provides park amenities like a play area, indoor pickleball, trails and community garden which can be used by the community year-round.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Fairgrounds boast diverse natural resources, including a riparian area along Rock Creek, a shoreline along Rock Cove with sections restored and other areas protected by riprap.

Adjacent to Rock Creek Drive, a notable stand of old oak trees enhances the scenic landscape.

Other: Programmed Events held here include the County Fair and Timber Carnival, Columbia Gorge Bluegrass Festival, Community Garage Sale, Gorge Blues & Brews, 4th of July celebrations, and Christmas in the Gorge.

COURTHOUSE LAWN

This 1.07-acre site is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Russell and Second streets. Home to the community's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, first choice of political and free speech demonstrations, a natural amphitheater used for high school band performances, premier barrel rolling hills for the youngest area residents, and Armed Forces Memorial. The Courthouse Lawn has street-side benches and drinking fountain, a prominent flag pole, and small picnic area with a monumental petrified log. In 2020 the Stevenson Downtown Association opened the Stevenson Sreatery, which is a public gathering place for outdoor dining adjacent to Second Street which has picnic tables painted by local resident artists surrounded by railings.

Classification: **Special Use Site**

Natural Resources: Irrigated lawn with large trees throughout the landscape

Other: Programmed events held here include Christmas in the Gorge, Stevenson High School Band Concert. Planned Projects include planning underway for the development of a new Park Plaza. The project consists of working with the Stevenson Downtown Association and Skamania County on constructing a plaza in front of the courthouse and establishing a long-term maintenance agreement.

MILL POND TRAIL

This 1.3-mile trail follows along the shoreline of Rock Cove and connects along the cove as an asphalt trail on the Skamania County Fairgrounds. The trail crosses Rock Creek over a footbridge and connects to a crosswalk at SW Rock Creek Drive near Lotz Road. This trail connects to the City's portion of the Mill Pond Trail along SW Rock Creek Drive which extends another 0.5 miles to the Columbia Gorge Museum.

Classification: **Trail**



Stevenson-Carson School District

STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL

An approximately 26.25-acre site located between Willard Street, Bulldog Drive, and Gropper Road, the Stevenson High School is part of the heart of the Stevenson community. The School facility has an indoor gym, auditorium, weight room, and library and meeting rooms. Outdoors, the School offers a stadium for football, soccer, and track, practice fields, and tennis courts. Some indoor and outdoor facilities, such as the gym and football field, are available to the community to rent.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: The managed open spaces on the high school property are primarily either irrigated or non-irrigated lawn. Areas around the school entrance and near the pool building are landscaped

with ornamental plantings. A number of edges of the property contain significant tree canopy.

Other: N/A Community Rental Spaces

Natural Resources: The managed open spaces on the high school property are primarily either irrigated or non-irrigated lawn. Areas around the school entrance and near the pool building are landscaped with ornamental plantings. A number of edges of the property contain significant tree canopy.

STEVENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

More than two thirds of Stevenson Elementary School's 9.5-acre site located to the northeast of the Vancouver Avenue and School Street intersection is devoted to open space and recreation. The facility offers a covered play area, multiple swings and play structures, grass and asphalt play areas, basketball hoops, benches, landscaping, public art, an undisturbed wooded area, and an indoor gym and auditorium. The outdoor play structures are old

and although many are in functional condition, they don't meet the standards for the appropriate age ranges and provide limited opportunities for kids with differing needs and abilities. Outdoor play structures are available for the public to use during non-school hours.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: The managed open spaces on the high school property are primarily non-irrigated lawn. Areas around the school entrance and the parking lot are landscaped with ornamental plantings. The northern edge of the property contains significant tree canopy. The Southern edge of the property, adjacent to Vancouver Ave has a number of non-native and invasive plants that are a challenge to maintain.

Other: The School district is planning playground updates to provide age appropriate play opportunities.



Stevenson Community Pool District

STEVENSON COMMUNITY POOL

The Stevenson Community Pool is a popular aquatic facility in the community, providing a place for residents and visitors to enjoy swimming and aquatic activities. It offers various programs, including swimming lessons for different age groups, open swim sessions, water aerobics, and special events. This pool serves as a valuable resource for recreation, fitness, and water safety education in the Stevenson area. The pool parking lot is on a steep slope and may be difficult to navigate for individuals with mobility challenges. Next to the pool is a fenced area containing basketball courts. The surfacing is cracked and that area is underutilized.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: N/A

Other: The bleachers next to the pool are going to be removed to make more space next to the pool.





Stevenson Landing



Bob's Beach



Teo Park



Leaven's Point

Port of Skamania County

The port of Skamania County owns approximately 18-acres of land along Stevenson's waterfront. There are a number of parks and open spaces located along the waterfront connected by a continuous trail. Although not directly connected, these parks are thought of by the community as a cohesive park space and thus this string of parks can be considered a community park. These parks are:

BOB'S BEACH

Bob's Beach features a lawn open space, natural stone steps into the water, a covered changing cabana, easy spacious launching area, picnic tables, as well as public parking and public restrooms located at the Port of Skamania's offices.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Shoreline, beach, tree canopy

Other: N/A

STEVENSON LANDING

Stevenson Landing is a cruise ship pier located on the Columbia River at mile 150 in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The concrete pier is 200 feet long, 15 feet wide and has a 55' by 6'6" adjustable steel gangway. Three sets of dolphins are centered on the gangway at 12', 66' and 156', which allow for a range of docking possibilities.

Classification: **Special Use Site**

Natural Resources: N/A

Other: N/A

TEO PARK

Teo Park is a one-acre site with amenities that include picnic tables, benches, outdoor musical play equipment, lawn on the Columbia River bank with views of the Columbia River and mountains of the Gorge, restrooms, Andrew Carson's kinetic wind art sculpture. Accessible parking is located in the adjacent parking lot. The Stevenson Farmers Market

is hosted on the adjacent Port owned potential development.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Irrigated lawn, shoreline, tree canopy

Other: The Stevenson Farmers Market takes place on the greenspace directly adjacent to Teo Park to the east.

LEAVEN'S POINT

Leaven's Point is a picnic area located just east of Stevenson Landing and provides nice views of Stevenson Landing. The site drops from the elevated level of the trail down to a lawn open space adjacent to the waters edge. The park includes interpretive signage, gravel beach access, slides that follow the slope, and outdoor musical play equipment.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Shoreline

Other: N/A



Pebble Beach



East Point



Cascade Boat Launch

EAST POINT

East Point is a water access point that is a favorite spot of kiteboarders. The upper portion of the site is adjacent to the waterfront trail and parking and has a picnic table, informational sign, and a small lawn area used by kiteboarders to lay out their gear. A narrow unimproved path connects the upper portion of the site to a gravel beach near the water. A restroom and changing cabana is located nearby.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Irrigated lawn, shoreline, beach

Other: N/A

CASCADE BOAT LAUNCH

Cascade Boat Launch is a free launch providing access for jet skiing, fishing, sailing, and kayaking, and is located just off of Cascade Avenue. It has a small parking lot, several picnic tables, a restroom facility and changing cabana, a water fountain, a lawn area, and an informational kiosk with a life jacket loaner station.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Lawn, shoreline, beach

Other: N/A

PEBBLE BEACH

Pebble Beach is a waterfront access point tucked away from the rest of the waterfront. The park contains unimproved trails and a wooden bridge over Kanaka Creek. Visitors can park at the Cascade Boat Launch parking area to access Pebble Beach.

Classification: **Community Park**

Natural Resources: Natural shoreline, beach, tree canopy

Other: N/A

WATERFRONT TRAIL

A 0.3-mile asphalt paved trail runs along the top of the Columbia River's shoreline, connecting Teo Park, Stevenson Landing, Leaven's Point, East Point and the Cascade Boat Launch. An informal unpaved trail section connects through Pebble Beach to the water's edge.

Classification: **Trail**



Annual Maintenance and Operational Costs

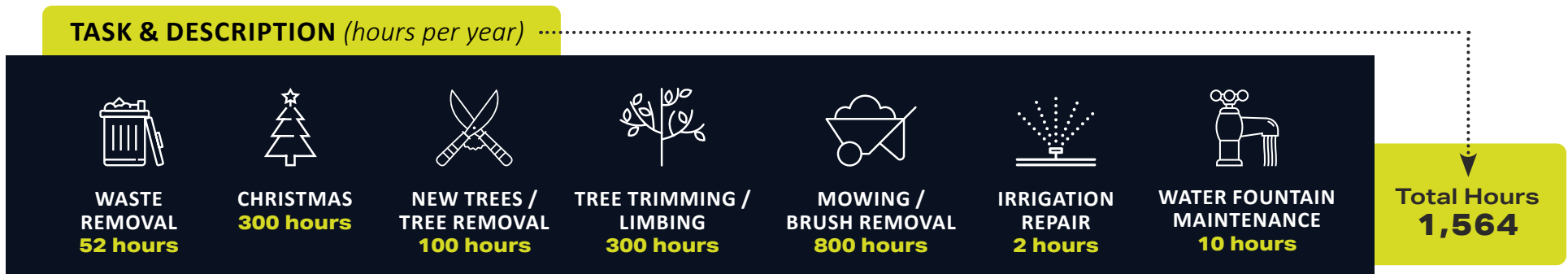
The following summary describes the annual tasks and costs associated with maintaining and operating each existing recreational site in the city by the City of Stevenson staff.

The city employs four, full time, Utility maintenance workers. The focus of their job is to maintain city utilities, and secondary to their duties is the

maintenance and upkeep of any park, streetscape, or open space owned by the city. Tasks include waste removal, tree care (trimming or limbing) and tree planting, mowing, brush removal, tree removal, irrigation maintenance and repair, water fountain maintenance and winterization, and the annual installation and removal of Christmas decorations.

The total approximate effort in hours per year to complete the above tasks is 1,564 hours (see table). This is equivalent to 75% of one FTE hours. Park

maintenance expenditures per year are estimated at \$100,000 including salaries. This breaks down to approximately \$46,500-\$57,750 to cover staff hours, and \$53,500- \$42,250 for equipment, maintenance costs, and other expenses. The city funds these yearly costs through their annual operating budget. For any capital projects such as tree planting, new landscaping, or other park enhancements, they attempt to locate grants to fund them. Currently there are discussions to purchase snow removal equipment for sidewalk maintenance.



3 - Stevenson Budget Book 2024

4 - <https://rco.wa.gov/recreation-and-conservation-office-grants/find-a-grant/>

Existing Demand and LOS for Park Services

Parks promote health and wellness, encourage early childhood development, build community connection, and contribute to resilience and ecological health.¹ The development and maintenance of a robust parks and recreation network is an important function that many cities assume. The City of Stevenson is a small community by population, and there is no official Parks and Recreation department. Still, the City owns and manages 3 neighborhood parks; residents have access to a variety of larger parks and open spaces via the school district, County services, and a handful of privately-owned spaces; and the Port of Skamania owns and maintains a breathtaking waterfront with public access along the Columbia River.

Recreation services in the community, such as youth sports leagues are offered via entities such as the school district, sport-specific nonprofits, and Skamania County's Cultural Events and Recreation department. Residents, workers, and visitors in Stevenson have access to an exceptional opportunity for waterfront access and recreation through the Port's spaces and amenities, as well as the Skamania Lodge and Golf Course. Given this, the focus of the City of Stevenson's future planning is to strengthen and support the parks network that is woven throughout city neighborhoods. These spaces provide direct benefits to the everyday members of the Stevenson community.

1- NRPA "Parks and Recreation is Essential"

Stevenson's public park network consists of 15 parks, totaling 63.5-acres and 2.9 miles of trails.

These parks range from small, neighborhood parks to large, regional highlights such as Stevenson Landing and Bob's Beach at the Port of Skamania Waterfront. In addition, a collection of undeveloped open spaces and privately owned recreation spaces add to greenspace in the city. The two largest parks areas – Stevenson High School grounds and Rock Creek Park Campgrounds and County Fairgrounds – account for 77% of the total acreage.

Level of Service (LOS) for this plan will focus on the 15 parks identified on the map in Exhibit 2.1.

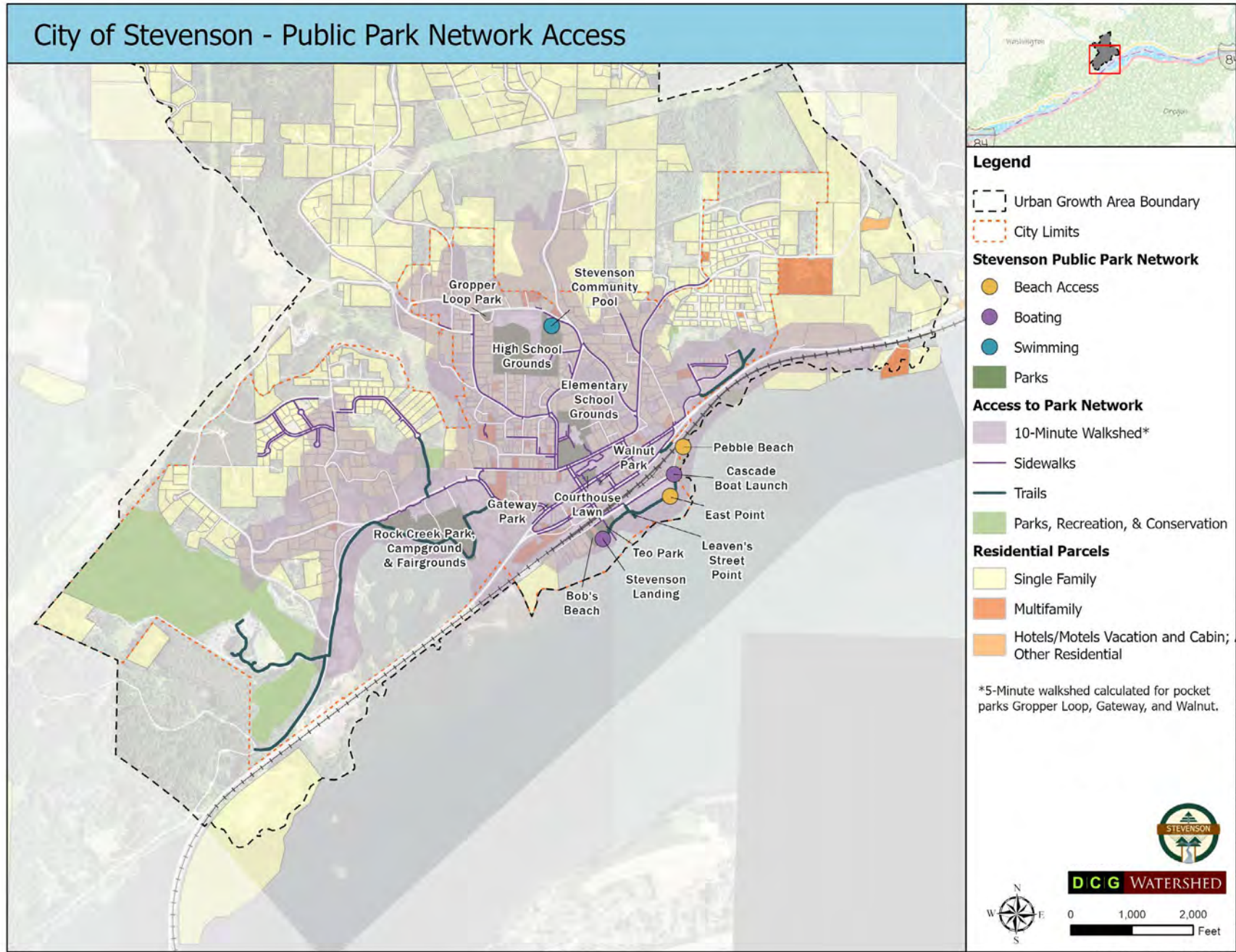
Additional undeveloped open spaces and privately owned recreation spaces are shown on the map as well. These spaces add value to a community in a variety of ways – offering outdoor recreation opportunities, improving air quality and tree canopy, and providing protected habitat spaces important to local biodiversity. However, these spaces do not offer public access in the same way as the parks included for LOS analysis. Some have paid entry (such as the golf course), some are closed off for general public access (such as multifamily building sites), and others are protected habitat areas with limited entry points for the general public.

These are considered in this project for a better understanding about neighborhood access to green space and amenities but will not be included for purposes of LOS calculations.

This LOS analysis considers 3 major categories of services, but these are not the only metrics that matter. For example, service is not broken out by park type. This means that acreage of all parks are combined, regardless of their use. This helps paint a good picture of the overall space and trail lengths available in Stevenson, but does not identify needs by type of space- such as preserved open space versus programmed park area. Another example is service levels for specific facility types, such as playgrounds or sport courts. With its smaller population, national metrics don't fit well for Stevenson in these categories. Instead, this PROS Plan takes a qualitative approach to evaluate facility and amenity offerings. As Stevenson continues to grow its population, additional approaches to LOS analysis may be needed to ensure adequate balance of preservation and open space/ conservation areas as well as programmed park space for community recreation.



Exhibit 2.3: Park Access Map, City of Stevenson





The map in [Exhibit 2.3](#) also shows a 10-minute (or ½ mile) walkshed around each park, indicated with purple, to explore access and LOS to park space geographically. Walksheds around neighborhood parks are reduced to 5-minute. This park access map reveals gaps of coverage for residential areas in northeast Stevenson and to the north of Rock Creek Fairgrounds. This walkshed coverage, however, does not take into account topography – which, in parts of Stevenson, presents a significant additional barrier to access for residents. Elevation changes in Stevenson are steep and can make even a short walk a high barrier to access for those who live nearby.

The table in [Exhibit 2.4](#) summarizes existing levels of service (LOS) in Stevenson for three main categories – total acreage, trail length, and percentage of households (or residential parcels) within the walkshed boundary. The Stevenson community has higher LOS for total acres of park space, at 31.0-acres per 1,000 residents than the national median of 13-acres (per NRPA). Trail access, however, is lower at 1.5 miles per 1,000 residents compared to 4 miles nationally. By walkshed, coverage within city limits is at 86% and within the full UGA boundary is at 69%. [Exhibit 2.3](#) identifies the residential parcels outside of the existing walkshed boundary.

Exhibit 2.4: Stevenson Parks LOS, 2023

	Stevenson	NRPA median for cities less than 20,000
Acres of park per 1,000 pop	31.0	13
Miles of trails per 1,000 pop	1.5	4
% of households* within the walkshed boundary (city limits)	86%	N/A
% of households* within the walkshed boundary (city + UGA)	69%	N/A

**Households, for this LOS metric, are defined as residential parcels from assessor data. These parcel counts have been cleaned for accuracy. Sources: City of Stevenson, 2023; OFM Population Estimates, 2022; National Recreation and Park Association, 2023; Seva Workshop, 2023.*



Teo Park



Stevenson Community Pool

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks, often referred to as “pocket parks” serve daily needs for residents, offering play spaces for children and recreation or relaxation opportunities for adults. These parks

are one acre or less in size. They are community focused and pedestrian-oriented spaces. They may contain features and amenities such as bike racks, benches, tables, or small play structures. Neighborhood park networks are important for ensuring a high quality of life to residents.

There are 3 existing neighborhood parks in Stevenson for purposes of LOS calculations, totaling 0.85-acres of space. All of these parks

are owned and maintained by the city: Gateway Park, Gropper Loop Park, and Walnut Park. Gropper Loop Park is undeveloped, while the other 2 offer amenities such as benches, bike racks, and informational signs. Walnut Park offers picnic tables, interpretive elements, and waste receptacles. None of these parks include play structures, fitness equipment, flex use lawn area, or restrooms. See a comprehensive inventory of amenities at these parks in [Exhibit 2.2](#).

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are mid-sized parks that serve as active and/or passive recreation spaces. They range between one and ten acres in size; can be

pedestrian- or vehicle-oriented; and might include facilities such as a community center, sport or pool complex, hiking trails, or a boat launch. The network of community parks is an important system that provides recreation opportunities and gathering spaces within a city. With more specialized facilities, these spaces often serve a wider segment of the population or geographic area who may be driving to attend a youth baseball game or for a swim at the pool.

In Stevenson, there are 10 community parks, totaling 61.6-acres of space. These include Stevenson High School and Stevenson Elementary School (both owned and maintained by the Stevenson-Carson School District) the Stevenson Community Pool, operated by the Pool District, Rock Creek Park, Campground, & Fairgrounds, owned and managed by Skamania County, and the Port waterfront including Bob’s Beach, Stevenson Landing, Teo Park, Leaven’s Point, East Point, Cascade Boat Launch, and Pebble Beach. The Stevenson Community Pool is located on the site of the high school. The high school is a large, 26.5-acre site that includes many athletic facilities such as a track, football and soccer field, tennis courts, and flex-use lawn area. Indoor recreation facilities include a gym, auditorium, weight room, library, and meeting rooms. These spaces are available to the community, but access is controlled

through the school’s administrative office and community entry is not allowed during school hours.

The community pool was previously operated by Skamania County and then the Stevenson-Carson School District, but budget concerns led to its closure. The facility was reopened in 2022 and is now under management of the Pool District. It is open 6 days a week, with paid entry. Stevenson Elementary School is a 9.5-acre site. Much of its acreage is devoted to open space and recreation. There are play areas, basketball hoops, benches, and open space. Indoor facilities include a gym and auditorium available to the community outside of school hours via the school’s administrative office. Like the high school, outdoor spaces are open to the general public when not in use by students. A comprehensive list of these parks’ amenities and features can be found in [Exhibit 2.2](#).

While these 3 sites offer a wide range of recreation facilities and open spaces for Stevenson’s community benefit, each site has limitations for public access. Schools are only open to the broader community outside of academic hours and use by school-sponsored recreational activities. The pool has paid entry and limited hours, given the need for lifeguards and high levels of maintenance.



Courthouse lawn



Stevenson boat launch

SPECIAL USE SITES

Special use sites can come in any size but hold unique and intangible value to the Stevenson community. These spaces reflect community values, build civic pride, and help define a community’s identity. Special use sites often draw tourists or regional visitors as well. In Stevenson this consists of the County courthouse lawn and Stevenson Landing.

The Skamania County Courthouse Lawn is an important gathering site in the city. Its location is adjacent to downtown and the waterfront and serves as a civic commons and a hub for public life.

In addition to the Courthouse Lawn site, Stevenson Landing is identified as a special use site in Stevenson. This dock provides water recreation access to the Columbia River.

OPEN SPACE

Open space parks can be any size and are reserved primarily for natural area preservation and passive recreation. They may be pedestrian- or vehicle-oriented and could include amenities such

as bathrooms, shelters, picnic areas, open areas, or trails. These spaces are important within an urban environment for access to nature, providing connections through natural areas, and protecting habitats and/or view corridors. In addition to park space, the open water provides acres and acres of flexible space enjoyed by the community.

No open space parks within Stevenson are suitable for inclusion in LOS calculations. Angel Heights Park meets this description, but it is privately owned and primarily serves as an amenity for the neighboring subdivision. There is a publicly maintained multi-use trail within the park, and the remaining area is wooded and undeveloped.

FACILITIES

The range of active and passive recreation facilities available in a city should reflect the diverse interests and lifestyles of its community members.

Passive facilities are those that are flexible and informal, such as open lawns, picnic shelters, and trails. These types of facilities are typically in high demand across all age groups and demographic

segments. Active facilities are more structured and facilitate certain types of recreation, such as playgrounds, sport courts or fields, boat launches, skate parks, pools, or community centers. These amenities may be more popular among people of certain age groups, genders, income segments, or cultural backgrounds. Demand for these specific types of activities may ebb and flow over the years.

There is no perfect balance of amenity and facility offerings in a community. Rather, a city should hope to respond to community interest and offer a range of options attractive to residents and visitors alike. The quantity and distribution of offerings will vary based on budgets, maintenance needs, geography, and available space. Passive facilities are important for their broad appeal – securing access across Stevenson’s neighborhoods to trails, playgrounds, and open space is an important goal of the park system. Active facilities add unique character, inspire and enhance recreation activity, and have a community-building impact. The table in [Exhibit 2.2](#) details a full list of existing facilities and amenities offered throughout Stevenson’s parks.



The open water provides acres and acres of flexible space.

PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES IN STEVENSON

Passive recreation facilities include lawn and picnic shelters, trails, and other features that contribute to flexible recreation. Rock Creek Park is the only space with picnic shelters. There are 4 parks that offer play structures or play musical equipment. Soft surface trails can be found at Pebble Beach and hard surface trails are featured at 5 of the parks.


By the numbers, as shown in the image to the right, Stevenson’s trail network falls short of national standards. The map in [Exhibit 2.5](#)

examines walkability across Stevenson, along with the locations of its current and proposed parks. Walkability was analyzed using both existing conditions inventory data and through public involvement and surveys about walking patterns and perceptions of safety. This map includes walkability via trails as well as sidewalks. Gaps in walkability persist across the community, particularly moving farther away from the

Columbia River. On the map, red- and orange-colored lines indicate poor pedestrian conditions, while light and dark green-colored lines highlight good walkability. There are some complete connections across Stevenson, but many areas do not have direct access to quality pedestrian paths that lead to parks. Residents and visitors in the center of the city and neighborhood along Angel Heights Road are most likely to be able to take a walk directly from their doorstep.

RECREATIONAL AMENITY DISTRIBUTION

In addition, core project amenities such as playgrounds, picnic tables, benches, and restrooms are not evenly distributed across the system. [Exhibit 2.6](#) highlights the location of these amenities in Stevenson. Community feedback confirms a desire for a stronger system of publicly accessible places to sit, gather, and play.



**City of Stevenson:
1.5 miles of trails per
1,000 population**

**NRPA 2023 cities of less
than 20,000
4.0 miles of trails per
1,000 population**

Exhibit 2.5: Stevenson Public Park Network Walkability

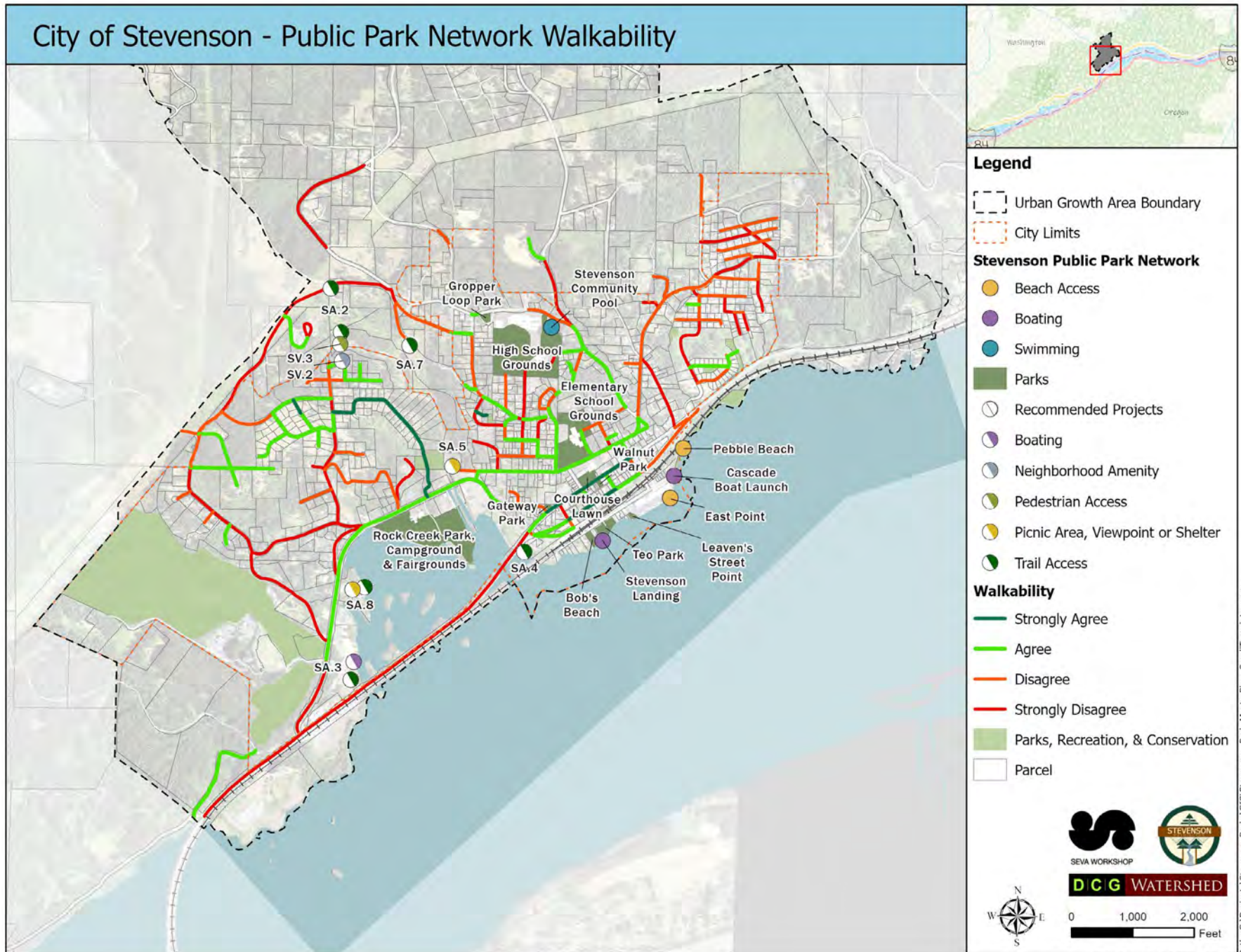
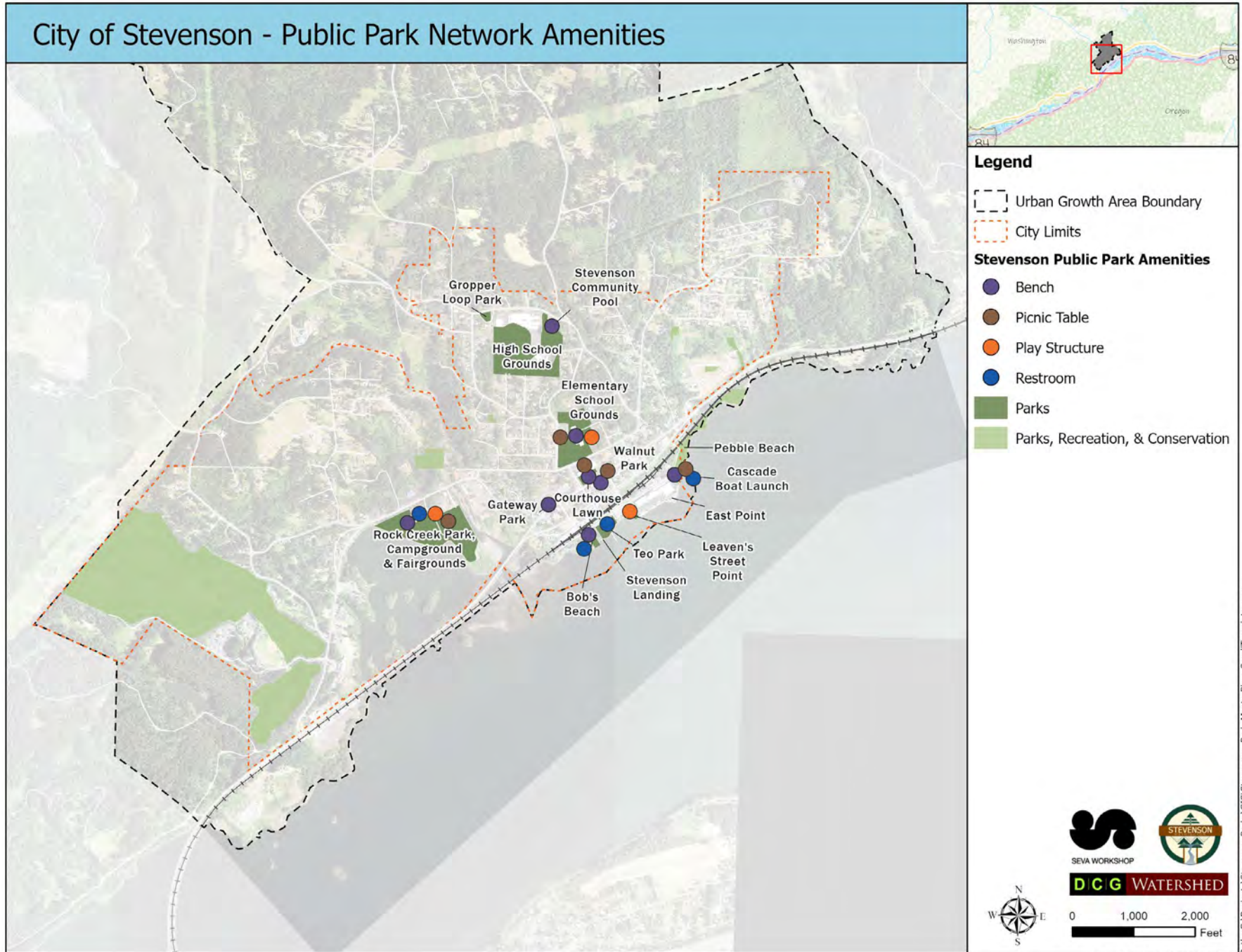


Exhibit 2.6: Stevenson Core Amenity Distribution





03

Public Involvement



Public Outreach Plan

The City of Stevenson desired to create a PROS Plan that would provide a roadmap for investment of resources into future parks development. The plan is based on many factors, but one of the most critical was input from the community through public outreach. This plan aimed to bring community stakeholders together in evaluating park opportunities and prioritizing the City's efforts to realize future projects. Public outreach engaged the community within the city limits and the UGA to solicit feedback and document attitudes and perceptions about parks and open spaces as well as public access needs and improvements.

Public Outreach Activities and Roles

The public outreach effort was a collaboration between the City and the Consultant (DCG/Watershed). The City led Advisory Committee and stakeholder identification, notification, and outreach. The City also handled event and project promotions, incorporating messaging and content developed with the Consultant. The Consultant created materials and facilitated engagement events to efficiently solicit Advisory Committee and stakeholder feedback relevant to the planning and design process. The Consultant also led the creation of an online public survey.

While the City of Stevenson has many public park spaces, the majority of these spaces are not owned or maintained by the City. In order to have a comprehensive understanding of all public amenities in the city, an Advisory Committee was formed with representatives from each agency that provides parks and recreational facilities within Stevenson. Throughout the parks planning effort, this Advisory Committee contributed knowledge about the current conditions, resources, needs, audiences, and opportunities at various existing locations. They also contributed more broadly to the development of the plan by providing feedback and insight at key times throughout the process. Committee members were identified by City staff based on the individuals' past involvement in providing recreational opportunities to the public through their agency, or their interest in the future of local recreational facilities and opportunities. The Advisory Committee included representatives from the following organizations and governing bodies:

- City of Stevenson
- Skamania County
- Port of Skamania County
- Stevenson-Carson School District
- Stevenson Community Pool District

In addition to forming an Advisory Committee, the City also identified a pool of key stakeholders and special interest group leaders. These selected

representatives were considered well connected to their respective groups and their role was to provide input on the plan that reflected the interests of their group in the community.

This Public Outreach Plan provides an outline of the public involvement effort.

- City created project webpage with content from the Consultant
- Consultant created posters and designs for social media posts to inform the public about the project and to invite the public to complete the public survey
- City printed, posted, and distributed advertisements and updated website
- Online survey was developed by consultant and reviewed by city staff
- Consultant led stakeholder interviews
- City led Pop-Up events with materials created by consultant
- Consultant led in-person advisory committee meetings. City facilitated communication and hosted the meetings
- Legislative meetings were attended by city representatives. Consultants provided materials and attended meetings as appropriate.



Local residents walk along the Mill Pond Trail year-round.

Public Outreach Strategies and Activities: Three Phases

Outreach was implemented through three separate phases: **1) visioning**, **2) sharing findings and generating ideas**, and **3) assessing success**.

Throughout these phases, various methods were applied to gather input: an online public survey, focus group meetings with the Advisory Committee, and one-on-one stakeholder interviews.

PHASE 1 - VISIONING

The first phase of outreach built public awareness of the PROS Plan and assessed needs and resources. This phase initiated the development of clear mission, goals, and objectives for the plan. Outreach methods in this phase included a focus group meeting with the Advisory Committee, an online public survey, and one-on-one stakeholder interviews.

PHASE 2 - SHARING FINDINGS AND GENERATING IDEAS

Having gathered robust information and ideas from stakeholders, the Advisory Committee, and the

general public, the Consultant facilitated a second phase of engagement in which an overview of the findings from Phase 1 was shared. A draft of the mission, goals, and objectives were presented and further input and feedback was solicited at that time. Finally, additional input and specific ideas about how to meet the needs and best leverage the resources assessed during Phase 1 was gathered. Outreach methods in this phase included a charette with the Advisory Committee plus select stakeholders, and more stakeholder interviews.

PHASE 3 - ASSESSING SUCCESS

In the final phase of outreach, the draft needs, goals, and objectives were assessed to determine if they accurately reflected the community and Advisory Committee’s values within the PROS Plan. Recommendations and the plan were presented for public comment. Outreach methods in this phase included a focus group meeting (Advisory Committee Meeting), a presentation of findings to the City Planning Commission, a presentation of findings to City Council, and final stakeholder interviews.



PHASE 1 VISIONING

August-October 2023

- Advisory Committee Meeting #1
- Stakeholder Interviews Phase #1
- Public Survey



PHASE 2 SHARE FINDINGS & GENERATE IDEAS

October-November 2023

- Advisory Committee Meeting #2 (charette)
- Stakeholder Interviews Phase #1



PHASE 3 ASSESS SUCCESS

December 2023-January 2024

- Advisory Committee Meeting #3
- Stakeholder Interview Phase #2

Methods of Gathering Public Input

1) ONLINE SURVEY

In order to maximize the possible input received from the general public on this plan, the method of creating an online survey was selected. To invite public participation in the online survey, a digital survey link was shared through the City’s webpage, via printed posters with QR codes, and through the city’s social media platforms. Print copies were made available and then collected at City Hall. Survey questions were developed to help identify the plan’s mission, goals, and objectives, and to assess the current uses and potential needs for local parks and amenities. The public was also asked to rate existing project ideas on how they address their needs. To gather sufficient data from a diverse segment of the population, the survey was designed to take less than ten minutes to complete. Optional demographic questions were included to understand the profile of respondents. The survey remained live from October 20, 2023, to November 27, 2023.

Exhibit 3.1: Summary of online survey outreach



2) STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Throughout the process, local stakeholders were interviewed to better understand the needs, goals, objectives, and priority projects for local parks and amenities for specific groups. Initial interviews targeted local decision makers and Advisory Committee members identified by the City. Subsequent suggestions focused on special interest groups and representatives of active local committees or boards. Each stakeholder was prompted for recommendations for additional interviewees. Interviews were conducted one-on-one, virtually, in the form of real-time open-ended conversations. A digital brainstorming platform called Miro was used for note-taking and facilitation. A consistent framework of graphic prompts on the Miro board was used for each interview. Stakeholders represented the following organizations, governing bodies, and interest groups:

- City of Stevenson
- City of Stevenson Public Works

- Skamania County, Skamania County Fairgrounds
- Port of Skamania
- Stevenson-Carson School District
- Stevenson Community Pool District
- Stevenson Main Street Program; Stevenson Downtown Association
- Columbia Gorge Museum
- Skamania Lodge
- Wind Sport Community
- Columbia Gorge Running Club
- Other stakeholders represented the community in general and provided insight into the local economy, accessibility needs, and other related factors.

When attempts to engage a stakeholder were unsuccessful, a replacement was contacted if possible. The attempt to interview a representative for the cycling community was unsuccessful.

*Locations: Columbia Hardware, Columbia Hardware No 2, High 5, Bigfoot Coffee Roasters, Skamania Physical Therapy, Stevenson Eye Care, Umpqua Bank, The Barber, Chamber of Commerce, NAPA, Big River Grill, Subway, Windermere, Columbia Gorge Title, A & J Supermarket, Bloomsbury, Out and About, Northbank Books, Skamania County Pioneer, Stevenson Hotel, Main Street Chevron, Traverse PNW Market Place, Skamania Acupuncture



Photo Credit: Port of Skamania - Bob's Beach

Phase one interviews included questions about the basic needs, goals, and objectives for local parks and amenities. Stakeholders described the available resources, primary uses, and existing audiences of specific sites. They also recommended ways to enhance existing sites and to plan and develop local recreational opportunities more broadly.

Phase two interviews were designed to gather more specific feedback about the drafted Plan and recommendations, and whether they were in line with earlier input. Stakeholders gave input on the draft mission, goals, and relevance of specific proposed projects to the mission and goals.

Questions included prompts for any final ideas, or points of contention, in relation to the Plan.

3) FOCUS GROUP: ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

As with the stakeholder interviews, focus groups were created to gather more detailed information about current needs and perceived goals and objectives for local parks and amenities. The small group setting allowed for comprehensive, in-depth discussions with multiple stakeholders. The role of each stakeholder was to represent their knowledge of their specific park or recreation areas and the user group's needs and priorities for those areas.

The first meeting focused on mission and goals, existing inventory and use, and how this plan would incorporate future project ideas. A three-hour in-person meeting was held in the City of Stevenson. Goals included having a discussion of goals and vision, understanding the RCO grant process, and sharing ideas and information that was relevant to the plan process. A representative from RCO attended the meeting to present an overview of how the plan related to grant funding and to answer questions.



Skamania County Courthouse Lawn

The second meeting took the form of an in-person 3-hour charrette. The core Advisory Committee was expanded to include special interest group leaders and stakeholders. This session began with an overview of the findings from Phase 1 including the online survey results and the completed stakeholder interviews, as well as a brief presentation and discussion around the drafted mission, goals, and objectives. Participants brainstormed a variety of specific ideas about how to meet the needs and leverage the resources assessed during Phase 1. The group was divided into three smaller groups to discuss specific geographic regions of the city that most closely related to each members focus. For example, the group focused on the waterfront included the representative from the Port, the entity that owns and operates the waterfront parks located there.

The expanded advisory committee included representatives from the following organizations and governing bodies:

- City of Stevenson (including Public Works, Planning, and a City Council member)

- Skamania County
- Port of Skamania
- Stevenson-Carson School District
- Stevenson Community Pool District
- Columbia Gorge Museum
- Stevenson Downtown Association

A final, 90-minute virtual meeting was held to discuss plan recommendations. The committee was asked to share feedback on whether the recommendations met the previously discussed goals and mission of the plan, and/or addressed the needs expressed in the plan. The committee was asked to provide feedback and contribute to any projects relevant to their organization.

4) PRESENTATIONS

The final outreach effort for public involvement was the presentation of the draft plan to city leadership. These presentations occurred at the end of the planning process and summarized the draft recommendations of the plan. The goal of this outreach was to seek input and insight from

city leaders, and to ensure the plan was on track for adoption. The draft presentation with excerpts from the plan was available for review prior to the meetings and was able to be accessed by the public once the meeting agenda was posted. Both meetings and presentations were open to the public and each meeting's agenda was structured to accept public input if requested.

The first presentation was to the city council. This provided an opportunity for discussion and questions from the council members. This council was able to provide big picture feedback on the plan, and the city and consultant team were made aware of any significant concerns prior to finalizing the plan and presenting it for adoption by the city council.

The second presentation was to the city planning commission. Similarly, this provided an opportunity for review, discussion, and questions from the commission members on the plan recommendations. Big picture feedback from the commission was able to be incorporated into the final plan.



04

Priorities and Needs Analysis



Stevenson Community Garden Gate

The City of Stevenson has access to a wide range of natural resource recreation options. Public input has confirmed the community's desire to enhance those recreation options while preserving the natural beauty of the area. This chapter summarizes the analysis and observations of current and future parks, trails, recreational facilities, and open space needs for Stevenson. The results also compare the current performance of these areas to standards elsewhere in the region. This analysis will help determine the plan and priorities for the City to move forward with future park improvements.

The priorities and needs analysis is based on analysis of:

- Public feedback from online survey responses
- Information collected from Stakeholder Interviews
- Knowledge and expertise of City staff and the Advisory Committee
- Community vision and values communicated in other recent planning documents
- State and national recreation trends

PRIORITIES AND NEEDS BASED ON COMMUNITY INPUT

Public input gathered from the online survey, stakeholder interviews, and Advisory Committee was compiled and

analyzed. See Chapter 3 for descriptions of methods used for gathering public input. See [Appendix A](#) for full documentation of results. This section focuses on future needs and priorities identified by the outreach.

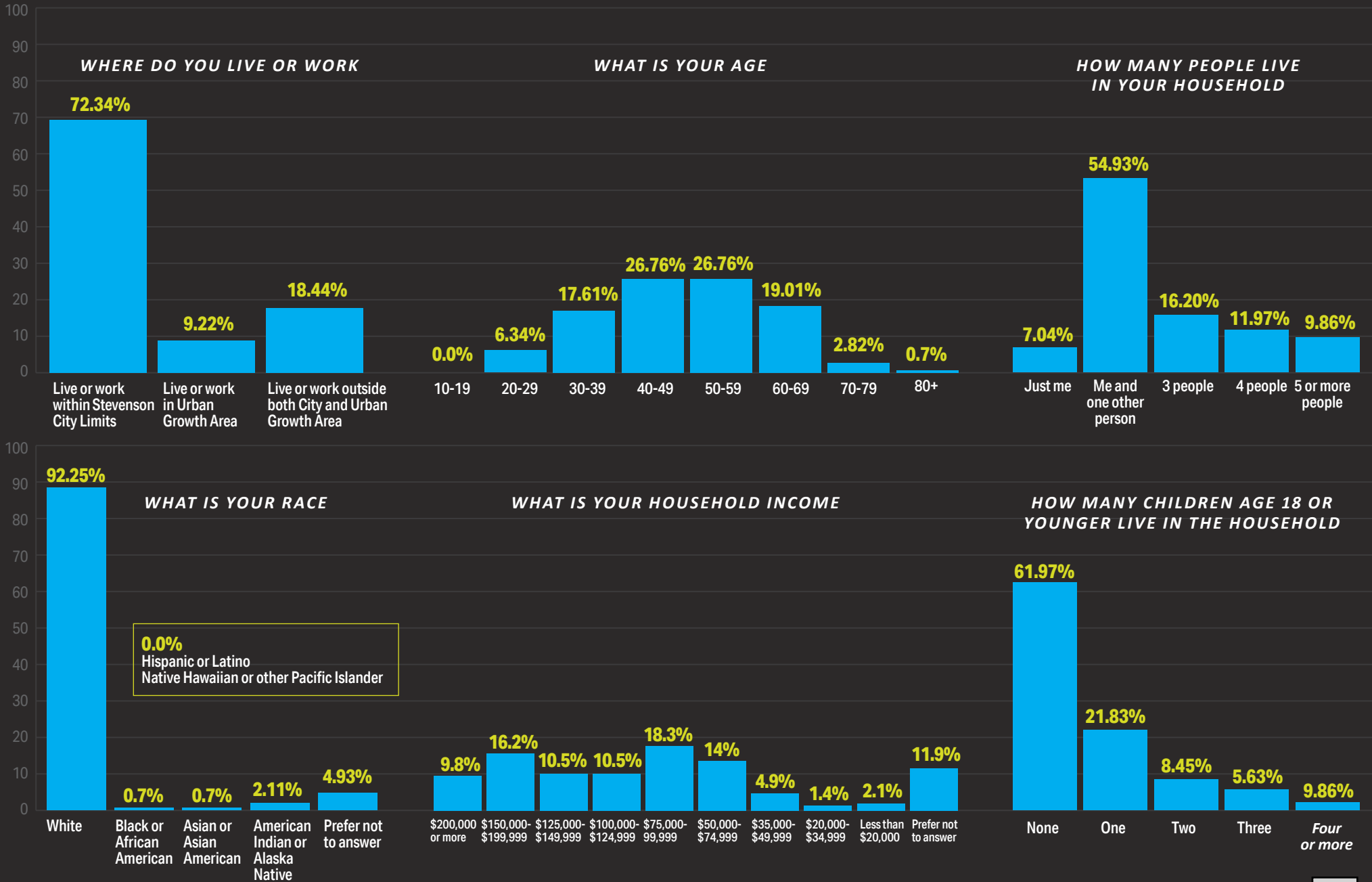
Online Public Survey

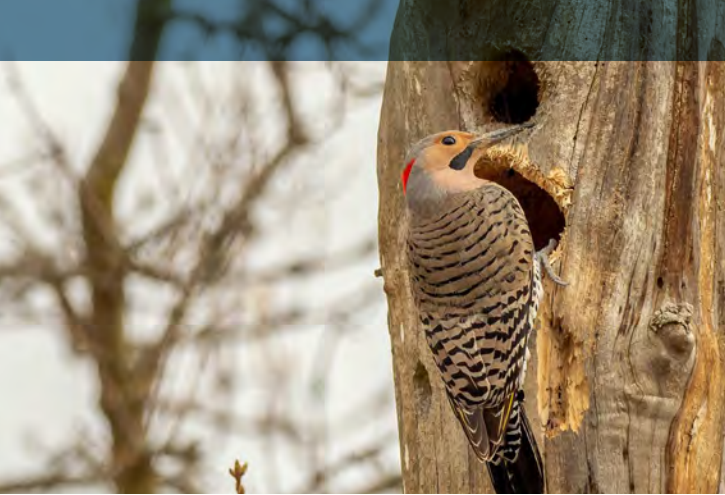
203 surveys of public opinion were completed for this project (200 online, three hard copies). While many of the survey questions were multiple choice or pre-scripted options, the survey also included many open-ended response questions that allowed respondents to elaborate on what new amenities or programs they desired, or other suggestions they had for park improvements.

Over 75 percent of respondents answered the optional demographic questions. Participant demographics can be viewed in the figure on the following page. In general, the respondents were representative of the community as summarized in the Chapter 1 community profile section using census data from 2021. Notable exceptions include an overrepresentation of white respondents (92% vs. 84%), an overrepresentation of high-income households (47% earn above the median-income vs. 31%), and an overrepresentation of adults in the 30-59 age range respondents.

Community Survey Responses

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM? 203 RESPONSES





PUBLIC SURVEY PRIORITIES FOR MISSION

The first two questions of the online survey focused on gaining insight into public support for what the Mission of the PROS Plan would be. Responses indicated what the public values in parks spaces and why they spend time outdoors. Results show that most respondents spend time outdoors to **connect with nature or observe wildlife, for fitness or exercise, or to enjoy solitude or peace and quiet.** However, a substantial 40% of respondents selected **fun, excitement or adventure** and 25% selected **discover new places** as one of the three most important reasons, respectively. Learning something new (i.e., a skill, natural history, or cultural history) and spiritual or cultural motivations ranked lowest on the list of options.

When asked “what do you look for in local facilities or recreation areas when choosing a place to spend time outdoors?” over 140 participants (72%) selected the **“views of nature, wildlife, or water”** option. This reinforced the earlier top response on what they valued in parks. The next most popular responses— **“Primitive trails or experience”** and **“Water access”** —were selected by 79 people (40%) and 75 people (38%) respectively. There was moderate support for facilities or areas that

are family friendly, easy to get to, and that have convenient parking. The least common responses were “interpretive displays or educational opportunities” and “large, flexible open space”.

In summary, the online survey conveyed a high priority for the parks Mission to focus on the natural experience, an individual experience, and an informal space.

PUBLIC SURVEY PRIORITIES FOR CURRENT PARK USE

The next section of the survey focused on existing and current park use and experiences. **The Port Waterfront, County Fairgrounds, and Rock Creek** are the most visited local recreational areas. Gropper Loop Park is the least visited of the sites on the list, with Gateway Park and Walnut Park receiving slightly more reported visitation.

When asked in an open response format “What do you usually do when you visit the areas you selected above?” the vast majority of respondents answered **“Hike/Walk”** (over 90 people selected this or 44%). Dog-walking was the next most common motivation for visiting the sites on the list (over 30 people selected this). Skating, feeding geese, and bird watching ranked lowest on the list.

When asked “What features do you like about the areas you selected?” the vast majority of respondents responses were able to be categorized under the theme of **“Nature/Scenery or Beauty,”** with **“Easy Access/Convenient/Nearby”** coming in second. These responses continue to enforce the Mission and values responses earlier in the survey by highlighting the importance of natural experiences and adding convenient location as an important factor.

Gropper Loop Park and several other sites are reported to NOT be visited often, mostly because respondents **“Didn’t know it was a park / don’t know where they are”** (over 60 people selected this reason or 30%). The second most common reason for the lack of visitation was that “There are **no park amenities** or reasons to be there / **not inviting.**” These responses indicate that if it were more apparent that these park spaces are available for public use, or if park amenities were present in these spaces, then visitation would increase.

Responses to questions about participation in existing programs and events in local recreational spaces reveal that in general, the community is actively attending local events.



PUBLIC SURVEY PRIORITIES FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

There were a wide range of responses to the question of what new facilities or amenities should be added to local parks, but the majority of respondents wanted **more restrooms** in local recreation areas. Respondents also expressed a strong interest in more **outdoor concerts and live music events**. Other answers reinforced earlier survey responses. Responses supporting the **value of natural character** included 'Consider sustainability and impacts on wildlife' and 'Keep it natural'. Responses that correlated the **presence of amenities** with visitation and use included: 'Basic park amenities need to be provided at parks - seating, trash, restrooms, landscaping, etc.', 'Need more year-round use covered spaces', 'Improve messaging about what parks are available to the

public', and 'Need to communicate with residents in close proximity to any proposed improvements.' Responses that supported **hikes/walks** as the most frequent park use included 'More trails', 'Improve pedestrian connections to parks- trails connecting parks, safety features like lighting and crossings', and 'More dog friendly.'

Increased **maintenance** was frequently suggested as a means of improving local parks and recreational areas. Notably, this suggestion was not prompted by any earlier survey questions. More frequent maintenance and upkeep, making parks clean and safe, and improvements to landscaping were all mentioned multiple times by respondents. Other responses related to **family-friendly improvements**—to provide opportunities for intergenerational audiences and for children of all ages and abilities.

EXISTING PROPOSED PROJECT RATINGS

The last section of the survey presented recent project proposals and asked respondents to rate them based on how well they responded to the needs and desires described earlier in the survey.

See [Appendix A](#) for complete results.

Stakeholder Interviews

14 virtual interviews were conducted with local Stakeholders throughout the parks planning process (between October 2023 and January 2024) in order to gather qualitative input that informed the plan’s goals, mission, and recommended priority projects. During these conversations, stakeholders discussed one or more sites or organizations that they were most familiar with. They described the ways in which local sites are already successful in providing the public with recreational opportunities, general ideas for improvement, and ideas for specific projects that align with each site’s mission (whether that mission be formal or more anecdotal) and that align with revenue interests.

Analysis of the collective interview results revealed several major themes related to **goals** for the Plan. These goals are categorized as: increase basic maintenance and updates; serve locals and tourists alike; create more gathering places; activate underutilized spaces; reinforce connections between parts of town; improve public communications; and increase the City’s support.

Analysis of interview results also revealed common themes for what the parks plan **mission** should include. Common priorities for the mission include: to provide the public with quality experiences; to create gathering spaces; to increase access to recreation; and to support the local economy.

Finally, stakeholder interviews included a “Mission/Money Matrix” activity in which participants placed a sticky note describing a **priority project** idea on a matrix that indicated how well that project would serve both the Mission and the revenue interests of the organization they represented. These project ideas were very site-specific and ranged from trail design to public art implementation to maintenance updates.

Below is an expanded summary of interview findings related to the goals, Mission, and priority projects for the Plan. See **Appendix A** for full documentation of results.

See **Appendix A** for data received from stakeholders as a result of these interviews (data is related to a range of topics including demographics, sales, marketing, and downtown foot traffic).

Figure 4.2: Example of completed “Mission/Money Matrix” activity

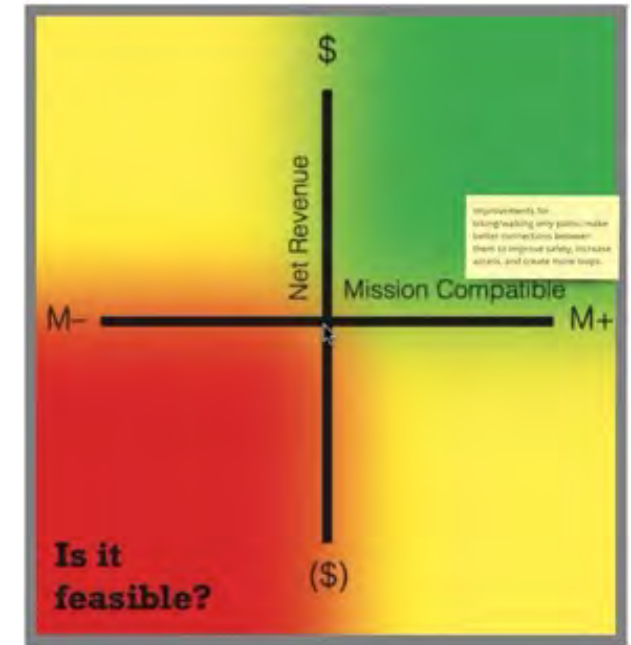
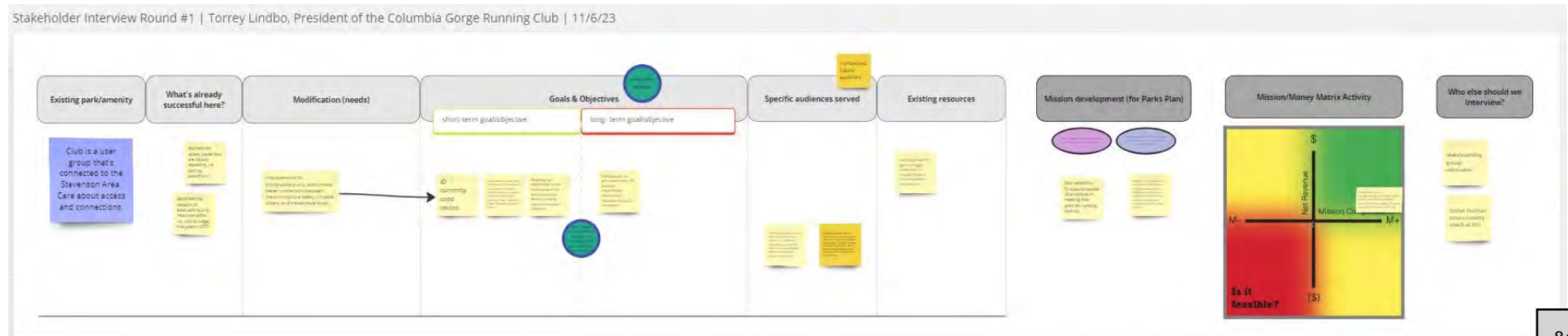


Figure 4.1: Example documentation from a completed Stakeholder Interview



STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES FOR GOALS

Increase basic maintenance and updates

Nearly every interviewee described the need for basic maintenance and updates. These include updated playground equipment, new gating, increased parking, more public restrooms, and funding to pay for maintenance of facilities such as restrooms.

Fairgrounds

- Leaks and mold were a former issue, maintenance crew has worked to fix.
- Need City's support for maintaining key fairgrounds buildings.

Serve locals and tourists Stakeholders expressed interest in enhancing recreational and gathering spaces for local people and tourists alike, with some individuals expressing a slight preference toward improving recreational experiences for one or the other of these groups. Stakeholders want to contribute to a strong sense of community, and they also recognize the economic benefits of sustaining tourism year-round.

Create gathering places

A number of stakeholders described an interest in developing more places for people to gather together for concerts, food and beverages, public programs, etc. Interviewees felt that more indoor gathering places would enable recreational

opportunities year-round, including during rainy and cold seasons. Specific ideas included pocket parks, implementing an area to serve food and drinks at the Pool, and nature play spaces at the Museum and school.

Public Works

- Basic mission is to create a great, safe, clean place to live, for the people who live here. Safe, fun, easily-accessed places to recreate, gather, and connect with neighbors.

Pool

- Create more of a gathering place - for coffee, etc. Create a place to serve food to groups- through an agreement with local restaurants?

Activate underutilized spaces

Multiple stakeholders described the abundance of underutilized "dead spaces" in town. There were numerous ideas for activating these, including implementation of public art, installation of pocket parks, and basic maintenance.

Gateway Park

- Need to activate/beautify, i.e. with public art or some kind of welcoming into the town.

Loop Park (Green space)

- Nobody knows that it's there; that it's the City's.

Reinforce connections between parts of town

Stakeholders described the need for increased physical and visual connections: throughout trail systems, between different areas of town (such as the Museum and the Fairgrounds), and—from a branding and wayfinding perspective—throughout the City as a whole.

Improve public communications

Stakeholders described the need to better communicate to the public about availability and locations of resources.

Increase the City's support

Stakeholders expressed a desire to have more support from the City for implementing priority projects and basic operational and maintenance needs at various sites. Stakeholders said that support could be given in the form of funding, as well as through consistent follow-up and clear communication.

STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES FOR MISSION

Provide quality experiences

Throughout the various sites and organizations that stakeholders were associated with, it is clearly important to offer a quality, enjoyable, safe, fun experience to all visitors. “Quality” looks different at different sites: at the Museum, the intended experience includes free-choice learning; at the Pool, a quality experience may involve physical exercise.

Create gathering spaces

Multiple stakeholders mentioned that offering a place for people to come together is a main purpose of the site or organization they were associated with.

Increase access to recreation

Accessibility—for all ages and abilities, and to diverse kinds of recreation—was cited as a key purpose or component of the Mission of multiple sites and organizations. Basic physical access to amenities (such as convenient proximity to trails and access to the water via boat ramps) was included in these discussions.

Support the local economy

Supporting economic development, bringing socioeconomic benefits to the community, creating revenue streams with events, enabling economic vibrancy, and generating “year-round tourism dollars” were all cited by interviewees as a component of the mission of the group they represented.



Cascade Boat Launch



Walnut Park

Focus Group: Advisory Committee Meetings

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #1

The first Advisory Committee Meeting took the form of a three-hour, in-person meeting held in Stevenson. Ten people attended.

An overview presentation by the consultant team described the plan and process. This was followed by a presentation by an RCO representative. That presentation described the grant award process and how this plan had the potential to be utilized by all committee members.” Discussions focused on the potential goals and vision of the plan. Participants described the interests of the governing bodies they represented. Key suggestions for the ultimate outcomes of the PROS Plan are below. In summary, these include

a desire for the plan to result in increased local revenue, strengthened partnerships and funding opportunities, clarity on how to balance active and passive recreation, improved local placemaking and an increased sense of welcoming, and enhanced experiences for local residents.

Representatives of the City discussed an interest in improved **placemaking** and the desire to develop a more cohesive, clear brand and identity for Stevenson (i.e. with a welcoming design). The importance of balancing **active and passive recreational needs** was also discussed. The City wanted to identify projects that multiple organizations had previously expressed interest in (including the County) in order to prioritize **partnerships and funding opportunities**.

Representatives of the County wanted to **increase revenue** by drawing more people into town to support businesses, implementing year-round

recreational opportunities, increasing parking and enhancing transportation, and building a new stage for concerts. The County also wanted to provide recreational **opportunities within existing natural resources**, by implementing systems such as water trails. They described an interest in **servicing local residents** through long-term opportunities, and to welcome people into the community and motivate people to get together by developing a clearer **sense of character** for the City.

The Pool expressed similar desires to increase the local sense of **welcoming**. Specifically, the Pool described ideas to turn its facilities into more of a **gathering place** by developing a space to serve coffee and food and to implement enhancements that make the pool more fun and accessible to more audiences.

[See Appendix A](#) for meeting notes from Advisory Committee Meeting #1.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #2

The second Advisory Committee Meeting took the form of a three-hour charrette that took place in person in the City of Stevenson. After the Consultant team gave a presentation about public survey results and findings from completed stakeholder interviews, participants brainstormed a variety of specific ideas about how to meet the needs and leverage the resources assessed during earlier stages of the Parks Planning effort. Two main methods were used to gather these ideas: the first was a simple open discussion of what each participant perceived as a priority project for the site or organization they were most familiar with. The second was a group activity in which participants collaborated at different stations to brainstorm, sketch, and describe project ideas in relation to specific geographic regions of the City, using a large map of that area as a basis for discussion. Common themes that arose during discussions and group exercises throughout this session. The findings are similar to those of the stakeholder interviews because most of the participants of the interviews and the charette were the same. There were three additions to the categories outlined in the stakeholder interview summaries:

- Increase accessibility and ADA improvements
- Strengthen partnerships and collective marketing efforts
- Engage with Tribes.

See [Appendix A](#) for documentation from Advisory Committee Meeting #2 (the charrette).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #3

The final Advisory Committee meeting took the form of a 90-minute virtual meeting. All members were in attendance apart from one of the two county representatives who was out of town. The consultant team first presented a recap of the earlier results of the committee, stakeholder, and public outreach, then presented the draft recommendations as proposed to be included in the report. The first recommendations included the mission and goals. The mission was read out loud and shown on the slide, and time was given for any reactions. Each draft goal including objectives and strategies was presented to the committee on the slide and time was given to both read through them and to ask questions or discuss specific strategies. The committee used virtual reactions such as ‘thumbs up’ to indicate they had enough

time to read through each of the goals slides. Next, the six recommended capital improvement projects were presented including draft descriptions and costs. Each individual project was presented, and the committee was prompted for any reactions. Draft amenity projects and park planning projects were also shown, as well as the draft exhibit for how proposed projects could affect operations and maintenance. The presentation concluded with an overview of how funding options and opportunities would be presented in the report. There were comments from each advisory member throughout the presentation.

Following the presentation the consultant team sent each member a project list specific to their organization for review and requested any corrections or additions to include in this plan in a special appendix. They were also sent draft language for the appendix that described the adoption process. This language was also reviewed by the RCO representative. Then, each member was contacted by the city representative and asked if they had any other comments and if the recommendations were in line with what they expected. The consultant team received confirmation and / or comments back from the all the committee members that were in attendance

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR GOALS

Increase basic maintenance and updates

There was substantial discussion around the need for maintenance and updates throughout existing sites. Specific needs that were brought up included updated playground equipment, new gating, increased parking, more public restrooms, and funding to pay for maintenance of facilities such as restrooms. Additional suggestions included maintenance and updates of the Port's boat ramp, developing a Parks Department to oversee maintenance efforts, and training people to maintain new facilities such as bathrooms.

Increase accessibility and ADA improvements

Ideas for improving access included ADA updates to the Pool parking lot, updating playground equipment to better fit user groups, flatter walking connections throughout town, and installing more benches and resting places.

Serve locals and tourists

There was more discussion around enhancing recreational and gathering spaces for local people and tourists alike. For example, physical barriers could be removed at the Museum so that the grounds become more accessible and more integrated with physical surroundings.

Create gathering places

Multiple suggestions were made regarding developing places for people to gather for concerts, food and beverages, public programs, etc. Specific

ideas that arose during this session included a permanent stage for concerts at the Fairgrounds, removing the bleachers at the Pool to create a gathering space, the general need to promote gathering, tourism, and spaces for locals, and creating an indoor athletics space at the School.

Activate underutilized spaces

Ideas for activating underutilized spaces were brought up during the charette, including implementation of public art, installation of pocket parks, and basic maintenance. There was discussion around the flat piece of land by the Museum becoming an RV park to generate revenue during large public events.

Reinforce connections between parts of town

Participants brainstormed options for increasing physical and visual connections throughout the City and beyond. Ideas included a public art walk between the Museum and Fairgrounds, bike paths, water trails, and connections between the Pacific Crest Trail, parks, and downtown.

Improve public communications

Stakeholders described the need to better communicate to the public about availability and locations of resources. Specific ideas included implementation of trail maps, developing a centralized location for parks information, and implementing a Parks Department.

Strengthen partnerships and collective marketing efforts

There was consensus that collective marketing

could be a way to leverage various stakeholders' expertise and momentum, share data and resources, and make the city more welcoming to both residents and tourists.

Engage with Tribes

The importance of engaging Tribes in the Parks Planning effort was discussed. As short- and long-term projects advance from this plan, local Tribes should be included in outreach to better understand how the cultural context and priorities and values of Tribes can be represented in these landscapes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR MISSION

Participants discussed the draft Mission for a few minutes at the end of the charette. Two variations were proposed (see figure below). Comments were that perhaps economics should not be a major focus of the Mission, as fulfilling community needs is equally important.

DRAFT MISSION STATEMENTS



To enhance Stevenson's recreational and gathering spaces in ways that increase access to the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage, for residents and visitors alike.



To enhance Stevenson's gathering and recreational spaces, strengthening local communities and the economy year-round.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

The group’s discussion around each goal is summarized below.

Discussion of Goal 1 – Establish and sustain well-maintained parks

The group commented that this draft goal perhaps focused too much on strategies related to landscaping, and not enough on strategies for basic facilities maintenance. A suggested strategy related to facilities maintenance was to implement a master calendar that tracks which tasks are needed and by when. The group discussed including such a calendar in the “comprehensive resource database” proposed in Goal 1.3B. Another suggested strategy for addressing maintenance issues was to integrate methods of sharing expertise, for example in times when emergency support is needed. This could mitigate common capacity-based challenges associated with unionized entities.

Discussion of Goal 2 - Enhance community access to parks by increasing visibility and awareness

Feedback on this goal was positive. Participants appreciated the focus on pooled resources.

Discussion of Goal 3 – Improve proximities to and connectivity between parks

The group discussed the wording of this drafted goal, and potential issues with the way in which acquisition of land was described, especially

given the limitations on development in Skamania County. The consultant team explained that Goal 3 does mention acquisition, in reference to possible purchase of easements, and in consideration of longer-term increasing urban density and related needs for parks, playgrounds, walking distance standards, etc. Participants discussed who such acquisitions would serve, whether they would happen with local interests or tourism interests in mind. The opinion was raised that Stevenson should be the “trailhead” or entry point for county-wide recreation, rather than a place that gets developed for recreational purposes; that improving existing land should take priority over any land acquisition.

There was consensus that the Goal should be edited to indicate that alternate options should be considered prior to any plans for land acquisition, and to avoid communicating that the City intends to buy and develop new land.

Discussion of Goal 4 – Provide inclusive spaces to meet diverse community needs

Discussion revolved around this goal’s focus on the plaza at the Courthouse lawn, and current uncertainty about public opinion about that project. The consultant team advised, “everything we’ve heard from the community is reflected in elements of the Courthouse Plaza project, so maybe we need to make the recommendations within this goal less place-specific, and then down the road think about other places and projects for enacting some of these

goals.” There was consensus to edit this goal to describe a more general project type regardless of the Plaza project outcome, and to focus on multi-benefit projects which is key for grant eligibility.

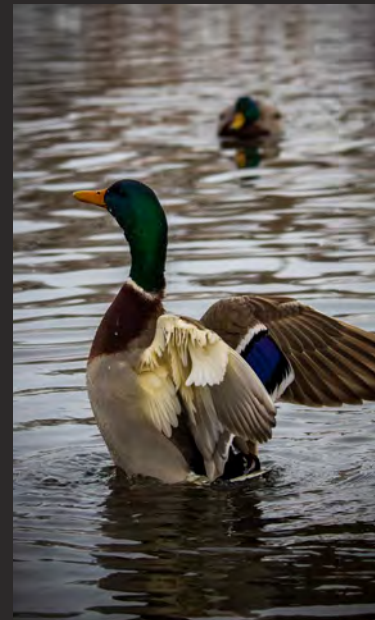
After discussing Goals, the group reviewed recommended Capital Improvement Projects. Participants confirmed that the draft document reflects all of the major capital improvement projects that they each intended to make on behalf of the entities they represent, within the next six years. There was agreement that more focus should be placed on indoor, year-round recreational opportunities, due to the amount of local rainfall. There was brief discussion, but no conclusion, about the best purpose for Gropper Loop Park. The group agreed that the Plan should better-reflect and document the community’s interests in improvements to the Fairgrounds, as well as outdoor nature play spaces and playgrounds, and that the Plan should describe more specific project possibilities in relation to these interests.

PRESENTATIONS

In addition to the above-described outreach efforts, the City and consultant team presented to the city Planning Commission and City Council throughout the project to give updates and receive feedback as the project progressed. The feedback was minor but positive and was incorporated into the final plan. The final plan was presented for adoption on February 15, 2024.

Figure 4.3: Stakeholders worked in groups to annotate maps with ideas for recreational enhancements.





TRENDS IN RECREATION

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) conducts a survey to assess the demand for outdoor recreation participation as part of its statewide planning efforts. Survey results for the top 20 outdoor activities, ranked by participation rate, are shown in Exhibit 6.

Walking is the top outdoor activity statewide, with 91% participation on sidewalks and 90% participation on trails. This preference is consistent across almost all demographic groups studied in the report. This emphasizes the importance of providing quality trail and sidewalk networks to encourage this most frequent form of recreation. All 6 top activities feature forms of passive recreation – walking on trails or sidewalks, nature viewing, scenic drives, leisure time in parks, and picnics.

The 5 most popular structured activities include visiting a farmer’s market or community garden, visiting outdoor cultural/historic facilities (including cultural events), swimming, paddle sports, and attending concerts. Residents of Stevenson have access to all of these more structured forms of recreation locally.

Responses to the community survey for this project confirm these core recreation priorities in Stevenson. Survey respondents rate walking and hiking as far and away the most popular activity at existing park sites. Similarly, when asked what they look for in local facilities or recreation areas, the top 3 responses are views of nature, wildlife, or water; trails; and water access.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY: CURRENT GAPS

Current gaps in Stevenson’s existing network are examined from four different perspectives: types of parks, location of parks, trail networks, and facilities. Summaries under each of these themes are captured below. Key takeaways for addressing existing gaps in Stevenson’s park network are:

- **Trails.** Existing trail access in Stevenson falls below national standards for levels of service. Walking and hiking remain the most universally popular outdoor activities, confirmed both by national surveys and local community feedback. **Expanding access to trails is likely to provide high community benefit, and in Stevenson soft-surface trails are in particularly low supply.**
- **Core amenities and maintenance efforts within the existing park system.** Stevenson would benefit from investment in passive facilities such as bathrooms, playgrounds, nature playgrounds, exercise equipment, water fountains, and seating. These features could attract greater use and enjoyment of existing park spaces. Engagement confirmed community support for increased maintenance efforts to ensure a high functioning park system and a desire for more of these core amenities that are enjoyed by a wide segment of the community.
- **Park space in areas of northeast Stevenson and to the north of Rock Creek Fairgrounds.** Walkshed analysis reveals these areas of the city as priority zones for potential system expansion, as they are more geographically isolated from existing access. **The City should examine opportunities for creating new**

neighborhood parks or opportunities for developing trail systems in these areas.

- **Neighborhood and community parks.** Stevenson’s existing inventory of neighborhood parks is limited. Community parks are owned by other entities and have limited hours of access to the general public. **Future expansion of Stevenson’s park areas could focus on the quality and accessibility of these smaller and mid-sized spaces in the city.**
- **Open space.** Stevenson’s inventory does not currently include any dedicated open space areas. At the moment, the community enjoys some open space areas preserved in private parks, proximity to the water, and overall lower density development that makes this park type less of an urgent need. **As the city grows, however, increased considerations for publicly preserved open space may be an important focus.**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Stevenson’s 2045 growth target is a population of 2,338, reflecting 14% population growth from 2022. As the community grows, improvements and expansion of the existing park system can ensure high levels of service for everyone in Stevenson. The table in [Exhibit 4.4](#) details Stevenson’s current levels of service (LOS) and sets a target LOS for

Exhibit 4.4: Existing and Target LOS for Stevenson, 2022 and 2045

Type	Current Inventory	Existing LOS per 1,000 pop (2022)	Target LOS per 1,000 pop (2045)	Gap*
All Park Space (in acres)	63.5	31.0	31.0	9.0
Trail/Linear Park (in miles)	2.9 miles	1.5	4.0	6.45
Percent of households** within the park walkshed (city limits)		86% (city limits)	100% (city limits)	14%

*Gap acreage calculated assuming a 2045 population target of 2,338

**For purposes of walkshed LOS, households are defined by residential parcels

Sources: City of Stevenson, 2023; Seva Workshop, 2023.

the future. This analysis reveals a gap of 9-acres in overall park space, as well as 6.45 linear miles of trail. Addressing these gaps will maintain a consistent LOS for park acreage and an improved LOS for trail access, aligned with national standards. These broad figures can be further contextualized and better applied when considering factors such as geographic accessibility and a proper mix of the different classes of outdoor space. In recognition of this, Stevenson also developed a walkshed LOS. This LOS identifies that 14% of current residential parcels are outside the existing park walkshed boundary.

ADDRESSING GAPS

The project proposals presented in this Parks Plan address the gaps identified during project outreach and LOS analysis. There is no single project that will perfectly address the 3 LOS metrics presented in this report, but a combination of efforts and continued conversation with the community will result in a system that better serves community wellness. System expansion will be constrained by financial and operational resources in Stevenson, so a continued search for funding and partnership opportunities will enhance the impact of local resources. The Planning and Implementation chapter of this report outlines a set of project proposals, including an implementation plan, to advance this work.



05

**Mission,
Goals,
Objectives and
Strategies**



East Point

Guiding Framework

The City of Stevenson’s vision and goals for parks, recreation, and open space form the foundation for the PROS Plan and create a guiding framework for planning and decision-making. Crafted through collaborative efforts between the city and the Advisory Committee, the mission statement reflects insights gathered from a comprehensive public survey and public comments, seamlessly integrating key elements extracted from the Comprehensive Plan. This mission statement serves as a forward-looking representation, articulating Stevenson’s aspirations and strategic direction for the future of its parks and recreational spaces.

Mission

To enhance Stevenson’s recreational and gathering spaces in ways that increase access to the area’s natural beauty and cultural heritage, for residents and visitors of all ages. In crafting the mission, important discussions were held that reflect the community’s values. Here are the key ideas that guided the process:

- Recognition of the need to strike a balance in park development that caters to both local residents and visitors.
- Emphasis on highlighting the area’s natural beauty and environmental features in park enhancements.
- Recognition of Stevenson’s rich history and diverse cultural influences, informing the mission to reflect the city’s heritage.
- Desire for parks that serve as community hubs, fostering gatherings that strengthen social bonds and build a sense of community.
- Commitment to providing parks and recreational spaces that are accessible and enjoyable for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Aim to capture the unique character and values of Stevenson as a small town nestled in the Gorge, ensuring that the mission aligns with the town’s distinctive identity.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

This section outlines the goals, objectives, and strategies that have emerged from a collaborative process involving input from community members, stakeholders, and evaluations of existing conditions and needs. These goals and objectives embody a commitment to enhancing the quality of recreational facilities, promoting community well-being, and ensuring the effective and sustainable management of open spaces. Shaped by the collective vision for the city's parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces, these goals lay the foundation for the implementation of this Plan.

The Parks and Recreation goals outlined in the city's comprehensive plan for Stevenson prioritize enhancing the quality of life for both residents and visitors. Acknowledging the town's Gorge destination status, the plan seeks to balance diverse recreational opportunities, encompassing premier outdoor activities and more community-based events. Key objectives include establishing a comprehensive plan for grant eligibility, preserving open space, ensuring proper maintenance of existing facilities, exploring sustainable funding sources, developing pathways and trails, providing a balanced recreation infrastructure, and actively promoting Stevenson's diverse recreational offerings through various media channels. The following goals build upon the foundational from the comprehensive plan, aiming to amplify the community's well-being and connectivity while further enriching Stevenson's recreational appeal.

In support of the City's goals for parks and recreation, the Plan identifies systemwide objectives and strategies that will guide the investment in parks, recreation, and related services. These elements are numbered for ease of reference; they do not appear in priority order. They are structured in the following format:

Goal X:

X.1. Objective

– a. Strategies

The strategies represent a mix of recommendations that should be taken to enhance the park and recreation system and achieve the City's vision for the future.



Goal 1: Maintain What We Have

Ensure that parks are well-maintained, aesthetically pleasing, and safe for community use. Enhance the quality of park facilities and maximize the lifespan of park infrastructure. Fund, support, and implement site-specific maintenance projects, tailoring efforts to address the unique needs of individual park facilities.

1.1 Provide high quality routine and preventative park and facility maintenance at existing parks and recreation areas.

- a. Provide enhanced maintenance at highly visible and heavily used parks.
- b. Develop a comprehensive maintenance management plan focused on landscape (independent of utility maintenance).

1.2 Increase maintenance of parks and recreation areas.

- a. Increase City staff hours dedicated to landscape management and maintenance.
- b. Increase specialized training in landscape management.
- c. Hire a staff person dedicated to parks/streetscape maintenance.

1.3 Facilitate partnerships with other agencies and organizations to share maintenance resources and costs.

- a. Each agency or organization quantifies and shares the costs associated with maintenance practices, including staffing, equipment, materials, and contracted services. Utilize standardized metrics and

reporting systems to track and evaluate the effectiveness and costs of maintenance practices.

- b. Research and determine the feasibility of implementing pilot programs for cost-sharing initiatives, such as shared equipment, joint contracts, and collaborative staffing arrangements, to optimize resources and enhance the sustainability of park maintenance efforts.
- c. Coordinate joint capital project planning and investments with other public and private agencies where feasible.
- d. Maintain a joint list of park, recreation, and open space grant programs for improvement projects that are updated as new opportunities arise.

1.4 Ensure adequate maintenance resources are available when parks or recreation areas are expanded or renovated.

- a. As new facility types are planned or developed, implement specialized training programs for maintenance staff to equip them with the skills and knowledge to manage new park facility types, including bathrooms and other updated amenities.
- b. Create a comprehensive documentation and resource database that maintenance staff can access for reference, including manuals, guides, and video tutorials related to new facility types.

- c. Establish a schedule for regular training updates to keep maintenance staff informed about evolving technologies, industry standards, and best practices relevant to new facility types.
- d. Purchase equipment necessary to maintain park facilities.

1.5 Explore alternative maintenance practices or management approaches that emphasize sustainability.

- a. Determine landscape planting types to implement based on criteria that consider aesthetic preferences, low-maintenance requirements, and support local ecosystems and sustainable practices (i.e. Converting regularly mowed lawn areas to low-mow meadow).
 - I. Introduce one demonstration area of landscape planting type to provide an opportunity to educate the public and train maintenance staff on best practices.
 - II. Select demonstration area for implementation based on current maintenance demand, visibility, and opportunities to engage the public.

Goal 2: Let People Know What We Have

Establish a community-focused approach to parks and recreation to create a more prominent presence of parks within the community, integrate parks planning with city planning, and build organizational capacity for effective program management.

2.1 Develop a comprehensive interactive online platform to provide detailed information on each park, open space, or trail within the City, including parks and open spaces maintained and operated by agencies and organizations other than the City. This information should include amenities, operating hours, upcoming events, and reservation options for facilities.

- a. Develop a comprehensive parks, recreation, and trails map for the City of Stevenson.
- b. Implement a centralized event calendar highlighting upcoming activities in parks and open spaces.
- c. Integrate a reservation system allowing users to book facilities or spaces for events.
- d. Establish a routine for updating and maintaining the online platform to ensure accuracy and relevance.

2.2 Assess the need and financial feasibility for establishing a dedicated staff position or Parks Department to manage parks projects, assets, and resources.

- a. Conduct a comparative analysis of similar-sized cities or municipalities that have successfully implemented dedicated parks management positions or established Parks and Recreation Departments to identify efficient organizational structures, staffing models, and budgeting strategies for long-term viability.
- b. Undertake a financial feasibility study to evaluate the costs and potential funding sources needed to establish a dedicated staff position or a full Parks and Recreation Department.

2.3 Integrate parks planning with city branding, marketing, and placemaking efforts, and coordinate with other agencies and organizations to leverage shared resources for broader reach.

- a. Develop a cohesive brand identity for parks and open space that aligns with the overall city brand. Develop consistent messaging across marketing materials.
- b. Establish partnerships with other city agencies, local organizations, and community groups to pool resources and collaborate on joint campaigns that highlight the interconnectedness of parks with broader community initiatives and events.
- c. Create a comprehensive signage and wayfinding plan that encompasses the entire city, outlining a unified strategy for guiding residents and visitors to parks and other key destinations.

Goal 3: Fill in the Gaps and Connect People to What We Have

Improve access and connectivity to parks, ensuring equitable distribution, legible and accessible pathways, and inclusive amenities. Identify and address gaps in park coverage and create a connected sidewalk and trail network.

3.1 Develop a pathways and trails plan to highlight Stevenson’s recreational, historical, and commercial sites, and to connect to existing parks and open spaces.

- a. Prioritize opportunities to connect existing pathways and trails.
- b. Include connections among the parks and trails of the City, its partner agencies, and private entities.
- c. Encourage private enterprise and intergovernmental agreements that will provide trail and pathway connections to parks and recreational areas.
- d. Include nature walks, scenic vistas, and connections to forests in the plan.
- e. Include wayfinding, signage, and placemaking so that routes to parks and open spaces are identifiable and recognizable as part of the larger trail network within Stevenson.

3.2 Develop trails that provide access to existing parks, water access points, and scenic areas.

- a. Partner with other landowners to develop formalized and accessible trails and viewpoints at the Piper Road landslide site and upper Rock Creek area.

- b. Continue to advocate for the construction of a multi-use trail along the Rock Cove shoreline connecting the Columbia Gorge Museum to the County Fairgrounds using existing easements.
- c. Purchase an easement from private landowners to expand the waterfront trail and establish public access to the water at the west end of the waterfront.

3.3 Explore opportunities for new park developments or expansions in areas with identified parks gaps.

- a. Initiate a feasibility analysis focusing on the acquisition of new park land by the City (e.g. evaluating land division guidance).
- b. Engage with the community to understand specific needs and preferences for new park land and amenities in gap areas.
- c. Target new development areas to reserve land for park space.
- d. Develop criteria, encompassing factors such as acquisition cost, natural setting, compatibility with park amenities, parking adequacy and proximity to user groups, to systematically identify opportunities for park land acquisition.
- e. Establish a permanent funding source for the acquisition and development of new park and recreation lands and facilities.

3.4 Explore Opportunities to Enhance Open Space Preservation and Recreational Opportunities within Open Spaces.

- a. Review critical areas and zoning codes and evaluate market-based open space preservation strategies for effective implementation.
- b. Consider using stream corridors and shorelines of the state as part of a parkway or greenway concept.
- c. Secure dedications and easements adequate for stream channel maintenance, trails, public open space, and future recreational use along all natural, permanent stream corridors.
- d. Utilize growth targets to identify and address risks to different open space types.
- e. Research regional tree codes and best practices to enhance tree canopy preservation within open spaces.

Goal 4:

Improve and Expand What we Have to Meet Diverse Community Needs

Develop a balanced system of recreational facilities, lands and programs. Provide vibrant, accessible, and inclusive community spaces catering to the recreation needs of residents and visitors of all ages. Offer year-round recreational opportunities, activate underutilized spaces, address community desires, and ensure inclusivity for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

4.1 Engage the community regularly to understand current needs and desires for park spaces in the community.

- a. Establish a parks related community advisory group that is comprised of community members that represent the diverse user groups in Stevenson.
- b. Conduct community engagement for parks capital investments.

4.2 Support parks and recreation projects that have public support and provide a geographically central, flexible space for year-round public use.

- a. Secure funding and develop the Park Plaza at the Courthouse lawn.
- b. Review community feedback from this plan and identify and roll-out program opportunities for flexible spaces.

4.3 Identify opportunities for local groups and/or public-private partnerships to become shared stewards and caretakers of city owned property.

- a. Collaborate with local artists to develop a public art plan that highlights the

opportunities for permanent and seasonal public art installations in underutilized city spaces.

- b. Partner with landowners of undeveloped properties to develop a pop-up dog park that will serve as a temporary space that will allow the City to determine a need for a more permanent off-leash dog area in the City.
- c. Partner with other local agencies and organizations to allow existing festivals and events to use and program underutilized spaces for small pop-up exhibits or concerts.
- d. Identify and collaborate with a community advisory group made up of adjacent neighbors, representatives from the High School, and youth groups to define long-term goals and a vision for Gropper Loop Park.

4.4 Provide public restrooms at existing facilities where feasible and invest in new public restroom facilities when parks and open spaces are upgraded.

- a. Provide a public restroom facility in conjunction with the proposed improvements at the Park Plaza.

4.5 Develop play areas that are current, accessible, provide opportunities for all weather play, and meet the needs of users of all ages.

- a. Support and encourage the development of plans to upgrade existing playground facilities at Stevenson Elementary School and Rock Creek Park. Develop an agreement for public use of facilities during non-school hours.
- b. Integrate formal and informal play features into the Park Plaza project.

4.6 Enhance accessibility and provide inclusive environments across all parks.

- a. Conduct an accessibility audit for parks that evaluates parking, pathways, entrances, amenities, and facilities to identify potential barriers and areas for improvement, ensuring that the park environment is inclusive and accessible to individuals of all abilities. Develop a prioritized action plan based on audit findings, addressing immediate needs, and setting a roadmap for long-term enhancements.
- b. Prioritize the incorporation of universally designed features such as inclusive playgrounds, seating, and facilities across all parks.

4.7 Determine the community need for a permanent skate park in Stevenson.

- a. After the new skate park in North Bonneville is complete, conduct a survey within Stevenson to determine if a new skate park is still desired in Stevenson or if the skate park in North Bonneville meets their current needs.

Goal 4 (continued):

Improve and Expand What we Have to Meet Diverse Community Needs

4.8 Establish new and enhance existing access to Rock Creek, Rock Cove and the Columbia River.

- a. Purchase an easement from private landowners to establish public access to the water from downtown. Develop water-based facilities such as an access point, viewing deck, or non-motorized boat launch.
- b. Support and encourage the development of plans to add water access points, docks and non-motorized boat launches at the Columbia Gorge Museum and the County Fairgrounds.
- c. Develop a water trail map in partnership with the Port of Skamania, the County, and the Columbia Gorge Museum.

4.9 Develop community gateways along Highway 14 that celebrate the character of Stevenson and welcome residents and visitors to the community.

- a. Determine what the most appropriate location is to install gateway features. Consider: east end and west end couplets, gateway park, and other city-owned underutilized spaces.
- b. Develop a landscape style and master plant list for use at all gateway sites to create a consistent look and feel.

- c. Engage the community to determine the most appropriate sign or monument to install at the gateways that best represents the character of the city.
- d. Create and implement the publicly supported plan.

4.10 Facilitate and support the development of major community recreation facilities for citizens, such as expanding the pool activity center, providing covered pavilion spaces, developing a youth center, and other spaces for recreation, physical fitness, and wellness classes.

- a. Explore feasibility of a centralized versus de-centralized approach to providing diverse indoor recreation opportunities to the community.
 - I. One centralized approach would be to consider the construction of a new community center. The city would consider what the minimum needs and size of the center would be, and what the minimum population, funding, and other support would be needed to move the idea forward.
 - II. An alternative centralized approach would be to look at existing recreation centers or facilities and opportunities to expand them to meet community needs.

III. A de-centralized approach would be to unify the existing facilities through the use of a common organization or management system. For example they could be managed by a new parks district or staff position that focuses on centralizing information for the community, including the ability to see programs, hours of operation, or make reservations.



06

Planning and Implementation



Projects and Planning Recommendations

The PROS Plan goals and objectives can be achieved through sustained, committed implementation over the next 20 years. The following is a summary of project recommendations that vary from site specific projects to overarching policies. Each recommendation is based on the assimilation of input from previous planning efforts, public outreach, existing condition, feasibility, and

alignment with the mission, goals and objectives described in this document. This chapter outlines project proposals for a 20-year planning horizon, capital and operational planning details for a 6-year implementation period, an acquisition/disposal plan, and an exploration of potential funding sources for Stevenson to pursue.

CAPITAL PROJECT PROFILES







This plan identifies six priority capital projects that align with the vision and goals outlined in this PROS Plan. These six projects are described in this section, with additional detail for the projects prioritized for the shorter-term implementation period. Each project addresses one or more gaps identified in the Needs Assessment:

- Expand the trail network
- Add core amenities
- Improve the existing system of parks
- Expands walkshed access
- New neighborhood or community park
- Addresses LOS gaps for 2045 growth targets

Some projects enhance existing sites, while others expand the system by purchasing new properties or easements for trails. The projects are counted in **Exhibit 6.1**, and then described with greater detail in the project profiles. These projects are supported by the community, address gaps identified in the needs assessment, and improve Stevenson’s LOS metrics.



Exhibit 6.1: Proposed Capital Improvement Projects

								BUILD			ADD	RENOVATE, REPLACE, OR ENHANCE	
		Expand Trail Network	Add Core Amenities	Improve Existing System	Expands Walkshed Access	Neighborhood or Community Park	Add LOS Gaps for 2045 Targets	Purchase Land	Build on Existing Parcel	Purchase Easement	Add New Feature(s)	Specialized	Natural Features / Trails
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection	Trail	X					X				X		X
Stevenson Park Plaza	Special Use Site		X	X		X			X		X		
County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch	Community Park		X	X					X		X	X	
West Waterfront Trails	Trail	X					X			X			X
Gateway Landscape Improvements	Neighborhood Park			X					X		X		
Piper Road Trails	Trail	X			X		X	X					X
TOTAL		3	2	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	4	1	3

Capital Improvement Project Ranking Methodology

To determine which projects should be included as capital improvement projects, and how to rank them, the team considered four categories. The first category was community support, the second category was needs and gaps, the third category was existing investment, and the last category was community costs and benefits.

EXISTING INVESTMENT

The score for existing investment is based on the level of prior planning or investment of money, staff resources, or community groundwork that has already been contributed to the project. This also includes how advanced the project is on its path towards implementation. This category assumes that a project in progress has existing community support and investment, and/or stems from prior investment in a planning level analysis that justifies its advancement towards becoming a project. This category had an added influence on community support in that most existing projects were included in the public survey.

The other dimension to this category is time sensitivity. Time sensitivity recognizes the efficiencies gained by adding to an existing effort versus starting one from the beginning. Some of the proposed projects are prioritized based on the benefit a more immediate implementation would provide by leveraging existing efforts or progress currently in place. If those projects were not underway, the proposed project would not be as high of a priority.

NEEDS AND GAPS

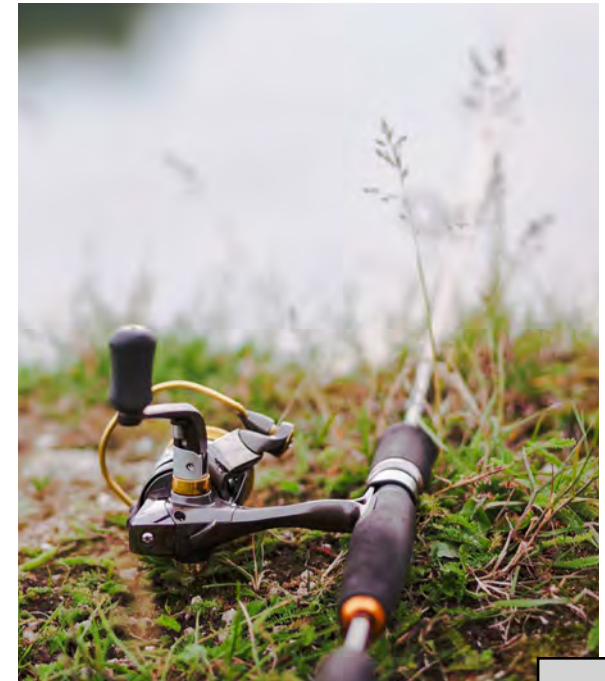
The second category was the degree to which the project addressed the plan's needs or gaps. The needs and gaps were identified in both the level of service analysis as well as the survey questions targeting amenity needs. These include a deficit in total trail length, as well as a need for wider park distribution and improvements to trail network connectivity. Gaps or needs for specific amenities or programs were determined based on community input. These included: playgrounds or general play spaces (such as a splash pad), bathrooms, non-motorized boat launches, and year-round use spaces, and space for more programs such as live music events.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community support is represented by direct community comments, survey results, and whether the projects meet the plan mission, goals, objectives, and strategies that were created through community input. Community input had the overarching message to maintain and improve what the city already has, and to improve the experience of doing the activities the community loves most, in the places they love. While most of the support focused on existing spaces, there were still consistent requests for new amenities that would cater to different ages and abilities. The input has been distilled into four key priorities. The more priorities a project meets, the higher it scores.

Four Key Priorities

- **Walking and Trails.** The most popular activity is walking, with priorities for trail improvements or connections.
- **Water.** Connect to nature on the water, provide views of and access to the water. There was consistent priority given to projects on the water, and the parks and recreation areas the community loved most were along the water: at the Port waterfront, the County Fairgrounds, and Rock Creek.
- **Fix it Up.** Prioritize the improvement and upgrade of existing spaces and amenities as well as their routine maintenance and care.
- **Keep it Fresh.** A significant level of desire was still expressed for new amenities or program spaces (not currently existing) that serve a diverse population.

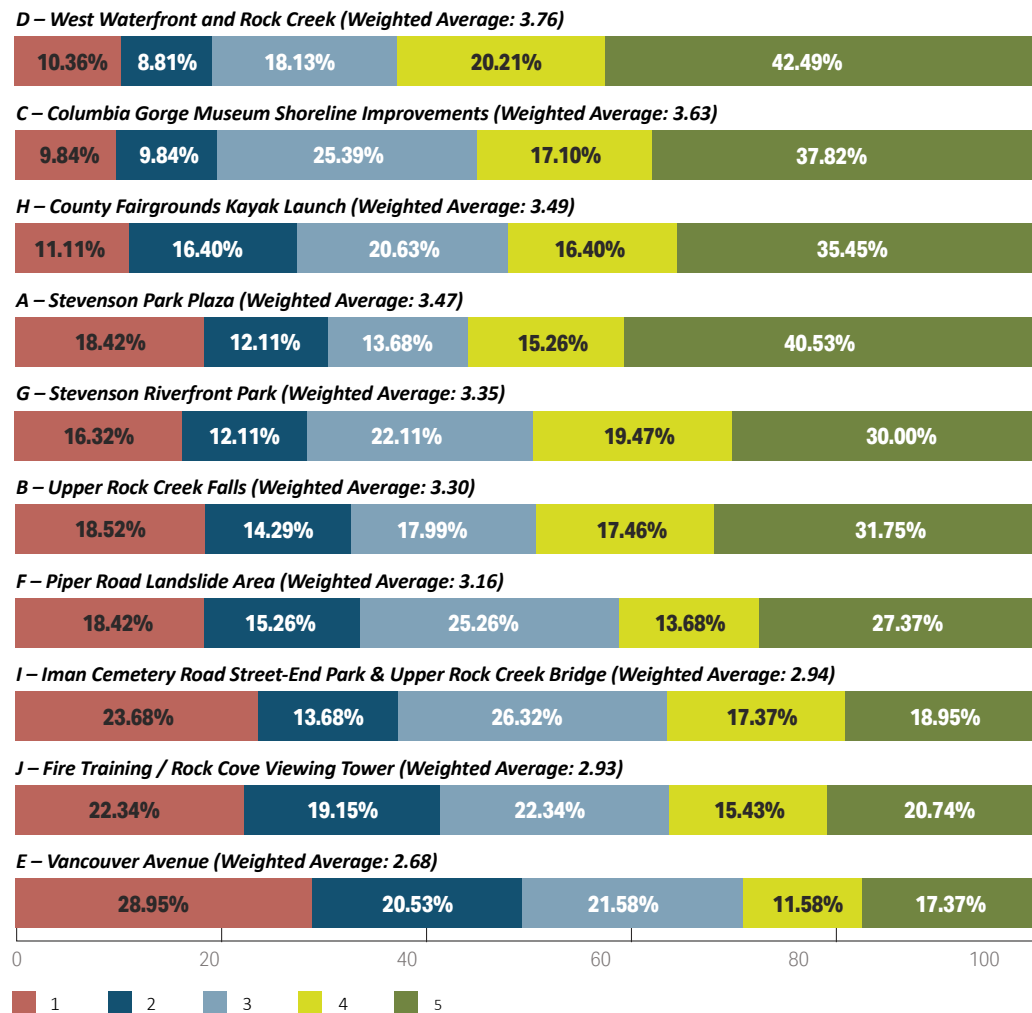




Four of the six projects were presented to the public in a community survey. The Gateway Landscape Improvements project emerged from stakeholder feedback conducted during project outreach and the stakeholder design charrette. The 1st Street sidewalk trail connection project developed as part of the Shoreline Public Access Plan, taking advantage of existing investments to the pedestrian network. Community members who took the online survey were asked to rank each project from 1 – 5, where 5 indicates the “best fit” for Stevenson. The results of this survey are presented in **Exhibit 6.2**. Projects that scored less than 3 were not prioritized (projects ‘I’, ‘J’, and ‘E’).

Exhibit 6.2: Community Survey Ratings of Park Project Proposals

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (where 5 indicates the best fit) please indicate how strongly each of these projects align with your needs and desire for local parks and recreation areas.



COMMUNITY COSTS AND BENEFITS

The last measure was that of community costs and benefits. This category was an evaluation that contrasted the perceived immediacy and directness of the benefit to the community, should the project be installed, weighed against the cost and maintenance investment that would result. This measure of benefit was based on how soon the project could be used by the public, how often the project could be used, how large the user group would be, and how diverse the user group would be. Project cost estimates and maintenance were then estimated for each project to represent costs. For benefit, projects that are expected to immediately serve a multitude of diverse users on a year-round basis would score highly, while projects that are building the foundation for future phases

of projects would score lower. For costs, projects that have a high investment and will result in a high level of maintenance and upkeep will score lower, while projects with a low investment and low or no maintenance will score higher.

CUMULATIVE SCORING FOR RANK

Exhibit 6.3 is a summary table of the scores and ranking based on the established methodology. An expanded description of each category for each project, as well as a more detailed cost break down is included in **Appendix C**.

Exhibit 6.3: Capital Improvement Project Scores and Ranking

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NAME	PRIORITY	EXISTING INVESTMENT (HIGH 3, MEDIUM 2, LOW 1)	EXISTING INVESTMENT: TIME SENSITIVITY (YES 1, NO 0)	NEEDS AND GAPS (HIGH 3, MEDIUM 2, LOW 1)	COMMUNITY SUPPORT: FOUR KEY PRIORITIES	COMMUNITY COSTS (HIGH 1, MEDIUM 2, LOW 3)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT (HIGH 3, MEDIUM 2, LOW 1)	TOTAL
1ST STREET SIDEWALK TRAIL CONNECTION	1	3	1	2	2	3	2	13
STEVENSON PARK PLAZA (AT THE COURTHOUSE)	2	3	1	2	2	1	3	12
COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS KAYAK LAUNCH	3	1	0	2	3	3	3	12
WEST WATERFRONT TRAILS (PHASE 1)	4	1	0	3	3	3	1	11
GATEWAY LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS	5	2	0	1	2	3	2	10
PIPER ROAD TRAILS (PHASE 1)	6	1	0	2	2	3	1	9

CAPITAL PROJECT 1:
**1ST STREET SIDEWALK
 TRAIL CONNECTION**

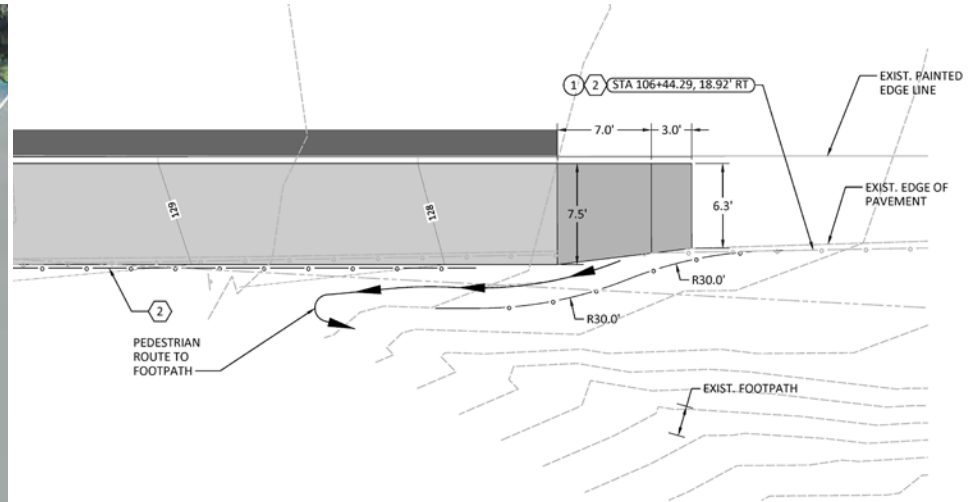
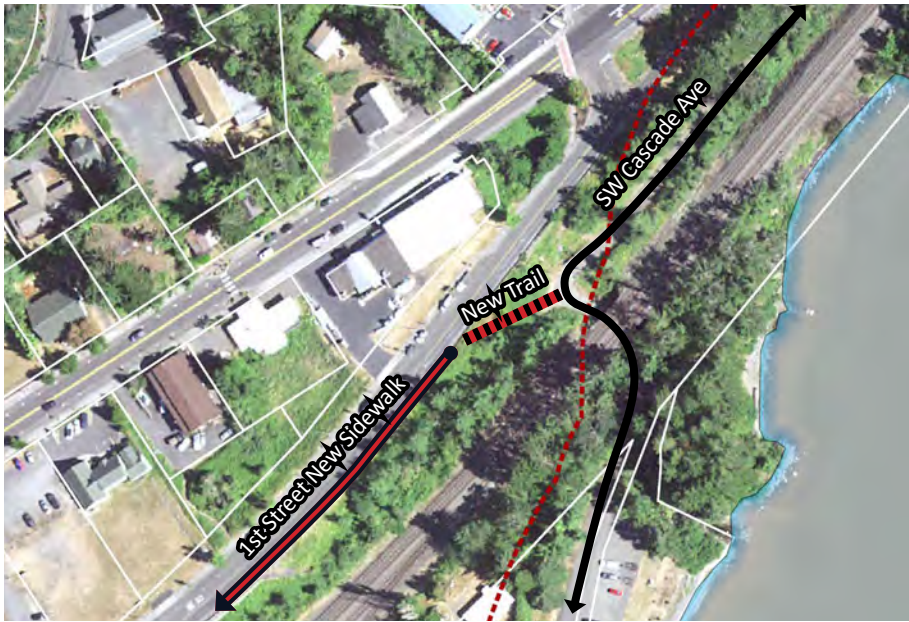


Exhibit 6.4: An excerpt from current draft plans by WSP USA acknowledge existing trailhead by allowing for a gap in the guardrail.

Description: The sidewalk expansion project has been under development since the creation of the city Comprehensive Plan in 2013. Studies and planning efforts discussed paving this trail segment in the future. The sidewalk project has been awarded funding and approved to move forward in the 2024 city budget. The current plan sidewalk expansion ends where this proposed trail would begin (see [Exhibit 6.4](#)). The project was also identified in the recent Public Shoreline Access Plan (2023) as a key link for pedestrians to access the east end of the waterfront safely. This project proposes to formalize a gravel footpath installed in 2018 with PCTA & WTA volunteers. This project was not included in the survey but leverages existing investment plans to improve waterfront access for the community.

- Existing Investment: Extensive coordination with WSDOT and over \$160,000 has been spent on design drawings for the sidewalk project. Another over \$800,000 has been approved to finish design and install the project this year, in 2024.
- Needs and Gaps: This project would add trail length and expand the network, as well as fill community identified gaps of safer water access.
- Community Support: This project supports the key priorities ‘Walking and trails’ and ‘Fix it up’.
- Costs and Benefits: The estimated cost to design and install this trail is \$18,000, assuming efficiencies by joining the existing effort. The benefit to walkers would be immediate, with minimal additional maintenance.

Justification: This project improves upon Stevenson’s existing pedestrian network and waterfront parks. The proposal is to join the newly extended 1st Street sidewalk to a trail leading to the eastern waterfront. This is a low-cost opportunity to leverage existing investments and add another point of connection to the waterfront.

CAPITAL PROJECT 2: STEVENSON PARK PLAZA



Exhibit 6.5: Design concept ‘Looking Towards the Future’ created by Rock Cove Design that was shared in the public survey.

Description: Today, the Skamania County Courthouse sits on a 1.07-acre site that is primarily open lawn, with some benches and picnic tables. The lawn slopes down starting level with the building but is above and separated by grade from the sidewalk level. The benches and tables are at sidewalk level. This site is walkable to Stevenson’s waterfront and central business district. This central park space is frequently used for community events and gathering.

Since the city kicked off the construction document phase for this project in 2023, the original concept created in 2016, and shown in **Exhibit 6.5**, has been modified to meet construction cost targets. However the goals of the project remain constant: to develop the site into an attractive park to act as a central gathering space in the city. Desired features include a water play feature, event space, seating, and a restroom.

- Existing Investment: Concept design development in 2016, \$275,000 investment in design fee for construction documentation in 2023-2024.
- Needs and Gaps: This project proposes the addition of community identified gaps in amenities, and provides space for programming.
- Community Support: Two key priorities are represented. ‘Fix it Up’, improving an existing space, and ‘Keep it Fresh’, providing new amenities that serve a more diverse community. Survey Ranking: #4
- Costs and Benefits: Estimated construction cost is \$3.2 million development, and a significant increase and diversification of future maintenance demands from city staff.

Justification: This project proposal received strong community support and aligns with the engagement findings that residents wish to continue improvements upon existing community assets. The Stevenson Park Plaza would transform an existing space from an open lawn into an engaging park, with unique features and amenities. The space connects nicely to Stevenson’s business district and waterfront park space. It could host public events with high community support, such as concerts and holiday celebrations. Programs could be hosted year-round and serve both locals and tourists alike. The water feature and other elements would serve also as informal play features for children of all ages.



Image: Community members gather on the lawn for the annual performance by the high school band.



Exhibit 6.6: Design concept ‘Community Terraces’ created by Understory Landscape Architecture, is one of three updated plaza design options presented to the community in a recent survey in December 2024.

CAPITAL PROJECT 3: COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS KAYAK LAUNCH



Description: This project would implement a formalized hand-carry boat launch and boat wash station along the shoreline at the fairgrounds, including shoreline restoration. For many years there has been public demand for a kayak launch on Rock Cove. The 2023 Public Shoreline Access Plan identified this as a project based on community input and the degraded condition of the shoreline from trampling and informal launching due to the lack of a formal facility.

- Existing investment: Relationship building and discussions with the county have been cultivated recently, beginning with the Public Shoreline Access Plan outreach process.
- Needs and Gaps: Improves existing system. Increase shoreline access. Community identified gap in need for specific amenities and programs: non-motorized boat launch.

- Community Support: This project represents ‘Water’, ‘Fix it Up’, and ‘Keep it Fresh’. It’s survey Ranking was #3.
- Costs and Benefits: The estimated cost for design, permitting and installation is \$107,000, however the city proposes to match funding by providing half this amount, \$53,000. The benefit would be immediate, year-round, and for a diverse community group. There would be no maintenance impacts for the city.

Justification: These improvements received high community support on the project survey. The result would be stronger waterfront connection and an improved experience for locals, visitors and event attendees. This project addresses the request to continue improving the existing parks system and would leverage shared investments and cross-agency collaboration promoted throughout this plan.



CAPITAL PROJECT 4: WEST WATERFRONT TRAIL: PHASE 1



Exhibit 6.7: Design concept of trails and shoreline access from the Public Shoreline Access Plan 2023.

Description: Phase one of this project seeks to take advantage of an opportunity to be a part of the future vision in this space by investing in public easements that would provide water access to the community. The city would purchase easements around the parcel perimeter including the future potential for public water access to Rock Creek and Rock Cove in a future phase of the project. The easement would be purchased from a private landowner. Future phases would include the build out of a permanent paved trail and formalized water access. The project would add 400 LF of trail. The cost estimate represents the purchase of two easement segments in this first phase, with a longer-term vision of adding the trail and water access in coordination with the development of the property.

- Existing Investment: Schematic plans to develop the private land at the west end of the waterfront have been explored in recent years with a focus on high-density residential development (Downtown Plan for Success! Adopted October 2022). The recent Public Shoreline Access Plan (2023) provided an evaluation by an assessor of the potential easements.
- Needs and Gaps: Future phases would add trail length and expand the network, as well as fill community identified gaps of safe water access.
- Community Support: Three key priorities are represented. 'Walking and Trails', 'Water', and 'Keep it Fresh'. Survey Ranking: #1
- Costs and Benefits: Phase one of this project requires minimal maintenance, but the initial cost estimate to purchase the easements is on the high end at \$585,000. The benefit to the community is not immediate.

Justification: This project proposal received the strongest community support on the public survey. It expands the City's trail network and adds public access to the waterfront. Waterfront activities rank highly in Stevenson. The overall cost and maintenance needs of this project are low and the result offers positive community benefit.

CAPITAL PROJECT 5: GATEWAY LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS



Image: A rendering of the east couplet imagines a new style and landscape at the city gateways.

Description: This project would enhance the landscaping at three locations: Gateway Park, and the east and west end couplets of Highway 14. Landscape improvements would focus on local and low-maintenance plantings, with wayfinding and a parks system kiosk located at Gateway Park. As a part of this effort, a landscape plant palette and character would be developed to be repeated throughout the city as a unifying aesthetic. In addition to planting improvements, these spaces offer a unique setting to highlight local public art integrated into the landscape.

- **Existing Investment:** The idea for an informational kiosk at Gateway Park was proposed in the city's Wayfinding Master Plan, dated 2012. Both couplets have within them or nearby 'Entering Stevenson' type signage, and some degree of landscaping or decorative lighting.



Image: A rendering of Gateway Park depicts a new aesthetic and maintenance standard at the city gateways.

- **Needs and Gaps:** This project represents both 'Fix it Up' and 'Keep it Fresh' by improving existing spaces and adding new elements to them.
- **Community Support:** This project was not surveyed, but the desire for a more distinct gateway experience along SR-14 at each end of town was recorded in all community outreach methods.
- **Costs and Benefits:** The cost to implement this project is moderate at \$68,800. This may also require additional coordination with WSDOT. The affect on maintenance would not be significant when measuring total hours, however, the type of maintenance would be more diverse and more specialized. Training and equipment may be required. The benefit would be immediate and visually pleasing to residents and visitors looking for signs of more highly maintained spaces.



Image: A rendering of the west couplet reimagines the sense of arrival using natural elements and public art at the city gateways.

Justification: This project improves upon Stevenson's existing park network, turning Gateway Park into an identifiable gateway into town, celebrating Stevenson's natural setting, history and culture through public art and signage. The proposed concept emerged from stakeholder discussions in the design charrette, reflecting support from individuals with strong connections to the park network in Stevenson. It also addresses the public support for improving maintenance by developing a landscape that can be used by staff to develop maintenance techniques and explore lower maintenance practices in a small area.

CAPITAL PROJECT 6: PIPER ROAD TRAIL



Description: This project involves the purchase of easement agreements from a private landowner in the area affected by the landslide in 2007. The purchase of the easements would allow for the development of pedestrian trails, providing the public visual and potentially physical access to Rock Creek Lower Falls. This project was initiated during the development of the Shoreline Public Access Plan as an option to provide public access (visual and potentially physically) to Rock Creek and one of the waterfalls.

- Existing Investment: The Public Shoreline Access Plan included the investment in an official assessor report that evaluated the cost estimate to purchase easements on this property for this project.

- Needs and Gaps: This project represents ‘Walking and Trails’, and ‘Water’. It expands the existing trail network and park access walkshed.
- Community Support: The community desire a public option to access Rock Creek. The project survey Ranking was #7.
- Costs and Benefits: The estimated cost to both purchase an easement as well as finance the development of design documents advanced enough to be used for a grant application is \$106,000. The benefit would not be immediate. Once a trail is eventually installed the city would maintain it.

Justification: This project adds to Stevenson’s trail network and addresses the lack of walkable park space in northern parts of the city, as well as lack of public access to Rock Creek. The private landowner has expressed initial willingness to participate in the agreement if the City pursues.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) COST SUMMARY

The CIP focuses on a 6-year horizon for implementation of proposed park improvements. The six projects selected for prioritization in this time horizon are detailed in the project profile section above. These projects received strong community support, address needs and gaps in the existing system, and have some existing momentum and promise that they could be achieved in a shorter timeframe.

A total of \$3,808,146 across six years is needed to complete these projects. The result would be the creation of a new community park (on an existing site), the addition of three new trails, two additional waterfront access sites, and improvements to the city gateways including one of the City’s existing neighborhood parks. Half of the estimated \$107,000 for the County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch project is included in this estimate with the assumption of a match-fund approach, but no formal agreement is in place.

Exhibit 6.8: Cost Estimates for Project Proposals in 6-year Implementation Plan

PROJECTS	2025-2030 EXPENDITURES
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection	\$55,000
Stevenson Park Plaza	\$3,200,000
County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch	\$53,500
West Waterfront Trails	\$585,000
Gateway Landscape Improvements	\$68,800
Piper Road Trails	\$105,673
	\$3,808,146



MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Currently, Stevenson maintains five physical spaces; three neighborhood parks Gateway, Walnut, and Gropper Loop, and two large landscape medians, the West End Couplet and the East End Couplet. These spaces total 16,200 square feet and cost about \$100,000 annually to maintain. This accounts for about 7% of the current General Fund budget in Stevenson. A consistent theme during outreach for this project was the desire for improved maintenance of existing park spaces.

The ‘Improvements on Existing’ in [Exhibit 6.9](#) details a maintenance schedule that could improve site conditions by doubling waste removal and integrating more landscaping services such as weed removal and landscaping services, including seasonal displays of flowering plants. Implementing this maintenance plan would increase annual costs by 9%. This would take maintenance costs from 7% of the 2023 General Fund total to 8%.

The right-hand column in [Exhibit 6.9](#) builds upon the improved maintenance to the current system plan, adding anticipated maintenance to the sites proposed in the 6-year CIP. These projects, if completed, would introduce some new categories such as bathrooms and splash pad maintenance. In total, the changes increase the maintenance budget by 27% over the existing. This would increase the maintenance fund to 10% of the 2023 General Fund budget.

Exhibit 6.9: Proposed Changes for Improved Maintenance of Existing Parks Network.

TASKS	HOURS (ANNUAL)	IMPROVEMENTS ON EXISTING	IMPROVEMENTS + CIP PROJECTS
Waste Removal	52	104	200
Christmas décor	300	300	350
Tree planting	100	100	100
Tree trimming/limbing	300	300	300
Mowing/Brush Removal	800	800	400
Irrigation repair	2	2	2
Fountain maintenance	10	10	10
Bathroom maintenance			500
Splash Pad Maintenance			100
Weed Removal/Landscaping		100	170
Total Hours	1,564	1,716	2,132
ESTIMATED COST	\$100,000	\$109,719	114.7



Cascade boat launch

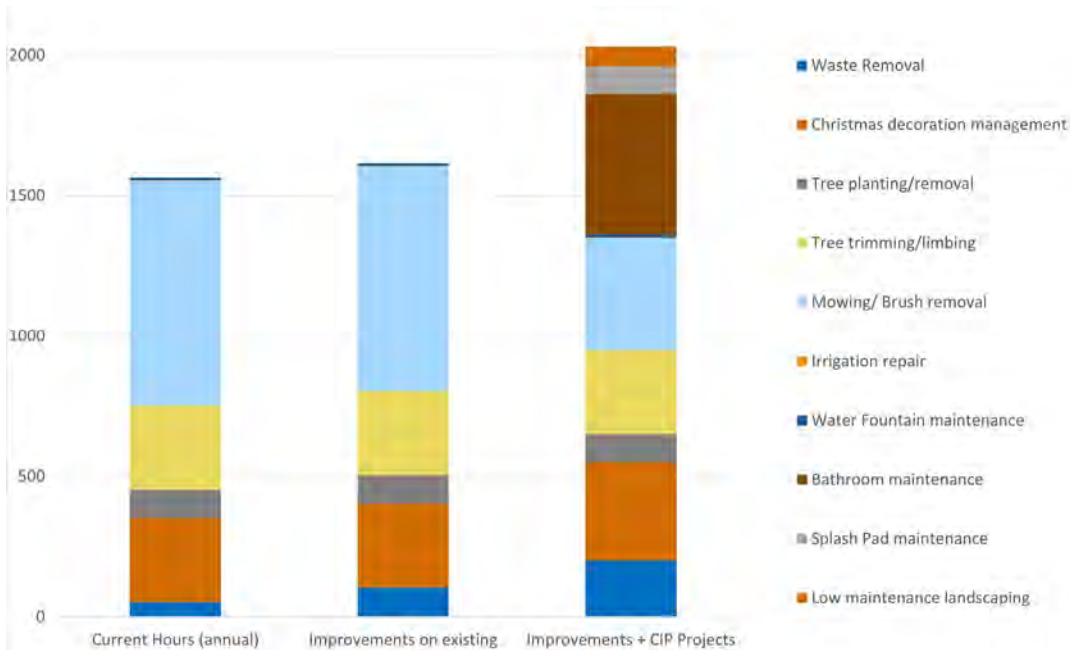


Exhibit 6.10: Projected Maintenance Budget Scenarios. Sources: City of Stevenson, 2023 for current conditions; DCG/Watershed, 2024 for estimated changes; Seva Workshop, 2024.

The weed removal/landscaping estimates assume City maintenance staff install seasons displays in existing parks or streetscapes. These will be rotated four times a year and areas will be weeded every two months. Soil will be amended and mulched every two years. New proposed projects will convert lawn to planting to achieve lowered mowing hours.

In general the proposed changes to maintenance may not greatly increase the city’s need to increase their annual commitment in spending, they do however propose to diversify the type of maintenance activities that would be needed to be performed by city maintenance staff. Currently the majority of time is spent mowing. A more diversified approach to maintenance may require additional training and equipment needs.

PLANNING PROPOSALS: 20-YEAR HORIZON

This section summarizes potential planning and feasibility projects for Stevenson to consider for the expansion and improvement of its parks system. These are called planning projects because they represent park project ideas in an early stage of exploration. More time needs to be spent considering each of these projects before a capital project could be created. Recommendations on how to address the needs identified related to Operations and Maintenance and Organization and Communication are described in the lists of strategies in Chapter 5. The descriptions below will include Amenity Focused Projects which consider different approaches to how to create a new project that includes the select amenity that was prioritized by the public. Master Plan projects similarly describe recommendations to move forward longer-term projects that were identified as a priority by the public.

AMENITY FOCUSED PROJECTS

Goal 4 articulates among other things the desire for amenities or facilities that meet diverse community needs. Specific park features were repeatedly requested during the public outreach process without association to any specific location. These requests were supported by the inventory which reflected an absence of these features. The following project pages describe each amenity or feature and provide possible options for how the city may move the project forward. Projects are numbered AP.1 through AP.12.

The project descriptions will use the following format:

APPROACH (1-3):

(Description).

Capital Cost: Low (\$ - \$\$),

Mid (\$\$ - \$\$\$), High (\$\$\$+);

Administrative Commitment:

Low (0-.01 FTE), Mid (0.01-0.05 FTE),

High (0.05-0.5 FTE)





Image Credit ©Earthscape

NEED:

Playground: AP.1

AMENITIES:

- Universal / accessible play equipment
- Nature Play
- Support broad age range

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.5
- 4.6

APPROACH 1:

The city partners with the School District to fund and create a playground master plan to replace the aging elementary school playground. The playground design could be expanded to meet city identified needs beyond the school needs. The city could expand the funding available beyond what the school district could have secured on its own.

Capital Cost: Low; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 2:

The city partners with the Downtown Association to fund and create a playground master plan. The goal would be to pursue a public-private partnership with a downtown developer to provide a public amenity to the city. In return the city could provide funding, incentives or allowances to compensate the developer.

Capital Cost: Low; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 3:

The city includes a playground as one of the primary amenities driving a future acquisition if/ when they develop an acquisition/disposal plan. The goal of providing a playground will influence the size, location, and features of a future acquisition.

Capital Cost: High; Administrative Commitment: High



NEED:

Dog Park: AP.2

AMENITIES:

- Dog-friendly
- Family friendly
- Flexible and natural space
- Easy to get to
- Benches and trash cans

OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1
- 4.2
- 4.3

APPROACH 1:

The city works with the Downtown association to identify a developer who owns vacant land and is willing to partner with the city to create a temporary dog park location. The city and Downtown association can partner to fund construction and maintenance. The city can work with the developer to identify incentives to use the land. The otherwise vacant space is now activated for both tourists and locals.

Capital Cost: Mid; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 2:

The city includes a dog park as one of the primary amenities driving a future acquisition if/when they develop an acquisition/disposal plan. The goal of providing a dog park will influence the size, location, and features of a future acquisition.

Capital Cost: High; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 3:

The city can work with Advisory Committee members to explore options to add a dog park to an existing park or publically accessible space. The city can offer to support the project though matching funding and/or maintenance support. The project design would be led by the landowner.

Capital Cost: Mid; Administrative Commitment: Mid



NEED:

Trail Connections: AP.3

AMENITIES:

- Family friendly
- Flexible and natural space
- Easy to get to

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1
- 3.2
- 4.8

APPROACH 1:

Move forward the proposed Rock Creek Drive streetscape improvements to connect downtown to county fairgrounds as proposed in project SA.1 in the Shoreline Public Access Plan (2023). The project could be timed with utility improvements or commence independently. Any landscape palette developed from the Gateway Landscape Improvements project could be extended to the plant median on this street.

Capital Cost: High; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 2:

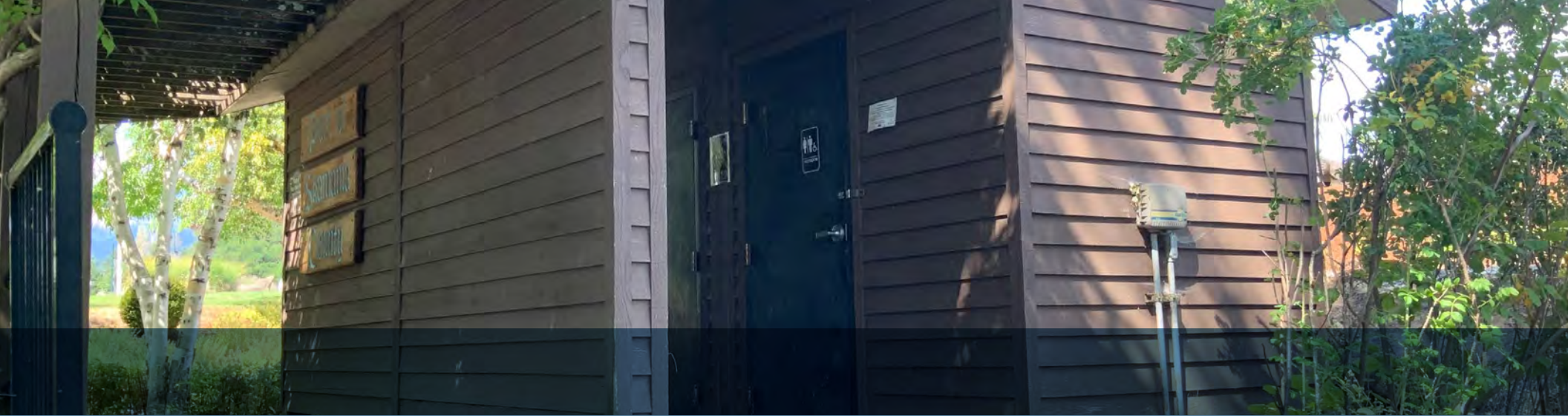
If/when the city develops a policy for pursuing acquisitions, create a plan and approach for delegated staff to monitor purchase opportunities and outreach to landowners in areas where there are gaps between existing trails. Consider acquisition or purchase of easements to prioritize connecting and extending existing trails.

Capital Cost: TBD; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 3:

Work with county to provide safe and well-maintained access to Upper Rock Creek. The county owns a large area of land north of the creek near the falls. Explore opportunities to partner with the county or purchase easements to develop safe public trail access to the creek.

Capital Cost: TBD; Administrative Commitment: High



NEED:

Bathrooms

AP.4

AMENITIES:

- Family friendly
- Flexible and natural space
- Easy to get to

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.3
- 4.4

APPROACH 1:

Provide a public restroom facility in conjunction with the proposed improvements at the Park Plaza project.

Capital Cost: High; Administrative Commitment: Low

APPROACH 2:

Partner with Advisory Board members to explore opportunities to expand existing restroom facilities. Work with partners to increase access to, awareness of, and accessible features of existing infrastructure.

Capital Cost: High; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 3:

As potential projects arise over the next twenty years, analyze whether each opportunity should include a bathroom based on location and proximity to other bathrooms. For trail projects that will serve both locals and tourists, consider the seasonal use of a portable toilet if the trail is in a residential area (for example if a trail to Upper Rock Creek is developed).

Capital Cost: High; Administrative Commitment: High



NEED:

Shoreline Improvements: AP.5

AMENITIES:

- Family friendly
- Flexible and natural space
- Easy to get to

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.2
- 4.8

APPROACH 1:

Support and encourage the development of plans to add water access and a dock at the Columbia Gorge Museum shoreline. The city could support a museum led project through matching grants or fund matching for the capitol project components.

Capital Cost: Low; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 2:

Prioritize water access opportunities that arise with future park projects. For example, for the west waterfront trail project, the city should explore options for creating safe visual or physical shoreline access in phase two.

Capital Cost: Low; Administrative Commitment: High

APPROACH 3:

Continue to explore with the community any opportunities to develop the city-owned Vancouver Avenue property located adjacent to Rock Creek. Identify why the community response has been lackluster and whether an alternative approach would be more successful, or if not, whether the property could be considered for a disposal plan.

Capital Cost: Low; Administrative Commitment: High

ADDITIONAL AMENITY PROJECTS

Other preferences emerged from the public outreach efforts. While they did not make it into the 6-year CIP, it is good to be aware of these preferences for future plan updates, or if applicable grant funding is available. They include:

- AP.6: Improve access to community pool.
- AP.7: Add shade, through trees or structures, to parks.
- AP.8: Increase indoor recreation opportunities.
- AP.9: Create a safe swim beach.
- AP.10: Provide year-round flexible spaces for programs serving both locals and tourists.
- AP.11: Preserve the experience of quiet and views of natural scenery in parks.
- AP.12: Add exercise equipment to parks or trails.



PARK PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Several park planning activities were identified during the plan creation process. These planning activities are recommended to provide the information necessary to take the next steps in developing future parks and facilities. Planning projects are labeled PP.1 through PP.10.

- PP.1: Skate Park – a need for a skate park was expressed. It was also reported that a skate park is expected to be built in North Bonneville.
 - Once built, conduct a survey to see if a new skate park is still desired, or if the skate park in North Bonneville meets the community’s current needs.
 - If not built, then add to list of future desired capital projects.
- PP.2: Access to Upper Rock Creek – continue conversations with the county, or explore feasibility of acquisition of land to provide safe access to Upper Rock creek.
- PP.3: Identify locations for future parks in underserved and UGA areas to fill park system gaps.
- PP.4: Community Center – investigate options to provide a community center. Explore how existing facilities could be better connected to serve the functions of a community center. Alternatively, research what factors or requirements would need to be met to consider a larger capital improvement project to build a new community center. A new or restored building, such as the Grange building, might replace other aging facilities and physically centralize indoor recreation and gathering spaces.
- PP.5: Develop water trail master plan with the Columbia Gorge Museum. Continue conversations with the museum to explore ideas for providing more water focused amenities to the public including shoreline access and upland amenities that would support a water trail.
- PP.6: Develop master plan for Gropper Loop Park; engage local neighborhood.
- PP.7: Develop a master plan for Walnut Park.
- PP.8: Develop a master plan for the County Fairgrounds.
- PP.9: Develop a public art plan. Inventory areas that could host art installations, form an art advisory council, engage the public and create a plan.
- PP.10: Create a community-wide comprehensive trail, streetscape and utility improvement plan.

ACQUISITION STRATEGY

Over the next two decades, the City may want to proactively pursue property purchase to expand its parks network along with population growth. To achieve LOS targets for 2045, another 9.0-acres of park space and 6.45 linear miles of trails need to be added. The existing list of potential projects includes several acquisition and easement purchase agreements:

- West Waterfront trail easement
- Piper Road trail easement
- Upper Rock Creek Falls park site

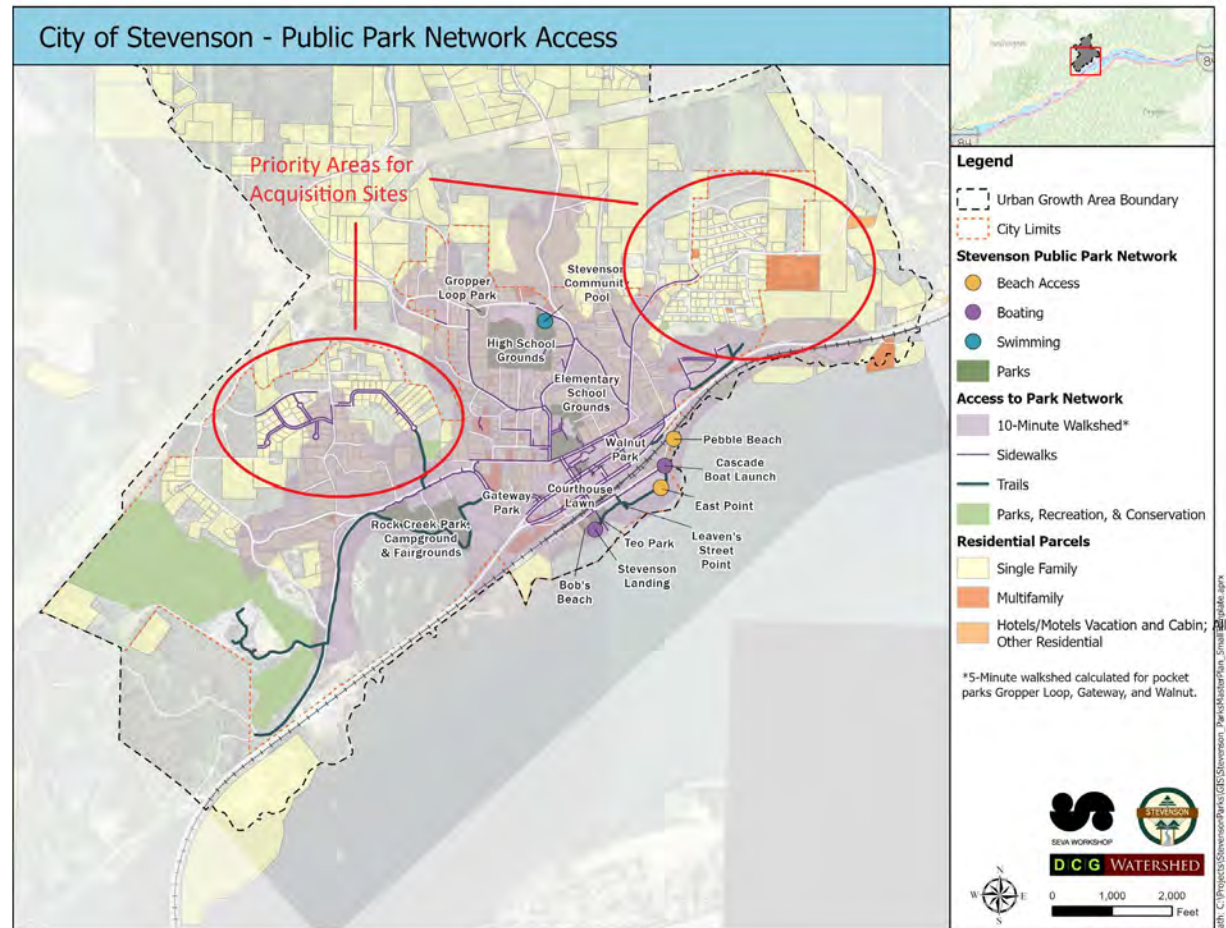
Other opportunities for acquisition could follow these strategic guidelines:

1. Continuing to purchase easements for trail development, particularly when segments can connect with existing pedestrian networks or other trails.
2. Explore neighborhood park opportunities, particularly in areas with residential parcels outside the existing walkshed. See map in [Exhibit 6.11](#).
3. If Stevenson considers annexation of any areas in its UGA, it is likely that additional park space for these residential areas would be an important consideration.

The current cost of land acquisition in Stevenson varies widely across the community, depending on location, zoning, and other features. Ranges from \$5- \$25 per square foot could be expected within residential areas.¹ To acquire 9-acres, a range from \$2- \$10 million might be anticipated for budgeting purposes. Existing easement

agreements greatly range from \$25,000 per linear mile of trail in non-developable sites to \$2.5M per linear mile of trail in more highly desired commercial or shoreline areas. An additional 6.45 linear miles of trail, if not part of acquired park land, could range from \$160K to over \$2M.

Exhibit 6.11: Stevenson Park Network Access Map



Sources: Skamania County Assessorm 2023; Seva Workshop, 2024

¹ - Estimate based on Redfin property sales, January 2024

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In Stevenson, the existing capital improvement fund uses a real estate excise tax (REET) as its primary source to fund construction of major capital facilities. Revenue varies from year to year, but in 2021 the REET generated \$53,950.² There is, however, competition from a range of projects intended to benefit from this fund. In 2022, other projects supported by this fund included the Kanaka Creek and Gropper Sidewalk project, the Russell Avenue project, and the Joint Emergency Facilities project.

Intergovernmental Grants are another important way to identify funding for capital projects. In 2024, Stevenson is anticipating receiving \$382,252 from a combination of the Department of Commerce and a transfer from the Tourism Fund. The hope is that this cash infusion can create a ‘shovel ready’ project by the end of the year.³ Additional state and federal grant programs could provide funding to support the feasibility of the PROS Plan implementation. These sources are competitive, however, and many of the grants require matching funds or are restricted to specific types of expenditures.

With an adopted PROS Plan, the City is eligible to submit grant applications to the Washington Recreation and Conservation (RCO) Office. There are many different grant programs to consider, with some of the largest being the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP-Recreation).⁴ The adoption of this plan will help Stevenson qualify for many more state recreation resources.

Development agreements are an important tool for ensuring that new residential development considers the open space needs of its future residents. With these agreements, master planned developments must provide a designated ratio of park space to households. This is an impactful way for additional park space to be provided without direct City financing resources being required. However, the resulting park space is often managed by a private homeowners association (HOA) and access is restricted to residents of the community.

Additional Funding Options and Opportunities

- Enhanced local funding
 - Create a Parks and Recreation Bond
- Volunteer Efforts and Donations – Volunteers can be quite effective in terms of contributing cash, materials and labor. City may need to update their policy to support additional options for sponsorships and donations.
- Public-private partnership
 - Explore revenue sharing agreements with concessionaires and vendors at parks and recreation facilities. Revenue can be used to pay for capital improvements.
 - Explore corporate sponsorships, health organization grants and conservation stewardship programs.
- Explore formation of a Park District – A junior taxing district formed for the purpose of providing permanent dedicated parks, recreation, and open space funding. May be within the City or also include areas outside the City.



2 - 2022 Stevenson Budget Document

3 - Stevenson Budget Book 2024

4 - <https://rco.wa.gov/recreation-and-conservation-office-grants/find-a-grant/>



Appendix A

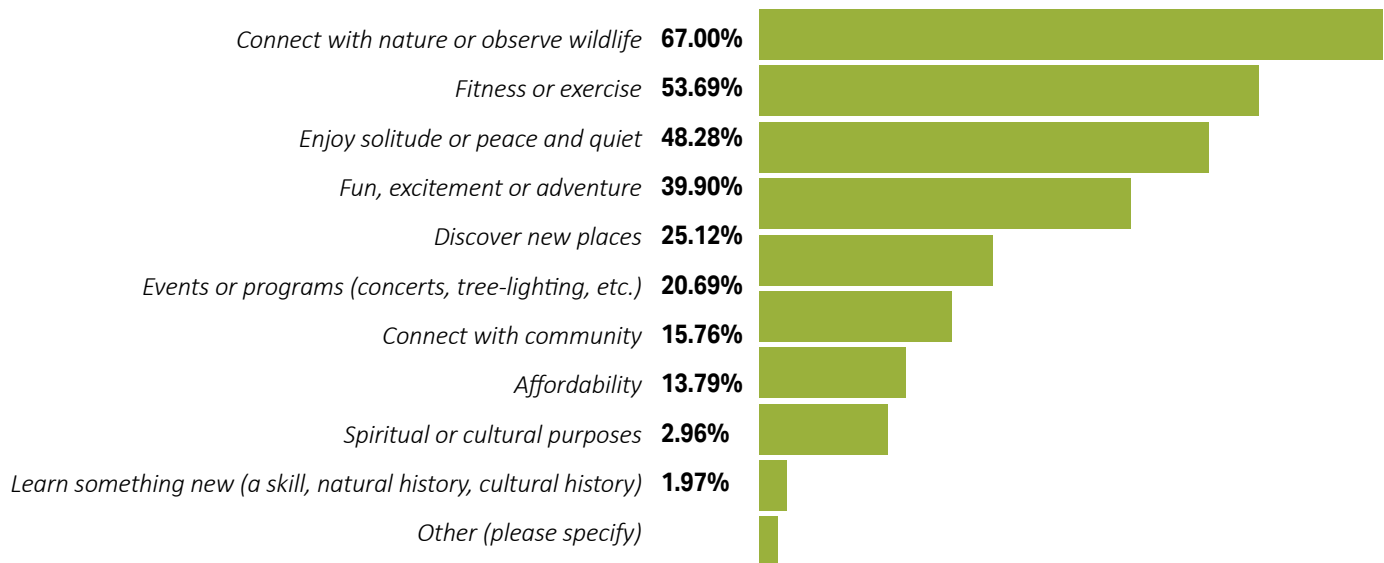
Public Outreach Summaries

- Online Public Survey Responses
- Stakeholder Interview Summaries
- Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries
- Surveys by Others

QUESTION 1 - 203 Responses

What are the three most important reasons why you spend time outdoors?

ANSWERS:	ANSWER CHOICES
Hunting/fishing	Connect w/ nature
Pickleball	Fitness/exercise
My son loves playing outdoors	Fun
Pickleball	Fitness/exercise
work in my yard/garden	both connect w/ nature & solitude
To get away from people, don't ruin it here by bringing in more people	Solitude
Because the outdoors is my favorite place! :)	Fun
My toddler loves being outside as well	Fun
Entertaining my children	Fun
Walk my dogs	Fitness/exercise
Teen events	Events or programs
exercise the dog	Fitness/exercise
Dog park	Fitness/exercise
Be away from people	Solitude

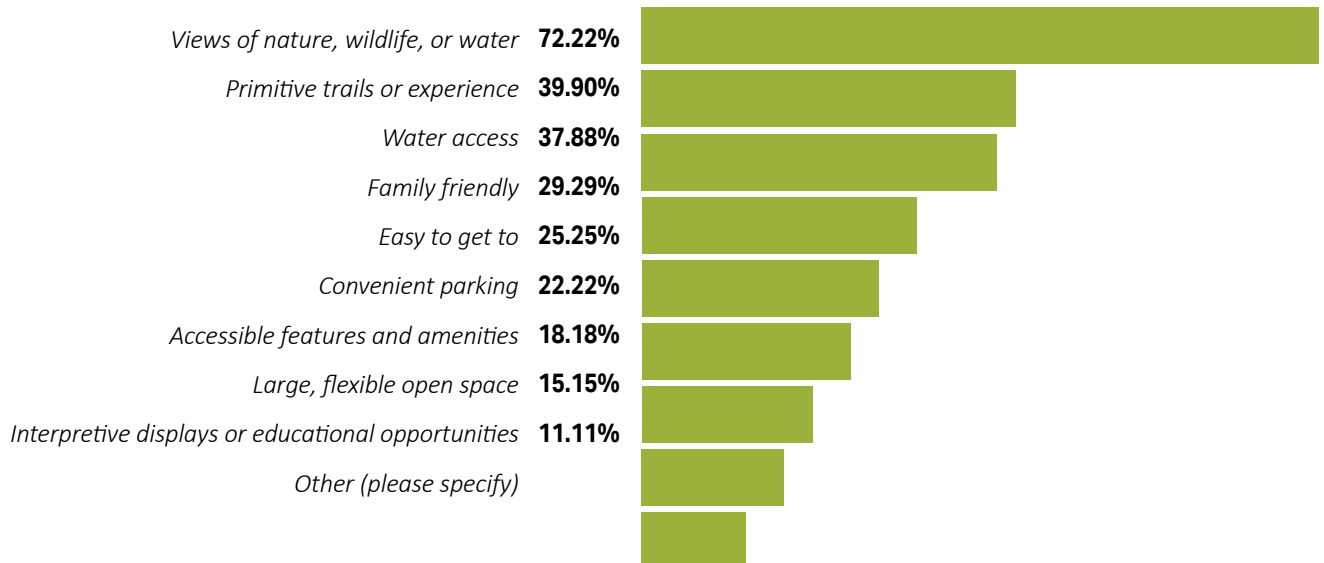


QUESTION 1 - 198 Responses

What do you look for in local facilities or recreation areas when choosing a place to spend time outdoors? Choose up to three.

ANSWERS:

Safe for walking and biking	Dog friendly
Somewhere not overrun by people	Dog friendly for off leash play
Less crowded.	Bikeable
no people	Wherever the least amount of people are
Pickleball would be great!	Dog/family friendly, respect for native wildlife and plants
Pickleball at least six courts	Covered recreational area for bikes, skateboards, etc
Whether it seems inviting, not a lot of pavement/concrete roads, walkways, and buildings; not near highways and noise	Dog park
Quit bringing people here	Events open to all abilities
Hiking	Free
safety	Dog friendly
Ones that have not been advertised as portlands playground and are not being ruined by people from out of town	Outdoor sculptures that you come across on walks.
safe parking sadly so many hiking areas in the gorge I won't go any more fear to come back to broken windows	No people, their spare change tourism isn't worth their presence.
Solitude	Trout fishing
Highly walkable	

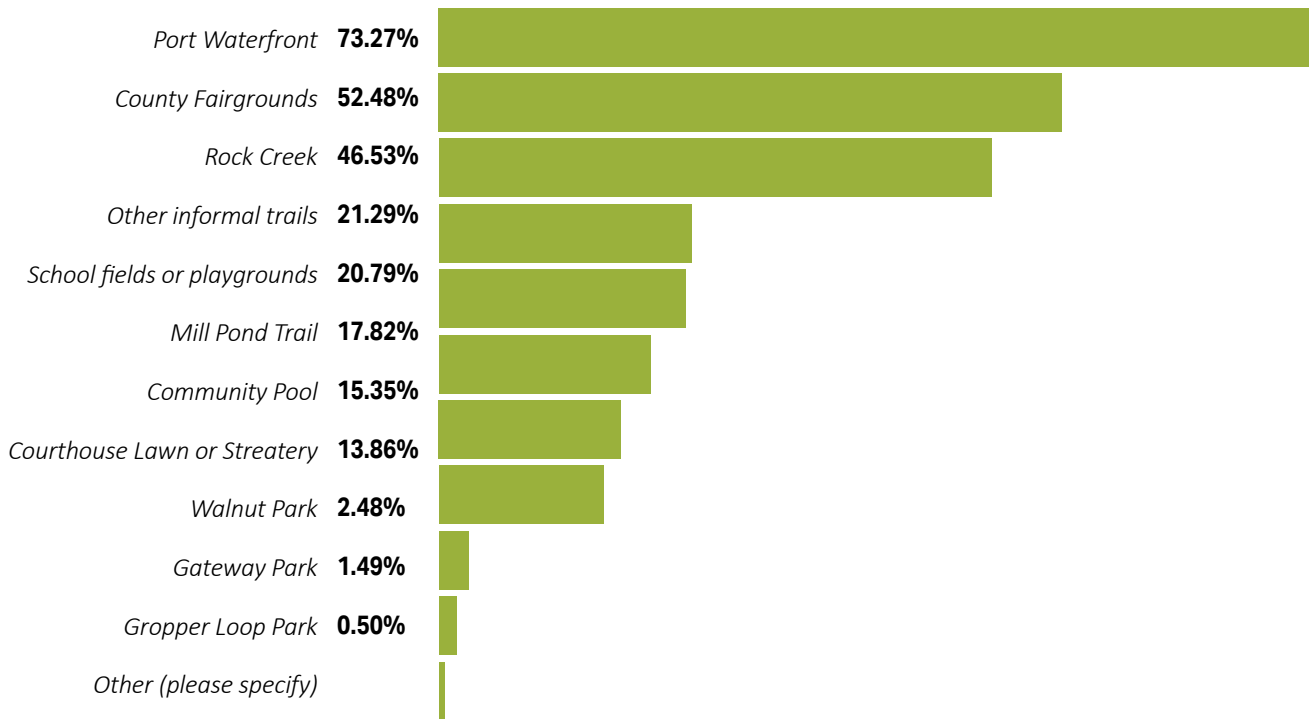


QUESTION 3 - 202 Responses

Which local recreational areas do you visit the most? Choose up to three.

ANSWERS:

Ash lake road
Bobs Beach
Museum
Trails around the lodge, trail to 40 foot falls, trail from the boat launch heading east to the bluffs along the railroad and Columbia river. trail behind the cemetery
Tennis courts and the fairgrounds pickleball area
Rock Cove
Pickleball Courts at Stevenson High School
Skamania Lodge trails since they are unpaved
Skamania lodge trails
strawberry island
PCT trailheads and Hamilton Island rec area
Beacon Rock State Park and Strawberry Island
More walkable trails!
Forest roads
Kite beach
North Bonneville trails
North Bonneville bike trails



QUESTION 4 - 176 Responses

What do you usually do when you visit the areas you selected in Question 3?

ANSWERS:

Eat a meal, kill time when waiting for an appointment. County Fair.	Hike with my dogs
exercise or watersports	Hiking, Walking, Sporting events, Swimming at the pool. Concerts, Water play
Hike/walk	Run, walk, launch canoes or kayaks
Enjoy what the area has to offer	Walk
Access playground equipment for my son, take pictures with mountains/water backdrop, look at birds & parasailing	Walk dogs. Swim.
walk around	Walk the dog, swim at times, walk with family/friends that are visiting
County fair, sport events	Paddle
Go on walks, attend the fair and other events, and look at nature.	hiking, bike riding, entertainment & events
Run, socialize, concerts.	Spend time with family and friends
Watch sports/school events, spend time with family	Generally looking for water access.
Hike/walk	Walk
Swim, breathe, paddle board, relax	Walk
Fair and blue festival	Walk/hike/run, observe and enjoy nature, spend time with others who feel the same
Walk	Walk, enjoy the sights, and participate in community events.
Paddle boarding jogging	Attend events
Hang out with friends and family	Play pickleball! We could use more real courts. The people in Stevenson deserve and need some indoor dedicated courts. So good for your health!
Join a event,...enjoying a peaceful moment at waterfront...socializing/eating at eatery	Play on the play structure, walk around the Rock Creek trail, walk around the water front trail
Walk the dog, and exercise	Hike, fish, explore
Walk the dog and get exercise myself	Enjoy concerts, music, good food. Take my sisters, and soon my own children to play in safe outdoor places
Swim, walk	Walk, picnic, watch action on river
Photos	Walk, ride bike, explore with friends.
Walk	Walk around, take photos, read educational plaques, go to the fair
Walk	Play Pickleball
Walk/run and let my kids play in the water and at the playground d	Walk/jog, listen to live music
Walk either alone or with the dog, visit with others out and about.	Let kids play and walk. I haven't heard of the other 3 parks and have lived in Skamania county all my life.
Would like to sit and look at the water we like to go for a walk	Walk, attend events like the county fair and classes at the Hedgewald, swim at the pool.
Exercise or picnic	Walk, walk my dog, enjoy a local meal or ice cream (streatery), enjoy local musicians, meet other dogs/people.
Play with kiddos	
Hike and hangout	
Hike, observe wildlife	
community events, bike ride, walk	

QUESTION 4 - 176 Responses

What do you usually do when you visit the areas you selected in Question 3?

ANSWERS:

Hike, explore
Walk
walk, run, dog walk
Visit events at the county fair and the farmer's market
Swim, run, walk my dogs
Either eat a lunch I brought with or just sit and relax and enjoy the beauty ... it's just so peaceful
Let my toddler run around outdoors
Walk the dog, enjoy the views, play in the water.
Walk
Walk, watch birds and other animals
Walk, enjoy the views, people-watch, play bagpipes
Exercise either run, hike, or cycling.
Relax and gather thoughts my happy place
I walk the paved pathway around Rock Creek that connects to the sidewalks
Wall trails, play at playground, eat our food. Relax and enjoy the outdoors
Paddle outrigger canoe
Special occasions
Photography
Sporting/school events. Holiday events
Bike with family or run with dogs.
walk with dog
Walk my dog or show to visitors
Hike, exercise, meet with friends
Bitch about other people being there and tourists being stupid
Casual stroll, Walk the dog & concerts
Go on Walks with my family
Walk, let kids play in water or on playground
Walk, picnic, watch water sports participants
Walk
Walk
Walk, sit and relax, visit friends
Walk
Walk
Mostly walking
Walk

Eat
Paddle on the river and hike with my dog
At the Streatery, I chill out and eat food/have coffee, admire the art! Waterfront, I watch all the cool activities & gaze at the waters. At the pool, I work on my swimming skills!!! The pool is super important!
Walk, talk, and eat (and obviously exercise)
walk alone or with dog(s)
Usually attending a function or simply enjoying "being".
Farmers Market, walk, bike, swim, use playground
paddleboard, play music, look at the scenery
"Waterfront- walk the trail, visit downtown shops, restaurants on the waterfront
Courthouse lawn for events like the Pride Parade, and the County Fair parade"
Lounge, hike, paddle
Talk with family/friends
Play with my son
"Regular hikes in areas I love and have done for decades.
Hunting and gathering mushrooms, huckleberries,
I do mill pond with my grandson and daughter for quick easy walk "
Play (kids), walk, attend events
Walk or ride my bike
Walk around, look for wildlife, enjoy an event, use the playground, sit and relax (I miss the old Carson Christmas tree lighting)
Run. Walk dog
Walk the dog. Swim.
walk dogs, take children to walk play, enjoy the walk fresh air
Walk, picnic enjoy outside
Fishing
Surfski and swim
Walk, listen to music
Play at the playgrounds
Paddle, swim, events
Walk, attend events

QUESTION 4 - 176 Responses

What do you usually do when you visit the areas you selected above?

ANSWERS:

Walk and enjoy the area
Bike ride, river kayak, hike/walk
Walk
I like taking my young son out to burn energy. Whether at a park or on a walk.
Jog, walk
Walk or kayak
I like taking my dog on walks or when we go to upper falls creek falls we go swimming.
Walk or hang out with people
Run, dog walk
Walk, view nature, play with my dog and kids
Spiritual stuff
walk dog or kids
Boating, Fishing
Farmers Market, Streatery, concerts, swim/SUP
Hike, playground
Take kids or family to view easy access spaces with beautiful scenery, bonus points for kid activities.
Hike with my dog, bird watch
Walk my dog, hike, bike ride
Hike, exercise, relax and enjoy the quiet
Walk and look at the scenery
observe event
Walk my dogs
"Walk with our dog and grandchildren
Swim at least 3x per week in pool- also take grandchildren there as much as possible"
Swim, bike, play
Let children play
Meet friends
Exercise and look for wildlife
Feed the geese/ducks appropriate food. It would be nice to have signs showing food that is safe for them to keep people from feeding them bread.
Kayaking Community events
Walk w dog, observe nature, community event, kids on play ground
Swim, walk, play the instruments and ride the slides

Bring my 2 children and often dogs, walk, play, explore.
Walk and talk
The port is extremely relaxing.
Walk dogs, play in the river, swim
Walk, run, skate
Let my kids play
Events
Swim, play with my dogs, walk
Swimming, sailing, drinking with friends
Swim, paddle , ride bikes
walk the dog, visit the farmers market
hike, bike, kayak
Walk, ride a bike, find pretty rocks, swimming in the summer
Creek hike and/or water play. Play at park with family. Attend events at fairgrounds.
Be in nature and away from people
Water aerobics, walking, hiking
hike with my dog, swim in the creeks
Play.
Walk or swim. Talk to people coming off the ships
Walk, read a book, kayak, observe nature
Walk,run,explore with dogs.
walk, eat, I can't wait until the Saturday Market is bigger with local growers participating. Hopefully I can get involved with the Saturday market one day, work is currently an issue.
Complain about the tourist and be upset that I thought I could run to town to get something with having to deal with all of the tourist.
Take in the scenery, enjoy some peace and quiet
Walk
relax and observe nature

QUESTION 5 - 166 Responses

What features do you like about the areas you selected?

ANSWERS:

The waterfront and fairgrounds has lots of parking available. The courthouse lawn usually doesn't have a lot of people on it. It's peaceful, but loud because of the highway noise.	Usually going for a specific reason: attending fair and music events; meeting friends
convenience, facilities and scenery	Access
Paved or dirt trails are nice. To feel safe and cleanliness.	attractive grounds, views of nature
Convince of attending those areas as I please.	I like to be able to walk around my neighborhood from my front door, in loops, far enough to get at least 5 miles of exercise before I return home. I like open natural spaces to let my dogs run around and to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. I like to visit all of the natural water features to enjoy the local waterfalls and areas to swim.
Playground equipment for children, nature/beauty scenery and convenience	Easy parking and water access
Fun	Quiet, not a lot of people
They are in beautiful locations and have lots of nature.	The pool is great. Rock creek area is pretty. The whole area and fairgrounds should be improved.
Paved trail is nice for running and biking. They are close in to the community and my house.	Clean, areas blend in with nature, trash cans available, restrooms nearby, dog friendly
Open areas, events.	Accessibility and family friendly
They're usually clean, safe, and there isn't a ton of people.	the access
Water	Music, events, food, shopping.
Large space, more parking and family oriented	They are utilized by Skamania County/Stevenson residents and benefit our community. Oftentimes Stevenson is solely interested in serving tourism.
They feel safe and have a beautiful view	Non paved areas. Wildlife
Access to water views	Quite
Ease of access, balance of sun and shade	Beauty, health of the ecosystem, maintenance without overbuilding
Easy accessible... friendly atmosphere...connecting with my community	Love the views of the river traffic and activities,
Easy access from home, nice paths, nice views	Nature
Circular trails. The fairgrounds/ Mill pond needs trash receptacles.	Everything. The view the weather and the people
Water access	Able to get off grid for exploring away from the crowds .
Scenic	Covered areas in Rock Creek Park, open spaces, views of the gorge, play structures
Flat, paved walking area	Water views
Quiet and beautiful	No traffic, safe, convenient parking.
Finally new bark at the playground happened. I enjoy the paved path for stroller/wagon.	Beautiful, easy to access, close to restaurants/bars
Good walking trail at Hagewald and down along river front. Watch people in water kite boarding etc go swimming.	Good parking
Open area lots of parking	No pavement on trails at Skamania Lodge (pavement/ concrete not good for walking and jogging on--bad for knees, etc.); live music available; viewing wildlife and water sport activities...
Easy parking. Clean	

QUESTION 5 - 166 Responses

What features do you like about the areas you selected?

ANSWERS:

Fun for kids but would love more for adults and children together	Views, water
Convenient, not crowded, inexpensive.	safe convenient
Ease of access and proximity, seeing neighbors, listening to great music at Clark & Lewie's	Open, easy use year round
The views	Close to home and downtown Stevenson. Paved trail on waterfront
Water and views	Parking, dogs are welcomed, lots of room to run
I like away from others, cars. solitude, watching the river activities ie: kite boarders, barges.	The view
Vendors at both the county fair and farmer's market	Beautiful scenery with mountains and water
Pools provide health, safety, and rec opportunities. Stevenson is a beautiful place to run and be with my dogs	Being outdoors and seeing the wildlife
The natural beauty... Easy access	Food and drink
the interactive toys throughout the water front and rock creek park	The pool is something we are so so lucky to have! I am a swimmer and am very happy we have this amenity available to us. The streatory and the courthouse lawn (and future chill zone) is also THE BEST!!! It's a great place to meet friends and just take in the vibe of the town and smile at everyone! :) The waterfront is also an absolute GEM and should be built out even more with more trails to admire the water from! What a wonderful resource we have.
Easy access is key! The pond loop is perfect for a quick change of scenery.	I LOVE our water access on the waterfront!
Access	Natural beauty and movement
Views of the water and the gorge, peaceful, activities going on, easy to access.	Waterfront
Water, grass	natural beauty and peacefulness
They are local areas to use.	Events and taking in the surrounding beauty. We have so much to sit back, relax and enjoy!
I like that it's scenic with water and Mountain View's, and it's paved.	Kids able to play near nature, easy parking and access, kids enjoy.
Nature and convenience and the amenities	the waterfront trail and instruments are neat. Easy to get to. Convenient restrooms
natural environments	interactive music displays on the waterfront, active watersports, connection to launch sites
The events	Lots of space
Wildlife	"Swimming pool Play structures
Community. Family.	I like how some of them are easy and safe for a toddler
Easy parking, beautiful views, paved trails, trash cans for dog bags.	Family friendly areas
safe for dog to be off leash	Easy to get to and Nice paths to ride my bike on.
Open space for my dog to run around. Good views.	Benches, public bathrooms, playground, walking paths, protected but naturally observable wildlife and plant life
Nature and quite	Off-road path that has views of river and Gorge, and connects to other places
The beach that was created at the port is soooooo stupid!	
The views	
Clean and better up keep when it's not summer. And a new park and skate area at the fairgrounds	

QUESTION 5 - 166 Responses

What features do you like about the areas you selected?

ANSWERS:

Not crowded. Trails.
people need to leash their dogs so I can feel comfortable taking my dog
quiet, less people than others
outdoors"
Open, not crowded
Bob's has easy access, changing rooms, bathroom and green space for visiting with friends
Peaceful, good views, easy parking
Kids can run around and explore
Close by, accessible
The scenery, walking trails, events
Open and user friendly
Peaceful. Walking distance.
I don't have to worry too much about watching for traffic and parking is easy.
Nature views
Easily accessible, clean, affordable
I easily run into people I know and usually our parks are well kept and if there is trash we either pick it up or someone else does.
Walkability and conducive to public gatherings and community
Safe, away from traffic, natural beauty
Family friendly
Water, access
The thing I do not like about Rock Creek is stepping in goose poop and dog even picking up on her feet. Safety and openness is important, cleanliness-
Non crowded boat launch
Views of Gorge mountains, gathering with community
Accessibility, views
Steatery- people watching, plenty of seating
Waterfront- view, farmers market, Clark & Lewies
Fairgrounds- planned activities
Views and variety of trails and looping trails.
I like that they are accessible, I can let my dog run, and that they are beautiful.
Natural scenery and a sense of calm

Beautiful scenery and quiet
open space
Safe, interesting, lots going on, socializing
Kid friendly, safe, still have a wild feeling, not overly groomed, peaceful
Play equipment and bathrooms
Beautiful places to gather
Cheap and or free and the peacefulness
Quiet, less tourism
Solitude Ease of access Multiple access points Spaces are open
Level trail, view, play equipment, rest room, dog post, farms market, concerts, community events
Slides and instruments on the waterfront are cool
Easy access, safe for kids, wildlife, happy places for kids and dogs
Not crowded, but diversity in interacting or just watching activities
I like that the pool has so many community members using it. Love to see locals all having fun.
Dog and family friendly with bathroom facilities. Can see wildlife. Love having an indoor pool.
Family friendly
Access, parking, maintained
The new dock
Access to water- and paved trail- but a dirt track , pump track or covered skate /bike park would be better
Accessibility, scenery, dog friendly
some short dirt trails at the waterfront, easy water access at port and rock creek
The footbridge over Rock Creek, the views, the wilderness feeling of the creek canyon upstream of the bridge.
Rock creek is diverse in many ways, including depth for swimming or wading.
Large. Able to be outdoors but not too busy
The pool has decent hours and good classes. Waterfront is nice for picnics.
private, not populated, beautiful, close

CONTINUED...

QUESTION 5 - 166 Responses

What features do you like about the areas you selected?

ANSWERS:

Water, added slide, activities for our kids
Wildlife Clean n safe
Convenient, free, I have space to my own thing, and getting some exercise is always a plus
Nice view, good paths/trails for more causal walks.
I love the wild life , the water, the fresh air, the trains, the boardwalk , the view.
The rain, it keeps most of the tourist away.
(Mostly) accessible, beautiful views
Nice lighted path. Right down by the river.
water access and views

QUESTION 6 - 192 Responses

Which local recreational areas do you NOT visit often? Choose all that apply.

ANSWERS:

Busy doing other things

I can't visit the transfer site often enough due to work. ;)

Hegewald park

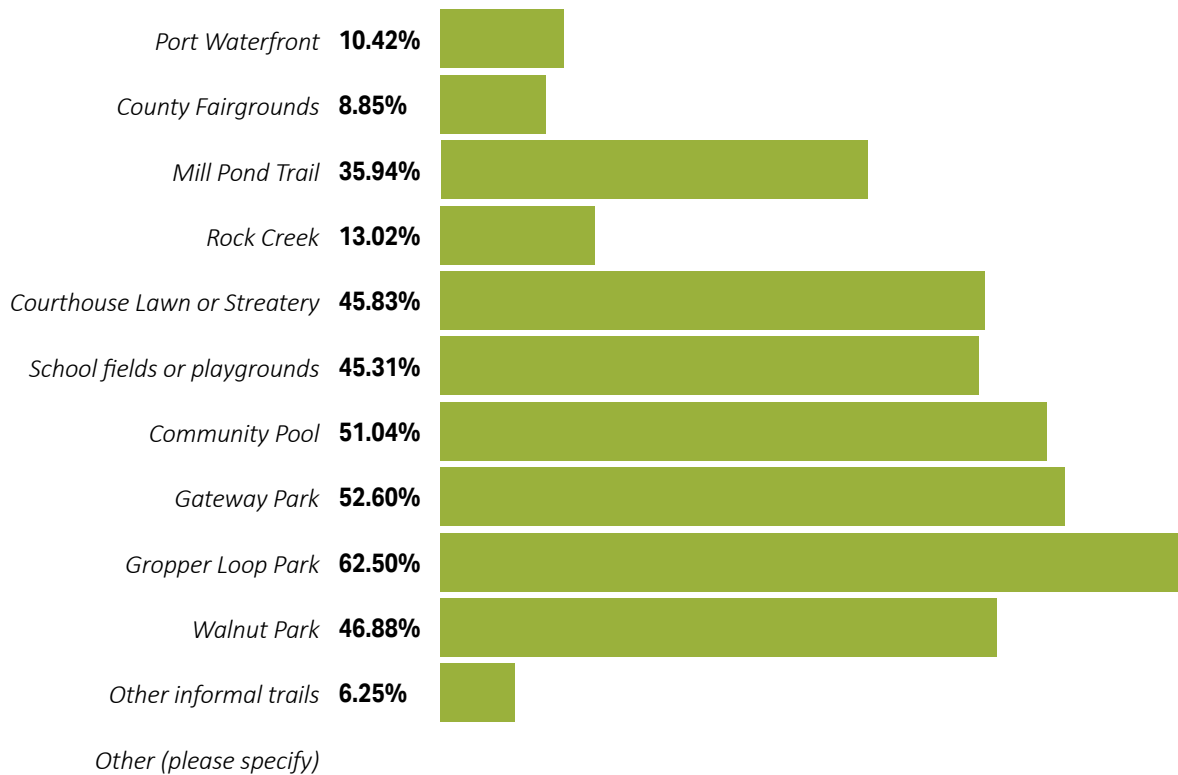
There are numerous parks listed that I don't even know of

Lived here my entire life and have literally never heard of gateway park or gropper loop park...

Pool is too cold! Otherwise we'd go regularly. Also- courthouse lawn/streatery needs a PLAYGROUND with a waist high fence so kids can safely play while parents eat

Nothing to do for kids

Obviously can't use cute Walnut Park since it was given to a private party



QUESTION 7 - 157 Responses

Why do you tend not to visit the areas you check off in the previous question?

ANSWERS:

I didn't even know Gropper Loop park was a thing until I just looked at the map. Gateway park is the green area in front of Main Street store where the mentally ill folks hang out when they aren't in the bus shelter. It's not a park. It's a piece of grass in the middle of two busy roads by a major intersection. My kids have aged out of the pool.	No reason. Go where mood strikes.
Too much traffic at courthouse, pool never seems to be open, I think Gropper loop is the one that feels like someone's front yard (uninviting/no signage), and i don't know where the other trail/parks are	Too small and close to residences
Because limited hours. I like to head out the door and at my leisure.	Not stroller friendly
Didn't know they existed	do not know where they are
I don't know	They are not spacious with room to walk or view the lovely scenery
To many people	Nothing there to do, No amenities.....
I was unaware there was a Gropper Loop Park and have lived on Gropper Rd for 8 years. I don't go to the pool because I don't go swimming and I Walnut Park is kind of hidden, but not really inviting.	Too peopley.
Rock Creek is hard to get to or to understand whether I'm trespassing or not.	I didn't even know they were parks.
Nothing that interests me about these or I didn't know they existed.	No children
I'm not sure.	I have no reason to go to the school or playgrounds, and there is to much chlorine & chemicals in the community pool
Nothing to do for older kids and the pool is to stuff and over chlorinated	Difficult parking and I have no idea what these trails/parks are.
I didn't know about the two parks and I prefer our natural bodies of water.	Courthouse lawn is not convenient. It's a hill. Streatery is a hazard with traffic. Have never heard of the other parks listed.
Kids aged out, like yo move outdoors	Too many people
No the activities I'm looking for	Because I do not even know where these parks are...
I don't hike.	Work and business hours. ;)
Not a swimmer, gateway is small, didn't know gropper was public	Not familiar with these areas. New residents. Would like to have additional information posted on website to familiarize ourselves with offerings.
They are so small and there is nothing to do but pass by. Most of them look nice though	Too many out of people
I don't know where they are	Nothing there interests me I suppose. No real reason
Not on my walking loop	Don't know where they're at
No interest in these areas	To many people
Too many people	Besides the courthouse lawn, and the community pool, I don't know where many of those locations are. Don't visit the pool often because I'm unsure of hours or if they're open
Nothing to do for kids	I don't know where Gateway Park is, if Gropper Loop Park is what I think it is, it doesn't seem very interesting, and I don't love swimming, so I don't go to the pool much, although I'm very glad we have a pool and were able to keep it open.
	High traffic area or out of the way. Also too small
	New in town, no kids
	Don't know about them. Nothing to do there.

QUESTION 7 - 157 Responses

Why do you tend not to visit the areas you check off in the previous question?

ANSWERS:

The Streatery is really cool but I'm not fond of hanging out next to cars continually driving by/a highway. I didn't know there was a park on Gropper.	Don't have kids, not applicable
Either too close to traffic/ crowds or unheard of to me	Not much parking and Main Street is usually busy and hectic when nice out.
Don't have kids and not sure where Walnut or Gropper Loop parks are.	Not good for walking or playing
Not easily accessible or available; the county fairgrounds outdoor areas are an absolute waste of potential. Could easily be a year-round, interactive space for all ages if redesigned and repurposed.	Used to go to the pool when the County managed it but only once since then (shortly after the school reopened it). Why would I go to some place along 14 when the river is so close? Guess I go to Walnut park to eat at BRG but don't know the other listed parks. I also go to the school fields to watch sporting events but mostly in Carson.
I have never heard of them and lived her 22 years	No interest
Lack of familiarity	Never heard of them
Unfamiliarity	I'm happy with the ones I do frequent. Not that interested in discovering new ones.
Accessibility and parking	Too many people, not enough parking
Some I have never heard of or have ever been to. I like to know what to expect out of an outing	No interest
I've lived here my whole life and have never heard the formal names for those parks.	Have not made a priority
"Allergic to chlorine	I have no occasion to visit them or I didn't know about them
Playground equipment too small for adults"	I'm too old and hungry
Do not have kids.	I have my favorite places and these are not on my list, I guess.
Never heard of most of them, no interest in visiting the schools	I am not a lil kid, thus I do not go to playgrounds or school fields, LOL.
The courthouse lawn is too underdeveloped. Walnut park is not accessible during good weather because it's leased out to a restaurant. I have no idea where Gateway park is. Is Gropper Park connected to the pool???	Not much to do there
To many tourists	lack of familiarity and not as close to my home
water sports	Gateway and Gropper are not developed. Gropper would be a great place for High School students to eat lunches, commune with nature and simply hang out, outside with friends. Maybe with a few fruit trees for snacks and chess/checkers tables. ? Mill Pond Trail: I simply have never been.
Don't swim	Don't know what they are. Hard to access/primitive. Not kid friendly (Rock Creek).
Too many people resulting in lack of wildlife.	some I didn't know about. Others I just haven't made it a point
Not an outdoorsy person.	not even sure where those parks are...
Rock Creek area is not as accessible and safe for a single woman compared to waterfront and Mill Pond trails. Need to make time to lap swim at community pool. Didn't know about Gropper Loop Park or Walnut Park.	Not sure
idk some of them	Just a big plot of grass in the middle of town
My child is older	Not family oriented
Who wants to hang at the courthouse and the pool wasn't wanted which was obvious via voters	

QUESTION 7 - 157 Responses

Why do you tend not to visit the areas you check off in the previous question?

ANSWERS:

Because I don't wanna walk up the hill. I'd rather walk down the hill to the river.	Unkept, undesirable people, or I've never even heard of it.
Not very accessible/ usable. The courthouse lawn is a huge slope next to a road and the school grounds are being used fairly often for school events and my kids are very young	Length of trails or not trail. They are not long enough.
I value having the pool, but don't use it personally. And I would need to look up where Gropper Loop and Walnut Parks are located, but I suspect they are either small or undeveloped areas that I may have seen, but never spend time at.	I didn't know about them.
I tend to not visit areas where dogs must be on leash unless were specifically training leash skills.	I did not know they were freely open to residents of the community
traffic on the hwy noisy, goose poop and garbage at rock creek	Too many people.
No real reason	don't hike
I don't have the time or information	Never heard of them.
Too many people	Dusty and or muddy, not well maintained
We like to play at playgrounds with the toddlers	I don't like mixing cars and kids. It would be so cool if Stevenson had a little car-free plaza area with food trucks . Would also love dedicated bike trails especially connecting towns
Nothing to do. Do not like indoor pools, chlorine smell.	Lack of features, seating, and bathrooms
No particular reason	I don't think about them
New to the area. Still learning where I enjoy recreating here	Because they are not aesthetically pleasing to me
Not a swimmer.	I don't have kids and the pool feels more child driven
Right on the main road. Concerned about my kiddo taking off. And it's not always weather friendly to go there. And when it is it seems crowded.	"Court house- area too busy, parking etc
Broken equipment, drugs/paraphernalia, messy	School- thought they are for school.
I don't have kids so there's no reason to go to those places.	Not aware of Mill, Gateway or Gropper."
It's for kids	Where are they?
Some parks I don't know of where they are, I don't enjoy swimming, schools feel unwelcoming, especially if my canine exercise companion is along	Where are these places??
Never heard of them	I don't know about them
Just have not made it there yet	Didn't know about them. Would like to know about trails in the city.
sorry listed above- dirty, unsafe and prefer not using swimpool	I don't know where they are.
Don't have children, not sure of the location of some of them	Access
Never heard of a few of them	Don't know where they are. Pool too hot and not much fun
	Gropper Park Loop is not very appealing. It does not appear to be a park for the public. I would like to see this changed if the idea is to make it an actual park.
	Children, not interesting, chlorine
	Besides the courthouse lawn , I have no idea where these other parks are and /or what they have to offer
	Unaware of Gateway (Is Gateway really a park?) and Gropper, others are not dog friendly

QUESTION 8 - 200 Responses

Which of these programs/events have you attended? Choose all that apply.

ANSWERS:

The Fair

Columbia Gorge running club events

Music at walnut, teo and Clark Lew lawn

Blue grass festival. Pride Parade!!

How do high school events tie into this?

National Night Out, Autumn Social

County Fair

Trunk or Treat

Shabby chic/ garage sales

live music at Walking Man and waterfront

Organized group runs and foot races count as organized sports, right?

Trunk or treat

All the seasonal parades, the county fair, car shows and the old Carson tree lighting. I would like to see more things geared toward young kids and teens because most of our events in the county are based around drinking and adult activity. I understand that the parents/adults have the money, but the kids need thing to do and be excited for. We have huge problems with bored kids doing stupid things and young people hate it here. We need to engage the local kids to get them excited about their home and keep them busy

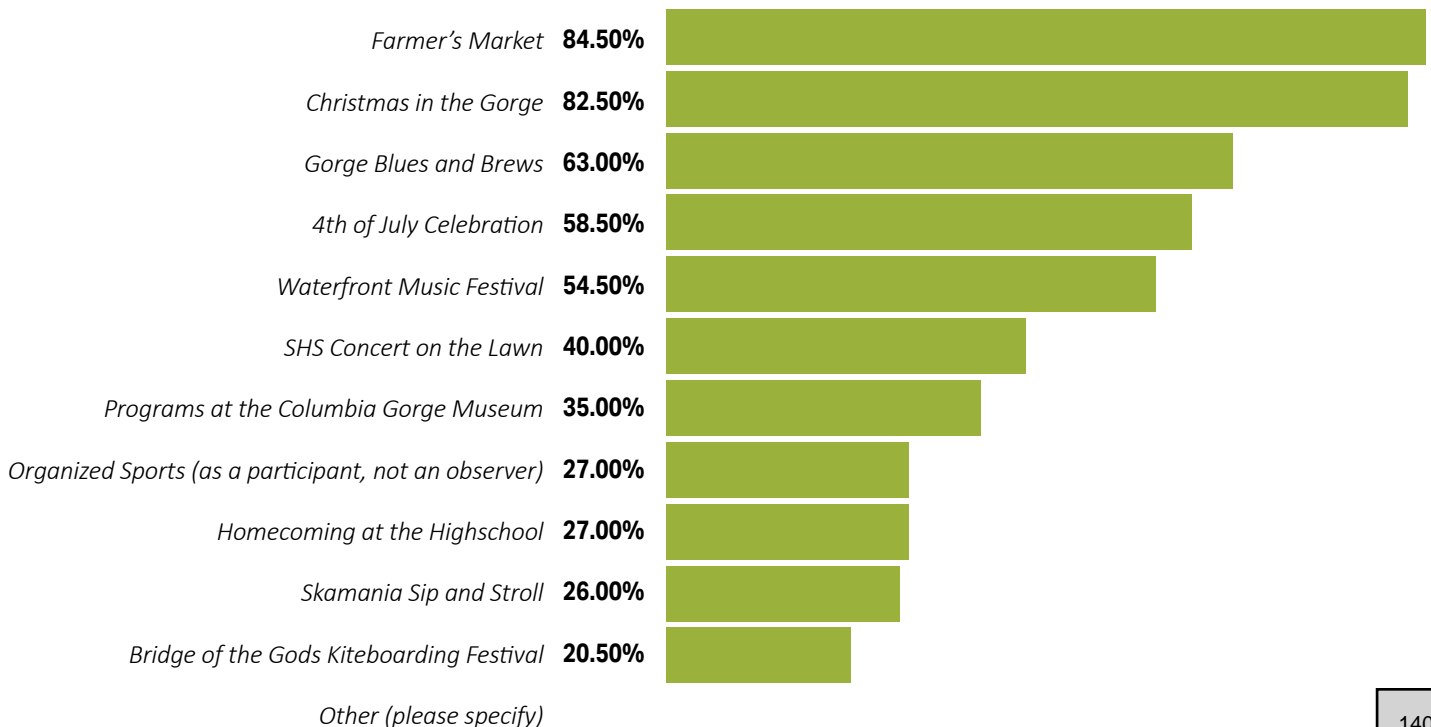
only school events for family not for personal recreation

Assuming organized sports includes running club trail runs.

Will do more when I have time

Christmas parade, trunk or treat

I avoid those things, the money brought in to a few people that sell convenience to tourist isn't worth the headache and damage they bring.

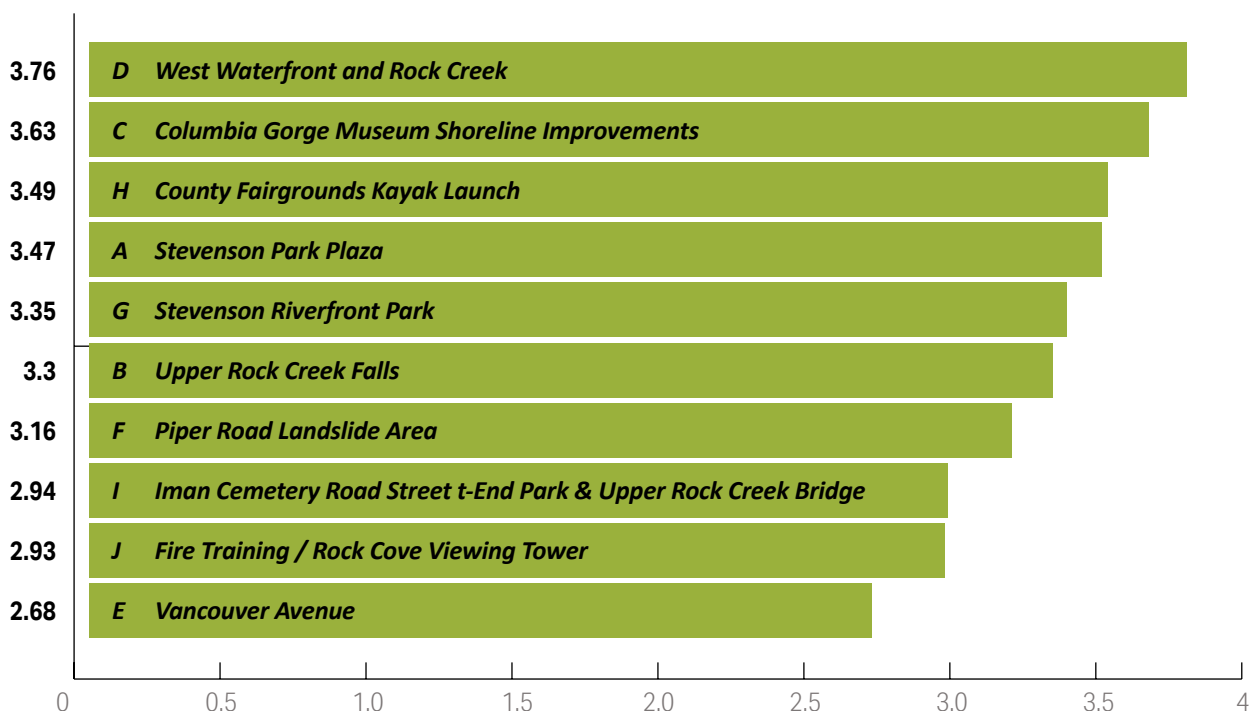


QUESTION 9 - 196 Responses

In recent years, public project ideas have come up based on public input and design consultations. Using a scale of 1 to 5 (where 5 indicates the best fit) please indicate how strongly each of these projects align with your needs and desires for local parks and recreation areas.

PROJECT IDEAS:

D	West Waterfront and Rock Creek - Expand the waterfront trail along the west end of the waterfront and create a water access point for public use.
C	Columbia Gorge Museum Shoreline Improvements - Enhance the museum shoreline by adding a trail with educational signage, restoring the landscape, and adding water access to Rock Cove with a small dock/hand-carry boat launch.
H	County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch - Install a public access hand-carry boat launch along the Rock Cove shoreline at the county fairgrounds. Future potential to add boat wash station.
A	Stevenson Park Plaza - Build a plaza at the Courthouse with community gathering places, performance space, a water feature, and outdoor seating.
G	Stevenson Riverfront Park - Develop a new public park along the Columbia River that provides an open, flat, multi-purpose green space and parking to be used as an alternative venue for festivals or events.
B	Upper Rock Creek Falls - Install limited parking area and accessible trail access to a viewing area for Upper Rock Creek Falls. Future potential to expand access to the creek.
F	Piper Road Landslide Area - Create a trail through the Piper landslide area with views to Rock Creek and the Lower falls within an easement that connects existing street ends.
I	Iman Cemetery Road Street-End Park & Upper Rock Creek Bridge - Develop a pocket park at the end of NW Iman Cemetery Road to provide public views of Rock Creek. Future potential to install a pedestrian bridge over the creek.
J	Fire Training / Rock Cove Viewing Tower - Construct a training tower for the fire department that can also be used by the public to gain views over Rock Cove and the Columbia River. Location to be determined.
E	Vancouver Avenue - Create a pocket park with a natural landscape, 2 parking spaces, a picnic table and a gently sloping beach on Rock Creek.



QUESTION 10 - 134 Responses

What new facilities or amenities do you think should be added to local parks and recreational areas (i.e., tennis courts, exercise equipment)?

ANSWERS:

I think a kayak launch at Rock Creek Pond is a good idea, but there isn't enough parking to support locals and people from out of town there. yes, there is parking, but not enough. There are tennis courts at the high school. No more is needed. I would recommend cleaning up eye sores like the garbage dumpster at Manor Apartments. Demand that the landlord do it. Fine him/her every time garbage goes flying out of that space. I'm not a jet ski person but why there is no company that rents out jet ski's that I know of. That would be huge for a local to start up. The tourists would love it. Locals too. I definitely think amenities should be private business, not tax payer dollars being used.	Interpretive signage
Something to ensure that these "parks" aren't overran with homeless people.	Water fountains/benches to enjoy the ambiance
The biggest problem is getting to the parks without driving. few roads outside of the downtown have sidewalks or even safe space to walk or run. We need more space for people so we don't have to drive everywhere. I think signage at the existing park areas is low hanging fruit, since it can help people find them and not encroach on private land. kayak launch at rock cove is huge, to reduce competition with power boats at the current boat launch.	Dog park. Other than that, nothing specific, but need to be sure there's budget for maintenance. For example, bathroom cleaning
Pickle ball court, frisbee golf, child safe rock wall, toddler friendly play structures	Garbage cans and doggy poop bags. Maps of area.
Dog park, upgraded playground equipment, viewing deck	We need a better/ updated play structure at the fairgrounds. A skatepark would also be great. An outside volleyball and badminton area would be amazing- maybe sand volleyball at the waterfront?
Some sort of turf area that stays watered throughout the summer where a variety of pickup sports can be played.	Better playground equipment
Motocross track	More Year round public restrooms
Pedestrian tunnels under the highway and the railroad. More shade.	A splash pad for younger kids would be amazing. A nice beach space/park along the river.
Continued improvement of the fairgrounds, rock creek playground and rehabilitation of the Mill Pond trail.	Exercise areas along paths. Benches for people to sit and rest.
A multi-sport complex would be awesome. An ice skating rink would be amazing! I don't know of one anywhere nearby. It might draw people in during those slow winter months :-)	Covered basketball court
Skate park, picnic area, green space	Picnic pavilion for undercover concerts
Picnic shelter and bathrooms that aren't gross	More picnic areas I
	An outdoor pool, a climbing gym, a dance studio, workout gym
	Upkeep of current tennis courts at the high school or new ones (with night lights), Improve covered shelter by rock creek
	Tennis courts, walking paths, boat launch restrooms
	Half of the courthouse lawn needs to be metered parking. Entrance and exit off Russell and the proposed park redesigned smaller for the other side.
	First off, figure out how to appropriate your funds to maintain what we currently have. Your local "parks" are underutilized because of your inability to keep the homeless and associated drug paraphernalia out of the path of our children. Utilize our money where it can be productive to our community. Again, it appears as though you are looking to serve tourism.
	Public restrooms
	I think a skate park
	Basketball courts Pickleball courts
	More play structures, that are actually bigger and more fun

QUESTION 10 - 134 Responses

What new facilities or amenities do you think should be added to local parks and recreational areas (i.e., tennis courts, exercise equipment)?

ANSWERS:

Pickleball courts with permanent nets	Pickleball courts Bathrooms
Get home valley ball fields in mint condition	Soccer fields, dog parks, food carts
New play structure at Rock creek, update public bathrooms	Restrooms
A modern playground or a nature adventure playground. A swim beach	None
Bathrooms	More benches and seating areas
Concrete ping pong table would be fun.	The courthouse plaza is the most important!! It's a huge space that will be great for the whole community! I can't wait until it's done and we can all hang out there. Other facilities and amenities- a covered or indoor all-purpose exercise space would be wonderful! We could have community yoga classes, an adult basketball league, and other movement modalities for kiddos, for the elderly, at a low or no-cost for community members. Local parks- lots of seating, some covered for rainy days please! Lots of trees and nooks and crannies for sitting & chatting, lots of native plantings to help the pollinators and look beautiful for the people who visit. Overall: More trails!!! Would love to see us have a trail along the entire riverfront to mirror what they have on the Oregon side!!
A botanical garden (and fountain?), a beach area for spending time at Rock Cove, a roller skate park or indoor roller rink, additional art museums, an indoor performing center, a slide park, and a PROPER thrift store	Tennis and/or pickleball courts
Picklball Courts. At least six courts are needed for a destination venue. Currently I travel to other cities to play.	Covered basketball court (with nice surface and hoops...not a lot of places to play basketball) More hiking trails around town
Definitely should rebuild the picnic shelter at the Fairgrounds, repairing the beautiful historic fireplace. It is a great location for small gatherings, especially for music jams, etc. Or build something similar.	Bike pump park, skate park
I like the outdoor exercise machines I've seen and used at different parks. Built in and permanent. Makes outdoor activities better. We have tennis courts but I think especially visitors aren't aware	Non invasive sports spots, like redoing the concrete at the fair grounds where they have basketball hoops, or cleaning up the tennis courts we already have at the high school.
Kayak launching points and trails along the river	Gropper Park turned into a space for Teens, as is next door to the high school. Would be a great place to hang and eat lunch on nice days or to simply be outside with peers, hanging out.
Exercise equipment route	pickleball?
Not sure	New pool
More paved walking trails.	Making sure what we have is kept up would be better than adding anything new
Volleyball court	Play equipment under covered area.
Bodyweight fitness equipment for adults	
Bike paths?	
Bathrooms at all parks Garbage cans at all parks Picnic tables No exercise equipment, waste of money!!!! We hike, bike, walk & play on the water.	
Basketball court	
Safe water access for recreational boat launching	
Skate park bmx track	
I am happy with the facilities available.	
Parking & simply enjoy the use of outdoor space	
Skate park	

QUESTION 10 - 134 Responses

What new facilities or amenities do you think should be added to local parks and recreational areas (i.e., tennis courts, exercise equipment)?

ANSWERS:

I like the idea of the existing volley ball court at Rock Creek Park, so more small and not invasive spring areas, like repairing the pavement and basketball hoops in the fair grounds parking lot. And advertising the sporting areas to the schools	Circuit exercise equipment through the town at different locations
Lighting	Boat launches for Rock Cove
I appreciate that there are places for people to stop and rest along the existing trails- benches, picnic tables. I suspect there may be additional opportunities to find places where people might want to stop and enjoy the views and/or spend time eating with friends and family	restrooms, public art, picnic tables, walkable connection to downtown, wayfinding
Dog park.	Updated playgrounds.
Picnic tables, garbage cans with service, green grassy areas	Parking, seating, restrooms
A small boat house and gym for the Gorge Canoe Club and other kayak/ canoe activities	A dog park
Basketball court, public restrooms, water fountains	Pickle ball courts (outdoors) and mountain bike trails. It would be nice to have a long paved trail for road biking.
Outside splash pad, smaller play areas for toddlers, skate park	Tennis courts would be great
More picnic tables	Trash and recycling cans
Bicycle Pump Track Mountain bike trails	none
Climbing walls.	Pickleball courts
I would love a more toddler friendly park, maybe even a covered one. And more parking for 2nd street in some way.	Again- courthouse plaza plan needs to include a PLAYGROUND (ideally with a half fence so kids are safe but parents can see- benches around the edge both inside & out. I've seen this work beautifully all across Europe! Especially when combined with easy food access. These 3 ingredients (food + plaza + playground) can make a town. And again- dedicated bike paths!
Public restrooms	More benches and seating.
Better play equipment for kids, ADA Compliance	Exercise or sports facilities
A beach volleyball court would be amazing with the new additions. I do think upper rock creek falls really needs new stairs! That should be on the to do list this year because someone is going to get hurt trying to get down there.	public beach access for swimming (not board sports)
Fully connected trails (to make the entire city as walkable as possible- but more trails the better generally)	There are a handful of tennis courts already, but nowhere for people who want to rollerskate or rollerblade. The texture of a tennis court is perfect.
Working, clean bathrooms Garbage cans that don't blow away or disperse contents during wind events	Water Trails, access points for kayaks. Swimming area rock cove, boat launch Portable bathrooms
Fenced dog park and play area	Level trails. Pickle ball is becoming popular to play inside. Out house?
"keep as natural as possible	Update restroom facilities at Rock Creek, add play are for under 5 year olds at Rock Creek, skate park, fitness trail along Rock Creek and/or Waterfront trail.
picnic tables, garbage cans and service"	Exercise equipment
	Skate park
	Would like an offleash dog area. Grass and shade with picnic tables, water fountains and bathrooms.
	Pickleball courts
	Gym with sports and weight equipment

QUESTION 10 - 134 Responses

What new facilities or amenities do you think should be added to local parks and recreational areas (i.e., tennis courts, exercise equipment)?

ANSWERS:

Exercise equipment, water sport equipment rentals, age appropriate play equipment for older kids.
Teen rec areas
Tennis courts, food truck areas, parking
Covered areas for bikes and skateboards- pump tracks ,box dirt track , skateparks
Off leash dog park with a small shelter for picnic tables
more dirt trails for hiking/biking
Restrooms open year-round, more covered picnic areas/gazebos for cold weather use
Tennis and other outdoor sports.
Canoe/kayak rentals, skatepark, ice skating rink, greenways to connect the parks
pickleball
Our stevenson park needs upgraded and monitored better, my kids love that park but after news of a child stepping on a needle I didn't feel safe taking my kids there as much. A splash pad would also be fun.
Public restrooms
keeping grass and natural areas as comfortable for wildlife as possible and allowing public use of school tennis courts, outdoor basketball, etc that already exist. Reading benches are nice to have and places to lay down a blanket in the grass.
More trash cans. Some areas have a decent amount of trash cans, others do not. Also some are not emptied often and overflow. Also more public restrooms are always a plus.
Please leave Stevenson natural. We have such a beautiful area, this sounds like we are trying to build something like Vancouver. Make walkways dotted with trees, and bump outs with full views. Please don't just try to make it a tax revenue generator. We pay taxes to live in this beautiful place, please don't destroy that.
Jobs so that people don't have to commute 2 hours a day, work on the mill, or take crap from service / retail "customers".
More public restrooms
Skate park, pump track.

QUESTION 11 - 105 Responses

What new programs or events do you think should exist in local parks and recreational areas?

ANSWERS:

The Kite Festival is nice because its something that doesn't have to do with music & alcohol. We seem to have a lot of events that are music and booze. The city and port are crazy for not taking MORE advantage of the wind here. The kite boarding and wind surfing could be huge incomes. These folks don't have many places to stay in Stevenson is also the problem. The lodge is too expensive and places like the new hotel across from Manor Apartments has no place to park trailers with the long boats.

Park clean up days would be great if we want to add all these new areas.

Free swimming lessons for youth at the pool if they live in the area that supports it with taxes. Too much water here for people to not be safe in the water

Outdoor activities for kids & seniors

Animal adoptions, discount vet resources

Motocross track

Summer concert series. Second run movie theater at the Columbia Gorge Museum.

Expanded community events like 4th of July and the fair.

See above

Tree lighting, Halloween jack o lantern wall, bubbles in the park, green space

Adult recreational sports

Exercise options

NA

Mixed bag festival like we had in the past. Reservable covered picnic areas with bbqs

Covered picnic areas with grills and charcoal disposal areas. (Birthday parties, reunions, etc). Seasonal bathrooms?

Bring back summer camps for kids at the pool

Zumba classes

Outdoor concerts other than at clark and lewies

Movie nights indoor or outdoor

Acoustic music

Sunfish sailing classes

a skate park & bmx bike park

More kid friendly exercise (yoga, dance, etc), painting/art, festivals, and carnivals.

Maintain what we currently have, then build on that.

Salmon festival. Much like the clam chowder festival that Olympia used to have. Local restaurants set up booths with samples for purchase using their favorite salmon recipes

Skate park, martial arts, dance, yoga

Something for kids of all ages

Pickleball courts with permanent nets. Possibly covered

After getting home valley ball fields in mint condition, expand the possibilities of of sports for all.

Guided walks

Outdoor performances, such as a partnership with Big Britches , a larger area for the farmers market, or a botanical garden

I'd like to see more paved walking/biking paths like North Bonneville has. The section of Loop Rd that's closed off to cars would be an easy route to dedicate to pedestrians & cyclists.

Pickleball Venue and Tournaments. Draw visitors to Stevenson. Give visitors other activities to keep them here longer.

Guided mini water tours (kayaks, etc.); indoor racquet ball courts or additional pickleball courts. Exercise classes like aerobics--may need a new facility with wood floors.

Farmer's market

Food, beverage, art festivals

Not sure

Volleyball

Small music performances, theater in the park.

Sorry, nothing comes to mind

Halloween Festival once Park Plaza is completed

skate park for kids

More programs for older kids skateboard competitions bmx etc

Outdoor art placed sporadically for interest

Expand Gorge Canoe Club or develop a Stevenson specific canoe/surfski club.

Outdoor concerts

Any thing for teens, dances, cooking classes, financial classes.

QUESTION 11 - 105 Responses

What new programs or events do you think should exist in local parks and recreational areas?

ANSWERS:

None
Seems like many are all ready underway
Yoga! Basketball! Movement classes (strength, cardio, mobility, other sports). Learning programs for adults and for the elderly (not just for the kiddos)! Volunteer opportunities for community members!
Senior activities
Youth center. summer camps or activities throughout the summer for different age groups. From little kids to young adults.
Would love to see open air plays and more live music, etc.
more activities for children
Promote the area for more events
Water sport activities for free or reduced for tweens and teens. Things that are fun for young kids to keep them out of trouble Hiking club
I'm all for any community programs/events
Things that are kid friendly and promote wildlife education or physical activity/ sports
I like the current blend of music festivals, paddling and wind sport events. We could do more of those, which even if I don't participate, are fun to have people come enjoy our city and support local businesses.
More concerts with better sound engineering.
More activities for teens
A country western music event
Folk music festival Rock Creek white water festival
Music.
Movies in the park
Safe skate park
I think there should be off leash places for dogs to run.
More runs (like official 5k type things) perhaps? Even more gatherings or concerts?
None that I'm aware of
Concerts or movies in the park
School kids learning about outdoors, don't make a big come to the gorge and bring more people from the outside...we have over used areas already
Camp
None

Art, theater, music, markets
Kayak rentals
More community building events for young people!
More live music from more contemporary and diverse genres
none
I'd love to see more music and theater happen here.
Movies in the park. Concerts/families in the park events like Hood River does.
Water sports
The point of being in Stevenson is to get away from places that are overly developed and geared towards tourists. Locals do just fine getting in and out of the water with kayaks, SUPs, etc and additional docks etc just feels like its more for our Portland visitors that don't want to use the area naturally
Swimming area in rock cove for youth. Alternate site for wingers than the boat launch. They already have swimmers thinking it's a swim beach. Get county to fix up home valley. Weed maintenance..including blackberries
Information talks? Farming talks?
Affordable group rental space
Adult recreational sports
Local plant identification
Water the park in Stevenson and make it look inviting. Improve what you have before you add more.
Outdoor recreational classes for kids, teens and adults, gardening/foraging classes for kids and adults.
Dances for kids and adults, themed get togethers, movie nights in summer
Summer camps for kids that are physically active outdoors- biking , skating , paddling
kid adventure programs, more live music events
More sports options for our kids!
Native history programs, foraging programs, invasive species identification and eradication programs, wild mushroom festival (I think this would attract a lot of visitors), programs for low-income youth to try/learn kiteboarding and windsurfing, which could possibly be funded by charging other people for lessons.

QUESTION 11 - 105 Responses

What new programs or events do you think should exist in local parks and recreational areas?

ANSWERS:

music festivals
All inclusive programs! As a parent with two children on the autism spectrum and the number of children with disabilities growing nationwide we need more inclusion in skamania county. Sensory sensitive activities, for example miracle leagues are a option in Washougal and vancouver but we have to drive there.
Let people use as they please. Encourage chess or checkers or similar where more active play isn't as good of a fit.
N/A
Dog parks. Community garden for youth who maybe under the poverty line to grow food. Work program for youth to earn money toward sports equipment or instruments.
Local only events that build community, instead of tourist leaving trash while a small group of people benefit.
I would love to see more events on the weekends where people are playing instruments!
None
adult recreational sports leagues, more local concerts

QUESTION 12 - 98 Responses

Do you have any additional suggestions for how to improve local parks and recreational areas?

ANSWERS:

A solid plan on how these sites and any new sites will be maintained. This means physically and who is going to police them in regard to making sure they do not turn into places for the houseless to set up camp (think inside and outside city limits). The Rock Creek park play structures is are in disrepair and needs help.

Any new sites along Rock Creek (the creek its self) will become like the west end of the county on hot days. Drunks. Fights. Water rescues. The internet ruins everything. Once the word gets out it will not be a place for locals any longer. Look what happened to the Oregon side. Now they are permitting use. You have to schedule seeing the waterfall.

Connecting both sides of town with a bridge over Hwy 14 is interesting but I can see problems with a bridge. Signs, graffiti, protests, kids dropping stuff from it. Directing the path into town where speeds are lower and people can use a crosswalk is better and less expensive.

As a Stevenson resident I do think the speed limit in Stevenson needs to be dropped to 20mph. The city of white salmon did it. We can too.

I believe that the walking bridge would be such an eyesore for the community.

Don't feel like parking needs to be big or expensive. Think trailhead for the parks outside of the downtown. No need to pave or install curbs, etc. Keep it natural please

Just make them clean and safe.

Pick up all the drug needles

Better links between the existing pathways are a must. Downtown waterfront to the Mill Pond Trail. Downtown waterfront to the east side of Stevenson. Milk Pond Trail around the County Property, behind the old folks home and museum. Connection to the Bridge of the Gods. A mini-Snoqualmie Falls-type trail in upper Rock Creek would be amazing.

Focus on completing the highest identified priority and updating what already exists vs numerous poorly done projects/falling apart existing infrastructure.

When can we purchase the old co-ply property and do something amazing there?

Green space! ♥

Coordinate with county for more robust programs like in the 80s and 90s

More landscape maintenance

Water fountain/benches to enjoy the ambience

Garbage cans, dog disposal.

Volunteer host program to maintain the parks. Post work 20 hours per week for free RV hookup and internet. Responsible for groundskeeping and trash collection. This is done at all of the Oregon State. Hatcheries.

Please don't mess with the upper Rock Creek Falls access- there are already too many Portlanders going there

No

Spruce up landscaping

Interpretive and educational signage

"YES!!! I have sooo many ideas and would love to join on the planning process/committee.

MOST important is to create access to the water features, waterfalls, swimming areas, beaches and trails that connect and extend throughout the county so people can get out, connect, share and enjoy view all the precious and valuable resources that Skamania county has to offer. "

Please DO NOT build anything on Iman Cemetary road. There are lots of folks and animals that love the natural area there. We don't need our residential area to be a tourist attraction! PRESERVE NATURE!

"Minimal bright colors on equipment installed...I think the boat launch area has bright colors on musical features that do not blend in with the setting

Maybe offer water fill stations"

no overnite camping unless in a designated camping area that you have to pay for in the parks

Parking and pedestrian safety are a huge need before any of these attractions are completed. Russel and second street needs a stop light or pedestrian light or parking completely off at least one side of the street.

See all comments above.

Maintenance. Maintenance. Maintenance.

Keep homeless and drug use maintained

QUESTION 12 - 98 Responses

Do you have any additional suggestions for how to improve local parks and recreational areas?

ANSWERS:

Check with all close proximity local residents before construction that will allow more foot traffic near their homes. Part of the beauty of this community is the opportunity to maintain one's own solitude in their home.	Improve bathrooms and signage
Get the boardheads an kayakers off the boat ramp at the port.	I love what's being done. More trails and options are always great. It would be nice to have trails that are not right at the waterfront and more up in the neighborhoods.
We need more FUN things for children of all ages. We have too many bars and breweries, we need facilities with fun zones for children, like an arcade, skating, movies	More groomed trails
Speed the process up! The courthouse lawn improvements should have been done already. You want to embrace tourism, facilitate it.	Quit letting Judith try to play dictator over Russell ave by the courthouse... you know what I'm talking about so don't pretend you don't.
Parking access	Like some of lower rated ideas like tower but don't think it should be public access
Tacoma's Pointe Defiance Park, Chambers Bay, and Golden Gate Park in San Fran all have some really great ideas.	Get rid of the railroad....
I'd love to see all of the projects in this survey happen!	LitTer patrol daily
Indoor Pickleball Facility is needed to draw visitors to Stevenson during off season and retain existing residents. Otherwise everyone leaves for Arizona as soon as the rain starts.	No
Install pervious pavement when constructing any new parking or re-finishing any old parking. Put in grass pavers as much as possible--they are so beautiful and they let the rainwater go back into the ground, reducing the need for more stormwater infrastructure. They've been used in Europe for a long time and I've seen them even in some new neighborhoods in west Vancouver. I'd even tear out all the newly paved areas of Bob's Beach and put in pervious surfaces, especially grass pavers.	More trails, more community shared spaces, more programs for learning and helping our fellow community members.
Clean up trails, more benches, restrooms, and eating areas	Trails so people can enjoy walking around town
Invest in the pool	Indoor place for young people to go and hangout during the day/afternoons
Not at this time but I certainly am glad that it will be improving	There are not two "alike" people, so our parks should reflect diversity of enjoyment, not a one size fits all. I personally like to hike, however, I would be much more apt to enjoy spaces with activities/entertainment.
free parking. If you charge to park or use, I will likely not visit	This survey didn't have costs associated with any of the parks proposals- would like to see that info also, thanks!
Since we have to pay a new Parks tax, please provide Garbage cans at Rock Creek along the paved pathways.	No
Green grass	Don't over pave. You don't need to create more parking when there is lots of parking not being used. You need to address the issue of publicity for these public spaces, not build on top of our county's natural beauty. Give the people affordable things to do, and give people more accessible information about these areas.
	Finding ways to connect and enhance the paths and trails we have should be a priority
	be sure safe, free garbage, free goose poop on trails
	We need more things for teenagers. When I was in high school, everybody hung out at the skate park. Now they have no place to go except for the basketball courts at the middle school. Which is inconvenient if you don't have a ride to Carson.

QUESTION 12 - 98 Responses

Do you have any additional suggestions for how to improve local parks and recreational areas?

ANSWERS:

More interesting interpretive displays. Maybe add some non traditional displays that aren't just historic or that describe natural features.	Keep it natural
Skating areas	Water access. Access for Community Members. Clean up water weeds
Dog friendly places would be ideal.	Impressed by ideas
A focus on ... -Trails -The walkability of the city -The quality of the the public gathering spots	Create a splash pool /water park for summer use on the cement pad outside the pool.
Leash law enforcement, manage homeless encampments	Volunteer days to help sand/paint picnic tables, create murals, childcare for events so parents can participate
More parking, more dog friendly, more bike paths for families	Take advantage of water front. Splash pad?
keep them clean	Fix the skate park.
None	Keep the homeless population out of them
Just having a plan is a great first step!	Kids focus on our local kids
Public indoor space for kids. Indoor play area or skating rink.	More parking
Pave the gravel road next to ash road for road biking through the town. Add mountain bike trails to washout areas. Mountain bike trails are severely lacking in this area of the gorge. Create more waking pathways through and around town.	Every summer people form a makeshift trail from Rock Creek Drive to the excellent swimming hole at the lower falls. In some spots it's very unsafe, with large boulders and active landslides falling down the cliffs. Establishing a safe trail to access the pool below the falls should be a priority.
Improve messaging about what parks and recreational areas are available to members of the community, as well as exactly how to find these areas	Less parking and events, more natural spaces and celebrations of local culture and nature
leave all as is. Rock Creek is not stable, does flood at times. Courthouse Lawn is beautiful as is and provides lawn to sit on to view concerts, Easter egg hunt, temporary signage space. Already in place is extended sidewalk for dining or Christmas in Gorge activities.	I believe our kids would benefit from a splash pad for the summer, revamp our stevenson children's park (take a look at hood river) also again all-inclusive example swings for children in wheelchairs. Since being a mom of special needs children its sad that I have to say our county has no options for my kids to be included and we have to travel for out of county opportunities.
I would love to see the planned plaza, in front of the Skamania County Courthouse, come to life... it is really the heart of the community and has so much potential.	Less emphasis on public drinking, beer festivals. Way less..
Rewilding and tree planting so there are shady places to enjoy the summer from. Big trees feel good to be around.	Signs letting people know the space is open to use would be more welcoming
More seating and better upkept play equipment for kids.	N/A
N/A	I love our parks, if you put too many activity in our scenic areas, we will loose the beauty. Please keep in in the same vein as it is now. Nature as our focal point, little views buildings and activities.
I would love to see the West Waterfront/Rock Creek trail system completed. I walk the riverfront daily and wish I had more scenic trail to walk further across town	Keep them small and keep quiet about them.
	More restrooms and trash cans, I constantly see empty alcohol containers around the main street.
	We need more walk ability

QUESTION 14 - 141 Responses

Where do you live or work?

ANSWER CHOICES:

I live or work within Stevenson City Limits **72.34%**

I live or work in the Urban Growth Area **9.22%**

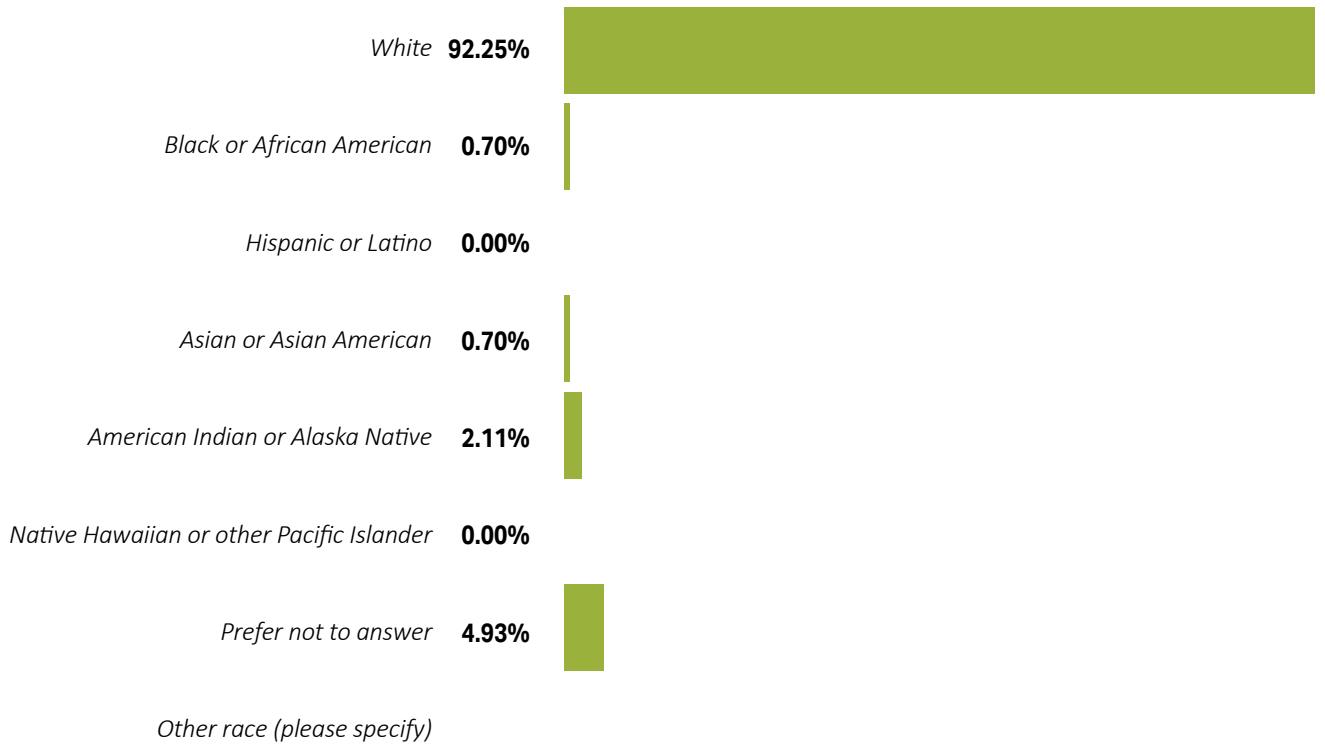
*I live or work outside of both the City and
the Urban Growth Area* **18.44%**



QUESTION 15 - 142 Responses

What is your race or ethnicity? Check all that apply

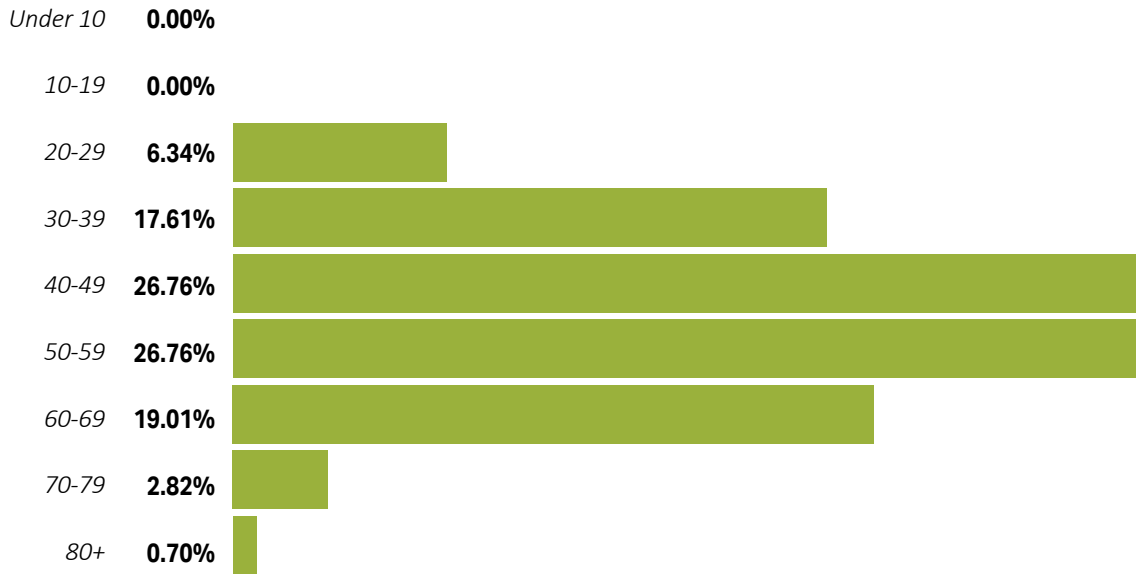
ANSWER CHOICES:



QUESTION 16 - 142 Responses

What is your age?

ANSWER CHOICES:



QUESTION 17 - 142 Responses

How many people live in your household?

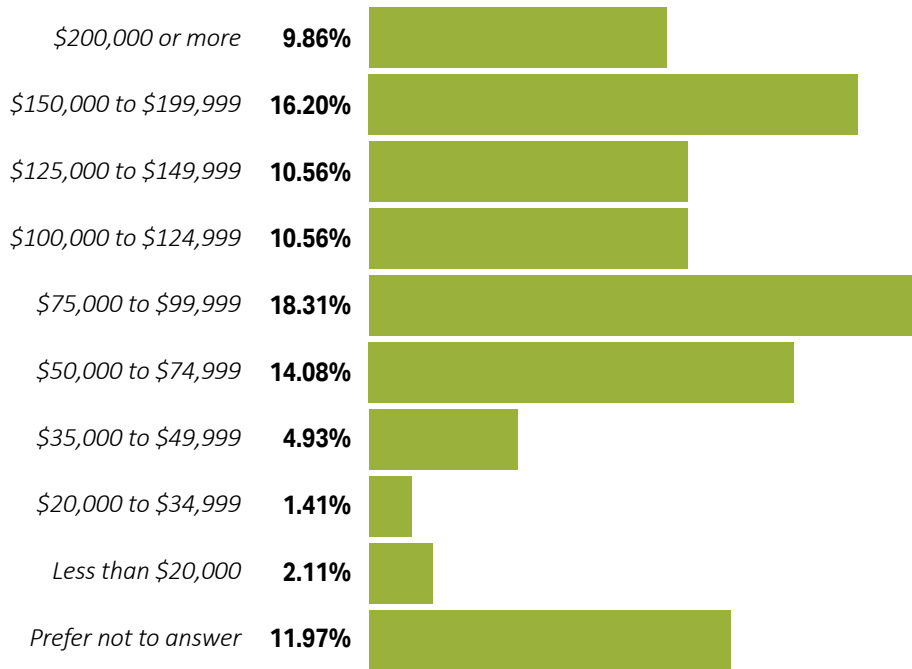
ANSWER CHOICES:



QUESTION 18 - 142 Responses

What is your household income?

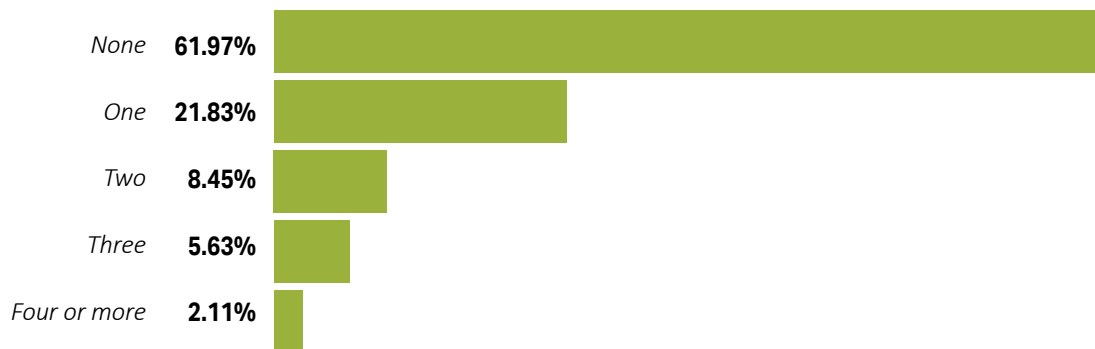
ANSWER CHOICES:



QUESTION 19 - 142 Responses

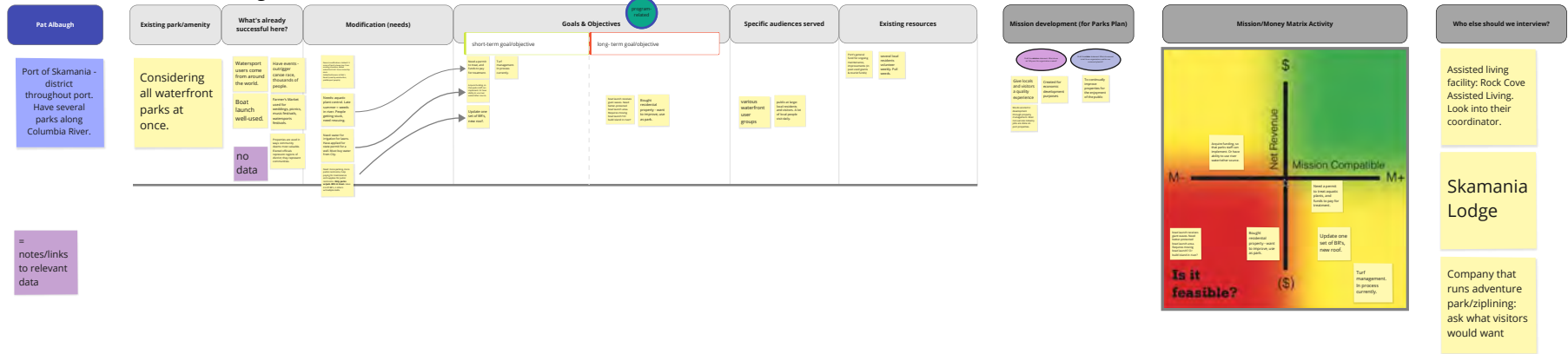
How many children age 18 or younger live in your household?

ANSWER CHOICES:

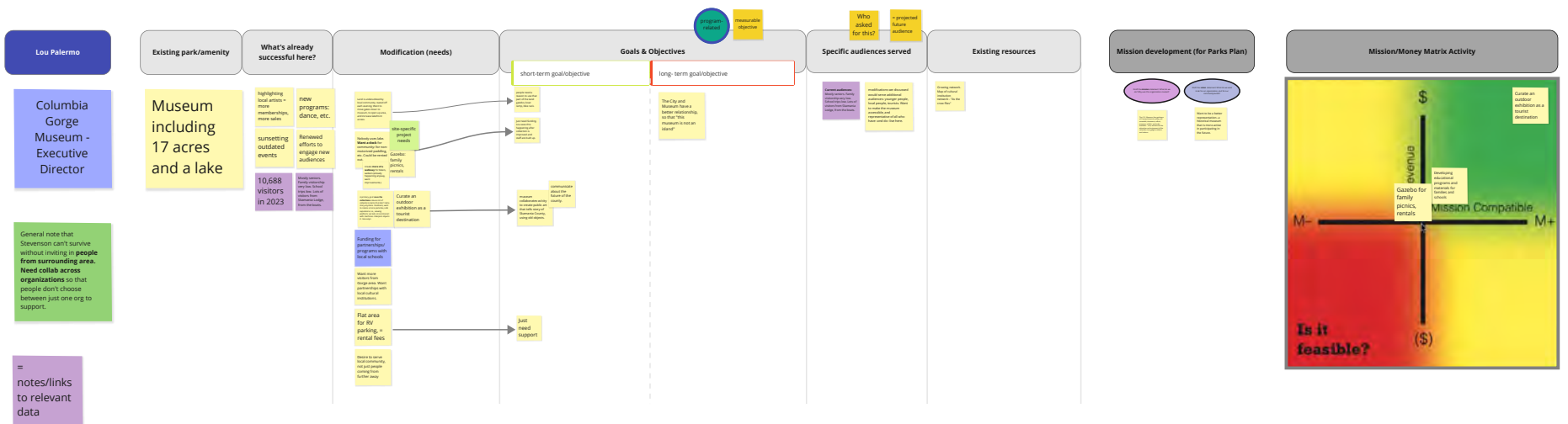


STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Pat Albaugh - 10/18/23



Stakeholder Interview - Lou Palermo - 1/18/23



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Justin Gross - 10/18/23

Justin Gross
Justin Gross oversees skate park, and connected to Walnut Park through restaurant.
Justin asked about "skate" because all of the areas of land that can be turned into something of recreational value.
Justin would develop community parks in these neighborhoods. Get people out more. Would park be character / attraction of this town?

Existing park/amenity	What's already successful here?	Modification (needs)	Goals & Objectives	Specific audiences served	Existing resources
Gropper Park (we decided to focus on this one due to Justin's interest in enlivening small, underutilized spaces as community gathering spots)	Was recently cleaned up blank canvas Shows the space of ground level for sports, high school and high school level	Underutilized Needs more gathering spots Near to road. Needs getting, parking	short-term goal/objective: [] long-term goal/objective: []	Specific audiences served: []	Existing resources: []
Walnut Park	Blank canvas Needs more community park, as with other sites	Blank canvas Needs more community park, as with other sites	Goals & Objectives	Specific audiences served	Existing resources

Mission development (for Parks Plan)
 [] [] [] []

Mission/Money Matrix Activity

Who else should we interview?
 [] [] [] []

Stakeholder Interview - Carolyn Sourek - 10/29/23

Carolyn Sourek: City's public works director
Oversees all City parks
Carolyn only interested in **Park** parks - small parks to use, have, share with neighbors. Small parks with areas, just over 1/2 acre. Use lots to create small markets. Goal: create for communities to develop and use public parks.

Existing park/amenity	What's already successful here?	Modification (needs)	Goals & Objectives	Specific audiences served	Existing resources
Walnut Park (we decided to focus on this one since it had the most potential and clear needs)	In middle of town. Has parking. Used as gathering place for restaurants. Has view of neighborhood	Decorative parking Underutilized Need for activation	short-term goal/objective: [] long-term goal/objective: []	Current: people going to restaurant. Ideally would be a social destination. Part of the reason to go downtown.	Existing resources: []
Gropper Park (Greenspace)	No high school to generate for community use	Underutilized Blank canvas need for activation	Goals & Objectives	Specific audiences served	Existing resources
Triangle Park - downtown by bus stop	Not really used for recreation	Not really used for recreation need for activation	Goals & Objectives	Specific audiences served	Existing resources

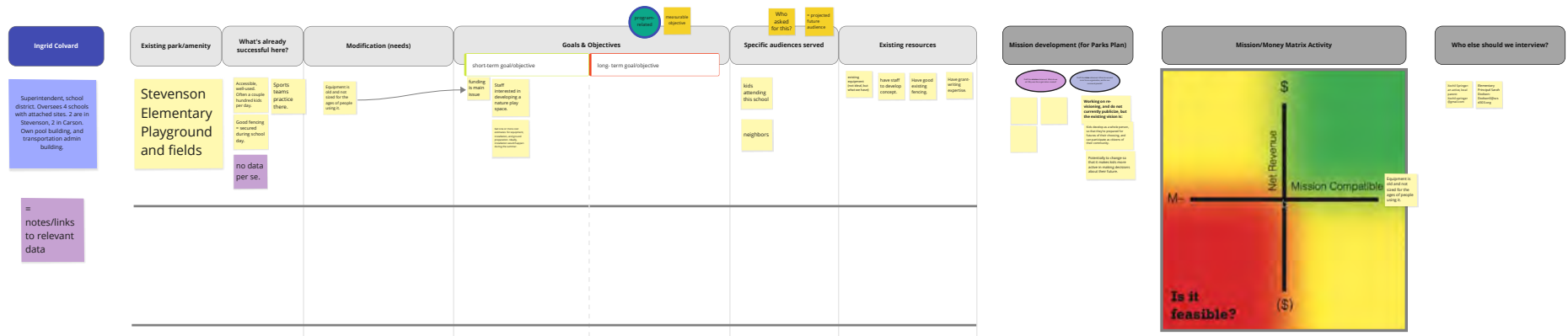
Mission development (for Parks Plan)
 [] [] [] []

Mission/Money Matrix Activity

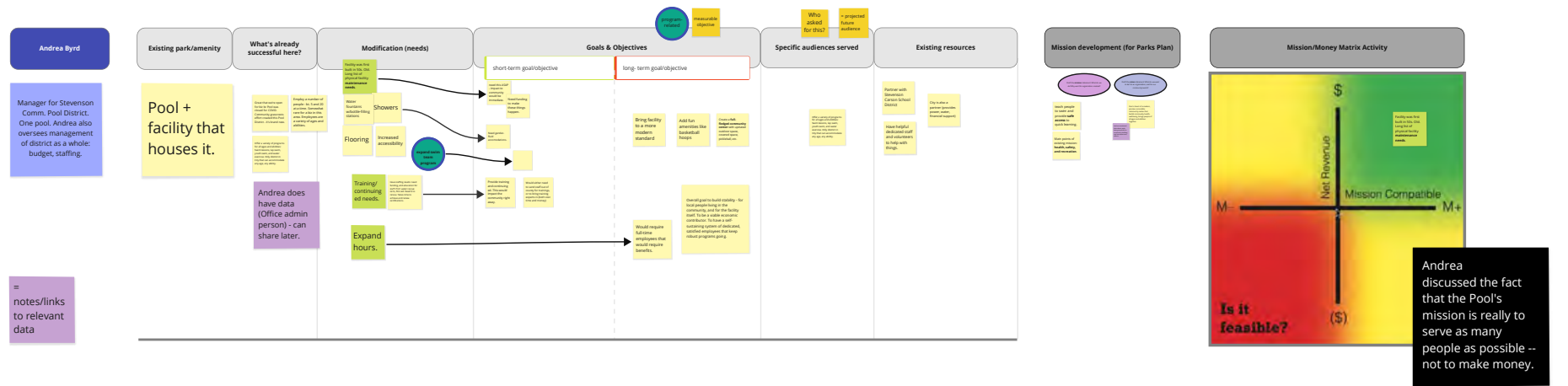
Who else should we interview?
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Ingrid Colvard - 10/24/23

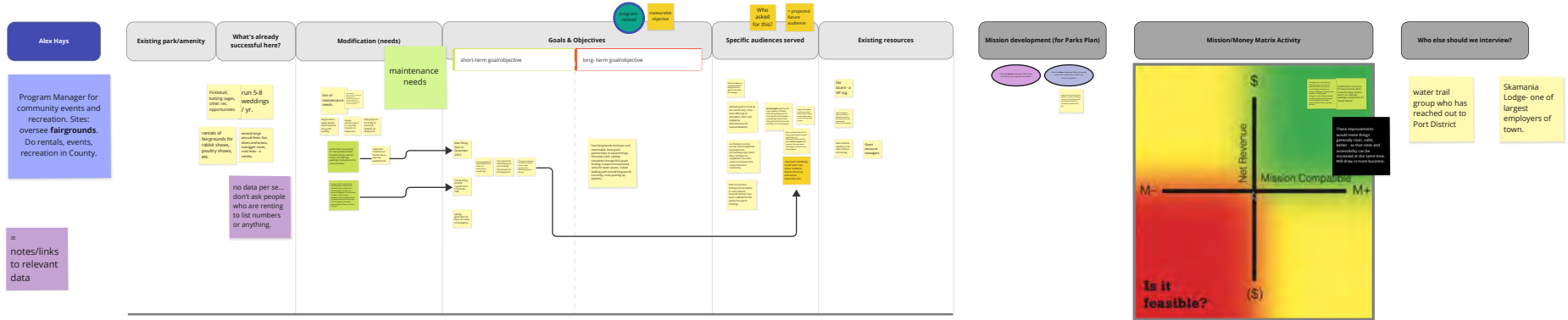


Stakeholder Interview - Andrea Byrd - 10/25/23

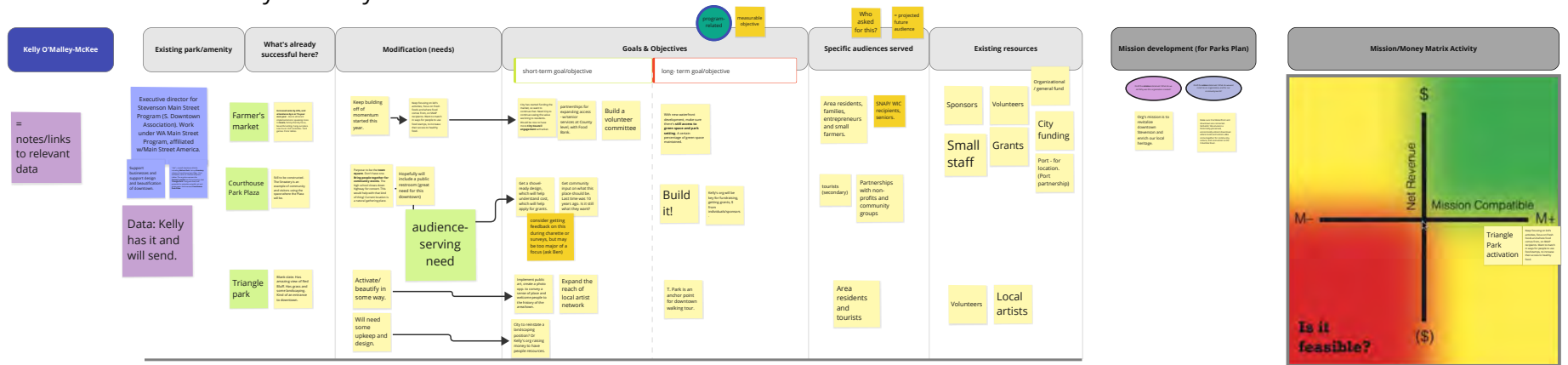


STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Alex Hays - 10/26/23

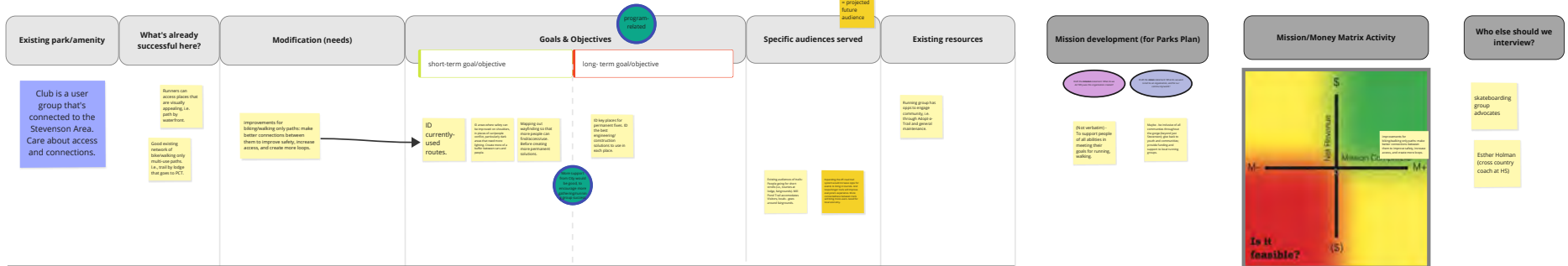


Stakeholder Interview - Kelly O'Malley-McKee - 10/26/23

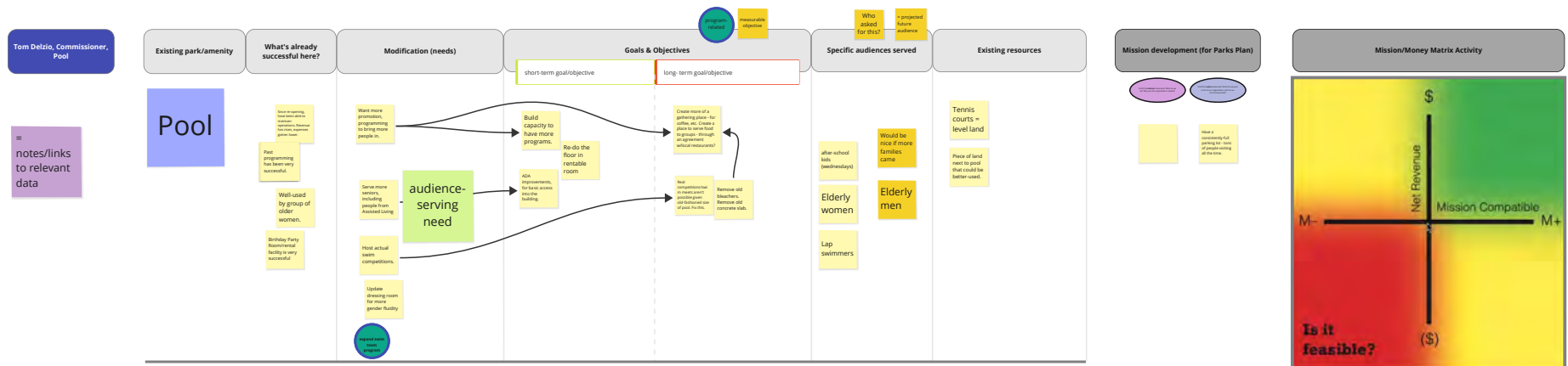


STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Torrey Lindbo (President of Columbia Gorge Running Club) - 11/6/23

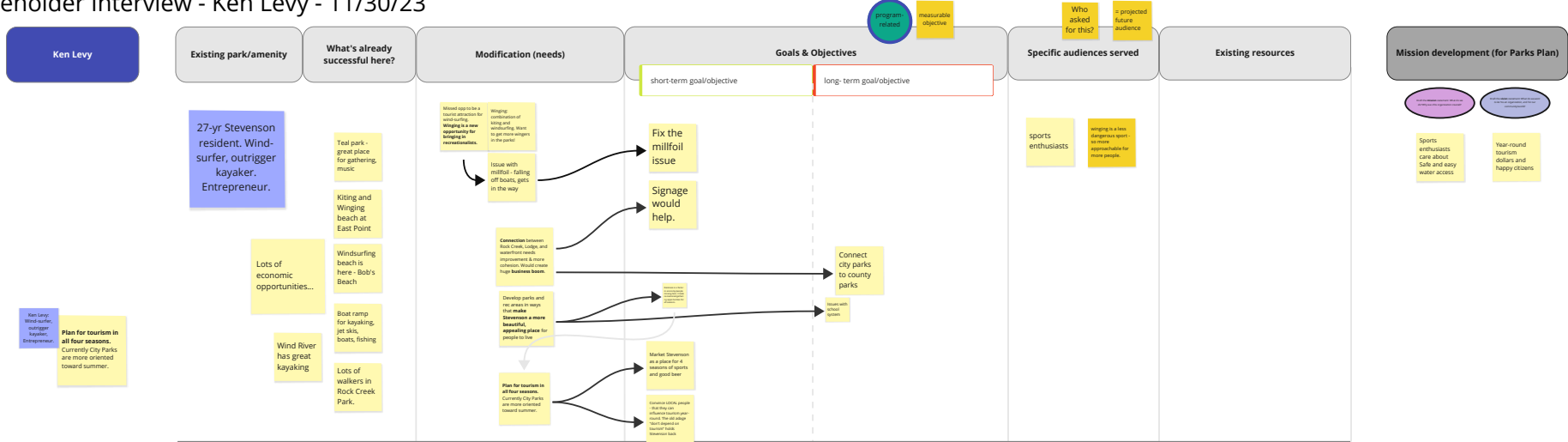


Stakeholder Interview - Tom Delzio - 11/10/23

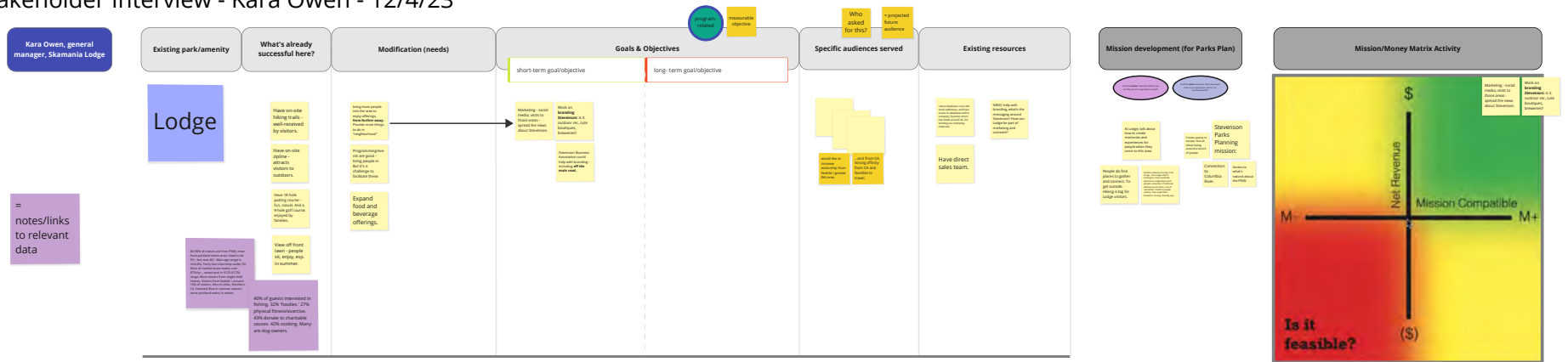


STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Ken Levy - 11/30/23



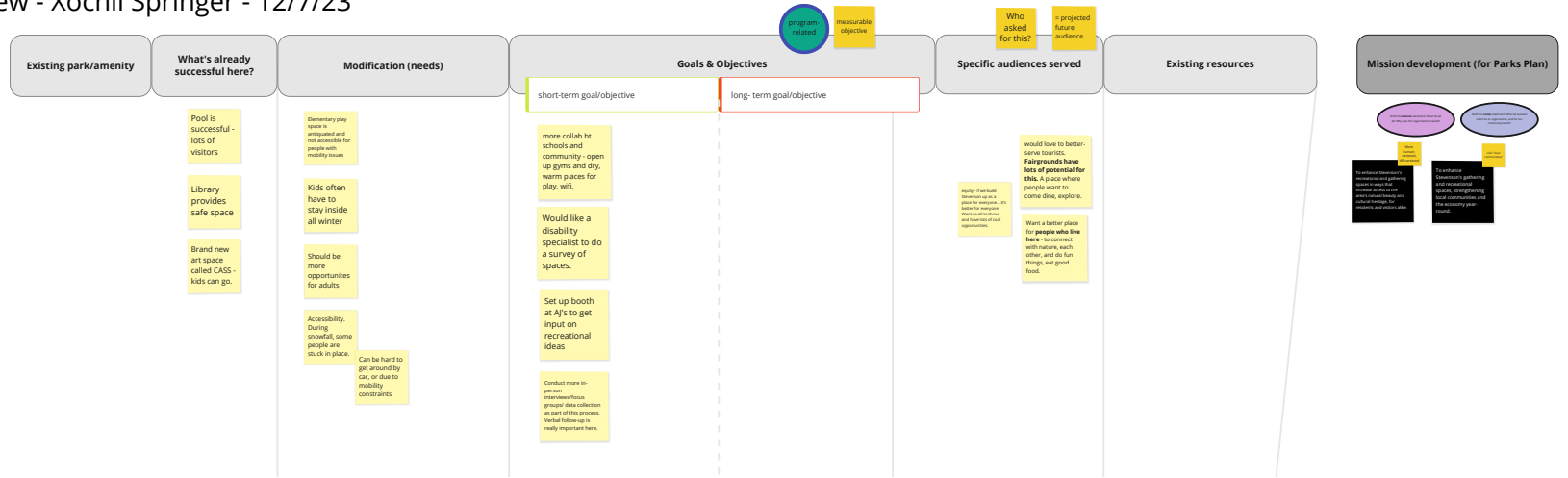
Stakeholder Interview - Kara Owen - 12/4/23



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Stakeholder Interview - Xochil Springer - 12/7/23

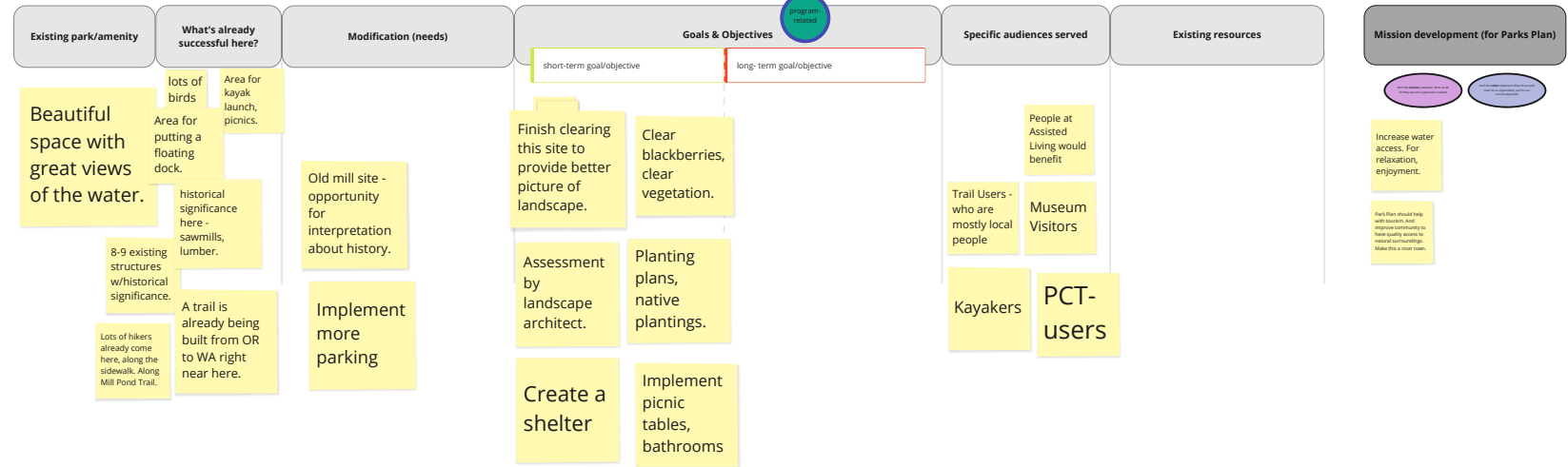
Xochil Springer, resident of Stevenson, parent w/kids raised in City. Centrally-located. Loves recreation. Passionate about parks. Want increased access for all! For people of all abilities and ages. Would love to open a homeschool play space



Stakeholder Interview - Lonnie Gates - 1/10/24

Lonnie Gates

Lonnie lives in assisted living, next door to Museum. Hiker. Hikes around Stevenson area, proposed park area around museum. Excited about more access to assisted living residents - for birdwatching. Good opp for ADA pathway next door. Recently, been trailblazing down to water, for views, fishing.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1

Meeting Information		
Date & Time	08-24-2023	
To/Participants	Marina French, Chuck McDowell (DCG/Watershed)	
Copy to	For record in plan appendix	
From/Meeting Leader	Marina French, Chuck McDowell (DCG/Watershed)	
Project No./Name	240418 – City of Stevenson Parks Master Plan	
Objective	Stevenson Parks Plan Master Plan Advisory Committee Kickoff meeting. Advisory Meeting #1	

Agenda/Discussion

- Introductions
 - Ben Shumaker – City of Stevenson, Community Development Director, Project Manager, City Parks Advocate, Pool district commissioner (attending in person).
 - Ingrid Colvard – Superintendent of Stevenson-Carson School District (attending virtually).
 - Pat Albaugh – Port of Skamania County, Executive Director (attending virtually).
 - Tom Lannen – Skamania County, District 2 Chair (attending in person).
 - Tiffany Anderson – City of Stevenson, Planning & Public Works Assistant (attending in person).
 - Alex Hays – Skamania County, Manager of Cultural Events and Recreation (such as the County Fairgrounds) (attending in person).
 - Andrea Byrd - Stevenson Community Pool District, Representative (attending in person).
 - Tom Delzio- Stevenson Community Pool District, Commissioner (attending in person).
 - Consultant Introductions Marina French, Project manager, Chuck McDowell, Lead Landscape Architect.
- What is a Parks Master Plan
 - Ben – The City is leading a coalition (the advisory board present today at this meeting) on behalf of all of the organizations that provide parks and recreation opportunities to the community of Stevenson.

Seattle 9706 4th Ave NE, Ste 300 Seattle, WA 98115 Tel 206.523.0024	Mount Vernon 2210 Riverside Dr, Ste 110 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Tel 360.899.1110	Whidbey 1796 E Main St, Ste 105 Freeland, WA 98249 Tel 360.331.4131	Federal Way 31620 23rd Ave S, Ste 307 Federal Way, WA 98003 Tel 253.237.7770	Spokane 601 W Main Ave, Ste 617 Spokane, WA 99201 Tel 509.606.3600	Kirkland 750 6 th St S Kirkland, WA 98033 Tel 425.822.5242
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1

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- The City is not going to push every organization to fill all of the community needs just within their organization. The goal is to distribute the efforts and investments.
- Tom Lannen - Is this going to replace the counties plan?
 - Ben – each individual organization will have to adopt the plan in order to use it to apply for grants. It could be supplementary to your plan.
 - Tom - The County has kicked off a parks planning process but it hasn't been completed. This is a template that the County can use themselves to complete their Parks Plan.
- Consultants – Your participation in this process will allow us to identify similar projects that multiple organizations have identified and prioritize partnerships or priorities for funding.
- Ben – We are on a fast schedule to get it done by February 2024.
 - Schedule is driven by need to fund Courthouse project through RCO.
- Alex – Fairgrounds are looking for opportunities to improve, including different grant opportunities – even emergency management.
- State Requirements for RCO Grants. Presentation by Nick Norton, Policy and Planning Specialist with WA State RCO office.
 - Nick is the project point of contact for people looking to establish planning eligibility that opens up grant funding.
 - He will be reviewing it relative to the RCO requirements.
 - He can review early drafts and support this process.
 - Tom Lannen – What is RCO conserving?
 - Nick – Grants related to conservation funding – Urban wildlife habitat, Riparian protection program, Critical wildlife habitat – specific plan or animal species of high value.
 - A conservation focus in the open space plan will help get those grants.
 - Also recreation programs – local parks.
 - Planning for Recreation Access
 - These require a plan - Boating Facilities, land and water conservation fund, NOVA-trails, WWRP-recreation, WWRP – habitat
 - Boating facilities program – supports renovation or development of docs
 - County applied for that program for wind river dock – have experience with this program
 - What elements are required? – Plan should be aligned with best practices but there is also flexibility to accommodate what the local process looks like.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1

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- Public involvement
 - Opportunity to be systematic and reach different voices in the community
- Inventory
 - Condition & Capacity are important elements
- Demand & Needs Analysis
 - Level of Service
 - Walk-sheds & Drive-sheds
 - Financial Capacity Analysis
- Goals & Objectives
 - Be specific as possible
- Capital Improvement Plan
 - Projects, priorities, dates, sources of funds, etc.
- Nick will send a few examples of approved plans to Ben to distribute to the group
- A specific entity may adapt an existing plan or develop a cooperative plan
 - Want to be clear about a couple of things on the front end
 - If you want to include a conservation focus on this – this must be imbedded throughout the plan
 - This may need a supplemental study
- If County process is overlapping city process –
 - If county is trying to use this plan as eligibility
 - There may be another approval accomodation needed – engage with RCO early to discuss this.
- All these districts include and extend beyond the city limits, UGA limits, or project limits.
- Ingrid – Can the School district apply for grants through this process?
 - School distrcit facilities – interest in updating Stevenson Elementary playground, lots of community use
 - RCO – deferred maintenance grant 30k min 100k max – need to look into elegebility requirements
 - Healthy kids grant
 - Would appreciate shared responsibility on grant opportunities
- Consultant Power Point Presentation
 - DCG/Watershed’s Scope & Role (COS)
 - Project Approach (DCG/Watershed)
 - Schedule
 - Deliverables

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1

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- Anticipated Outcomes
 - Next Steps
 - Review Plan Table of Contents (DCG/Watershed)
 - Shared Expectations (DCG/Watershed /COS)
 - RACI
 - Review Advisory Committee questionnaire shared via email prior to this meeting (DCG/Watershed)
- Workshop Activity – Roundtable discussion and each entity share thoughts on MISSION and VALUES for parks and recreation in the community, and any other questions or comments.
 - City:
 - Sense of Permanence & Quality (basalt not CMU blocks)
 - Stability
 - Human Activity – for example cater to wind sports, but not to the same degree as places like Hood River.
 - Not commercialized – keep it quaint, low key, and folksy.
 - Maintain a balance of activities without one thing dominating.
 - Sense of Arrival is important.
 - County
 - Tom Lannen – County has a bunch of needs & Not wants.
 - He has a very focused financial vision of where he puts money.
 - Number 1 job of putting community first.
 - Drawing people in to support businesses is important.
 - Year round activities.
 - Increasing revenue is a goal:
 - Could double revenue if more parking was available.
 - Need new ways to park people for larger events.
 - Shuttle to the interpretive center?
 - New stage to hold concerts.
 - Pickleball, little league – fields are in disrepair (comment was on Home valley park – not in city of Stevenson).
 - Provide recreation within natural resources:
 - Water trails (non-motorized launch).
 - Long term opportunities for local residents.
 - Cross pollination culturally – welcome people into the community. Give a reason for people to come together
 - What does welcoming mean?

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1

DCG/Watershed
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- Does not find Stevevonson welcoming.
- Maintain the character of the area.
- Pool
 - Welcoming
 - Gathering Spot
 - Parking lot fullness feel like a barometer of success.
 - A spot to have coffee or food – that’s what draws people together.
 - Pool is not seasonal.
 - Make the pool more usable.
 - Accessibility
 - Need a method to get down into the pool if you can’t walk down the steps.
 - Would like Rock Cove Assisted Living Community to bring people over to the pool.
 - Need to make it visually more fun.
 - Wellness
 - Use the facility as part of a wellness lifestyle.
 - Comfortable
 - Physical Safety
 - Inclusive
 - Old tennis courts can be repurposed – potential land – big asset
 - Want to see people in the parking lot
 - Programming
 - Movies
 - Next nearest pool is in Hood River, OR.
- (Ingrid and Pat were unable to attend the second half of the meeting, therefore there are no comments.)
- Next Steps (DCG/Watershed /COS)
 - Data Requests – Due
 - Inventory & Analysis
 - Stakeholder Interviews
 - Community Engagement
 - Next Workshop

DCG/Watershed
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Attachment:

Advance questions for Advisory Committee

Project Introduction:

The project involves the creation of a Parks Master Plan which will serve as a strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation services in Stevenson. It is aimed at enhancing community well-being through strategic development of open spaces, recreation facilities, and the identification of ongoing maintenance needs. The plan will guide the identification, prioritization, and funding of projects on land owned by the city and key public stakeholders including the County, Port, School District, and Pool District. Representatives from these entities will make up the Parks Planning Advisory Committee. The plan will serve as a tool to seek state recreation grants, define community projects, and set long term priorities.

The planning process provides Advisory Committee members with a collaborative platform to align resources and goals, creating a shared vision for open space and recreation. By engaging in this process, Advisory Committee members can effectively contribute to community development, address their organizations' missions, and identify projects that align with the shared goals of the Committee. The plan opens avenues for potential funding, partnerships, and impactful multi-benefit projects.

Expected Stakeholder Involvement:

The Advisory Committee is expected to actively participate in workshops, discussions, and planning sessions throughout the project. This input will shape the plan's content, project identification, and implementation strategies. Collaborative discussions will help identify shared goals, prioritize projects, and explore opportunities for cross-organization collaboration. Ultimately, this input will guide the creation of a well-rounded Parks Master Plan that will ground future investment in the community.

Before the workshop, please reflect on how your organization's mission and strategic goals can align with and contribute to the development of this plan.

Vision and Alignment:

How do you envision this plan aligning with your organization's mission and strategic goals – short term – long term?

What aspects of this work resonate with your organization's vision for community well-being?

Collaboration Potential:

How can your organization contribute to the shared vision for open space and recreation projects?

Are there resources, expertise, or partnerships your organization can bring to the table?

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Identifying Community Needs:

From your perspective, what are the most critical recreation and open space needs in the community that this plan could address?

Are there specific demographic groups or neighborhoods that your organization particularly aims to serve?

Ongoing and Planned Projects:

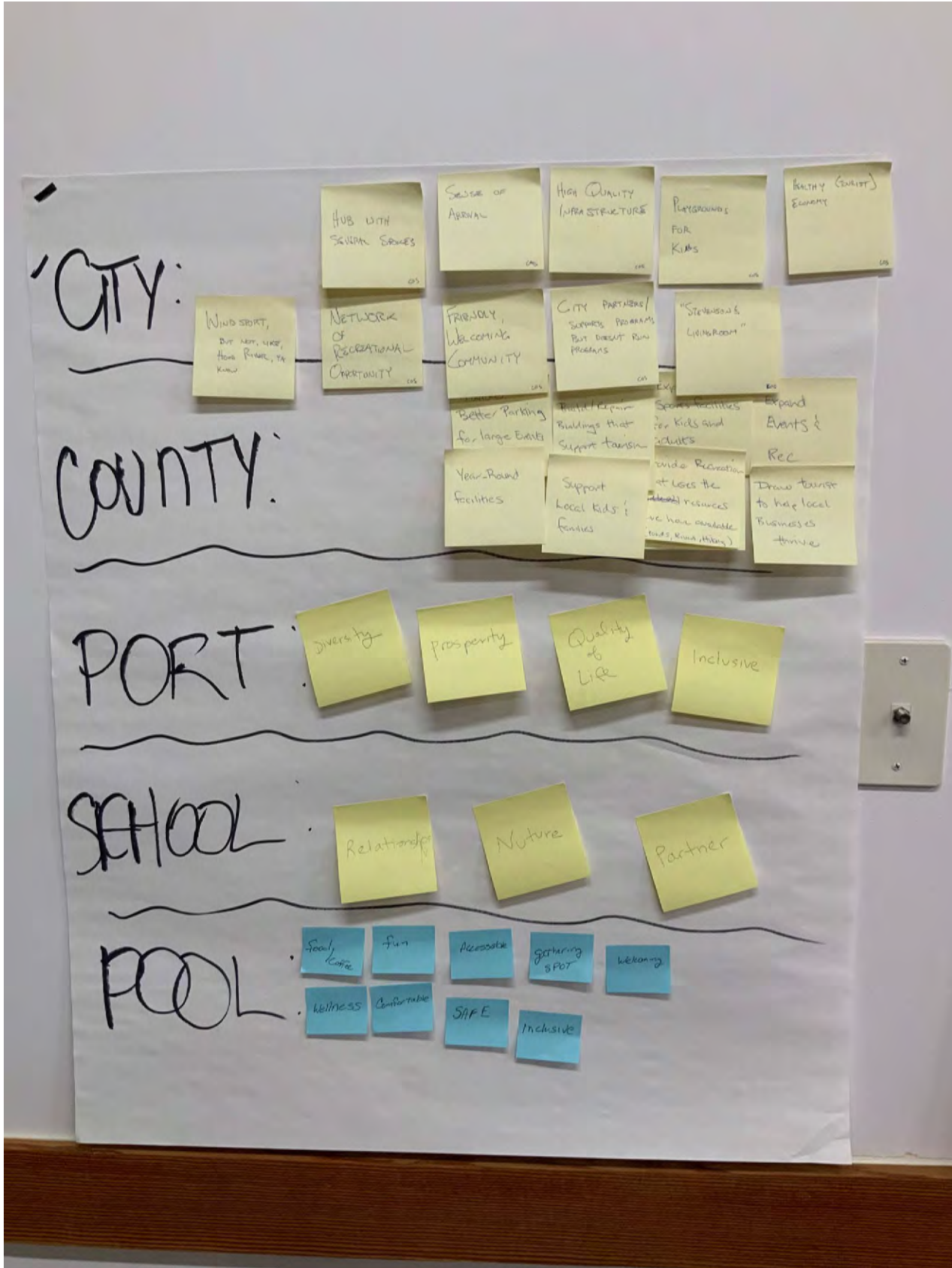
Are there any ongoing or planned projects within your organization that could impact or align with this effort?

Have you already identified any specific needs or challenges within your organization that you believe could translate into potential projects under this plan?

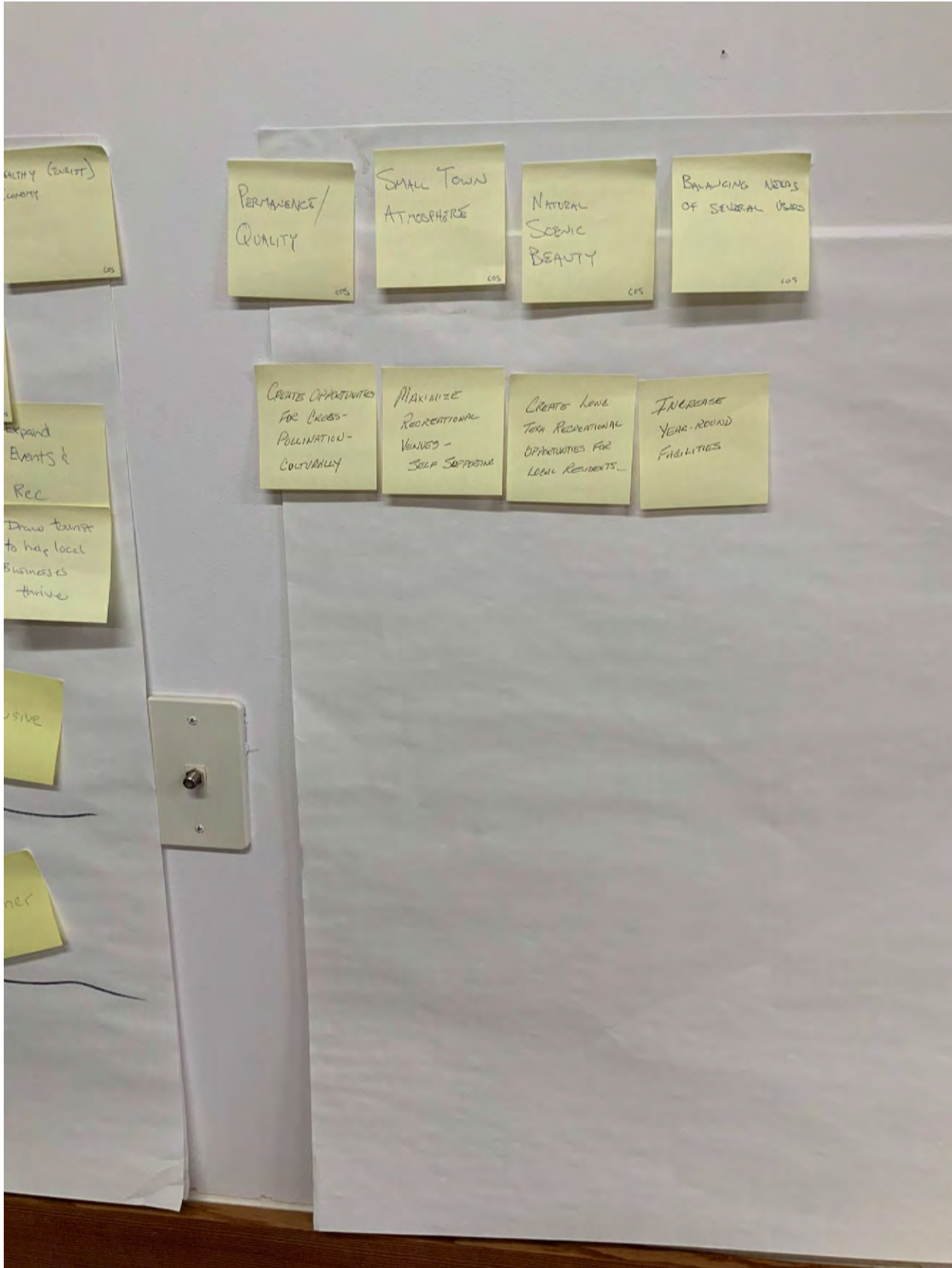
Impact:

How do you envision the completion of these projects contributing to the broader community's vision for parks and open space?

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 1



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2

Meeting Information		DCG WATERSHED
Date & Time	12/06/2023	
To/Participants	DCG/Watershed Team: Marina French, Project manager, Chuck McDowell, Lead Landscape Architect, Angela Mele, Interpretive Planner.	
Copy to	For inclusion in the final plan appendix.	
From/Meeting Leader	Marina French	
Project No./Name	230418 Stevenson Parks Master Plan	
Objective	Stevenson Parks Plan Master Plan Advisory Committee Charrette. Advisory Committee Workshop #2.	

Agenda/Discussion

- Meeting Date: 12/06/23, 9:00am-noon. In person at the County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Agenda:

- Introduction
 - Introductions
 - Consultant Presentation:
 - Recap of Master Plan process
 - Summary of Stakeholder interview feedback
 - Summary of Online Public Survey Results
 - Presentation of initial ideas for formation of Mission and Goals
 - Examples of park trends and precedents for amenities or elements that were brought up by the community during our outreach.
- Break
- Workshop Activity
 - Break into three groups, sit at the group table and discuss existing and potential parks, recreation and open space opportunities within your area. Discuss how specific gaps, needs, programs, or other topics brought up by the community are present in your area.
- Break
- Report Out/Summary

Seattle 9706 4th Ave NE, Ste 300 Seattle, WA 98115 Tel 206.523.0024	Mount Vernon 2210 Riverside Dr, Ste 110 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Tel 360.899.1110	Whidbey 1796 E Main St, Ste 105 Freeland, WA 98249 Tel 360.331.4131	Federal Way 31620 23rd Ave S, Ste 307 Federal Way, WA 98003 Tel 253.237.7770	Spokane 601 W Main Ave, Ste 617 Spokane, WA 99201 Tel 509.606.3600	Kirkland 750 6 th St S Kirkland, WA 98033 Tel 425.822.5242
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2

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Introductions and Icebreaker: What are the needs of the user group that you or your organization represents?

Pool District – Tom Delzio

- New dressing rooms for equal opportunity for each gender –the boys’ dressing room needs designated stalls to have the option for privacy. The girls dressing room already has this.
- The pool is too small/short for official meets, so there is not currently any function for the bleachers. They would like to remove the bleachers to create a gathering space.
- The parking lot needs to be updated to be ADA compliant – they would need to hire a consultant for this (long-term project).
- Main goal is to bring more people in.

County – Tom Lannen

- County has land at the transfer site that has liability issues currently. They would like to transfer this to the city.
- Wind River Nursery site is a huge opportunity – it would be great to provide a connection from the city to WRN.
- Support transit options for seniors.

County Fairgrounds – Alex Hays

- Planning for big events.
- Working on building upgrades to make them more durable and desirable for use or rental.
- Looking into covering the arena for concerts and more year-round use.
- Upgrading Campground.
- Current projects include:
 - o Upgrading restrooms
 - o Year-round fishing
 - o Infrastructure improvements
 - o Roof over pickleball
 - o Batting cages
- Would like to do something with the baseball field but it is owned by the army corps and is an archeological site.
- Water trails
- Non-motorized ramp for boats
- Permanent stage for concerts
- The fairground used to be a hub for water sports. It could be used by private or non-profit organizations to run programs.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2

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Port – Pat Albaugh

- Replace the wave attenuator to allow better use of the existing boat ramp.
- Increase the use of a couple of beaches/points.
- Local water trail connected to museum and islands.
- Short term need is to provide more bathrooms.
- Water to irrigate the parks.
- Areas for private and nonprofits like a canoe club and water sports.

Columbia Gorge Museum – Lou Palermo

- Remove physical barriers.
- Dock for canoes and water access.
- Gazebo for people to use property more.
- Make grounds more accessible and usable – get rid of the gate and be more integrated with the community.
- A beautiful flat area could be an RV park.
- Camps and classes to connect outside lessons with inside.
- Music.
- Partnerships and cross promotion.

Public Works – Carolyn Sourek

- Utility focused currently – would be great to have a parks department that could maintain the parks spaces.
- Create shared maintenance for all open spaces and parks.
- Need equipment – specifics will depend on the park.
- Possibly a parks district to share the resources with other public entities.
- Dog park.
- Trail maps.

Public Works – Jonathan Dexter

- Equipment for landscaping.
- Training.
- Bathroom maintenance is new – they need training for that.

City Council – Dave Cox

- Parks property owned by city and county; how can we integrate these together more?
- Implement a parks district – sometimes coalitions are more impressive for winning funding.
- Increase offerings for youth.
- Leverage expertise in County + City for construction.
- Need funding mechanism for maintenance.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2

DCG/Watershed
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Kelly O'Malley-McKee

- Promote gathering, tourism, spaces for locals.
- Activate, beautify, increase public art.
- Walkability, connectivity to fairgrounds and museum and to downtown.
- Connect to PCT through other parks and downtown.
- Want more commerce but also more public access and green space.
- Develop waterfront for small businesses.
- Stopping places with benches.
- Gateway Park has the best views of red bluff.

School District – Ed Farrell

- Updating current playground equipment to better fit age groups.
- Need to keep people out of the properties during school hours.
- Open after school hours.
- Indoor athletics space.

General Comments

- Need for maintenance.
- Flatter easier walking connections to parks.
- Collective marketing can be a way to leverage other stakeholders' expertise and momentum.
- Need to coordinate with Burlington Northern at some point – they are a large landowner.
- Need to engage with Tribes.
- Water recreation and access can be enhanced – marina in rock cove?
- Land acquisition is an important consideration when land isn't owned by any one entity.
- Government owned property can impact the economic development of the community.

Feedback on Mission

- It's not just about economics, it's also about locals getting what they need.
- Add word resilience.

Workshop Activity

(See worksheet notes and photos of table poster mark-ups)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2



Charrette Project Sheet

City of Stevenson Parks Master Plan

Project Site: Triangle / Gateway Park

Urban uses - support businesses

Description/History/Noteworthy:

Who currently visits?

Current or potential maintenance level?

Status:

(i.e. developed, undeveloped, unplanned, master plan, etc.)

Existing Plans or Improvements?

Existing amenities, services, or programs?

Questions	Comments
Does site meet survey-identified needs? (Q2)	
1. Views of nature, wildlife, or water	
2. Primitive trails or experience	
3. Water access	
4. Family friendly	
5. Easy to get to	
Does site provide any survey-identified opportunities? (Q10)	
1. Restrooms	Yes Courthouse Plans
2. Skate Park	
3. Pickle ball courts	
4. Play equipment	
5. Trails	
6. Exercise equipment	
7. Picnic areas/ tables / seating	Yes Courthouse
Other needs?	
Does site provide any survey-identified program requests? (Q11)	
1. Outdoor concerts / live music	
2. Exercise classes (yoga, dance, etc)	
3. Movies in the park	
4. Summer camps	
5. Community learning classes	
6. Wildlife education	
Other opportunities?	
How does current or improved park serve community?	
Site recommendations:	
Build/Add?	
What new uses could be proposed?	
Replace/Enhance?	
What existing features need major overhaul?	
Repair and maintain?	
What existing features need more minor improvements?	

more year round streets
 - slow traffic
 - gateway park preview
 no dog park

TRIANGLE / STATEWAY PARK
needs to be focal point
ART piece that a welcoming piece
drainage

- maintenance
 - > mowing
 - >
- Powers -> pressure wash

⇒ Don't stop

⇒ East end

P Wayfinding

- Folly

- ~~both~~ ART

~~Water~~ Courthouse lawn -
- Splash play

Farmers Market -> Marquette Park area
\$ Core downtown Not a place for a playground

Smaller scale events

- Oct - May
- Week nights

As we change
Consider what
people want

3 year plan focuses on residents
- all programming is outside of downtown
- oriented to higher end

Beverly Park

PORT

- extend park best beach
- Waggie beach - riprap for railroad tracks
- Slaughtershouse
- water trail
- h

AND a lot of families

- more signage + way finding

Dog parks potential

- temporary
while other plans
are being made

- communicate that it's
temporary

Walnut - Irrigation

- Future of walnut park
→

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2



Charrette Group Area Sheet

City of Stevenson Parks Master Plan

Group Area: Rock Cove

Group Members: Loe (Museum)
Carolyn S.

• fairground during specific events
• museum
• wastewater treatment

Does area have any 'Most visited areas'?

Does area have any 'Least visited areas'?

• Fairground w/ regular events
• Museum

Does area have any 'Most popular programs'?

How does area relate to the draft Vision?

Gaps?
Goals?
Objectives?

Questions	Comments
How does Group Area Fulfill Mission? (Q1)	
1. Connect with nature or observe wildlife	It doesn't! Limited island access. But, there's a trail system.
2. Fitness or exercise	People do walk this shore. Is equine man space. Has ball. Has pickleball.
3. Enjoy solitude or peace and quiet	working on exhibits, programs
4. Fun, excitement or adventure	
How does Group Area meet survey-identified needs? (Q2)	
1. Views of nature, wildlife, or water	
2. Primitive trails or experience	
3. Water access	small illegal dock in fairground - but access is limited
4. Family friendly	existing small park in fairgrounds
5. Easy to get to	yes, easy, though far to walk from downtown
How does Group Area provide any survey-identified opportunities? (Q10)	
1. Restrooms	
2. Skate Park	
3. Pickle ball courts	
4. Play equipment	yes at playground. Museum wants some!
5. Trails	Museum property has potential for water trail
6. Exercise equipment	
7. Picnic areas/ tables / seating	picnic area by little park in fairground
Other needs?	kayak safety, classes. RV parking to handle fairgr. over lawn and make \$
How does Group Area provide any survey-identified program requests? (Q11)	
1. Outdoor concerts / live music	
2. Exercise classes (yoga, dance, etc)	Dance @ museum has been successful. Museum is planning on it.
3. Movies in the park	
4. Summer camps	
5. Community learning classes	
6. Wildlife education	
Other programs?	Exhibit openings increasingly popular. = revenue. Ideas for trails as exhibits and hang-out spots.

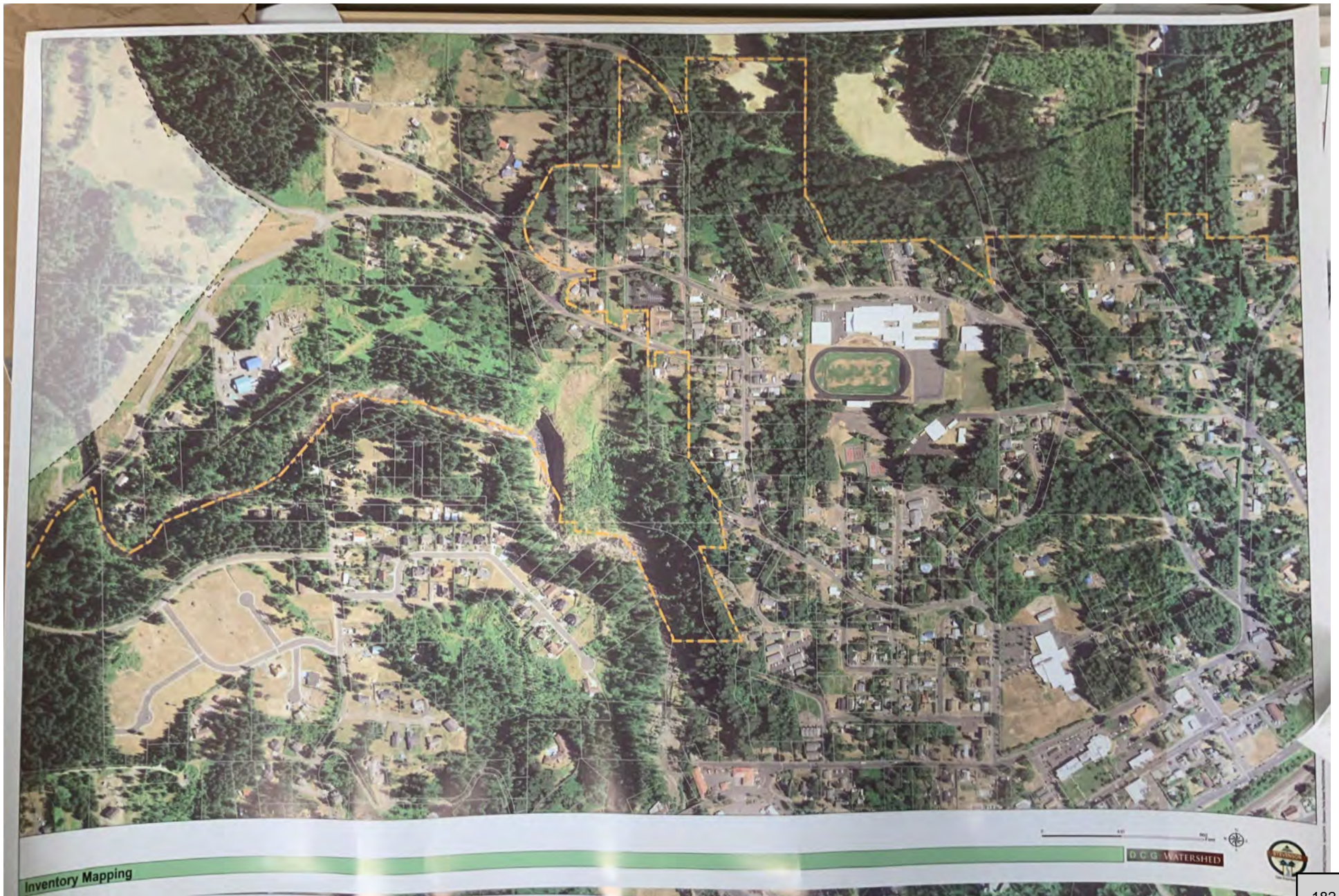
Trail system.
man space.
Has ball.
Kids park.
some kayak access.

access is limited

Nature play, native plants

• yoga in galleries
• slow people down

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 2



Charrette Group Area Sheet

City of Stevenson Parks Master Plan

Group Area: _____

Group Members: _____

Does area have any 'Most visited areas'?

Does area have any 'Least visited areas'?

Does area have any 'Most popular programs'?

How does area relate to the draft Vision?

Gaps?

Goals?

Objectives?

Questions	Comments
How does Group Area Fulfill Mission? (Q1)	
1. Connect with nature or observe wildlife	Upper Rock Creek GAP - Skunkcreek Lodge, High School pull-up bars, Trails ↳ cross country team on road
2. Fitness or exercise	
3. Enjoy solitude or peace and quiet	
4. Fun, excitement or adventure	
How does Group Area meet survey-identified needs? (Q2)	
1. Views of nature, wildlife, or water	None. - Rock Creek water trail? - Playground, Activities w/ Church, Pool
2. Primitive trails or experience	
3. Water access	
4. Family friendly	
5. Easy to get to	
How does Group Area provide any survey-identified opportunities? (Q10)	
1. Restrooms	School Locked, Sheriff's office, Pool ↳ Port + Fairgrounds
2. Skate Park	
3. Pickle ball courts	Tennis, school pickleball w/ lights, basketball ↳ can rent football field
4. Play equipment	
5. Trails	
6. Exercise equipment	
7. Picnic areas/ tables / seating	
Other needs?	
How does Group Area provide any survey-identified program requests? (Q11)	
1. Outdoor concerts / live music	- County w/ senior citizens (via churches?)
2. Exercise classes (yoga, dance, etc)	
3. Movies in the park	- movies in pool?
4. Summer camps	- Both school libraries + computer lab - Community Education ↳ use existing facilities multi-use - Schools have audio visual equipment
5. Community learning classes	
6. Wildlife education	
Other programs?	

Tourists? Larger Area?

Helps draw in new residents

Pool school bus - lessons

Rock Care Fairground Bathrooms - Use vendor to maintain
Church as Resources

Charrette Project Sheet

Project Site: Pool - signage

Description/History/Noteworthy: _____

Who currently visits? _____

Current or potential maintenance level? _____

Status: _____
(i.e. developed, undeveloped, unplanned, master plan, etc.)

Existing Plans or Improvements? _____

Existing amenities, services, or programs? _____

City of Stevenson Parks Master Plan

- kitchen - artist mural, city signs - "welcome packet" = info

Questions	Comments
Does site meet survey-identified needs? (Q2)	
1. Views of nature, wildlife, or water	
2. Primitive trails or experience	
3. Water access	
4. Family friendly	
5. Easy to get to	
Does site provide any survey-identified opportunities? (Q10)	
1. Restrooms	
2. Skate Park	
3. Pickle ball courts	
4. Play equipment	
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6. Exercise equipment	
7. Picnic areas/ tables / seating	
Other needs?	
Does site provide any survey-identified program requests? (Q11)	
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4. Summer camps	
5. Community learning classes	
6. Wildlife education	
Other opportunities?	
How does current or improved park serve community?	
Site recommendations:	
Build/Add?	
What new uses could be proposed?	
Replace/Enhance?	
What existing features need major overhaul?	
Repair and maintain?	
What existing features need more minor improvements?	

Single person organize all rec. chamber? check website
Current facilities tired now, maintenance critical
People have ideas + would be willing to be stewards
"Main Street Liars Club" Coam Diner

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 3

Meeting Information		
Date & Time	01/16/2024	
To/Participants	Ben Shumaker, Tiffany Anderson, Ingrid Colvard, Pat Albaugh, Alex Hays, Tom Delzio	
Copy to	DCG/Watershed Team: Marina French, Project manager, Chuck McDowell, Lead Landscape Architect, Angela Mele, Interpretive Planner.	
From/Meeting Leader	Marina French	
Project No./Name	230418 Stevenson Parks Master Plan	
Objective	Stevenson Parks Plan Master Plan Advisory Committee Recommendations Meeting. Advisory Committee Workshop #3.	

Agenda/Discussion

- Meeting Date: 1/16/24, 10:30am-noon. Virtual Meeting.
- Icebreaker: Please share the biggest takeaways from the charrette.
 - Ben appreciated hearing all of the maintenance needs, and the interest in shared partnerships.
 - Tiffany liked how all parties were on board with a collaboration effort.
 - Pat hadn't previously considered covering the horse arena at the Fairgrounds to create a year-round concert venue. Loved this idea.
 - Alex felt encouraged about the similarities between everyone's goals. Feels hopeful about things actually happening with people working together. I.e., shared floating dock idea. The charrette spurred further conversations later on, independent of this plan process.
 - Ingrid: Had to send Ed as a representative to the last meeting. Ed had similar feedback: great possibilities for collaboration; covered spaces is an agreed-upon need.
- Begin presentation:
 - Summary of feedback from public outreach including kick-off, stakeholder interviews, charrette, etc.
 - Overview of Goals
 - Discussion of Goals
 - 1. Establish and sustain well-maintained parks

Seattle
9706 4th Ave NE, Ste 300
Seattle, WA 98115
Tel 206.523.0024

Mount Vernon
2210 Riverside Dr, Ste 110
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Tel 360.899.1110

Whidbey
1796 E Main St, Ste 105
Freeland, WA 98249
Tel 360.331.4131

Federal Way
31620 23rd Ave S, Ste 307
Federal Way, WA 98003
Tel 253.237.7770

Spokane
601 W Main Ave, Ste 617
Spokane, WA 99201
Tel 509.606.3600

Kirkland
750 6th St S
Kirkland, WA 98033
Tel 425.822.5242

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 3

DCG/Watershed
Meeting Minutes
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- Pat: a lot of this is about landscaping, but there's not as much about restrooms which take more resources and time.
- The landscaping is not nearly as important as maintaining other facilities. See building facilities maintenance as a missing component.
- Marina: if there were more of a strategy for non-landscape components, do you suggest a special exploration of ways to be more efficient, for things like restrooms?
- Alex: An example is the drains at the Fairgrounds. Some are overflowing. My maintenance people said catch basins must be cleared annually. The City said they are investigating new machinery to clear them. Fairgrounds doesn't have money for this, but if the County could pitch in and use the truck, it could help everyone, since these maintenance needs apply to everyone.
- Alex: For everything that we install, there's a timeframe for checking in on how things are functioning. I've always dreamed of a master list/calendar to keep track of what needs to be done, and when.
- Marina: 1.3B is intended to get at what you're describing. If there is expensive equipment that's hard for one entity to justify buying, collectively you could justify the investment. And the maintenance calendar – kind of relates to 1.4B., the objective to have a comprehensive resource database—maybe this database would include this kind of calendar.
- Ben: Invites everyone to submit revisions and edits. Ben hears need to modify things on 1.3A,B and 1.4A, to emphasize and de-emphasize certain things.
- Ingrid: 1.3B – the schools have had major facilities issues lately due to cold. It is also possible to share expertise, including about emergency support. The school is a union, so it can be difficult to bring people in to help with shared resources; to bring in personnel. Something to consider.
- Alex: County is probably the same, in regard to unions for our maintenance crew.
- Marina: our intention for these strategies is to make sure they're diverse enough. So if an attempt to share staffing doesn't really work, there are other avenues for collaboration, like equipment sharing. We'll make sure these feel diverse enough from that perspective.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 3

DCG/Watershed
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- 2. Enhance community access to parks by increasing visibility and awareness
 - Alex: I like this goal/page. If we're pulling our resources together, then marketing is easier, for example using lodging tax to pay for things. Coalition makes it easier to market our community. We could have cost savings and a more powerful ability to connect people.
- 3. Improve proximities to and connectivity between parks
 - Pat: I kind of have an issue with trying to purchase more property, take more private land into public hands, when we have 4/10 of one percent of our whole county that can be developed.
 - Marina: This goal does mention acquisition. That's really about the possible purchase of some easements, plus a longer-term consideration of the city getting denser. If the Chinidere neighborhood gets denser, will the City need to purchase land to build a park with a playground? Or will they work with a developer? This goal has to do with standards such as walking distance. It sounds like maybe part of this is understanding that other options would be considered before we turn to acquisition.
 - Pat: yes, personally, I'd rather see Stevenson be the trailhead for Skamania County. We don't have to provide all of the recreational opportunities for the region here in town when the region is already a recreational region.
 - Marina: My understanding is if City decided to buy a new park for example, it would be very specific and locally-serving, like a playground. Maybe there's a different way we can articulate it.
 - Ben: I think it's worth exploring this in terms of who we're serving. Is the purchase for locals or visitors?
 - Marina: Pat, if this were worded differently to be more about locally-serving, i.e. for a playground, would that change your impression of the objectives?
 - Pat: I think the goal should be more about how to improve what we already have rather than to develop further. But I don't represent the City; just my opinion.
 - Chuck: I want to note that these goals are being read in isolation from all other documentation: results of survey, interviews, etc. As we look at the context of the needs assessment and the introduction into these strategies, and then how the strategies translate to recommendations, that might provide more clarity around the intent. We don't have time

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 3

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- to give that whole overview, but we can take another look at that question as we review this draft.
- Ingrid: The first thing I thought when reading this echoes Pat's: at the school district, we have had the experience that people don't necessarily consider that bigger context, so it's important to be careful to not convey that the City wants to buy and develop new land, in spirit of careful of how the public will interpret this.
 - Marina: understood that this feels heavily weighted on the public acquisition piece, and yes, if you looked at this page out of context, you might be taken aback.
 - Ben: I'm hearing and seeing the need to combine some of these, and also to build in what we're not going to do. That can be just as important. And yes, the need to narrow this down.
- 4. Provide inclusive spaces to meet diverse community needs
- Pat: There's a whole lot here about the plaza on the Courthouse lawn and I don't know how the whole community feels about that. Seems to be a hot topic at the moment.
 - Ben: We've been talking about that internally. One intent of this whole effort was to make sure the plaza got funded and happened, though we've been open to this being changed, and we've prepped DCG/W to pivot away from that.
 - Chuck: What we'd lean on from a recommendations standpoint is that everything we've heard from community is reflected in elements of the Courthouse Plaza project, so maybe we need to make the recommendations in here less place-specific, and then down the road think about other places and projects for enacting some of these goals.
 - Pat: That's a great idea.
 - Marina: Yeah, we definitely heard a desire for a central, flexible space, for gathering. At the time of the online survey, we had the original concept drawing of the plaza, and it was voted as the top 4 project and had a high score. So for those reasons, and as Chuck said, with amenities and a play feature are things we've heard described as in demand. We can look at changing the language so that if the Plaza doesn't move forward, we're still describing a more general project type.
 - Chuck: Addressing multi-benefit projects is key for grant eligibility.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 3

DCG/Watershed
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- Review of recommended Capital Improvement Projects
 - Ben: I'm looking at this list and I'm wondering where Gropper Park is, and then I have to remember that there are other lists too. Recall everyone that these are for immediate expenditure, for the next 6 years. Whereas Gropper is still in an earlier stage and still requires a plan before moving it into the capital project list.
 - Fix County Fairground Kayak Launch page information.
 - Ben: question for all agencies: are there capital improvements that you intend to make within the next 6 years that aren't reflected here?
 - Pat: no, not for Port
 - Alex: no
 - Ingrid: not that impacts what you're presenting today, but then there are things like our roof repairs that will need to happen, but not that impacts this plan.
 - Alex: I did get a grant to update some bathrooms, but not sure if that relates to this. Ben, we can have a side conversation.
- Review of other projects (playground etc.)
 - Alex: there are a lot of outdoor opportunities here, and I think we need to consider more indoor opportunities. Due to all the rain. At the fairgrounds, we retrofitted the barn and turned it into batting cages.
 - This came up a bunch during Stakeholder interviews so worth adding in.
-Angela
 - Pat: Quick question for Ben – years ago, Gropper was discussed as a potential location for a dog park and that was taken off the table.
 - Ben: Gropper swirls around as a resource with the repeating question about what to do with it. A volunteer led group looked into how to get water to it to move this dog park idea forward, and then kind of pulled back. We don't know what the best purpose for Gropper is.
 - Pat: You can close Columbia between 1st and 2nd and make that a pop-up dog park.
- General review at the end:
 - Ben: Wondering about possibility of master planning effort for Fairgrounds site, since that has been discussed, but it's not really reflected in this plan. Can we use this document to make development of a master plan for the Fairgrounds be a grant eligible project. I understand we want to communicate this as te city

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARIES - WORKSHOP 3

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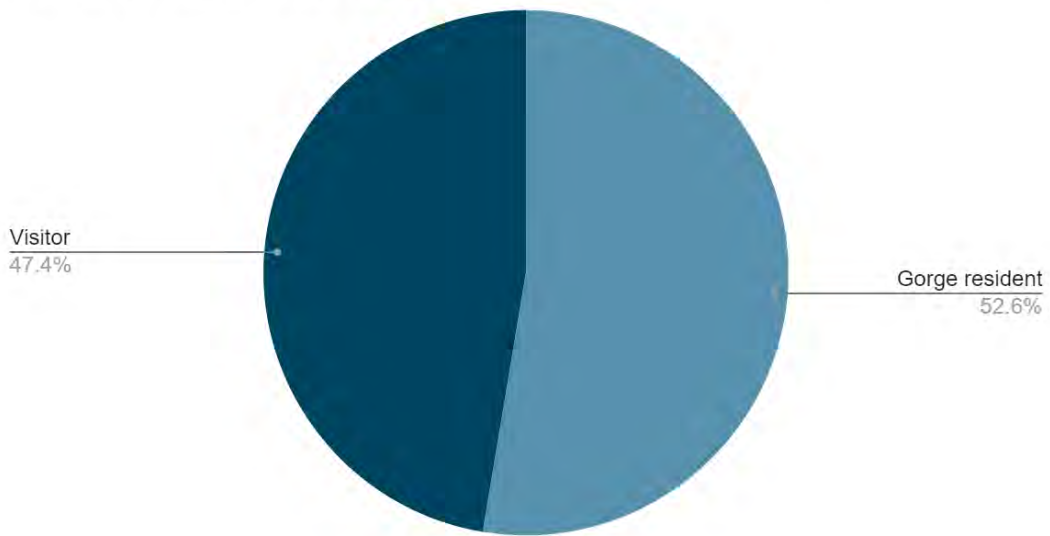
- supporting the County's efforts to develop one, so it doesn't look like the City is developing the plan in isolation and then handing it to Alex.
- Marina: Yeah, that is a big one. Alex, would you like it if the City supported the development of a Master Plan for Fairgrounds and we put that in this plan?
 - Alex: Yeah – we kind of have a list of projects that we're constantly trying to do. So you putting that in there would help. Part of doing this, I'm assuming, is to get RCO grants. Having a master plan wouldn't hurt, but I think everyone understands that Fairgrounds is bound by County Commissioners and other things. We continue to make improvements to Fairgrounds, and we could discuss what would be a project priority.
 - Marina: So you guys could go for a grant for a Master Plan, for example, and you already have your project list, and then the planning process would basically involve working your list into that plan. Then, we could reinforce that through this document by outlining the amenity options/desires for the Fairground.
 - Alex: Our focus has been to fix what we have now, but we're also trying to look into the future.
 - Chuck: Ingrid, do you have similar perspective on how the City could support playgrounds, with updates for age-appropriateness? Could City lean into a similar strategy to work with you all?
 - Ingrid: Yeah, those kinds of playgrounds are expensive. The visual you had on that slide, and what the staff dreams is much more nature-based than what you have on that slide. If that goes out there, we don't want people to think we weren't listening to them. There's this concept of really trying to integrate natural materials into a new playground. This isn't related, but want to add that the City of Battleground added a skate park a few years ago, which dramatically changed some things like criminal activity, so a strong collaboration with the sherrif's department is important. That wasn't the only place that happened. It's a great idea but comes with challenges.
 - Tom: The pool is moving forward with removing the bleachers from next to the pool. This will result in an 1,000 square foot area that would be warm and protected from the elements. This could possibly host a protected toddler-play area.
- Presentation End- reach out to Ben to provide more information. The next two weeks will be a review period. Thank you.

SDA Branding Survey - Chart Results

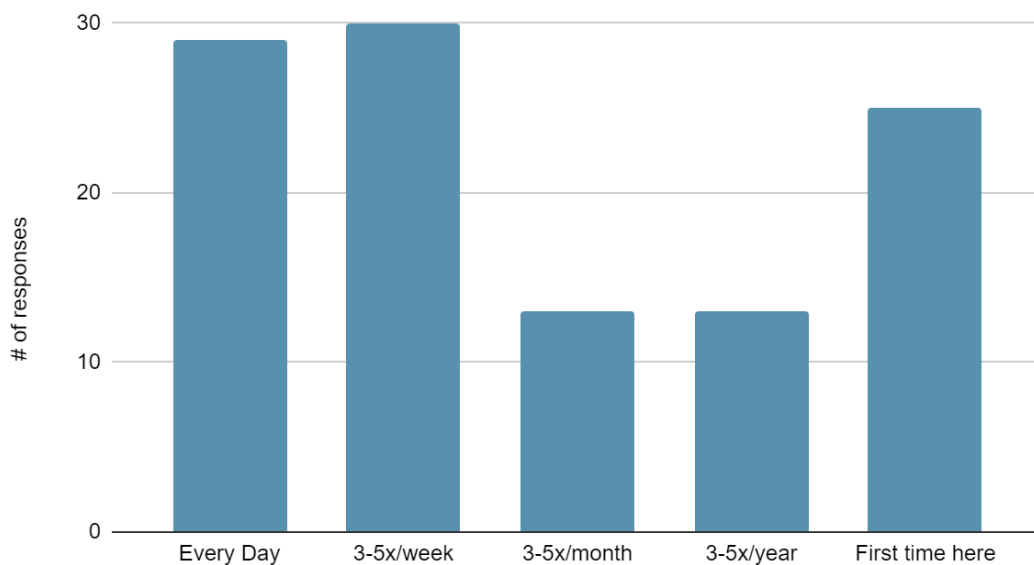
Farmers Market Season 2021

(110 surveys conducted, in person, on paper)

Do you live in the Gorge area or are you a visitor? (data from 38 out of the 110 surveys)



How often do you come to downtown Stevenson?



ASSUMPTIONS & ESTIMATES of our SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Estimated number of visits by Gorge residents vs visitors based on the previous two charts:

Assuming that Gorge residents were the ones to choose:

- Every day
- 3-5x/week

Let's also assume, visitors were the ones to choose:

- 3-5x/year
- First time here

Therefore, the remaining choice could be estimated by breaking out the percentages of the sample size (47% visitor / 53% Gorge resident):

- 3-5x/month = 13 people (6 visitor / 7 resident)

That means the following filled out the survey (estimated):

	Every Day	3-5x/week	3-5x/month	TOTAL
Assumed residents	29	30	7	66 residents
	3-5x/month	3-5x/year	First time here	
Assumed visitors	6	13	25	44 visitors

SURVEYS BY OTHERS - STEVENSON DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION SURVEY

Thus, with our survey sample size, # of Gorge resident visits could be estimated at a range of 15,517-18,805 visits in a year:

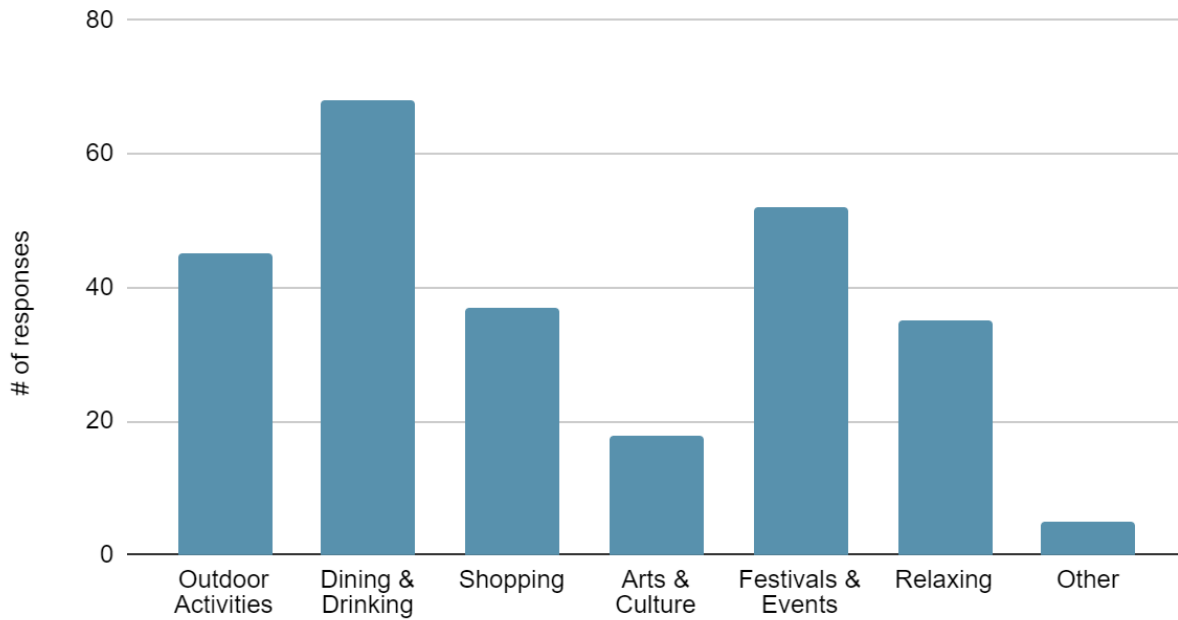
	GORGE RESIDENTS:					
	Every Day	3-5x/week		3-5x/month		
Assumed # residents visiting	29	30		7		66
# of days per year	365	156	260	36	60	
Visits	10585	4680	7800	252	420	
Low range estimate # of visits per year:	10585	4680	--	252	--	15,517
High range estimate # of visits per year:	10585	--	7800	--	420	18,805

And, with our survey sample size, # of external visits could be estimated at a range of 280-450 visits in a year:

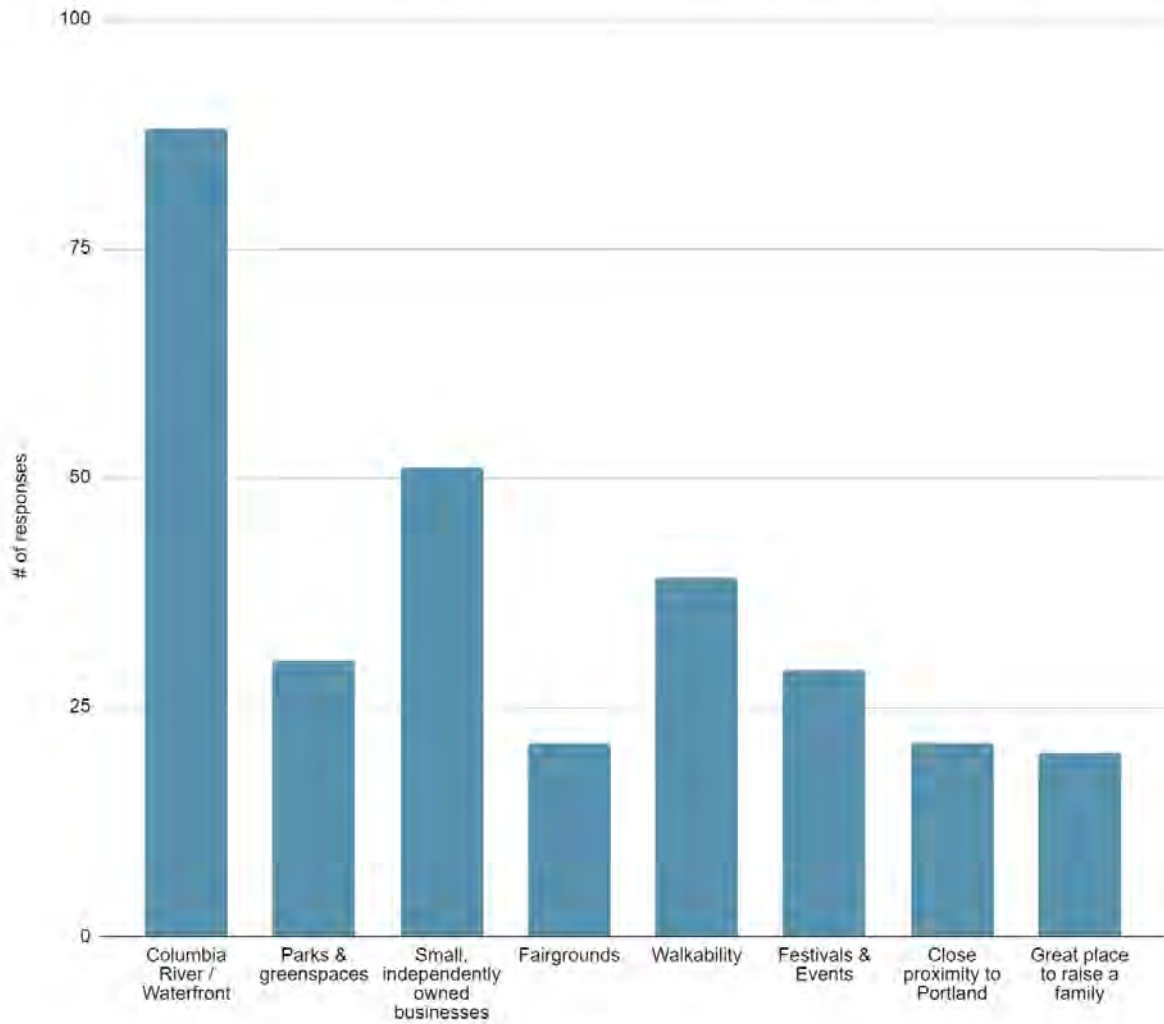
	VISITORS					
	3-5x/month		3-5x/year		First time	
Assumed # external visitors	6		13		25	44
# days per year	36	60	3	5	1	
Visits	216	360	39	65	25	
Low range estimate # of visits per year	216	--	39	--	25	280
High range estimate # of visits per year	--	360	--	65	25	450

SURVEY RESULTS CONTINUED

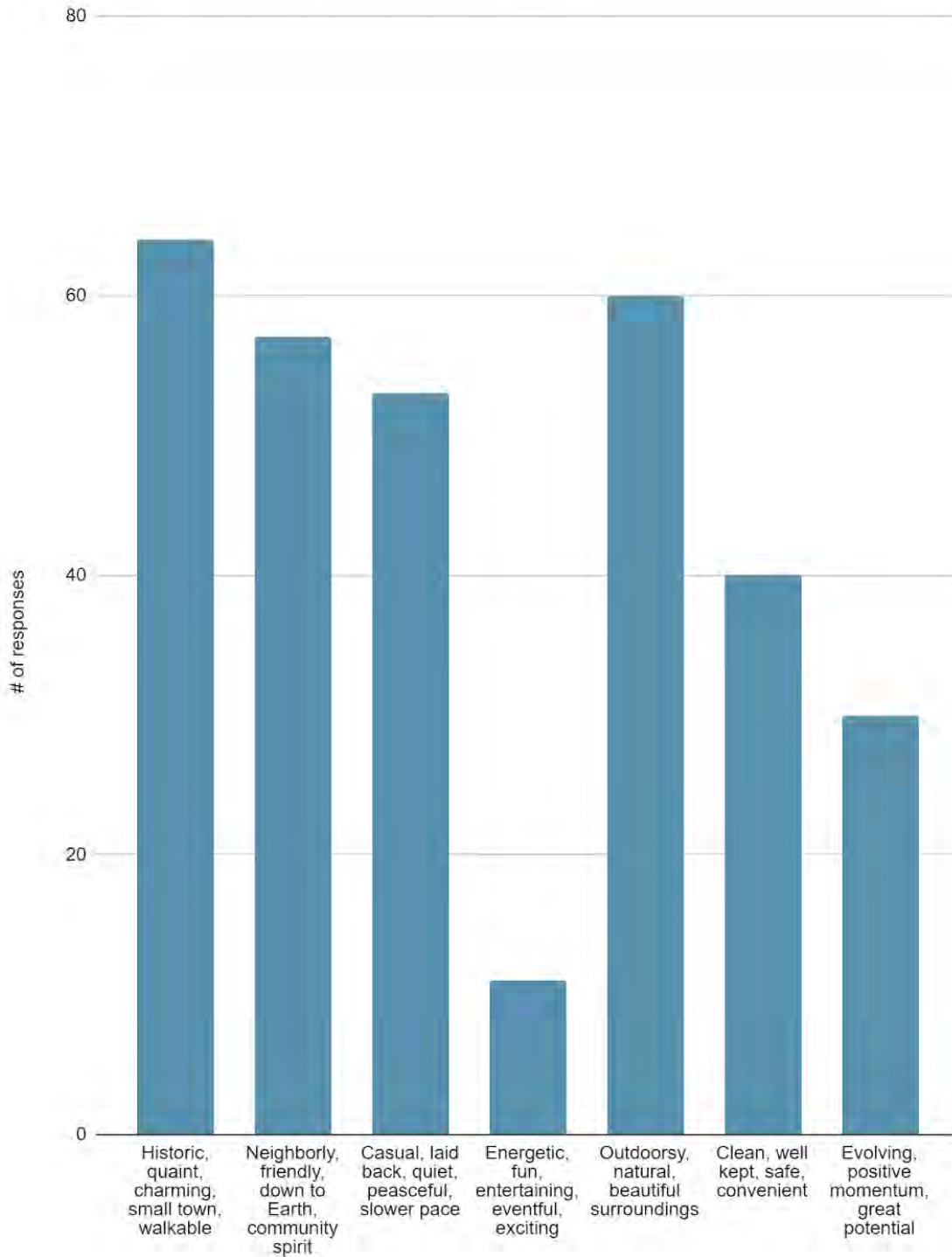
What describes your favorite downtown Stevenson experiences? (select all that apply)



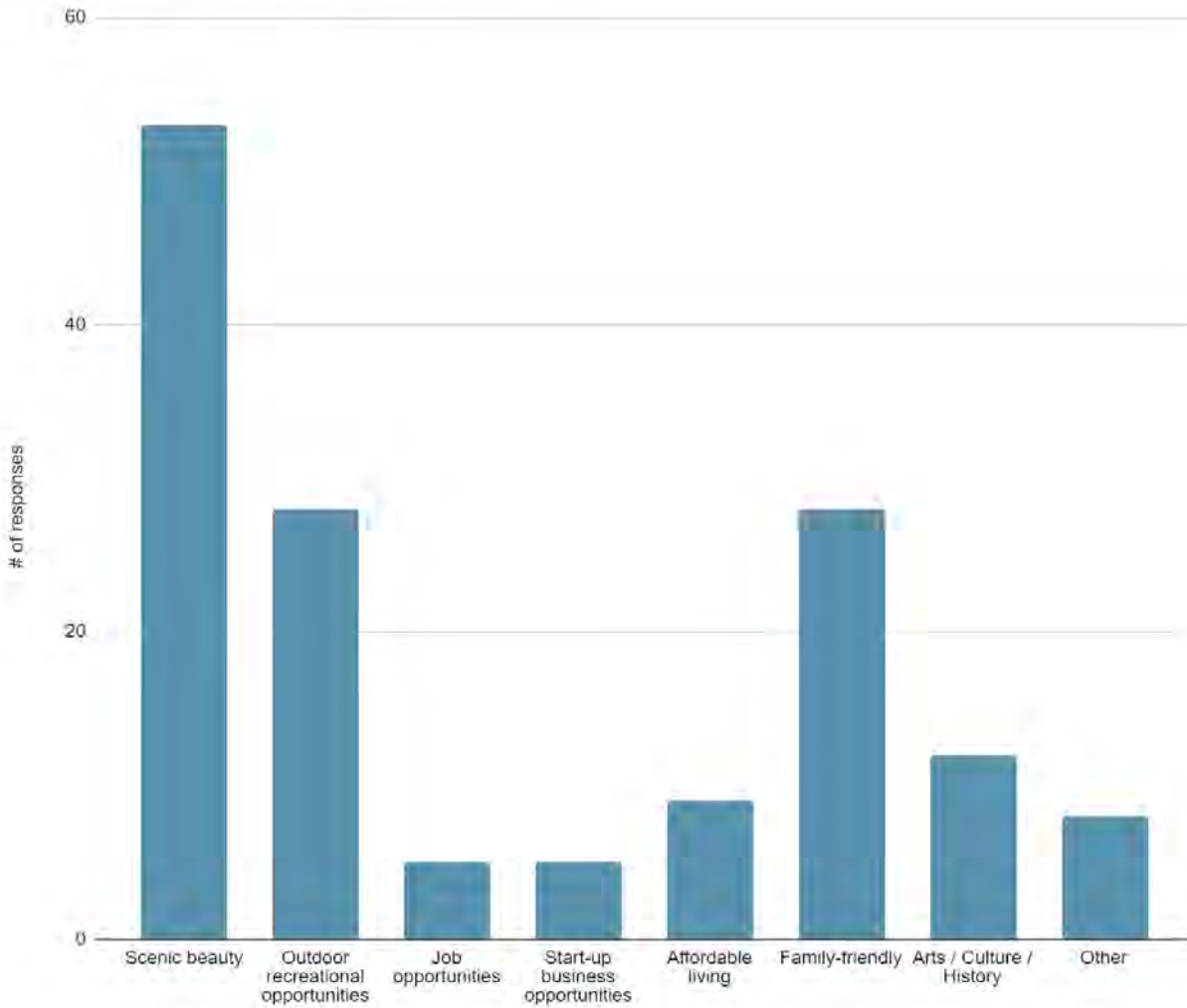
What are the greatest assets of downtown Stevenson? (select multiple if needed)



Describing the 'personality' of downtown Stevenson, what positive words come to mind? (select all that apply)



What attracted you to Stevenson?





Survey Results

Community Survey - Downtown Stevenson - 2023

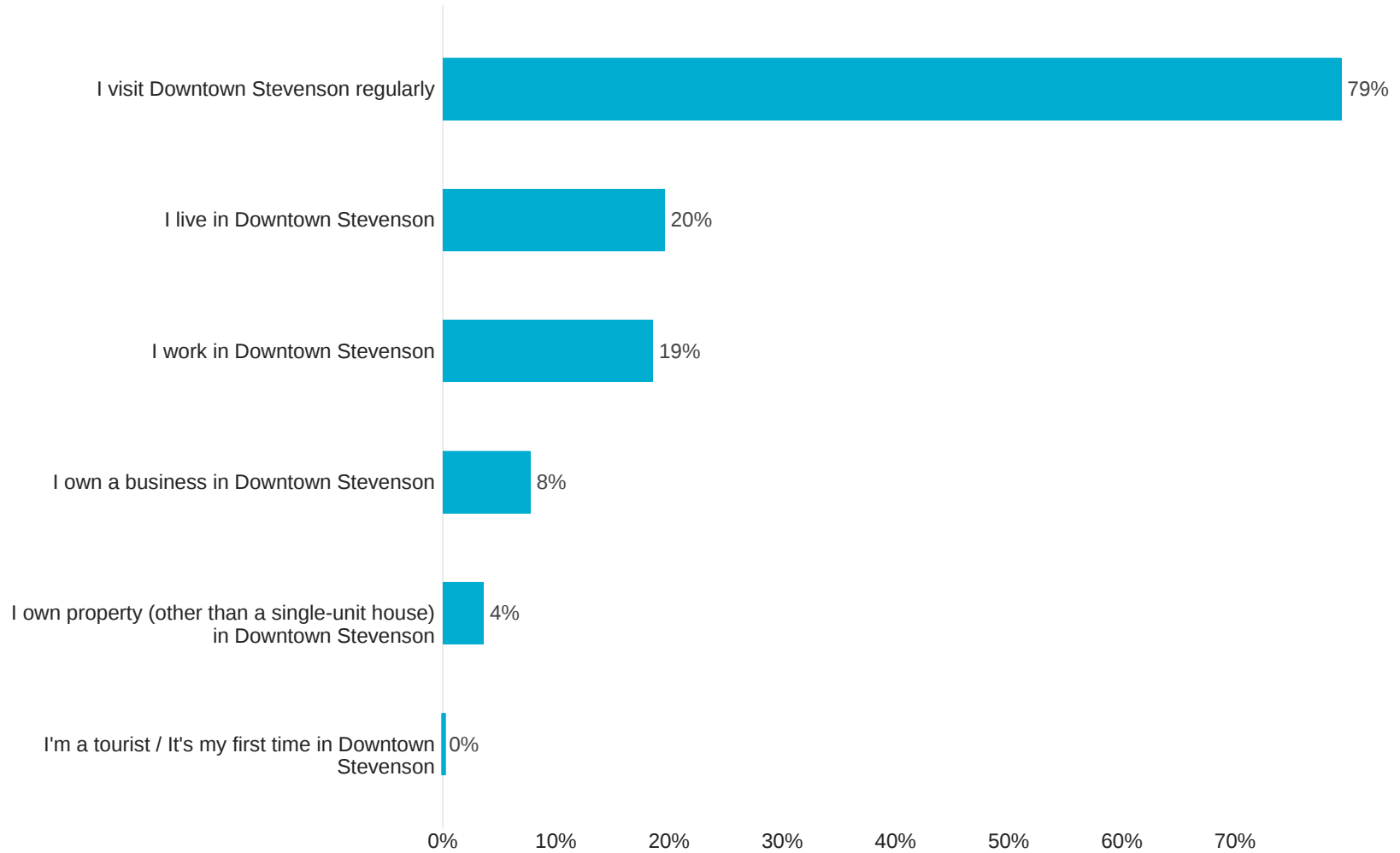
Inactive

Last recorded response: 9/25/2023

Total responses: 198

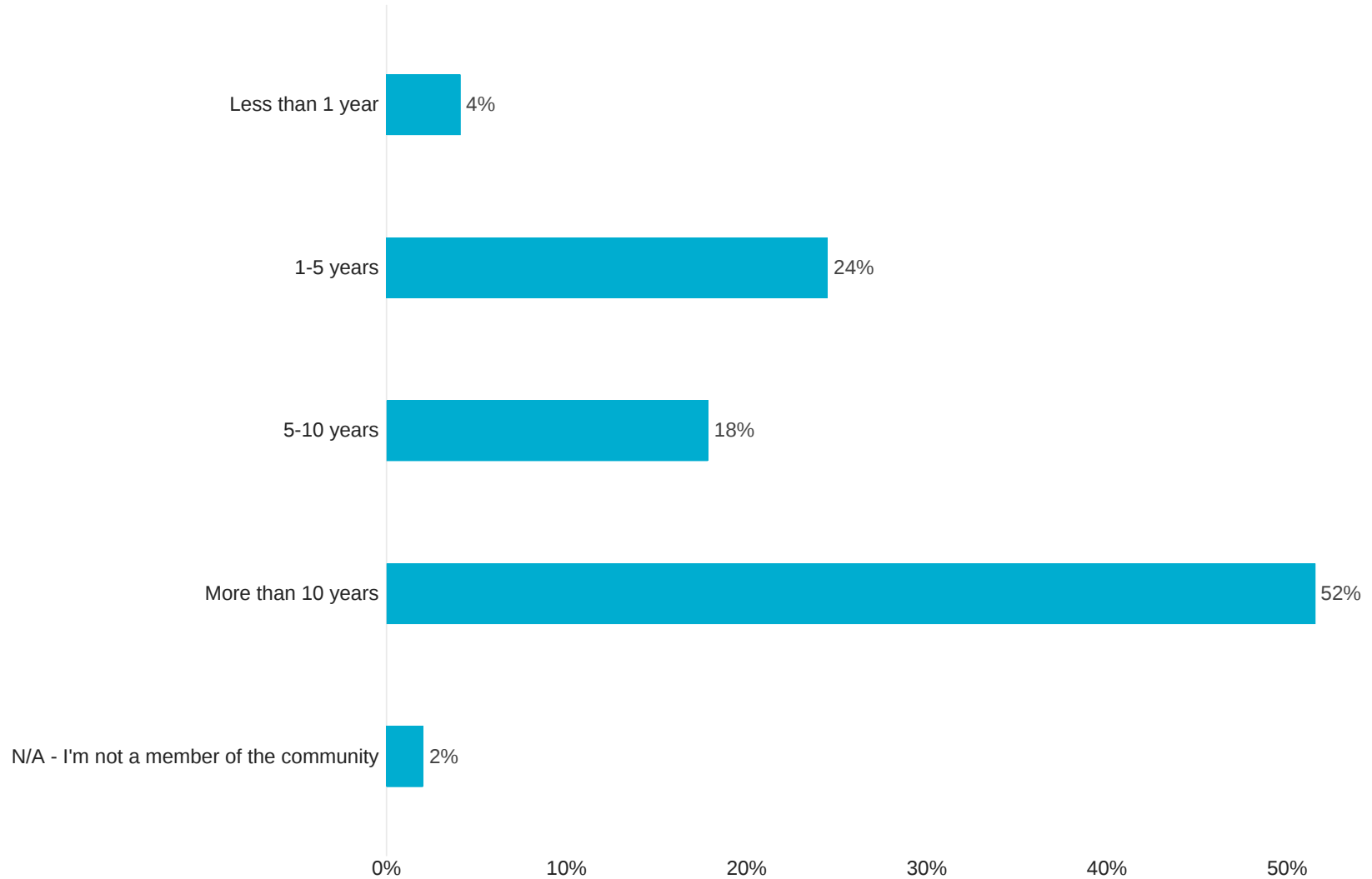
Q1 - What is your relationship to Downtown Stevenson? (Please select all that apply)

194 Responses



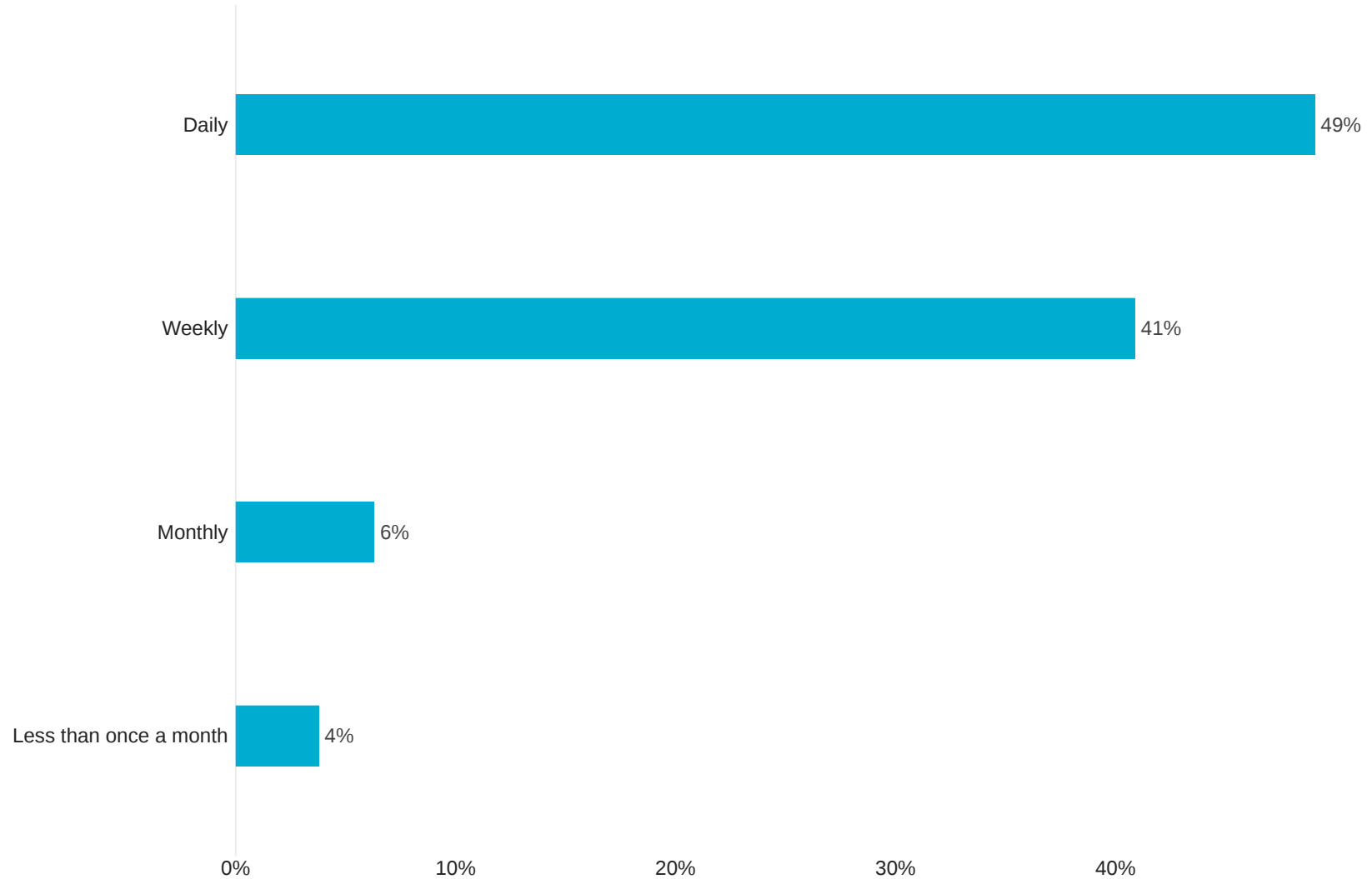
Q2 - How long have you been a member of this community?

196 Responses



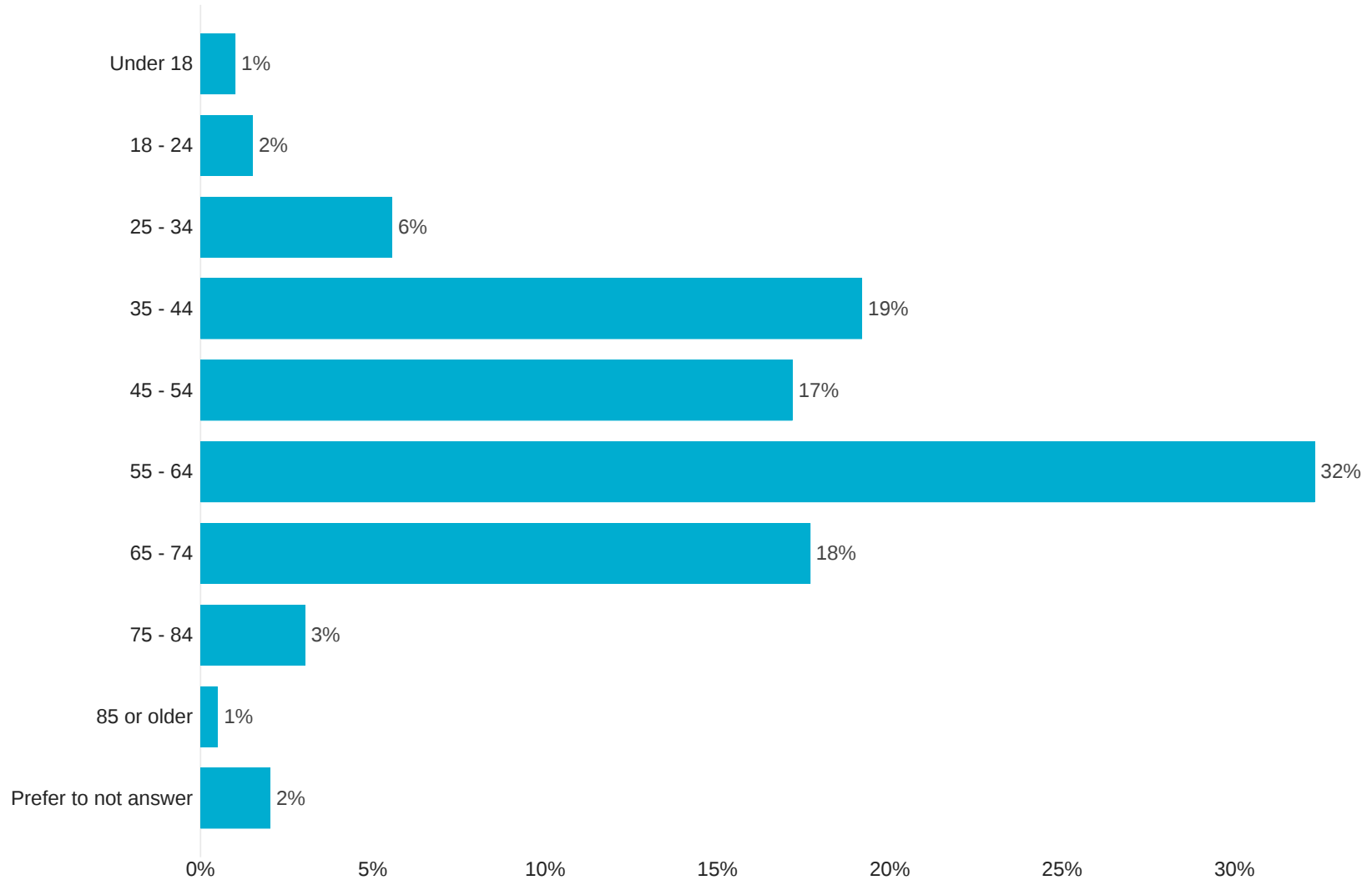
Q3 - How frequently do you visit Downtown Stevenson?

159 Responses



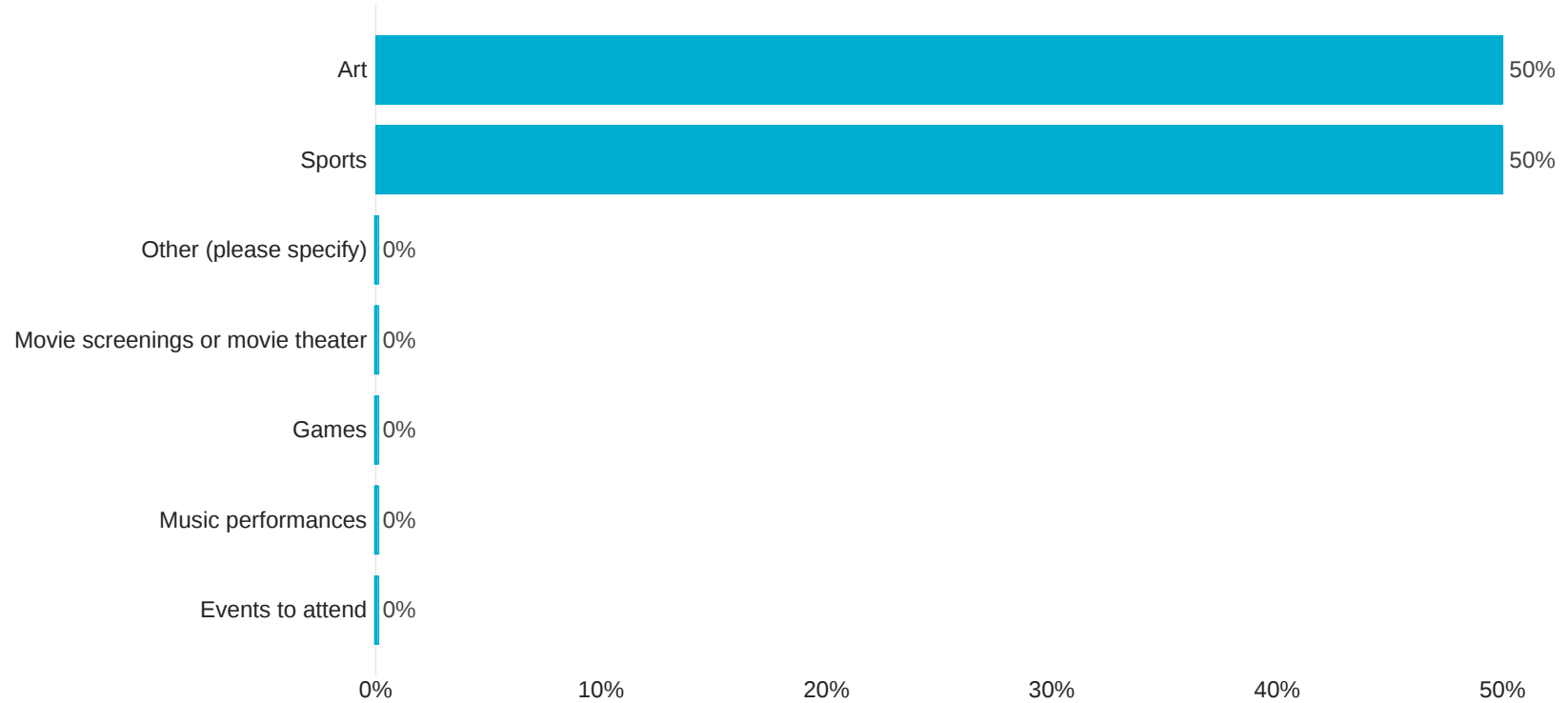
Q4 - How old are you?

198 Responses



Q5 - As a young person, what activities would like to have available to you in Downtown Stevenson?

2 Responses



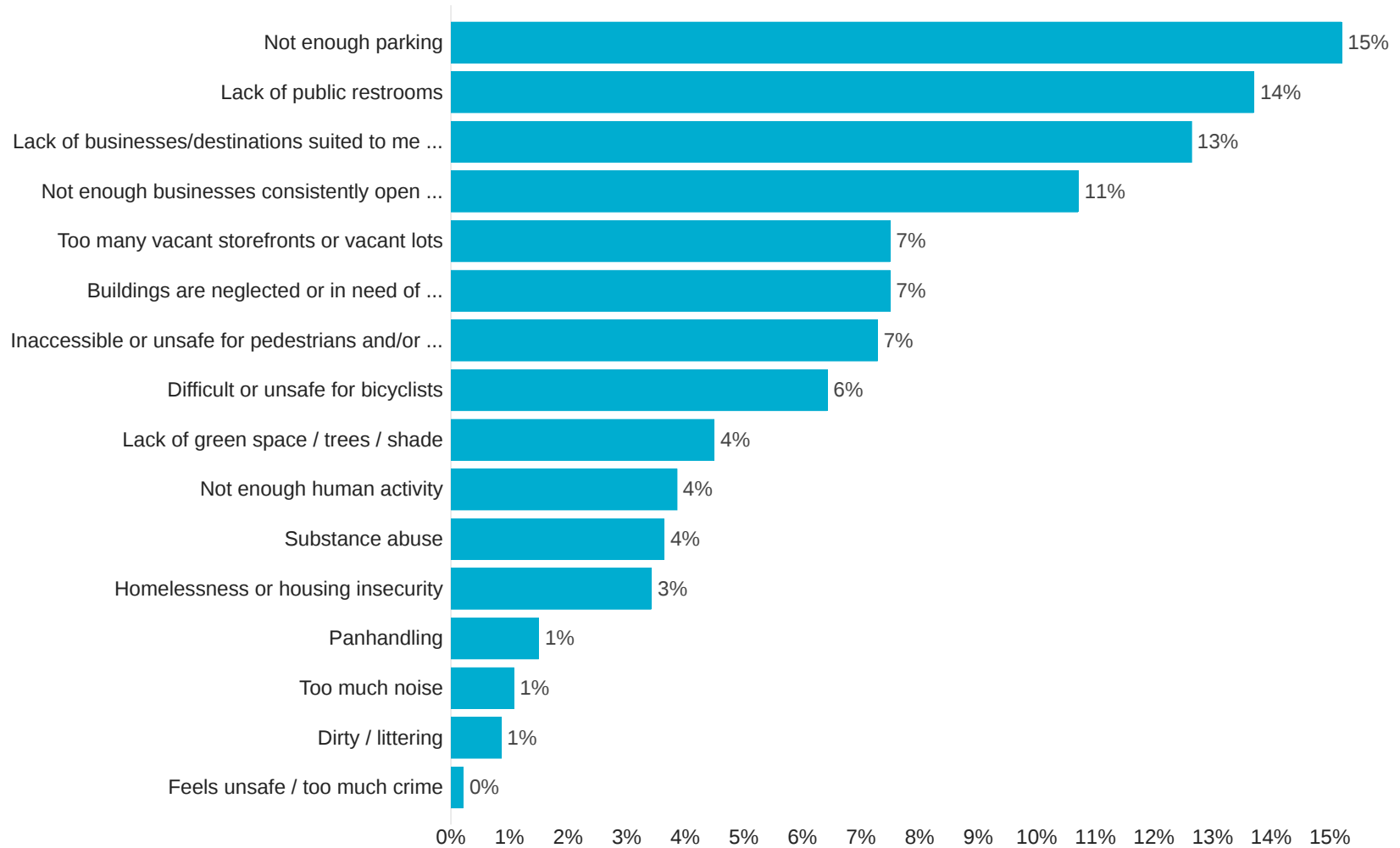
Q12 - What one word comes to mind as you think about things you like about Downtown Stevenson?

166 Responses



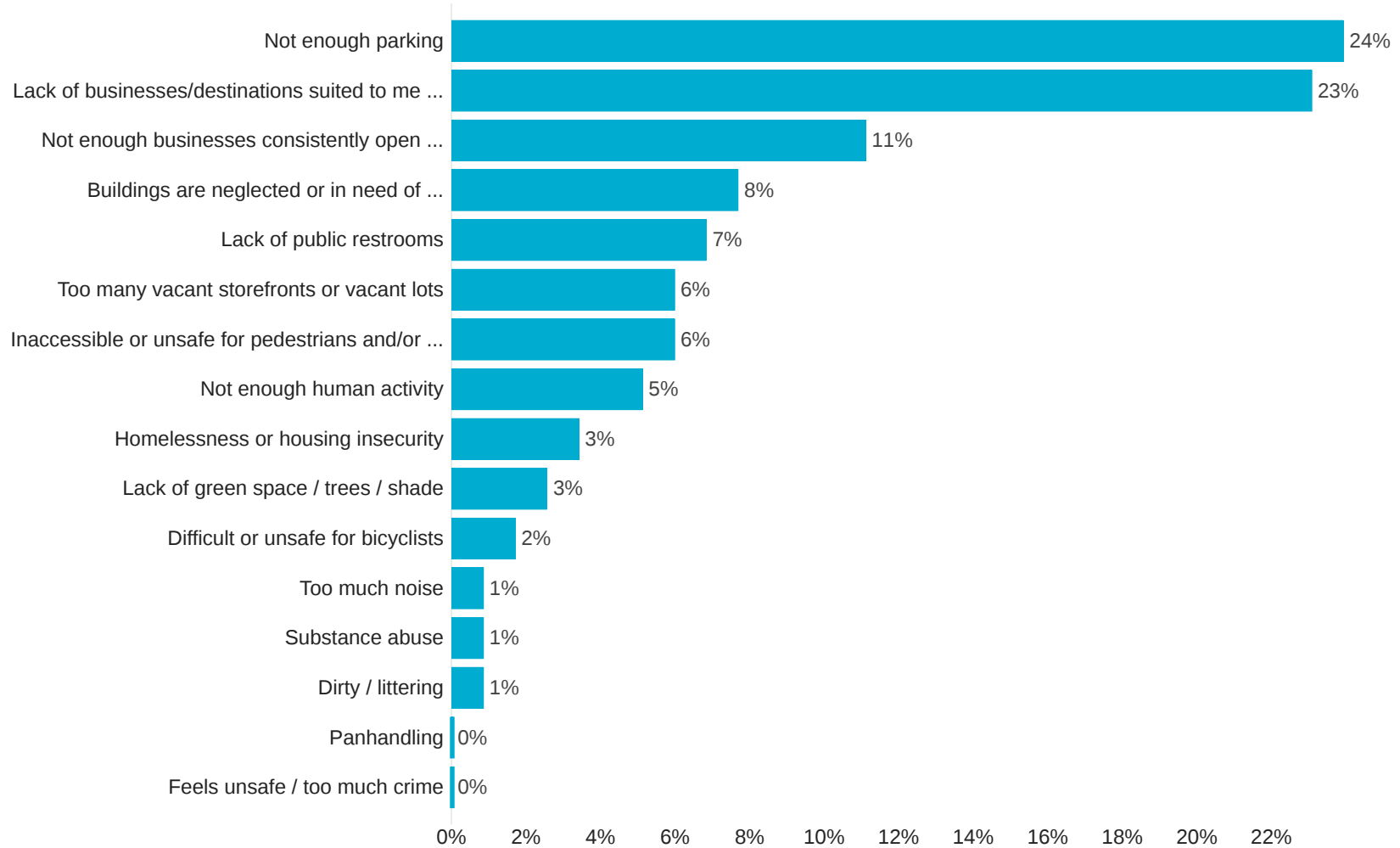
Q14 - Which of the following are issues in Downtown Stevenson? (Please select all that apply.)

171 Responses



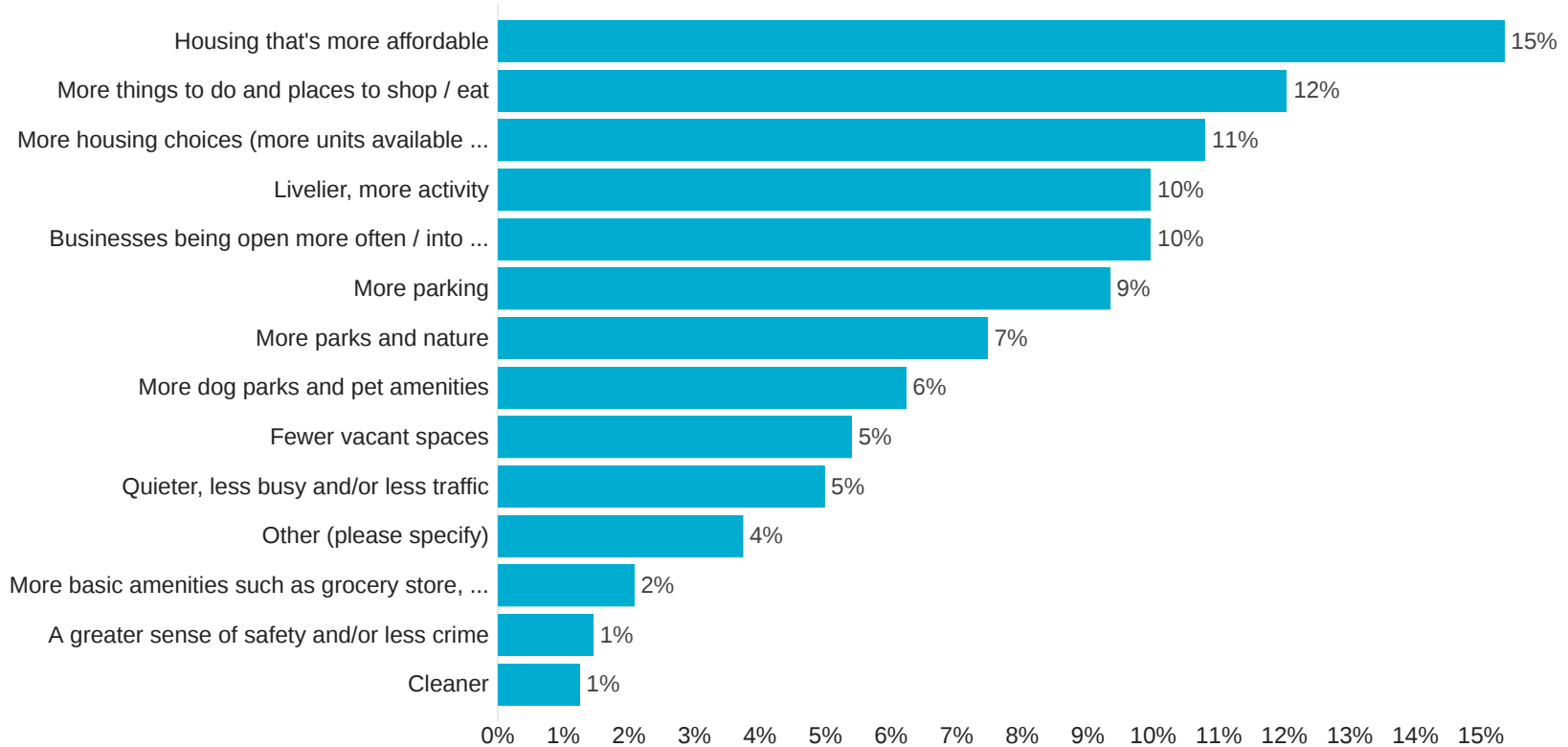
Q15 - Of the issues in Downtown Stevenson that you selected, which one detracts from your experience the most?

117 Responses



Q23 - What would make living in Downtown Stevenson more desirable (to you or others in your community)? (Please select all that apply)

159 Responses



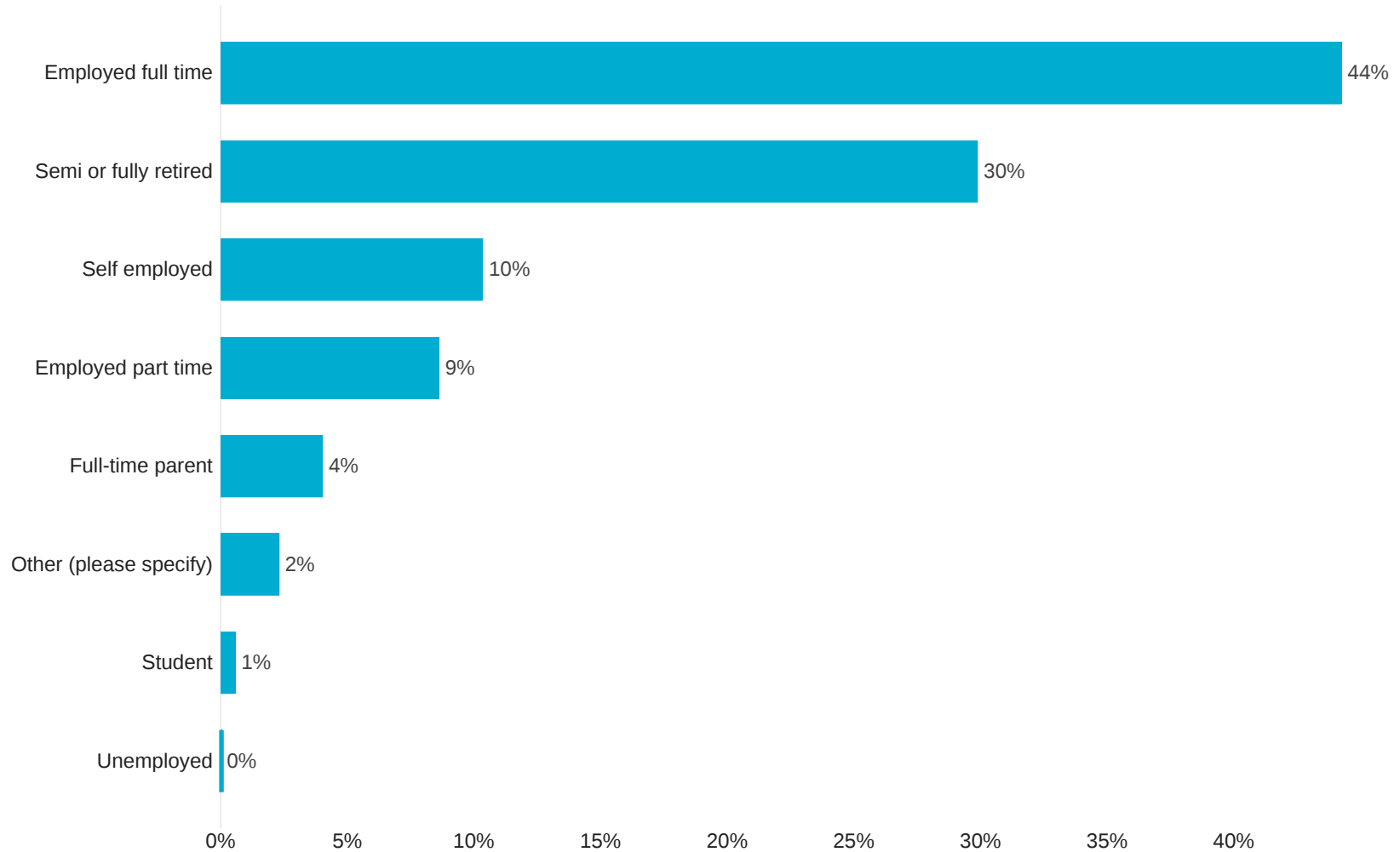
Q23_13_TEXT - Other (please specify) - Text

18 Responses

Other (please specify) - Text

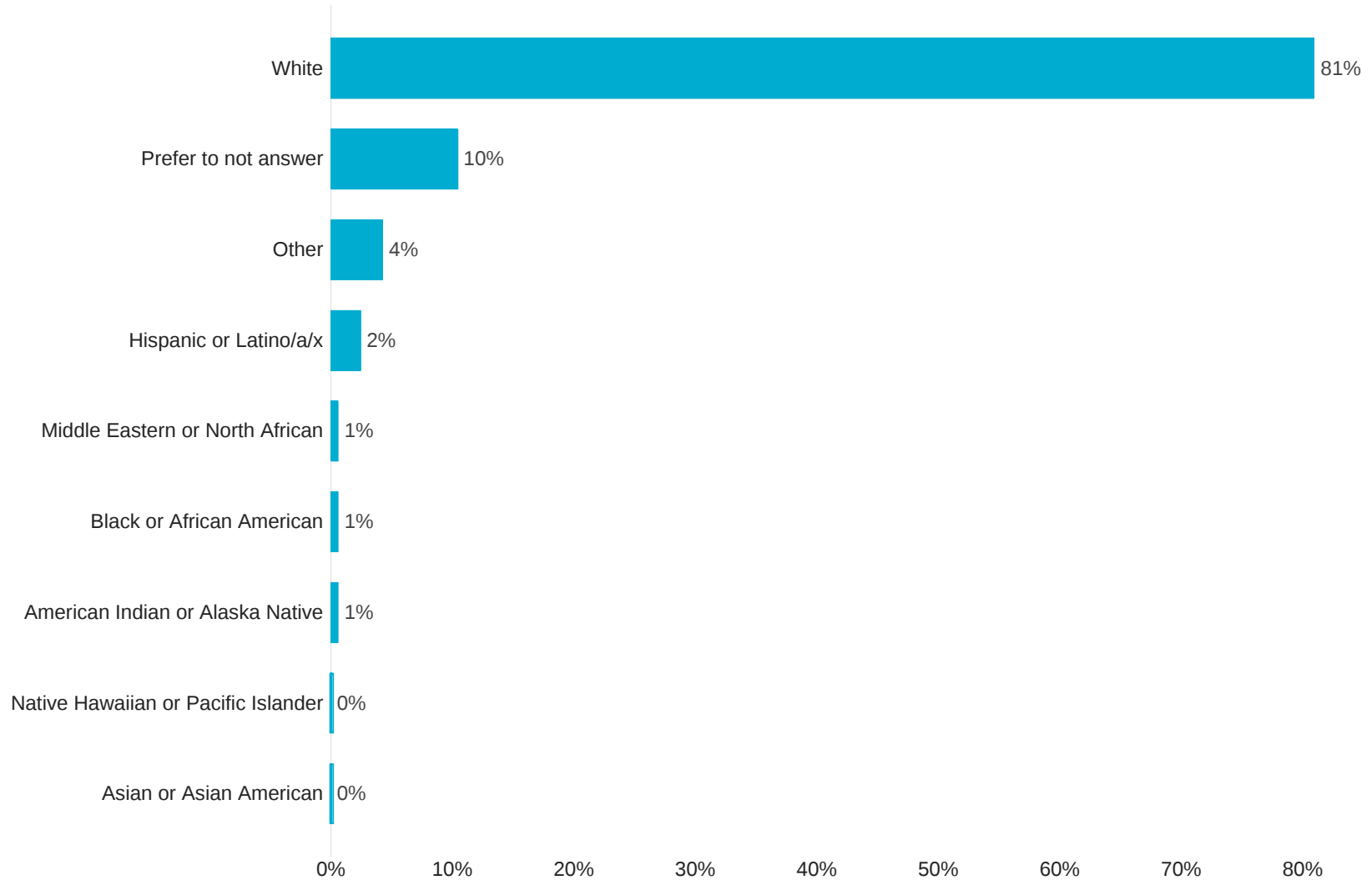
Q24 - Which of the following statements below describes your current employment status? (Please select all that apply)

161 Responses



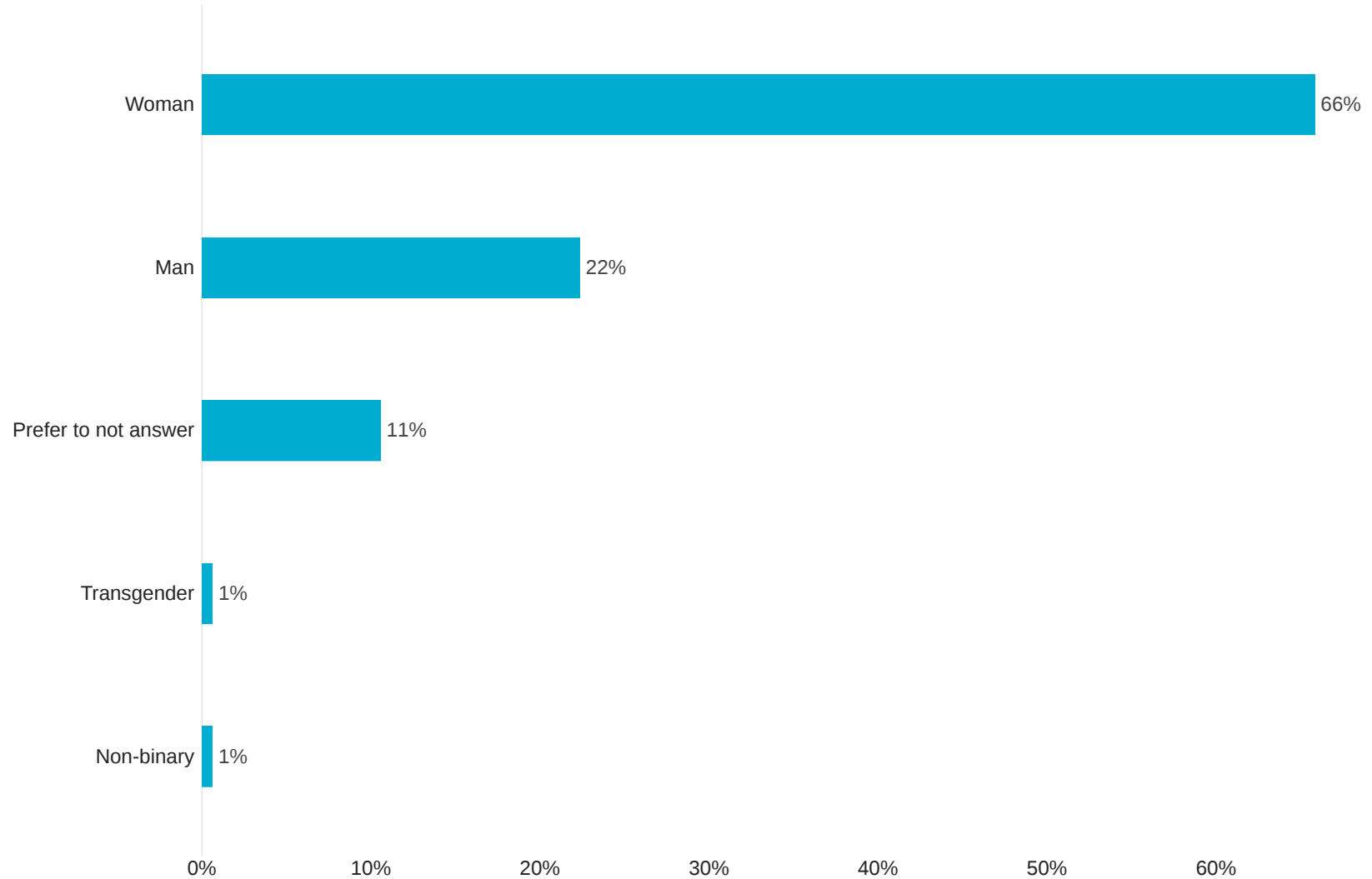
Q30 - How do you identify in terms of your race and ethnicity? (Please select all that apply)

158 Responses



Q31 - How do you identify in terms of your gender? (Please select all that apply)

161 Responses





Appendix B

Existing Parks and Open Space Conditions

Existing Conditions - City of Stevenson

	Element	Condition	Notes
Gateway Park	Sidewalk/Pathway/Trails	A portion of the sidewalk adjacent to the bus stop and highway 14 crosswalk has been removed and only gravel remains. This creates an accessibility challenge between the bus stop and crosswalk.	
		Area of pavers adjacent to the bus stop is in good condition.	
		Area of pavers connecting the intersection of SW Rock Creek Dr and Highway 14 to the gas station is in fairly good condition. Pavers at the edge of the walkway are settling and have grass and weeds growing between them.	
		Truncated domes connecting the central path to the gas station sidewalk are in good condition.	
	Site Walls	Stone site retaining walls adjacent to the gas station and bus stop are in good condition.	
	Landscape	About half of the western area of lawn does not get irrigated and browns out during the summer months	
		Of the 6 trees planted adjacent to the gas station, 3 have been removed and not replaced. The remaining 3 appear in decline.	
		Ornamental planting adjacent the gas station is in decline. Shrubs have died back and those that have been removed have not been replaced.	
		Mulch coverage is good but weed barrier is exposed in a few places	
	Site Furnishings	1 bench and the bus shelter are in good condition	
		1 garbage receptacle is in good condition	
		1 bike rack is in good condition	
Signage	The "Stevenson" sign on the west side of the park is in fairly good condition. The sign plate has a few abrasions but is still legible. The green paint on the sign structure is faded but in good condition.		
	Wayfinding signage next to the bus stop is in good condition		
Lighting	The paint at the base of the light poles has faded and doesn't match the rest of the light pole.	Illumination was not assessed	
Irrigation	Irrigation covering a portion of the western lawn area is not functioning.	Irrigation was not tested	
Gropper Loop Park	Sidewalk/Pathway/Trails	Concrete sidewalk along the north side of the park, along Gropper Road, is in good condition.	
		Gropper Park Loop road is an unimproved gravel road.	
	Site Walls	NA	
	Landscape	Lawn area covers the majority of the site and is not irrigated.	
		Of the 8 trees that were located adjacent to Gropper Park Loop, 3 have been removed and were not replaced.	
	Site Furnishings	NA	
	Signage	NA	
	Lighting	NA	
Irrigation	NA		
Walnut Park	Sidewalk/Pathway/Trails	Concrete plaza and sidewalks are in good condition.	
		Pavers along walkways and in the central plaza area are in good condition.	It was noted that in the past pavers in this area were settling and lifting up resulting in a uneven surface but that has been addressed.
	Site Walls	Concrete block walls and stone walls separating the pathway from the landscape are in good condition .	
	Landscape	The legacy Walnut tree is leaning substantially to the west over the plaza and is being supported in many areas. An arborist should provide routine monitoring on this tree.	
		Ornamental planting is in good condition, there are some bare spots where planting may have died off adjacent to the block wall under the Walnut tree.	
	Site Furnishings	2 public benches are in good condition	
		1 trash receptacle is in good condition	
		2 bike racks are in good condition	
		Water fountain is in fair condition. Water does not flow well	
	Signage	The "A Center of Commerce" interpretive sign is in fair condition. The sign is showing signs of weathering but is still legible.	
Lighting	String lighting is provided by the adjacent business over the dining area. String holidays lights are wrapped around portions of the Walnut tree. These should be removed during seasons that they are not in use in order to reduce stress on the tree.	Illumination was not assessed	
Irrigation	NA	Irrigation was not assessed	

CITY OF STEVENSON - GATEWAY PARK



CITY OF STEVENSON - GROPPER LOOP PARK



CITY OF STEVENSON - WALNUT PARK



Existing Conditions - Advisory Committee Comments

Property	Notes
Stevenson-Carson School District	
Stevenson High School	No Comments
Stevenson Elementary School	Playground needs to be upgraded to better match intended age groups.
Stevenson Pool District	
Stevenson Community Pool	Stairs from the parking lot are limiting from an accessibility standpoint.
	Parking lot is sloped and challenging for people with mobility challenges to navigate.
	Stands next to the pool are underutilized because the pool is not long enough for formal races.
	Basketball court paving is cracked and often has leaf litter and debris on the courts.
Skamania County	
Rock Creek Park & Fairgrounds	Some shoreline erosion is occurring along Rock Cove.
	Areas along Rock Cove are becoming covered with invasive plants.
	Interpretive signage throughout the site is weathered but still legible.
	Trees along the trail are in decline.
	The RV parking/camping area gets saturated in the winter and it is hard to maintain grass in those areas.
	Parking area and driveway has recently been paved.
	The covered skate area has been decommissioned and is being used for storage
	Baseball field is underutilized but that area is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and may be an archeological site.
	The arena is not covered and underutilized during non-summer months.
	Buildings are currently being upgraded to make them more durable and desirable for use and rental.
	Shoreline access is underutilized since there are no points of entry for hand-powered watercraft.
Courthouse Lawn	Lawn is not irrigated but is mowed regularly
	Streatery is well maintained and utilized on-and off.
Port of Skamania	
	There was a general comment about a desire to provide water for irrigation, indicating that some areas currently either do not have irrigation or the existing irrigation systems are not functioning.
	There was a general comment that some of the beach areas need to be activated, indicating that these areas may be underutilized.
Bob's Beach	No Comments
Stevenson Landing	No Comments
Teo Park	No Comments
Leaven's Point	No Comments
East Point	No Comments
Cascade Boat Launch	The wave attenuator needs to be replaced to allow for better use of the boat ramp.
Pebble Beach	No Comments

STEVENSON-CARSON SCHOOL DISTRICT - STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL



STEVENSON-CARSON SCHOOL DISTRICT - STEVENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



STEVENSON POOL DISTRICT - STEVENSON COMMUNITY POOL



SKAMANIA COUNTY - ROCK CREEK PARK AND FAIRGROUNDS



SKAMANIA COUNTY - COURTHOUSE LAWN



PORT OF SKAMANIA - BOB'S BEACH



PORT OF SKAMANIA - STEVENSON LANDING



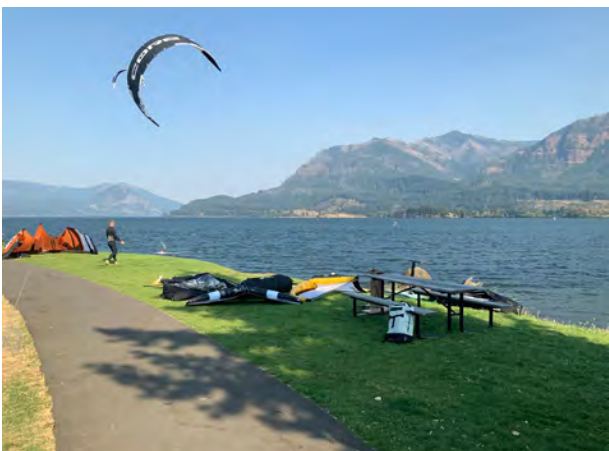
PORT OF SKAMANIA - TEO PARK



PORT OF SKAMANIA - LEAVEN'S POINT



PORT OF SKAMANIA - EAST POINT



PORT OF SKAMANIA - CASCADE BOAT LAUNCH



PORT OF SKAMANIA - PEBBLE BEACH





Appendix C

Capital Improvement Projects

Expanded Summary Table
Cost Schedule Overview

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS EXPANDED SUMMARY TABLE 1

Capital Improvement Project Name	Priority	Existing Investment Summary	Needs and Gaps	Four Key Priorities	Other Community Amenity Needs
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection	1	This project proposes to expand upon an existing city project to formalize a gravel footpath installed in 2018 with PCTA & WTA volunteers. The path is currently separated from 1st Street by a guardrail. The sidewalk expansion project has been under development since the creation of the city Comprehensive Plan in 2013. Studies and planning efforts then and since discussed the paving this trail segment in the future. The sidewalk project has been awarded funding and approved to move forward in the 2024 city budget. The current plan sidewalk expansion ends where this project proposed trail would begin. The project was also identified in the recent Public Shoreline Access Plan (2023) as a key link for pedestrians to access the east end of the waterfront safely.	Additional 200 ft trail length helps close service gap and add a key link in the overall pedestrian network.	Walking and Trails, Fix it up	General community need to expand trail network, especially in locations that connect the community to the waterfront.
Stevenson Park Plaza (at the Courthouse)	2	The original concept for creating a plaza adjacent to the courthouse was developed by a consultant for the Downtown Business Association in 2016. The concept included a water feature, locations for public art, covered areas, benches ADA accessible paths and restroom. The consultant worked with a design committee, gathered input via public meetings and surveys, and hosted an open house to present the final design. The City was awarded a grant from RCO to fund the advancement of the schematic plan to construction drawings in 2023. A survey with updated concepts was sent to the community in December 2023.	Community identified gap in need for specific amenities and programs: bathroom, play spaces, year-round use spaces, and space for programs such as live music events.	Fix it up, Keep it fresh	The community consistently described the need for the following amenities that would be included in this project: bathroom, benches, year-round/covered spaces, ADA accessible features, play or all age features (such as a splash pad), and a central location that could be used by both locals and tourists as an event space. This is the only project that provides space for programming.
County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch	3	The county has no formal documentation but via outreach and interviews has described it has been many years now they have heard the demand from the public and wanted to install a kayak launch on Rock Cove. The 2023 Public Shoreline Access Plan identified this as a project based on community input and the degraded condition of the shoreline from trampling and informal launching due to the lack of a formal facility.	Community identified gap in need for specific amenities and programs: non-motorized boat launch	Water, Fix it up, Keep it fresh	Water access in the form of a safe swimming area or non-motorized boat launch were consistently requested by the community.
West Waterfront Trails (Phase 1)	4	Schematic plans to develop the private land at the west end of the waterfront have been explored in recent years, with a general focus on high-density residential development (Downtown Plan for Success! Adopted October 2022). The recent Public Shoreline Access Plan (2023) was the first plan to identify multiple easements that the city could propose to purchase with the goal of both providing public shoreline access as well as extending the existing shoreline trail network (the waterfront trail). These easements were evaluated by an assessor.	In future phases an additional 400 ft of trail length would help close the service gap, and expand the existing trail network.	Walking and Trails, Water, Keep it fresh (in future phases)	Water access in the form of a safe swimming area or non-motorized boat launch were consistently requested by the community. Future phases of this project could provide that.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS EXPANDED SUMMARY TABLE 1 CONT.

Capital Improvement Project Name	Community Support Summary	Operations and Maintenance	Funding Sources	Ownership or Limitations	Cost	Timeline
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection	This project was not included in the survey but proposes to leverage an existing investment in adjacent development plans. In general the community consistently described walking as their main recreation activity, and trails and their highest need.	Minor Increase to Maintenance, expand existing: Trail maintenance will include clearing or mowing any blackberry or overgrown vegetation within a few feet of each side of the trail.	RCO	This area was previously WSDOT right of way but through the process of attempting to move forward the original sidewalk improvement project, the city reached an agreement with WSDOT that will result in the city taking over ownership of 1st Street. The current project funding does not include this trail. The city would need to find additional funding to increase the scope of the current project. The city may have to confirm ownership for that area, and explore the potential for stream buffer impacts and mitigation requirements.	\$55,000	Construction documents complete and construction to commence in 2024-2025
Stevenson Park Plaza (at the Courthouse)	The original concept for this plaza was included in the public survey since the updated concepts were not yet available. The project was ranked fourth in the public survey. The updated concepts have a different layout and aesthetic, however the proposed functions, amenities, and programs served are consistent.	Significant Increase to Maintenance; training or special license required: This project would require additional maintenance hours and multiple new types of maintenance not currently undertaken by city staff. These include bathroom maintenance, splash pad maintenance (requiring special certification), large areas of hardscape/paver maintenance, and furnishings maintenance.	RCO	This area is owned by the county, and the project cost is too high to be funded by the city general funds. The city and county must come to an agreement regarding design, funding, and continued maintenance for this project to proceed. The project must be awarded funding to be implemented.	\$3,200,000	Design development, construction documentation and land use permitting for the plaza with an end date of December 31, 2024. Construction can begin as soon as funding is in hand. The city plans to apply for RCO funding cycle in 2024, with the goal of construction in 2025.
County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch	This project was included in the public survey because it was pre-existing. This project was ranked third in the public survey.	No Impact: This project assumes that operations and maintenance would be the responsibility of the county.	RCO	This area is owned by the county and the city is in a support role only. The city is committed to helping move this project forward through fund matching, however the county must provide the plans, permit the plans, and apply for any grant funding needed for implementation.	\$53,500	The county is likely to apply for funding in the RCO 2026 grant cycle. Design plans can be complete in 2026, and the project installed in 2027.
West Waterfront Trails (Phase 1)	This project was included in the public survey because it was pre-existing. This project received the highest score in public support via this survey.	No Impact: This project represents the first phase of a larger vision. In this phase, the goal is to purchase the easements. No impacts to operations or maintenance is anticipated.	Transportation Alternative Program, RCO	This area is privately owned. The city is limited by the landowner's willingness to sell the easement and for the two parties to reach an agreement.	\$585,000	The city will take a few years to raise funding and begin the negotiation process in 2027 if the landowner is still willing.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS EXPANDED SUMMARY TABLE 2

Capital Improvement Project Name	Priority	Existing Investment Summary	Needs and Gaps	Four Key Priorities	Other Community Amenity Needs
Gateway Landscape Improvements	5	The idea for an informational kiosk at Gateway Park was proposed in the city's Wayfinding Master Plan, dated 2012. The existing couplet at the west end of downtown has road safety signage, a permanent 'Stevenson' sign, some landscape and lighting, some stormwater holding/treatment functionality, mowed lawn, and a rotating display of temporary signage for advertising events. The east couplet has road safety signage, stormwater holding/treatment functionality, mowed lawn, and a rotating display of temporary signage for advertising events. The permanent 'Entering Stevenson' sign is located west of the couplet on the other side of 1st Street.		Fix it up, Keep it fresh	More public art was a desire expressed through all three outreach methods.
Piper Road Trails	6	This project was initiated during the development of the Shoreline Public Access Plan as an option to provide public access (visual and potentially physically) to Rock Creek and one of the waterfalls. The Piper Landslide in 2006 destroyed the homes, roads, and infrastructure on this private parcel. The landowner expressed a willingness to consider selling an easement(s) to the city. Multiple easement options were identified and evaluated by an assessor for that project.	Additional trail length (TBD- difficult to estimate due to steep slope conditions), and addition of key link in overall network, plus an expansion of walkshed area for park access.	Walking and Trails, Water	The community desires a public option to access the upper reaches of Rock Creek. There are currently none apart from the option to walk up the creek bed during low flows of summer months. Even that option is limited in that it ends at the first waterfall which is unable to be passed from downstream to upstream.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS EXPANDED SUMMARY TABLE 2 CONT.

Capital Improvement Project Name	Community Support Summary	Operations and Maintenance	Funding Sources	Ownership or Limitations	Cost	Timeline
Gateway Landscape Improvements	The desire for a more distinct gateway experience along SR-14 at each end of town was recorded in all community outreach types: stakeholder interviews, online public survey, and advisory board workshops. In addition, the community expressed a need for increased maintenance. The project proposes a lower maintenance space.	No Net Change to Maintenance, training required. This project would be used as a pilot project for city maintenance staff to practice lower maintenance landscape tasks. The number of hours spent mowing and repairing irrigation would be significantly lowered. The type of maintenance tasks would become more diversified.	RCO	These areas are either city owned or managed state route right of way. Limitations or ownership considerations may include coordination with WSDOT and / or adherence to both city and state standard, and possibly state review of design documentation.	\$210,000	The city will apply to begin making landscape improvements under their yearly operating budget beginning in 2025.
Piper Road Trails	This project was included in the public survey because it was pre-existing. This project was ranked seventh in the public survey.	No Impact: The first phase of this project will not have any impacts on operations and maintenance. A future trail would require regular clearing and trail surface repair.	RCO	This area is privately owned. The city is limited by the landowner's willingness to sell the easement and for the two parties to reach an agreement.	\$106,000	The city will take a few years to raise funding and begin the negotiation process in 2027 if the landowner is still willing.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COST SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Project	Estimated Project Total	Estimated Construction Work*	Materials Tax	Contingency	Grand Total	Estimated Project Design	Estimated Project Permitting	Grand Total Incl. Design and Permitting
		40%	7.7%	50%		25%	15%	
Gateway Landscape Improvements	\$68,800	\$27,520	\$5,298	\$48,160	\$149,778	\$37,444	\$22,467	\$210,000
West Waterfront Trails	\$585,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$585,000	N/A	N/A	\$585,000
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection	\$18,000	\$7,200	\$1,386	\$12,600	\$39,186	\$9,797	\$5,878	\$55,000
Stevenson Park Plaza (at the Courthouse)	\$2,925,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,925,000	\$275,000	N/A	\$3,200,000
Piper Road Trails	\$105,673	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$105,673	N/A	N/A	\$106,000
County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch (Match Funds- represents half the total cost)	\$35,000	\$14,000	\$2,695	\$24,500	\$76,195	\$19,049	\$11,429	\$53,500
							Total	\$4,209,500

Note

Mobilization estimated at 20%

ESC estimated at 5%

Construction surveying estimated at 2.5%

Unknowns/unexpected changes 12.5%

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COST SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Item No. / Description		Est. Quantity	Unit	Unit Price (numeric)	Extended Amount (Qty x Unit Price) (numeric)	
Gateway Landscape Improvements						
1	New landscape (non-turf) Temporary Irrigation only, approx	12,800 SF	12800	SF	\$2.25	\$28,800.00
2	Sculptural element at each couplet	2	2	EA	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
3	Information Kiosk at Gateway Park	1	1	EA	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Estimated Project Total					\$68,800.00	
West Waterfront Trails						
1	Railroad Street Easement per assessor	1 EA	1	EA	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00
2	Public Shoreline Easement per assessor	1 EA	1	EA	\$185,000.00	\$185,000.00
Estimated Project Total					\$585,000.00	
1st Street Sidewalk Trail Connection						
1	6' wide paved trail (Asphalt) connection	200 LF	200	LF	\$90.00	\$18,000.00
Estimated Project Total					\$18,000.00	
Stevenson Park Plaza (at the Courthouse)						
1	Cost estimate by other consulting team	1 EST	1	EST	\$2,925,000.00	\$2,925,000.00
Estimated Project Total					\$2,925,000.00	
Piper Road Trails						
1	Piper Road & Cazare Lane Easement connection, per assessor	1 EA	1	EA	\$5,673.00	\$5,673.00
2	70% Engineered Construction Plans for off-road trail facility for pedestrians. Max request for TA grant from WA Regional Transportation Council would be \$663,000. Trail length t.b.d. and confined within a 1,300 ft x 20 ft easement.	1 EA	1	EA	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Estimated Project Total					\$105,673.00	
County Fairground Kayak Launch						
1	Hand carry boat launch & boat wash	1 EST	1	EST	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Estimated Project Total					\$35,000.00	
Subtotal of All Items					\$812,473.00	



Appendix D

Advisory Committee Proposed Projects

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED PROJECTS

The following pages inventory projects that are either in progress, in planning, or are desired future projects by each of the Advisory Committee agencies. This list of projects includes the project name, description, location, and cost estimate information if available.

The Advisory Committee's agencies, including Skamania County, Stevenson-Carson School District, Port of Skamania County, and Stevenson Pool District, are eligible for project funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). This eligibility is based on the planning efforts completed within the scope of the city's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan. To be eligible, the governing bodies of the agencies must approve/adopt the city's plan and submit separate requests for RCO planning eligibility. Other partner organizations beyond the advisory committee could also adopt this plan at any time to establish planning eligibility for Stevenson and the Urban Growth Area (UGA), provided they have a letter of support from the City of Stevenson. The agencies can apply for recreation grants for projects within the City of Stevenson and the UGA.

Although the list may not be comprehensive, the projects listed in this appendix have been identified through workshops and direct stakeholder engagement meetings. Not all listed projects may be eligible for recreation grants due to project type, location, or other restrictions. However, those projects that meet the eligibility criteria will be able to access RCO funding if the agencies adopt the city's plan. A project does not have to be listed in this plan to be eligible for funding so long as the applicant has established planning eligibility. The adoption of this plan not only ensures funding eligibility but also reflects a shared commitment and partnership within the city to collaboratively promote and enhance recreational access within the community.

STEVENSON-CARSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOURCE: INGRID COLVARD, SUPERINTENDENT, AND ED FARRELL, GRND/MAINT/WHSE

Project	Location	Description
Update playground equipment	Stevenson Elementary playground/fields	Equipment is old and not sized for the ages of people using it. Want one or more cost estimates: for equipment, installation, and ground preparation. Ideally, installation would happen during the summer.
Develop a nature play space	Stevenson Elementary playground/fields	Input from staff and the community so far has been in favor of nature play themes.
Implement security measures	Stevenson Elementary playground/fields	Implement security measures to keep people out of the properties during school hours.

STEVENSON POOL DISTRICT

SOURCE: TOM DELZIO AND ANDREA BYRD (INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY)		
Project	Location	Description
Develop the facility into a community center	Pool	Develop the facility into a full-fledged community center with updated outdoor space, covered space, pickleball, etc.
Create an indoor gathering place	Pool	Want to create more of a gathering place - for coffee, etc. Create a place to serve food to groups, perhaps through an agreement with local restaurants. Requires removing old bleachers and old concrete slab.
Add amenities for sports and play, such as basketball hoops	Pool	
Increase funding for staff training and continuing education/ certificates to increase available programming	Pool	
Develop and implement a marketing plan	Pool	Want more promotion and programming to bring more people in and to diversify audiences, including seniors.
Update showers for gender-equality considerations	Pool	The pool has private changing stations in the female locker room and would like to apply that standard to the male locker room as well as the ADA/family changing spaces.
Implement upgrades to the pool	Pool	Real competitions/swim meets aren't possible given old-fashioned size of pool. Would like to remove bleachers to fix this. Other upgrades: inspect the pool liner, repaint under water signage and lane stripes, six new lane lines
Implement upgrades for ADA compliance	Pool	Remodel family/mixed gender bathroom to include a shower and privacy door, reconfigure parking lot for ADA improved access. Would like to hire a consultant for parking lot upgrades.
Implement upgrades for environmental considerations	Pool	Replace all bulbs to LED, add automatic shut-off timers to shower and sink faucets, install an automatic pool cover to mitigate heat loss, replace/repair drinking fountains (add water bottle refill feature to eliminate plastic water bottle waste), install solar panels
Implement mechanical upgrades	Pool	New boiler, filtrations systems, independent temperature controls, etc.
Implement cosmetic upgrades	Pool	Install new flooring, tile repaired or replaced, paint, first aid room remodel, staff break kitchen remodel, upgrade office spaces and customer lobby spaces, remove bleachers to add tables and chairs for gathering space, remodel party rental room to accommodate special events
More general maintenance	Pool	Upgrade fixtures in bathroom, install missing toilet, have drains inspected and cleared, reconfigure changing/privacy spaces, new showers and sinks
Safety equipment replacements	Pool	New Lifeguard post stations, new backboard, replace rescue tubes, staff uniforms and personal Safety equipment (gloves, breathe masks, etc.)

PORT OF SKAMANIA

SOURCE: PAT ALBAUGH		
Project	Location	Description
Control aquatic plants	All waterfront parks	During late summer, weeds in river cause recreationalists to get stuck and require rescuing. Need a permit to treat weeds, and funds to pay for treatment.
Acquire water for lawn irrigation	All waterfront parks	Need water for irrigation for lawns. Have applied for state permit for a well. Currently must buy water from City. Would like to acquire funding so that parks staff can implement, or have the ability to use river water or another source.
Better-protect the boat launch area	Cascade Boat Launch	The boat launch receives giant waves and needs more protection. Approaches may include moving the boat launch or building a breakwater in the river.
Improve and develop a park on recently-purchased residential property	Adjacent to Cascade Boat Launch	
Continue to seek opportunities to increase parking capacity	All waterfront parks	
Continue to seek efficiencies for funding and maintenance of public restrooms	All waterfront parks	

SKAMANIA COUNTY

SOURCE: TOM LANNEN AND ALEX HAYS (INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY)

Project	Location	Description
Fairgrounds Master Plan	Fairgrounds	Consider creation of a master plan that includes all current improvements and future amenity needs in one unified plan. Plan would include cost estimates and implementation strategy.
Maintenance for exhibit hall	Fairgrounds	Work to continue improvements to Exhibit Hall and other recreational and event spaces.
Campground improvements	Fairgrounds	Campground has great potential to be a year-round facility, but there are design and permitting challenges such as the fact it is located within the state shoreline jurisdiction. These improvements would make things generally safer and more functional so that rates and accessibility can be increased at the same time.
Add generators to barn	Fairgrounds	Need new generators in case of emergencies.
Create/repair walking path segments	Fairgrounds	Currently there are roots pushing up the asphalt in some locations.
Develop and implement a marketing plan	Fairgrounds	Improved marketing could reach non-white residents including Native American and Latinx groups. Especially kids. Need more designated marketing for tourism-related events. Options for legal placement of advertising/signs is currently challenging.
Engage with the City to discuss feasibility of land transfer	Upper Rock Creek Area/ Transfer Station	County has land at the transfer site that has liability issues currently. Would like to explore the option of transferring this land to the City.
Cover arena; develop permanent concert stage	Fairgrounds	Cover arena for concerts and more year round use
Upgrade restrooms	Fairgrounds	Currently anticipating grant award to repair existing restrooms
Develop water trails		
Restore shorelines	Fairgrounds	
Build a non-motorized ramp for water access	Fairgrounds	Included in the City Capital Improvement Plan for this document.
Ballfield improvements at Home Valley Park	Home Valley Park	
Create a connection from the City to Wind River Nursery	Wind River Site	Explore transit options or include in future asks for signage
Improve transit options for seniors	(To recreation areas)	
Continue to develop recreation options for Wind River Site. Consider creation of a master plan.	Wind River Site	Consider creation of a master plan.



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Southwest Region 5 • 5525 South 11th St Ridgefield, WA 98642
Telephone: (360) 696-6211 • Fax: (360) 906-6776

March 7th, 2024

City of Stevenson Planning
Department 7121 E Loop Road, PO
Box 371 Stevenson, Washington
98648

Re: City of Stevenson Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Dear Mr. Shumaker:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **the City of Stevenson Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan**. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reviewed this proposal and offer the following for your consideration.

WDFW commends the City of Stevenson for developing their first Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. We extend our support in adopting this plan, aimed to improve existing parks, trails, and expanding recreational opportunities for the people of Stevenson.

WDFW is supportive of the new park classifications and the recognition that additional habitats are protected under the critical areas ordinance, which may provide additional open space opportunities.

Inventorying existing parks and open spaces, and determining how the land is being utilized, is an important foundational step. It is encouraging to learn that community members have a preference for recreation areas with “views of wildlife, nature, or water” and would like the city to “consider sustainability and impacts on wildlife”. Integrating open space and corridor planning has many public benefits including increased opportunity for positive human-wildlife interactions, and more certainty for the local community where habitats will be protected long term. This aligns with WDFW’s mission: *preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational opportunities*, and elements of this are reflected in this plan.

As goals are achieved during implementation, we hope the city will update this document to identify new goals and objectives. Areas to expand upon are integrating WDFW’s Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) list and habitat enhancement into future iterations of the PROS Plan. WDFW recognizes that PHS is regulated through the local critical areas ordinance, but by

including PHS into the PROS Plan, there is a unique opportunity to strategically plan and consider landscape-level connectivity and function, including habitat connectivity and corridors. Additionally, enhancing existing habitat by increase diversity of abundance of native vegetation will benefit wildlife and potentially increase wildlife viewing opportunities. Below, we expand upon these key considerations.

Habitat Connectivity

Habitat connectivity is critical for maintaining viable populations of plants and animals. Factors to consider for wildlife:

- Keeping large, connected patches of undeveloped native vegetation intact.
- Encouraging and maintaining low zoning densities within and immediately surrounding high-value habitat areas and encouraging maintenance of native vegetation.
- Planning open space to incorporate high-value habitat and corridors for animal movement.

Protecting habitat patches and connecting corridors of undeveloped land, including parks and open spaces, can help species that are locally important to urban communities. The PROS Plan mentions *“incorporating underutilized space, purchasing easements to connect existing parks and trails... and spaces such as underutilized areas, vacant lots, rights-of-ways, and utility corridors that hold significant potential to contribute to the parks and recreation goal”*. **This is a great opportunity to preserve connectivity of habitat areas and identify potential open space corridors.** Planning for open space corridors that are permanently protected from development will help facilitate wildlife movement through an urban landscape.

Planning a corridor

In future iterations of the PROS Plan, we encourage the city to evaluate if the following landscape features can become connected through parks and open space:

- Aquatic features such as streams, wetlands, lakes, marine shorelines and the associated riparian areas.
- Ridgelines.
- Large undeveloped habitat patches and open space areas, including those in public ownership.
- Locations of WDFW’s Priority Habitats and Species (PHS).

Incorporating PHS can lessen adverse impacts to biodiversity and habitat connectivity as land uses change. Considering PHS in strategic plans, such as the PROS Plan, creates opportunities for planners and biologists to work proactively to plan for designated open spaces and corridors to protect and perpetuate habitats that support wildlife on the landscape. **We look forward to working with the City of Stevenson to implement these recommendations into future land use planning efforts.**

Habitat enhancement

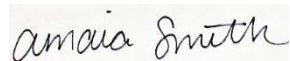
Enhancing existing habitat does not require landscape-level strategic planning and can occur at any stage in this process. We encourage the city to consider existing the habitat within existing parks and open space by increasing habitat complexity to benefit wildlife and increase viewing opportunities. Ways to enhance habitat include:

- Planting a diversity of native species that contribute to wildlife food and shelter resources.
- Adding nest boxes (birds, bats).
- Creating wildlife snags where they are not a risk to recreation or infrastructure.

Additionally, habitat enhancement may create a unique opportunity to partner with local groups and organization who are supporting the implementation of this PROS Plan. As the city implements Goal 1.3 *Facilitate partnerships with other agencies and organizations to share maintenance resources and costs*, we encourage consideration of habitat enhancement opportunities.

WDFW has resource available upon request and welcome additional discussion to explore how wildlife and habitat opportunities can be represented and implemented in the 2024 PROS Plan or future iterations.

Thank you for your consideration,



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