

City of Rainier
Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting
June 21, 2021
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall

Chair Levi Richardson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Kristi Cole, Scott Cooper, Terry Deaton, Randall Johnston, Sharon Jump, Jason Nulph, Gary Rice

Committee Members Absent: Tiffany Hatley, Laura Tretheway and Denise Watson

City Staff Present: Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

Flag Salute

Visitor Comments: Mayor Jerry Cole welcomed the committee members. He said that the thought of having a Parks Committee first came up when City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen started last September. The committee is chaired by Councilor Levi Richardson and there is another spot on the committee for a councilor. The intent wasn't to have council run the committee, but to have a seat at the table. When issues involving parks come before council, they can be sent to the committee for input and recommendations. It's similar to how the Planning Commission works. The city currently has a great park. He is challenging committee members to develop more pocket parks and trails.

New Business

- a. City Council Priorities for the Committee—Richardson went over the memo that was included in the packet. Terry Deaton asked what the committee's objectives are. Jorgensen said he would like the city to become attractive for working professionals with families. One of the things that keeps those professionals from living in small towns is the lack of anything for their children to do. Gary Rice suggested that a survey be done to find out what citizens would like to see at the parks. Jorgensen said a survey could be put on the city's website, the mayor's Facebook page and in utility billing statements. Randall Johnston suggested having a booth at Rainier Days. Jorgensen suggested that committee members develop questions for the survey and get those back to him. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence gave a presentation on city owned properties. There's a three-acre area at the top of Fernhill that's very steep but could possibly be developed. Johnston said that used to be a city dump that closed about 50 years ago. Lawrence said

- the city owns a portion of the property under the C Street bridge. Deaton said that's a nice area. Lawrence said a dog park has been recommended for that location. Deaton suggested that frisbee golf may be a good use of that property. Lawrence said she's been working with the Estuary Partnership to replant the stream corridor and eliminate noxious weeds in that flat area. Richardson said there are houses nearby, but they are higher up. Lawrence said there's a one-acre parcel at the intersection of West First and Westcott that is owned by the city. There are also areas on both sides of the city's water treatment plant. One could be used for a bike park and the other can be a splash pad. Deaton asked if a splash pad may make more sense in the current city park. Richardson said he likes the concept of a splash park at the plant. There could also be a picnic area and adequate parking could be added. Jorgensen said that the committee's next meeting could be a tour of some of these sites. He and Lawrence could visit some of the sites beforehand that they are less familiar with.
- b. Fox Creek Park Concept—Lawrence said she's had a discussion with Pastor Paul Rice about doing a project where his church and the city owned area by Fox Creek converge. Parking could be added, along with playground equipment.
 - c. Pickleball Court at the City Park—Lawrence said she received a request to stripe the tennis courts for pickleball. It would overlay the lines that are currently on the court. Pickleball tournaments could be held with eight courts. She recommends doing the striping on one of the tennis courts as a pilot project. The city doesn't want to take away from the tennis courts. Deaton asked how often the tennis courts are used. Sharon Jump said they're mostly used for pickleball. Richardson said having pickleball wouldn't prevent anyone from being able to play tennis. Lawrence verified and said the lines are colored differently. Richardson suggested having the pickleball supporters tape the court so the committee can better understand what they have in mind. Jorgensen said that could be included as part of the committee's tour.
 - d. Pathway Expansion—Lawrence said that the plan is to take the old metal walking bridge that's at the park, remove the rotting decking, build abutments and have it connect the park to the new riverfront trail. She's received a request to pave the gravel section of the walking path between the tennis courts and the boat launch. Lawrence recommends going ahead with the paving. Jump agreed. She said it would connect seniors to the park. Lawrence said the area is about eight feet wide. Richardson moved to recommend the pathway expansion to council. That motion was seconded by Deaton and adopted unanimously.
 - e. Gazebo Donation—Lawrence said a citizen has offered to pay for a gazebo to donate to the park. She has an estimate of what the gazebo would cost but has yet to hear back from the contractor. Richardson asked if the donors have a preference on location. Lawrence said not

that she's aware of. She showed committee members a couple of locations. Scott Cooper said he'd like to see it by the trees. Lawrence said the city needs to have a method in place to accept donations. Richardson asked about the standards for memorial benches that other cities have. Lake Sacajawea in Longview was suggested as a model. Lawrence said she would like to see those standards include a center rail.

- f. Park Reservation Deposit Policy—Jorgensen said that council passed an ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the park. People can now reserve portions of the park and the forms are online on the city's website. Some cities charge a deposit for the reservations to ensure that users pick up after themselves. There was some discussion about having a fee for reservations. Cooper asked what it costs public works, in terms of time, to prepare a site for reservations. The fee could cover that, and a credit card can be used to cover any damages.

Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Levi Richardson, Chair

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

**City of Rainier
Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting
August 30, 2021
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., as Chair Levi Richardson was absent.

Committee Members Present: Kristi Cole, Randall Johnstun, Sharon Jump, Jason Nulph, Gary Rice

Committee Members Absent: Scott Cooper, Terry Deaton, Tiffany Hatley, Laura Tretheway and Denise Watson

City Staff Present: Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

Flag Salute

Visitor Comments: There were no visitors comments at this time.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

Consider Approval of the June 21, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Education Committee Meeting Minutes—The consent agenda was not approved due to lack of a quorum.

3. New Business

- a. Selection of Vice Chair—This could not be done due to lack of a quorum.
- b. Takeaways from July 26 Tour of City-Owned Facilities—Randall Johnstun said he supports having a dog park at the C Street location and thinks dogs would like it. The city's treatment plant property is a big area that could be developed. One side could be made into a park area, then the other could be worked on. Gary Rice said he supports having a bike park at the treatment plant site and agrees that the C Street property would be good for a dog park. A dog park would probably be fairly inexpensive to create, because it's mostly just fencing. Jason Nulph said he didn't attend the committee's tour but has been to the water treatment plant area. He spoke to a lot of people at Rainier Days. Many of them told him the city needs to engage kids. They congregate at the skate park and need other places to go. Miniature golf has been suggested to him as an amenity the city could add to its parks. A splash pad is a good idea. Older people in the community would like to see a practice putting green area. They have to travel for that right now. Sharon Jump said a splash pad for kids would be a great idea but will

cost a lot of money. That would probably have to involve fundraising and applying for grants. She likes the idea of a dog park and that wouldn't take much. Jump said she already takes her dog to that site regularly. She also thinks a splash pad would be a good idea, but not at the current city park and expressed support for a miniature golf course. Kristi Cole said the dog park idea has been around for a long time. For a splash pad, she would like to see what people prefer and added that there would be costs.

- c. Public Survey for Improving City of Rainier Parks—Rice said the survey draft was based on discussions at the previous committee meetings and discussions he's had with residents and seen in online forums. He asked how it would be disseminated. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said it could go out in the next water bill. Jorgensen said he could put it on the city's website and the mayor could share it to his Facebook page. Lawrence said the next bill goes out around the middle of September. Jorgensen said people could be given a month to respond, and the committee could discuss the results at its October meeting.
- d. Pickleball Court Request—Lawrence said she's been in contact with a group of pickleball enthusiasts that wants to modify some of the tennis courts in the park to accommodate their hobby. They like the idea of having four pickleball courts on one side and have offered to do the painting to make it usable. Committee members agreed by consensus. Rice asked if the city sees any potential problems with the group's request to bring a storage facility for its equipment. Lawrence said she sees no issues. They will need a secure way to lock up the nets and have ideas on how to get that done. Nulph said having pickleball won't hinder tennis players from using the courts. Cole said the pickleball players are using the courts more than anyone else is at this point. Jump said the city should welcome the use of pickleball on its tennis courts.
- e. Marina Sign Request—Jorgensen said the city received a request for additional signage from a volunteer who does work at the marina. Public works needs to update some signage around town anyway. Lawrence said some of the proposed signs marking loading and unloading zones couldn't be posted because the suggested location is in a fire lane. Any signs along Highway 30 would have to be approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation. The city needs to look at signage holistically. The parks ordinance was updated, so the signs there will be updated to reflect that. She wants it to be cohesive. Signs have a cost, too, so that's a factor when determining the need for new signage.

Jorgensen adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Levi Richardson, Chair

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

DRAFT

WRITTEN COMMENTS (Rainier Park Surveys):

ONLINE (48 responses):

- Definitely need more trash cans, especially close to A street and the flag pole (if they will use it). Also called in some “out” street lights in November 2019, had a ribbon around for awhile but still our almost two years later. Whoever is the supervisor in charge of the park maintenance is obviously over employed and needs to be replaced and sent to work in the park for a few months or find a new job! Lastly Rainier Days basically destroys the park every year, go to the county fair grounds!
- we visit the park multiple times a week but not daily. This was not an option on the survey so I marked weekly but the real answer is closer to daily. We walk our dog there all the time and would love to see a fenced off leash area for the dogs.
- Having open grass is nice to run and play in. Would be a shame if it was overcrowded and would ruin the river view.
- I'm glad something is finally being done about our park. I'd like to recommend a toddler splash pad. There aren't many things for toddlers out here and everyone has to travel 30 minutes to get to the more toddler safe/updated parks and activities.
- I want to continue to be able to let my dog off leash in the beach area.
- Ask the kids using a survey at the elementary school.
- I would like to see more security in the park area. Cameras and police presence are needed.
- better security would be great. Also, the idea of the dog park under the C Street bridge is great but it gets swampy down there so that will need to be addressed. That and making sure there will be plenty of parking.
- We also need a SAFE pedestrian/bike path across the bridge.
- I live by the park and love seeing everyone use it but I know it attracts people from other communities. That is good but I'm concerned about the possibilities of riffraff coming in. The police drive by frequently and that definitely helps and would need to continue
- Dog park, splash pad defiantly for summer, something like scappoose and st helens would be great!!! More restrictions on dogs shitting in the park and irresponsible adults that don't clean up after them!!!!
- Great survey
- Skateparks save lives . They help the youth find healthy outlets and make friends for life . Please don't think of scumbag parks like burnside when thinking about skateparks . But it's very important kids in small towns have a solid outlet and the rainier park is a eye sore and it's out of date and doesn't reflect the beauty of rainiers water front . Hope you truly consider updating that park .
- please consider improvements that will not encourage homeless.
- I would like to see a Splash pad or even pool in the downtown area for our children! I know we already have a pool area, but we go to clatskanie often and there setup is amazing! Our Shorey family would love to help out in our community! I would be against a dog park anywhere near the current facility, just because our family has a bad phobia about dogs and we don't like them running up to us without a leash at all and that has happened more times then we would like!! Thank you for the survey!! [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] please email me for volunteer opportunities!
- Would really love a farmers market
- Great survey! Nice leadership on this, way to go!
- Excited about a possible dog park! Also my kids request monkey bars :)
- Plant flowers for the bees

- I like the idea of expanding of the park but worry about doing it near the treatment plant as it is VERY stinky.
- I think these are amazing ideas. I believe that should this go forward we need policies in place to protect what is built. For example; locking the restrooms after 9 pm, fencing areas to avoid vandalism and more security so people feel safe
- We rarely go to the park because it's dirty and the restroom is filthy or not even open.
- There are areas such as the horseshoe pits that look terrible. More Senior friendly games, corn hole, shuffleboard. The pickleball courts while I don't use are a great step!
- The corner of the trail near Fox Creek and the Columbia River is very bumpy and is a tripping hazard. I'd like to see it leveled. Also, there's a perfect spot to install another bench on the riverside corner overlooking the boat launch. I bet it would get lots of use. Maybe even put a picnic table there.
- Could you do a survey about the Library too?
- Thank you for providing this survey to help improve our beautiful city!!
- City does a good job in up keep of park,thanks, good job
- I believe rainier could greatly benefit from a splash pad. The nearest is in Longview/kelso and isn't unkept whatsoever. I'd also be beneficial to the community if there were more community events geared towards families. The "National night out" night was awesome. I only wish it was advertised more so more people could have enjoyed it. I am a avid Facebook user and a member of multiple groups and follow multiple agencies and only learned about said event the day prior.
- I walk my dog almost daily at the park and love it for the most part. One suggestion I would make is more trees for shade. During late spring summer it is incredibly hot on the asphalt trails due to the lack of shade. A fenced in dog area that had one for little and one for big dogs would be a great addition.
- Me, my wife and all our local friends absolutely love the riverfront trail and would love to see it extended!
- Mile markers along path.
- Good luck
- The area where Fox Creek meets the Columbia River near the volleyball court needs improvement. What I am talking about is the area that you walk down to the Columbia River from the paved walking area in the park. It's in pretty rough shape and could be smoothed out. Also there are aggressive bike riders who do not yield to walkers in the park. Some signage directing bikers to yield would be nice too.
- I would like the city to make a disabled parking space at the city park.
- It's great to see you looking for improvements for the park. My grandmother was mayor when the park was built and know she would love to see improvements to it for the families and facilities improved.
- Acquire the undeveloped property bounded by Teevin's log yard, Columbia River, housing development and railroad track. Better place to expand for dog park, walking, handicapped access, children's biking. The skatepark is a messy unsafe eyesore. Lots of older youth and children and families use it. Please consider this a priority. We'd love to volunteer but ill health prevents it. Happy to donate, though. Thanks for sending out a survey.
- A covered pavillion for picnics and organization get togethers. Plug in and counter space for putting food and covered to keep dry we are in the northwest weather is warm but wet so it would be nice to have a place divided by four but everyone could use the common area. Restrooms adjacent, wheel chair accessible. Covered bleachers for the youth stands wheel chair covering also Consession standts to use for all events. More parking for pavillion

- some sort of policing the dog walk areas. people let their dogs off leashes. people do not clean up after their pets go to the bathroom. also please find a way to make the bathrooms more sanitary or perhaps clean. evening police presence.
- fix holes and cracks in street at 5th and "e" east .
- The homeless boats and the garbage they leave is concerning
- Splash pad may get better use with-in walking distance of current park. Next to water treatment plant feels weird. Contamination concerns. Trails should be family friendly (with small children) and stroller/wheelchair friendly.
- Restrooms are deplorable and should be rebuilt ASAP!!
- Connect the river front walk with the park walking route with asphalt and extend the paved trail further east.. Reopen the boat launch east of the appliance store.
- Thank you for asking!
- To have working water fountains
- The garbage can needs to be next to the doggy poop bag station. It's been moved and people are putting them in the cigarette thing.

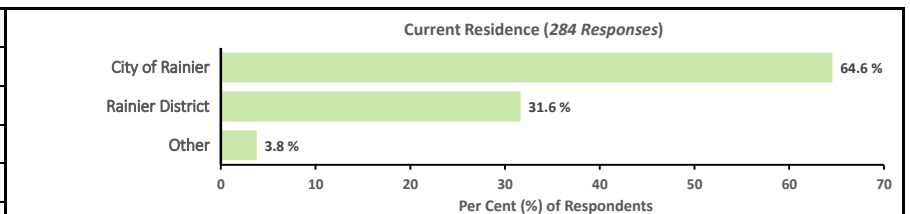
PAPER SURVEY (23 responses):

- Harvest festival with late season produce sale
- Low impact exercise stations for retirees
- Additional crosswalk across 30
- Disabled fishing area/platform
- More lighting in unlit park areas (solar?)
- Walk through Christmas lights in park
- Keep dog park away from people areas
- Do not add BBQ pits to new picnic areas due to fire hazards
- Additional lighting in park
- Enforce dog leash laws and pickup after pets
- Clean up streets in city and neighborhoods (they're a mess)
- Paying off our water bonds is more important
- Bridge installation across Fox Creek
- Covered picnic tables
- Fishing pier for kids and handicapped
- Keeping grounds in better condition and more attention to plants, bushes, and trees
- More benches by the boat ramp
- Pay down debt so our bill will be less!
- Live music would be great. Just like they do every summer in St.Helens
- The bridge across the creek installed; the waves in the blacktop fixed
- More picnic tables - cameras
- Large picnic area - could be rented out

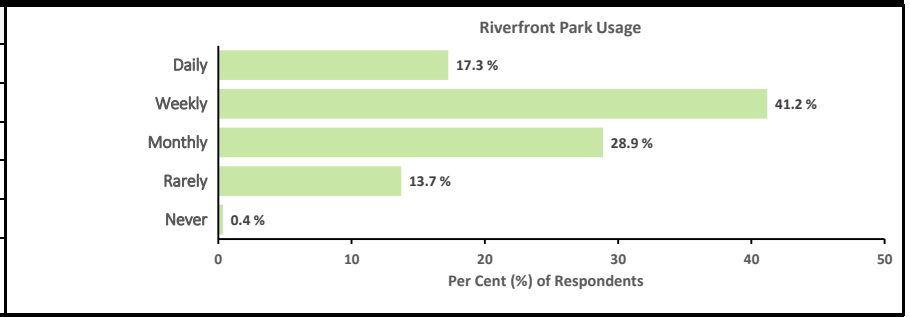
City of Rainier Park Survey - Fall, 2021

Final Tally 10/18/2021

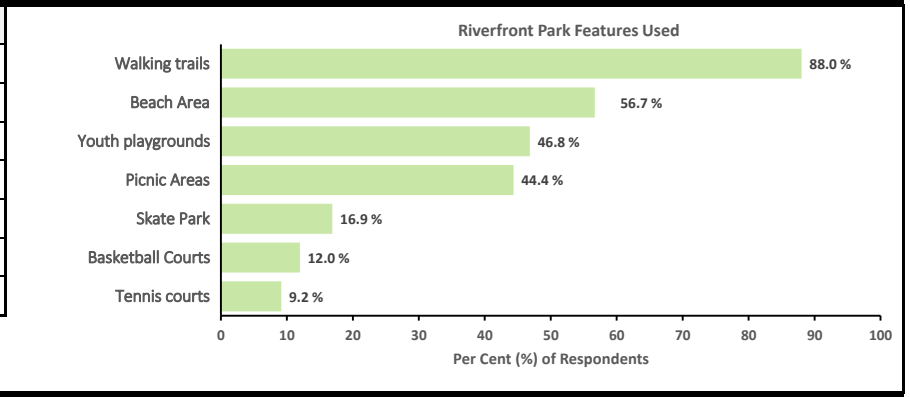
CURRENT RESIDENCE	Paper	Online	Total	%
City of Rainier	78	109	187	65.8
Rainier District	5	83	88	31.0
Other		9	9	3.2
TOTAL	83	201	284	



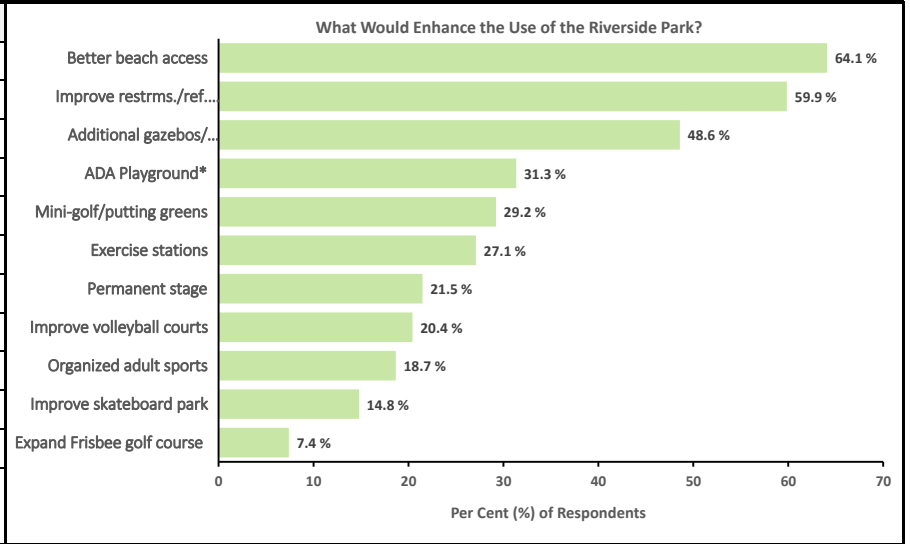
Riverfront Park Usage	Paper	Online	Total	%
Daily	20	29	49	17.3
Weekly	25	92	117	41.2
Monthly	21	61	82	28.9
Rarely	14	25	39	13.7
Never	0	1	1	0.4



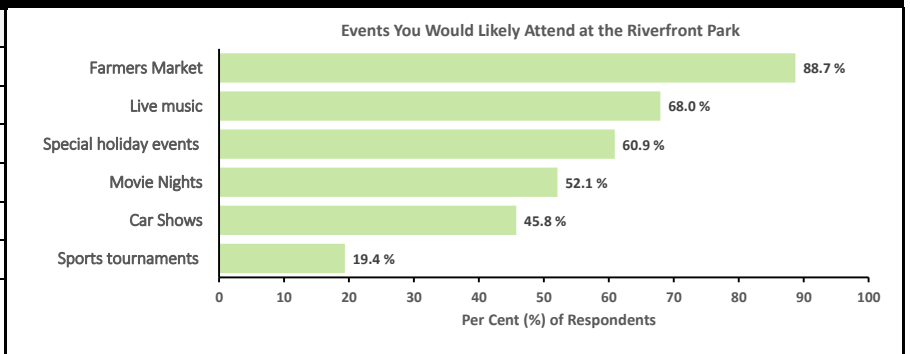
Riverfront Park Features Used	Paper	Online	Total	%
Walking trails	68	182	250	88.0
Basketball Courts	0	34	34	12.0
Picnic Areas	22	104	126	44.4
Youth playgrounds	20	113	133	46.8
Skate Park	2	46	48	16.9
Tennis courts	3	23	26	9.2
Beach Area	32	129	161	56.7



Riverfront Park Enhancements	Paper	Online	Total	%
Additional gazebos/ benches	41	97	138	48.6
ADA Playground*	0	63	63	31.3
Improve skateboard park	5	37	42	14.8
Improve sand volleyball courts	9	49	58	20.4
Restrooms/refuse collection	38	132	170	59.9
Mini-golf/putting greens	21	62	83	29.2
Expand Frisbee golf course	2	19	21	7.4
Better beach access	50	132	182	64.1
Permanent stage	12	49	61	21.5
Organized adult sports	7	46	53	18.7
Exercise stations	11	66	77	27.1



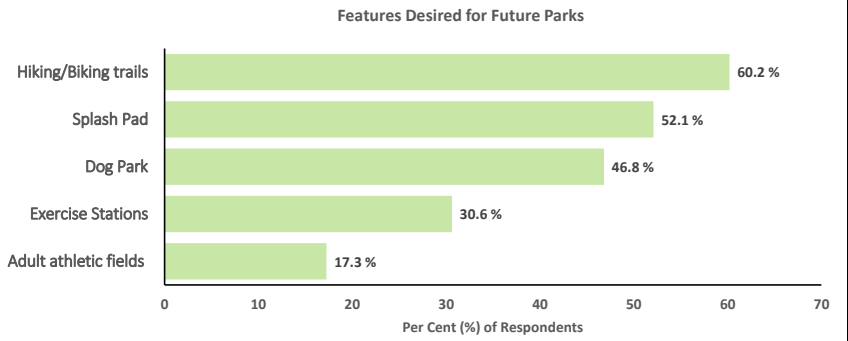
Park Events Likely Attended	Paper	Online	Total	%
Live music	48	145	193	68.0
Farmers Market	65	187	252	88.7
Movie Nights	19	129	148	52.1
Car Shows	36	94	130	45.8
Sports tournaments	4	51	55	19.4
Special holiday events	32	141	173	60.9



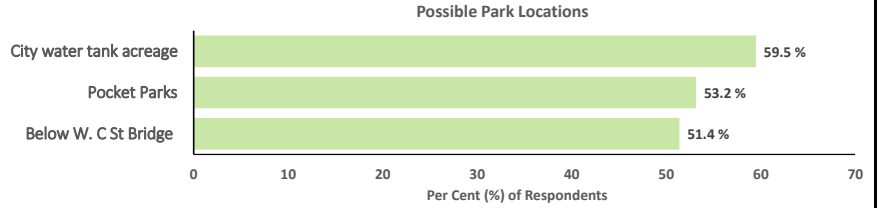
* Only from online survey

FUTURE PARKS and FEATURES:

Future Park Features Desired	Paper	Online	Total	%
Dog Park	34	99	133	46.8
Hiking/Biking trails	42	129	171	60.2
Splash Pad	23	125	148	52.1
Youth bike park	8	68	76	26.8
Exercise Stations	17	70	87	30.6
Adult athletic fields	6	43	49	17.3



POSSIBLE PARK LOCATIONS:	Paper	Online	Total	%
Acreage at city water tank	39	130	169	59.5
Acreage below W. C St Bridge	39	107	146	51.4
POCKET PARKS	42	109	151	53.2



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:	Paper	Online	Total	%
"Friends of Rainier Parks"	19	82	101	35.6
Develop hiking/biking trails	6	45	51	18.0
Eagle Scout projects	7	19	26	9.2
Youth sports coaches	0	37	37	13.0

