



Date: November 3, 2009
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Camron Parker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services
Subject: Parks & Open Space System Plan Update
(Information only; no Board action requested)

SUMMARY

The update for the Parks & Open Space System Plan is well underway. At the November meeting, the Board will hear a progress report focused on the current results of public participation methods completed or still underway. The presentation will include an outline for how the plan will be updated. The goal is to complete a draft by the end of this year with additional input and approval from the Board scheduled in early 2010, followed by consideration by the City Council tentatively scheduled for April 2010.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is to guide staff and the Board when making recommendations to the City Council on the acquisition, development and management of parks and open space citywide. It is a foundational tool in developing the department's Capital Investment Program and is frequently used to seek grant support for park acquisition and development projects. The current plan was last updated in 2003.

Copies of the 2003 plan were included in each board member's initial orientation material. The plan is also available for review online at: www.bellevuewa.gov/park_plan_update.htm. If you would like an additional copy of the current plan in paper form or CD-ROM, please contact me at (425) 452-2032 or cparker@bellevuewa.gov.

BACKGROUND

Starting intently in September and extending through early December, many outlets have been opened to collect public opinion from Bellevue park users. In general, data collected gauge how people are currently using the parks and open space system and looking to the future, what priorities people would place on expanding the system.

A good portion of the presentation will focus on results of the statistically valid public opinion survey undertaken in September. This survey was completed by over 700 randomly selected Bellevue residents. As a random sample, the results of this survey can be reliably applied to reflect the opinion of Bellevue residents as a whole.

This public opinion survey information will be supplemented by statistics gleaned from the community-wide web survey and the Parks blog that are currently underway. The web survey will be open to anyone through the end of November, and the blog will remain active at least through the term of this project. As of the writing of this memo, over 640 web survey responses have been received along with a handful of blog comments. While not a statistically valid representation of the Bellevue community, the web survey and blog allow anyone with interest to participate (one does not have to be randomly selected as with the public opinion survey).

Further adding to the record of public involvement are over one dozen presentations to other city commissions, park user groups and community groups. Many of these presentations are focused on specific sections of the 2003 plan (related to each group's interest) and input from these groups will be used in updating the Focus Areas chapter of the plan. Several presentations have been completed and more will take place through December and potentially into early 2010.

As soon as the public input can be collected and analyzed, the work of updating the sections of the plan can begin. A portion of this work has begun, with the bulk of the writing taking place in late November and throughout December. A plan for how this work will progress will be included in the presentation.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at (425) 452-2032 or cparker@bellevue.gov.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Summary results of 2009 Bellevue resident public opinion survey

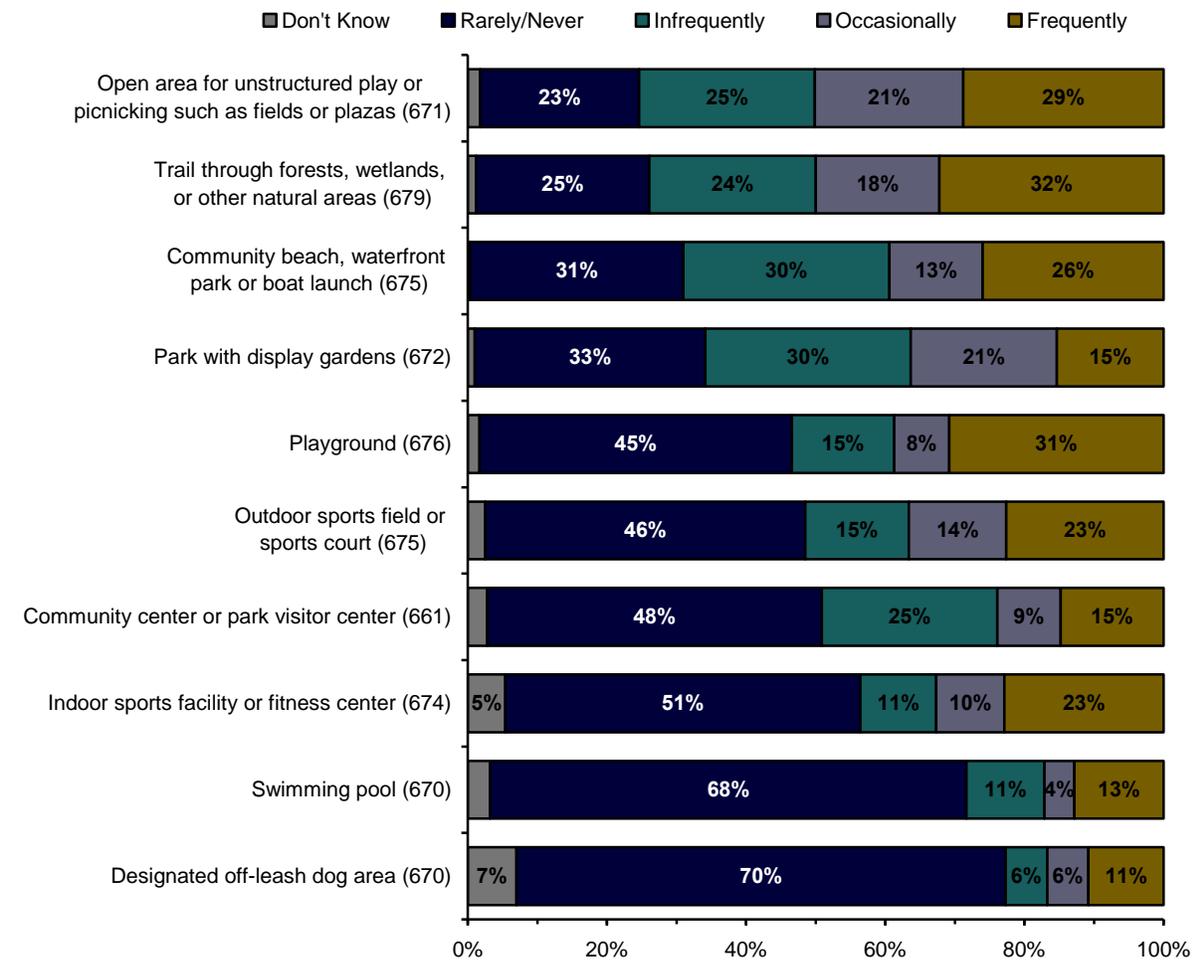
BELLEVUE PARKS & OPEN SPACE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Summary Results

September 2009

Figure 1
Frequency of Park Use by Facility Type
 All respondents

Weighted bases shown in parentheses



Questions 3A-3J: In the past 12 months, how often have you personally visited any of the following types of public or private parks or recreation facilities in Bellevue?

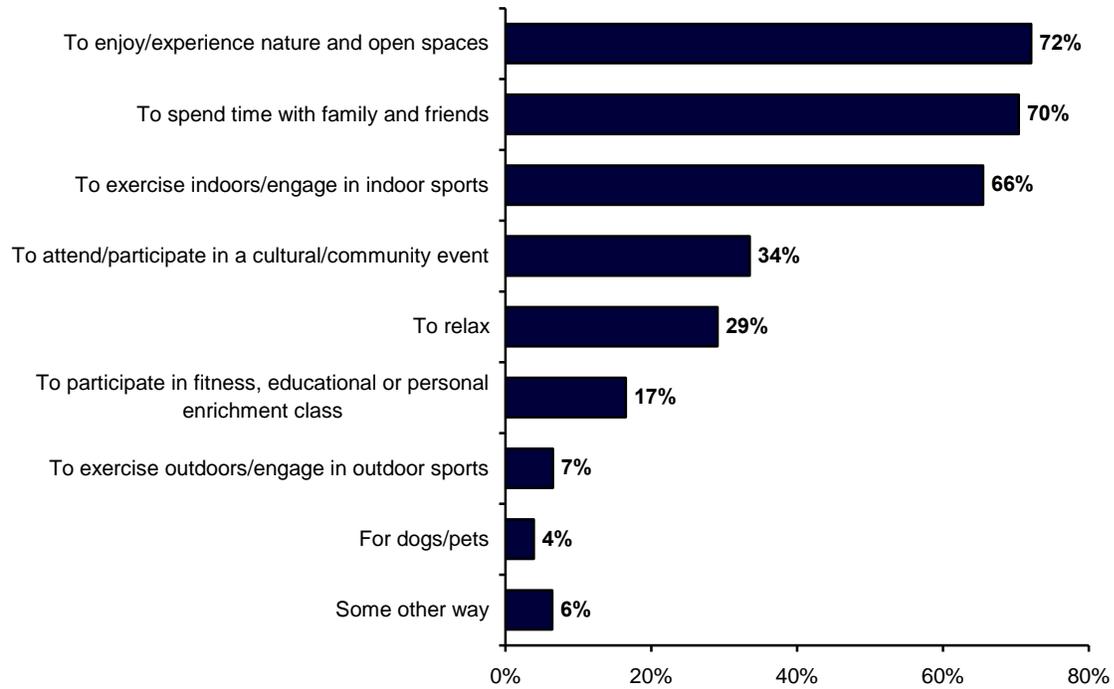
Note: Frequently = 10 or more times per year, occasionally = 6 to 9 times per year, infrequently = 2 to 5 times per year, rarely or never = 1 time per year or less often.

Unlabeled segments represent 3% or less.

May not sum to 100% due to rounding and weighting.

Figure 2
Purpose of Park/Recreation Facility Use – Percent “Yes”
All respondents

(Base: n_w = 686)

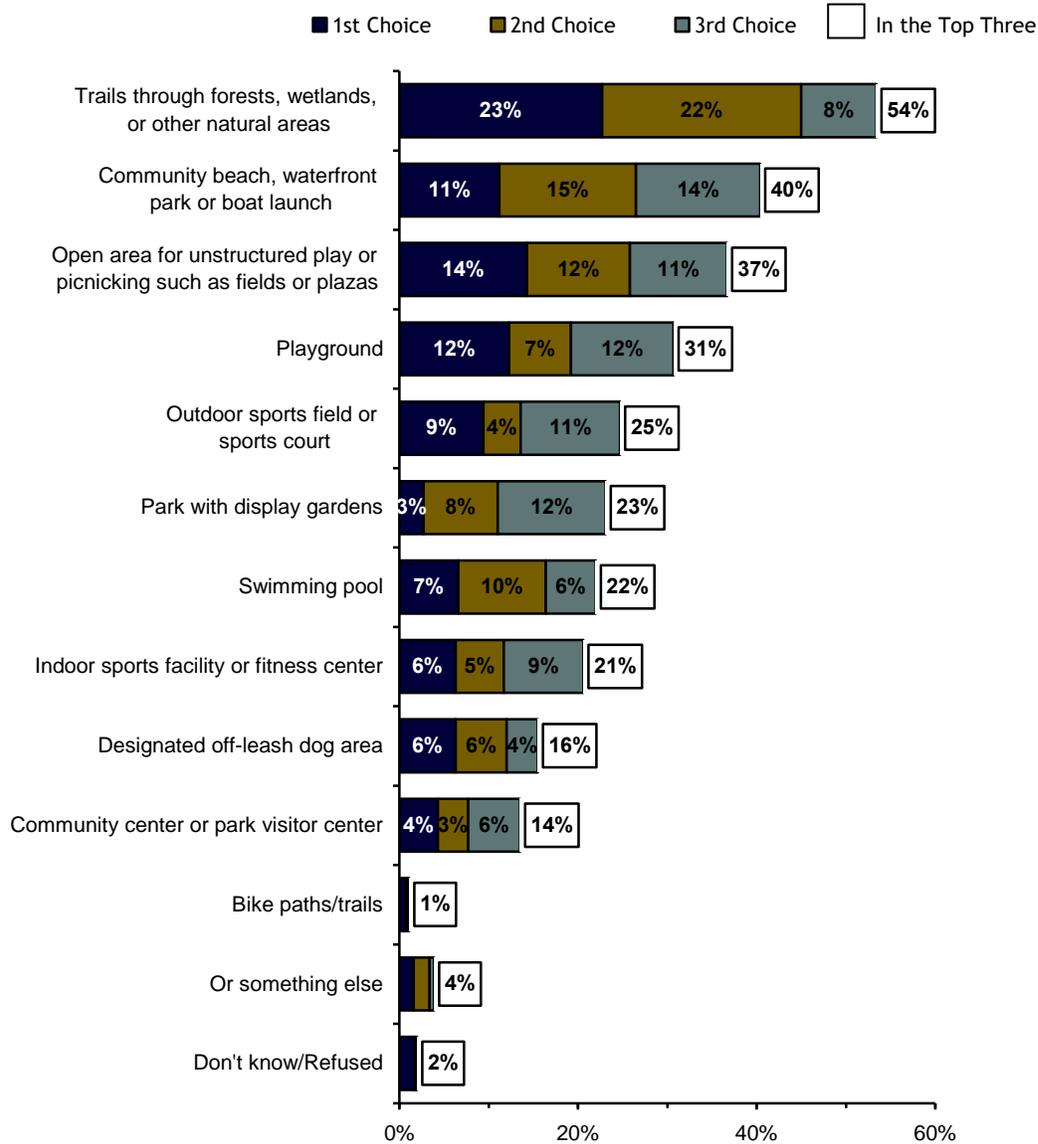


Question 4: In the past 12 months, have you or any members of your household used a park or recreation facility in Bellevue....

Multiple responses allowed.

Figure 3
Priorities for City Development of Parks and Recreational Facilities
 All respondents

(Base: n_w=643)



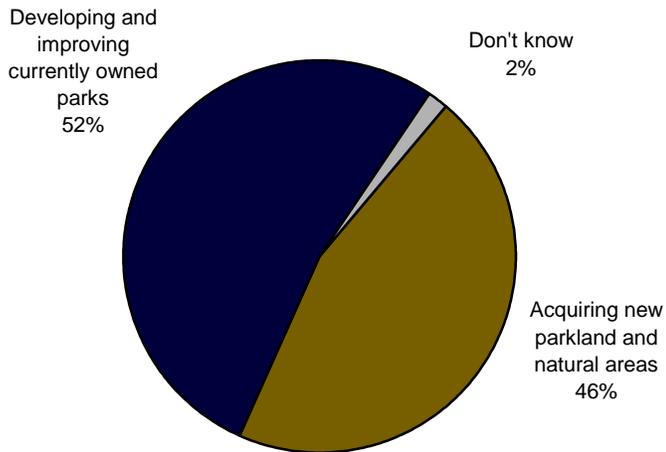
Question 9B1-3 Next I am going to read a list of possible priorities for city development of parks and recreational facilities. Which of the following do you think should have the highest priority for future development? Which should be the second highest priority? Which should be the third highest priority?

Note: Unweighted segments = 2% or less.

May not sum to total due to rounding and weighting.

Figure 4
Focus of City Parks Investments
All respondents

(Base: n_w=668)

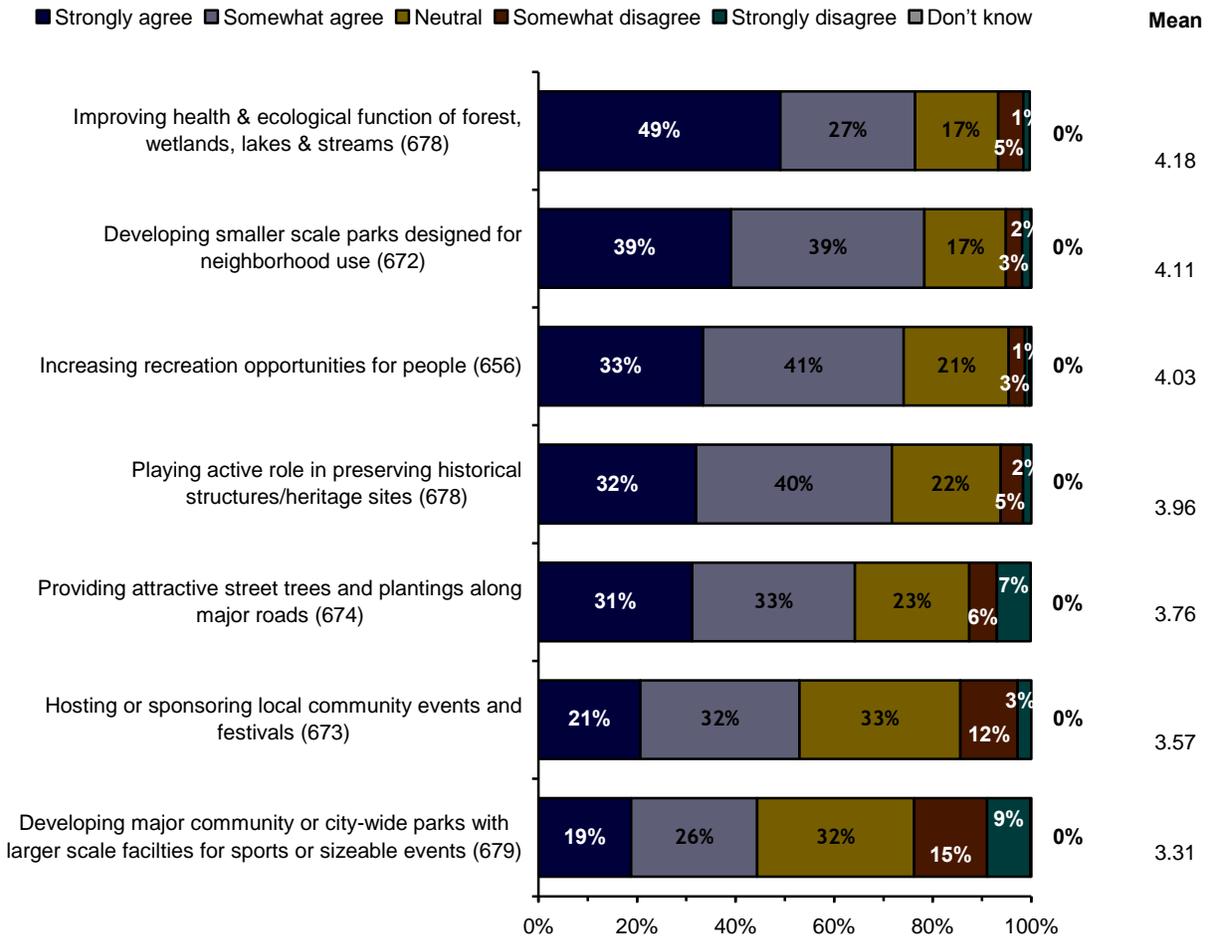


Question 10: Bellevue Parks & Community Services acquires and develops new parks and improves and redevelops existing park sites. Given what you know about the parks system, over the next ten years, should City investments be focused more on the acquiring new parkland and natural areas or focused more on developing and improving currently owned parks?

May not sum to 100% due to rounding and weighting.

Figure 5
Agreement with Parks Priority Statements
 All respondents

(Weighted bases shown below)



Questions 11A through 11G: Bellevue Parks & Community Services must prioritize limited funding to maintain existing parks, operate recreation programming and provide other community services. Keeping this information in mind, please indicated how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Bellevue Parks & Community Services should place a priority on...

Scale: Strongly agree (5), Somewhat agree (4), Neutral (3), Somewhat disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

