

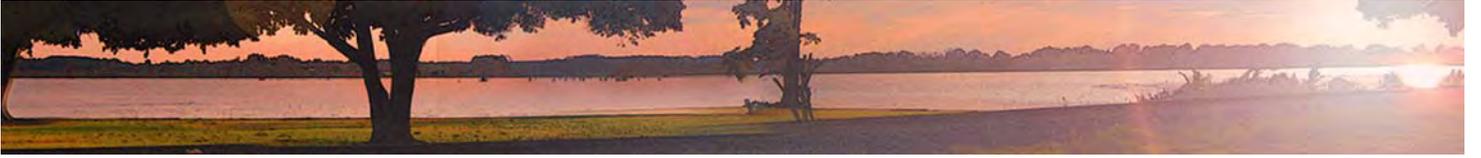


PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"The mission of the Washington Parks and Recreation Department is to encourage active, healthy living and environmental preservation through the provision of parks, facilities, open spaces, programs, and special events. The department is committed to safety and serving the diverse citizens and visitors of Washington with a dedicated professional staff."

- City of Washington Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

Introduction

The main purpose of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is to improve the recreational opportunities and quality of life for all citizens of Washington by identifying unmet needs. The Plan assesses the existing system of parks, facilities and programs of the City and makes recommendations for future development. It is meant to be used as a working guide or framework which will evolve over time through regular updates and public input.

The Plan recognizes the importance of the task of master planning to assist the Parks and Recreation Department contribute at its maximum potential to a high quality of life for the citizens of Washington. A well functioning park system offers many benefits including health, social, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

City of Washington Profile

Encompassing approximately 8.5 square miles, the City of Washington is the largest city in Beaufort County and is the County Seat. It lies where the freshwater Tar River becomes the Pamlico River and forms a broad brackish water estuary. Water quality problems in the estuary have led to algae blooms in the past. In fact, according to the City of Washington CAMA Land Use Plan, approximately 1/3 of the river basin's freshwater streams are impaired due to sediment, low pH, and fecal coliform. To help address this concern the City of Washington should do all it can to protect this valuable resource. Parks and Recreation can have a direct impact by procuring sensitive areas for preservation with responsible uses for recreation as a secondary aim, and also by being very careful to locate features which have a negative impact on water quality (like fertilized lawns and fields) a measured distance from the river and its tributaries.

According to the US Census Bureau, the population of Washington (corporate limits) was 9,744 in 2010. The population trends toward slow but steady growth that falls somewhat below the average growth rate for the State of North Carolina. According to forecasts by Holland Consulting Planners, based on the trend, in the year 2030 the City's population will be approximately 10,700 with the extra-jurisdictional areas adding an additional 4,400 persons.

The City of Washington's demographic profile reveals a population which is older than the State average and has a disproportionately higher number of women, and significantly lower than average mean household income.

Inventory and Evaluation of Existing Recreational Facilities

The City of Washington has approximately 144.6 acres of public parkland and centers/offices within its Parks and Recreation system, with the average park size being 5.56 acres.

National and State minimum standards are employed in this Master Plan as guides to help determine where the levels of service for Washington's park system fall short within a recognized metric. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and North Carolina Divi-



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sion of Parks and Recreation (NCDPR) developed the parks classification system used in this document as well as levels of service (LOS) standards. The NCDPR guidelines (where those standards exist) were used as the preferred measuring tools for the City of Washington as they reflect the non-urban conditions better than the NRPA guidelines, but the NRPA standards are also reported for the purpose of comparison.

When the standards are applied, the City of Washington meet the standards for combined parkland, but falls short within the categories “Mini-parks” and “District/Regional Parks”. Upon further review (referring to the Map on page 34), there is also a shortage in neighborhood parks due to a lack of distribution of these facilities. The parks that are adjacent to Jack’s Creek Greenway are counted in the assessment as individual “Neighborhood Parks”, but that cluster of parks actually functions together as a single “Community Park”. As depicted on the map on page 38, there are major areas of insufficient park coverage within the City of Washington. The optimum standard is for every citizen to have access to a public park within ¼ mile of home (best practice) or at least ½ mile. This is especially important for people with lower mobility (typical of an elderly population) and limited access to transportation (typical for youth, elderly and low income populations). In order to meet its mission to provide adequate services to all citizens, remedying deficiencies in areas of coverage should become a major goal for the Parks and Recreation Department.

NRPA standards were applied in the assessment of facilities. That evaluation revealed the City of Washington’s highest need as additional playgrounds. Tennis courts, a running/walking track, picnicking facilities and volleyball courts were also identified as facilities that are needed in Washington. But, as the NC Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) acknowledges, “recreation needs should be determined by the preferences of the people in the market area”. The SCORP criticizes the NRPA facilities standards as a “cookie cutter approach” when communities are unique. However, when considered as just one piece of information which can lead to a clearer understanding of how facilities measure according to a recognized standard, these guidelines are a useful tool, and interestingly, the standards correlate fairly well with the findings of the public input process.

Public Involvement

With an understanding of the importance of giving a voice to all citizens of the City of Washington, the comprehensive planning process employed a multi-faceted strategy to encourage the highest potential for broad participation from the community regarding opinions about Parks and Recreation.

East Carolina University’s Center for Survey Research (CSR) was engaged to conduct the process and facilitate the public response. A public opinion survey was conducted by the CSR, which transpired over a four-month period in order to assure a representative sample of at least 400 respondents. Public input was received in three different ways:

1. Public comment received through two Workshops, Focus Group meetings, and additional informal Stakeholder Interviews.
2. Random Sample Phone Interviews conducted in order to garner response from those who may not take the initiative to take the survey, or may not have access to a computer or visit locations where the surveys were offered. 421 participants responded in the Phone Interview.



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3. Voluntary User Response Questionnaires available as hard copies, and an online survey available to the community as well as visitors. This was the same survey that was provided in the phone interviews. A total of 236 participants completed the survey in this manner.

In conducting the Parks and Recreation needs assessment for the City of Washington, over six-hundred participants contributed to the effort in the form of public comment. The magnitude of information makes scaling information down in order to discern the consensus a daunting task. However, synthesis of the public process results identified the following priorities (top three of each category, in ranked order):

Stakeholder Interview/Workshop/Focus Group Comments:

- *More Activities for youth,*
- *Improved maintenance of existing facilities,*
- *Light sports fields*

Combined (Random and Voluntary) survey results determined participants have a "High Interest In":

- *Walking/jogging,*
- *Attending outdoor performances,*
- *Nature-related activities*

Combined survey results determined participants (or someone in their household) have "High Levels of Participation In":

- *Walking/jogging,*
- *Attending outdoor performances,*
- *Bicycling*

Combined survey results for participants agreed that "The City of Washington Needs More":

- *Community Events,*
- *Activities on Water,*
- *Trails/Greenways*

Combined survey results found participants agreed that "The City of Washington Would Benefit From":

- *Summer Programs,*
- *Downtown Bike Rentals,*
- *Waterfront Grocery Store*

SUMMARY OF UNMET NEEDS

Park-land Needs

Neighborhood Parks: The City will benefit from better disbursement throughout the community of this type facility. There especially needs to be better coverage in the western area of the city. A Gateway park would be an excellent addition on one of the major corridors into the city, and would serve double-duty if located as suggested on the map on page 38 as it would provide a park where needed based on the assessment.

Mini-parks (sometimes referred to as "pocket parks") are unique in a park system. They are not intended to serve an entire community, just the surrounding neighborhood, within a few



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square blocks. While small in size, a mini-park's value in the park system should not be underestimated. Mini-parks can serve a variety of functions: small event space, play space for children, space to relax and meet a friend or enjoy a lunch break. They need be no larger than approximately one-quarter acre, and can be even smaller. In residential neighborhoods (especially high density urban environments), they serve as communal back yards. They may also occur in commercial districts, where they are places of respite for tired shoppers, tourists, and employees on lunch breaks. Mini-parks may take many forms. A community garden might be a welcome addition in a community that wants to help its neighbors develop healthy eating habits. Whatever is done – it is important to work with area residents so that the facility is tailored to their needs and desires. This is the key to creating a mini-park which is well used and cared for.

District/Regional Parks: The McConnell Sports Complex is Washington's only District park. There should be improvements to maximize its potential as a regional draw. If plans are carried out to implement the Tar River Nature Park, it could serve as a second District/Regional Park. This is recommended as that facility would provide for other publicly expressed needs... more trails, a place to launch paddle boats, and possibly swimming and camping. As there is a growing trend toward nature-related recreation, the Tar River Nature Park should be designed for conservation, with low-impact human activities.

Land Banking and Conservation: As Washington grows in population and land mass there will be a growing demand for parks, and a diminishing availability of land within the corporate boundary. In the interest of water quality, scenic quality, and habitat preservation, land should be acquired for the purpose of conservation and -in some areas- low impact recreation.

Facility Needs

- Maintenance of existing facilities (general)
 - Improvements to existing facilities. Especially:
 - Lights on sports fields, marking of fields, concession and restroom facilities at McConnell*
 - Add parking at the Senior Center*
- Address sub-standard levels of service for:
 - Playgrounds (need at least 4 more)*
 - Running/walking track*
 - Tennis courts*
 - Picnic facilities*
 - Volleyball courts*
- Address need for facilities as expressed in high levels of public interest:
 - Improved facilities for baseball (both play and practice areas)*
 - Soccer fields*
 - Paddle trails*
 - Greenway trails*
 - Public Swimming Pool (possibly a "Sprayground" if a pool is not feasible)*
 - Facilities for bicycling*
 - Senior-friendly exercise equipment along trails and in parks*



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Program Needs

- "Summer programs"
- After school youth activities
- Organized sports leagues
- Nature-related programming (bird watching or seasonal migrating bird count; nature tours, etc)

Other Needs

- More effective means of communications regarding events and activities;
- "More lively waterfront"... Especially on Sundays.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Prioritize meeting the demands of deferred maintenance of existing facilities before beginning new projects.

- Correct staffing level insufficiencies. According to staffing standards set by the International City/County Management Association, Parks and Recreation Departments should have at least one full-time maintenance person for every 18 to 20 acres with a best practice standard of 12:1. The City of Washington currently has a ratio of 28:1.
- Maintenance deficiencies include, but are not limited to:
 - Repair tennis courts
 - Fix drainage issues on fields
- Develop maintenance schedule which is more proactive than reactive
- Coordinate with sports leagues to rotate fields and allow time for turf recovery
- Implement an "Adopt-A-Park" program
- Consider measures to discourage geese in locations where they are a particular nuisance.

Refer to the recommendations of other master plans for the City of Washington in tandem with this plan for additional clues and insights (especially in specific areas, such as the Waterfront)

Enhance overall perception of safety at facilities

- Install "Blue Light" call boxes
- Improve sidewalk system as necessary for safer access routes to existing and future parks.
- Clearer wayfinding (signage, etc)

Secure environmentally sensitive areas and develop environmental education programming (especially with an interest in water quality)

Consistent signage for City Parks (perhaps part of an overall visual branding for the City)

Strengthen relationships and establish new partnership opportunities

- Coordinate interdepartmental and inter-jurisdictional opportunities to facilitate plans and optimize resources.
- Consider public/private partnerships as opportunities to satisfy new parks needs.
- Consider additional Joint Use Agreements.



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- Develop volunteer programs

Acquire property to meet park facility needs of underserved areas.

Increase facilities where deficiencies are recognized

- Playgrounds
- Relocate soccer to its own facility
- Add new lighted baseball field to accommodate adult play
- Additional batting cages at McConnell
- Picnic facilities
- Running/walking track
- Outdoor, senior-friendly fitness equipment

Integrate Parks and Recreation activities with tourism initiatives

- Capitalize on the national (as well as local) trend toward greater participation in “nature related activities” and eco-tourism.
 - Move forward with the Tar River Nature Park.
 - Coordinate with the Estuarium.
 - Expand upon the potential to have regional tournaments at McConnell Sports Complex.

Build upon marketing efforts during tournaments

More water-related activities

- “Sprayground” as a cost effective alternative to the desire for an outdoor public pool.
- Establish a public access area for water-related activities in the river.

ISSUES WHICH MERIT FURTHER STUDY

- Are there privately owned park facilities which are (or could be) open to the public which can help offset any of the deficiencies identified?
- What real estate might be available for conservation planning and land banking?
- Public debate and expert analysis on the issue of fuel on the Waterfront.
- What are the potential points of connectivity to a broader trail system the city could build upon?
- Feasibility study on bicycle rentals.



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SECTION 1- INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Plan

The main purpose of this Plan is to improve the recreational opportunities and the quality of life for all citizens of the City of Washington by identifying potential locations and development of new parks, recreational facilities and programs; in addition to improving and/or expanding existing parks, facilities, and programs. This Plan is intended to serve as a guide for the City to facilitate decision-making and action in further development of a citywide system of parks, facilities, and programs that serve the entire population. The Plan assesses the existing system of parks, facilities, and programs in the City and makes recommendations for the future development. It also identifies goals, objectives, actions, and strategies for making the community's vision a reality.

This Plan is intended to be used as a working guide or framework that will evolve over time through regular updates and public input. The Plan provides short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations to meet the current needs of the City of Washington.

Parks and recreation facilities provide a variety of complementary benefits essential for a healthy, livable and economically thriving community. These benefits range from health, social, economic, and environmental, which all contribute to a high quality of life.



BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Health

Top health officials from organizations such as US Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control have provided scientific evidence that access to parks and recreation facilities leads to healthy lifestyles for people of all ages. Activities in parks can build self-esteem, reduce stress and improve overall wellness.

According to the NRPA, children that have easy access to a playground (less than 2/3 miles from their home) are approximately five times

more likely to have a healthy weight than children who do not have easy access to playgrounds.

Parks and recreation planning can make a difference in the health of communities. In Montgomery, Alabama in 2010, leadership from parks and recreation helped reduce the obesity rate from 34 to 30.9 percent in 2012. Montgomery went from the most obese city in the nation to 15th in just two years.¹

The NC Governor's Council on Physical Fitness promotes "local physical activity" by helping to educate citizens and advocating for health and nutrition policies and regulations.

The Council asserts that successful individual change is difficult to sustain without the support of communities which provide opportunities to incorporate healthy lifestyles into a daily routine. Facilities should be diverse and universally accessible. ²



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Social

Parks and recreation facilities give a community a vital identity. Well-maintained, accessible parks and recreation facilities are key elements of strong, safe, family-friendly communities. When people have an opportunity to recreate together they connect with one another and build bonds.

“True to the very philosophy of public parks and recreation is the idea that all people – no matter the color of their skin, age, income level or ability – has access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great.” ³

Economic

Parks enhance property values, contribute to healthy and productive workforces and help attract and retain businesses. Parks and recreation services motivate business relocation and expansion in the community. Recreation and park services are often the catalyst for

tourism- a growing sector of Washington’s economy. According to the NC Department of Commerce, tourism increased 5.07 percent from 2010 to 2011, representing a net increase of 3.4 million dollars in tourist dollars. With the restored waterfront and Festival Park, Washington is poised to attract recreational fishermen, boaters, and paddlers as well as others.

Proximity to public parks also has economic impacts for homeowners. The Trust for Public Land conducted a survey which found that having an immediately adjacent park contributed as much as 20 percent marginal value to a residential property. ⁴

Meaningful leisure services can also reduce vandalism and criminal activity. Community recreation reduces social alienation, promotes a sense of community pride, and offers an alternative to getting in trouble.

Environmental

Parks play a key role in preserving water and air quality, reducing congestion and protecting wildlife. People learn about the environment in parks and take those lessons home with them.

The National Recreation and Park Association’s [NRPA] goal is to place public parks and recreation at the forefront of conservation and environmental stewardship nationally by facilitating and promoting conservation leadership in every community. NRPA believes that park and recreation agencies should be leaders in conservation within their communities through planning, stewardship, and public engagement. ⁴

As the population of North Carolina increases so does the need to identify and protect the most important natural lands. The *NC Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) states that natural resource conservation is central to the mission of the state parks system. ⁵

In a region as rich in natural resources as Washington, there is great opportunity to follow the states initiative to preserve habitat and establish a strong basis to attract eco-tourism dollars.

1. Potwarka, L.R., Kaczynski A.T. & Flack,A.L., Places to Play: Association of Park Space and Facilities with Healthy Weight among Children, *Journal of Preventative MedicineCommunity Health*, pp 344-350, 2008.

2. *Local Physical Activity & Nutrition Coalition Manual: Guide for Community Action*. Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in cooperation with NC Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Health. 2001.

3. <http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Social-Equity/>

4. *The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space: How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line*. The Trust for Public Land. 1999. Retrieved November 2013, from http://www.tpl.org/tier2_cl.cfm?folder_id=725

5. *North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013*; NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, p 1-1, 2008.



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PLANNING EFFORTS AND INTEGRATION

The planning approach used for plan development involved four phases **1-** Inventory and Analysis, **2-** Needs Assessment, **3-** Plan Development, and **4-** Plan Refinement and Approval.

Phase 1 – Inventory & Analysis

This phase involved an inventory and analysis of existing infrastructure and data. Rather than focusing on the past, the Plan documents the present conditions and predicts trends, which will shape the future.

In Phase 1 the planning team:

- Compiled existing data (relevant plans and ordinances, census, historical/cultural);
- Analyzed demographics, social, and physical trends in the region that may impact or affect recreation needs and demands for the next 5, 10, and 15 years;
- Conducted an evaluation of existing programs and facilities under the purview of Parks and Recreation in the City of Washington;
- Compiled inventory findings into tables, charts, and maps to assess the existing level of service provided; and
- Summarized available programs and facilities and compared against appropriate standards.

Phase 2 – Needs Assessment

This phase included conducting needs assessment to determine the recreational needs and use patterns of residents. The assessment was based on information received through the public input process, stakeholder and/or focus group meetings, public opinion surveys, and contact with government officials and private citizens.

Phase 2 contained the following tasks or steps:

- Conducted interviews with stakeholders regarding current conditions and

desired service levels;

- Held two public meetings to receive public input on current and future needs;
- Surveyed the City of Washington citizens to determine what facilities, programs, and services are important to them;
- Tabulated and analyzed survey results and comments from all public outreach methods; and
- Identified and summarized the unmet recreational needs of the City of Washington.



Consulting team member inviting Washington residents to participate in online survey



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Phase 3 – Plan Development

- Based upon Phase 1 and 2, a draft plan was developed. Phase 3 contained the following tasks or steps:
- Developed specific recommendations for programs, parks, and facilities for the next 10 years;
- Developed general recommendations for the next 10 years; and
- Worked with the City of Washington Parks and Recreation Staff to develop an action plan to meet specific needs.

Phase 4 – Plan Refinement and Approval

With input from the City of Washington's Parks and Recreation Staff and Master

Plan Committee and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Draft Plan was presented to the City Council for refinement and adoption.

 Help Improve Washington!!!

Recreation Survey

Take a Survey & Spread the Word!

<http://tinyurl.com/washingtonparks>

Washington's Comprehensive Recreation Plan is being developed by: The City of Washington, Rivers & Associates, Inc. and ECU Center for Survey Research



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SECTION 2– CITY OF WASHINGTON PROFILE

Geography

Encompassing approximately 8.49 square miles, the City of Washington is the largest city within Beaufort County and the County Seat. The City has a rich history of shipping and waterfront development. Historically, agriculture has been a predominant industry, but manufacturing is the economic mainstay, and finance, insurance, and hospitality (tourism) are gaining ground.

At Washington, the freshwater Tar River (which originates as a spring in Person County) flows into the Pamlico River. The brackish water where the two water bodies meet forms an estuary with a wide, shallow bed and rich ecological diversity.

In 1989, the Tar-Pamlico River Basin was designated as Nutrient Sensitive waters. According to the City of Washington’s CAMA Land-Use Plan, almost 1/3 of the freshwater streams in the basin are impaired due to sediment, low pH, and fecal coliform.

Water quality problems in the estuary have led to algae blooms, fish kills, toxic dinoflagellates, diseased crabs and fish, and closed shellfish waters. A 30% goal reduction in nitrogen loading into the river was recommended by the plan.

Washington is located in the lower coastal plain physiographic province of North Carolina. The city’s terrain averages about ten feet above sea level, and generally slopes from the north and west towards the south and east, with slopes ranging from level to 4%. The low-lying land and proximity to surface

water make flooding due to storm surge and wind driven tides associated with hurricanes or other tropical weather events a considerable threat for city residents.

Floodplains

The low elevations, hydric soils, and presence of surface waters collectively create a system of Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) throughout the city. A SFHA is defined as a land area with a greater than 1% chance per year of flooding and is also known as a “floodplain.” Approximately 51% of Washington and 44% of the area in the City’s extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) lies within a SFHA.

Coastal Wetlands

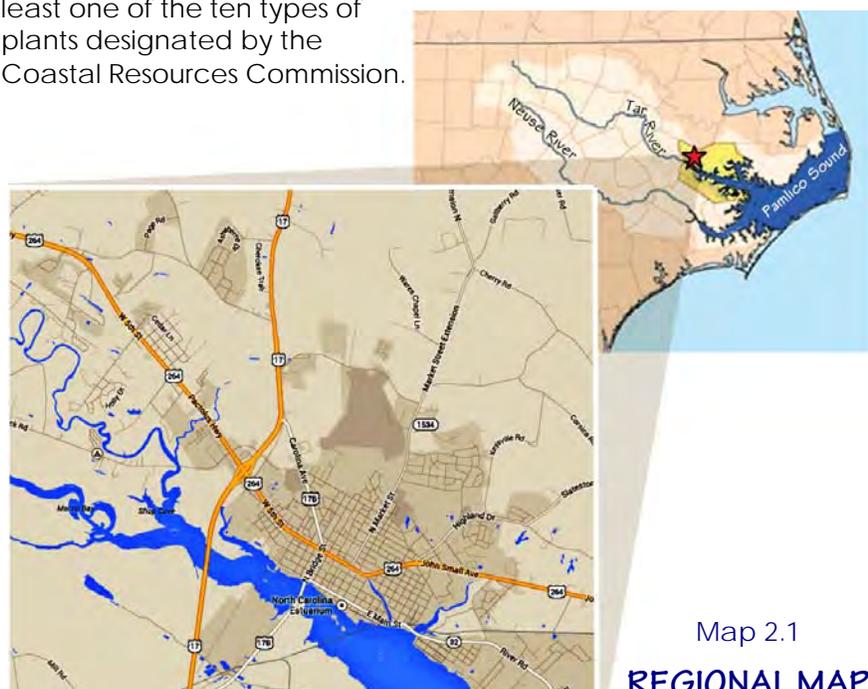
Coastal wetlands are marshes that periodically flood by lunar or wind tides, and that have at least one of the ten types of plants designated by the Coastal Resources Commission.

Coastal wetlands are one of Washington’s “Areas of Environmental Concern”. According to NC Department of Coastal Management’s 2003 Coastal Wetlands Inventory, approximately 129 acres of the city, or 2.51% of the city’s land area, is classified as coastal wetlands.

Transportation

Washington is bisected by US 17, which serves as the major north/south corridor, and Hwy 264, which is the areas primary east/west corridor connecting the coastal region to western North Carolina.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) recently completed a new second bridge over the Tar River as well as the Hwy 17 Bypass around Washington ,which



Map 2.1

REGIONAL MAP



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changes traffic patterns and needs to be accounted for when locating regional parks and recreation facilities.

NCDOT is currently working with Beaufort County and the City of Washington on an update to the regional transportation plan and programs for funding additional road improvements.

The new Beaufort County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) includes coordination with the communities of Aurora, Bath, Belhaven, Pantego, Chowhinity, Washington, and Washington Park. A draft plan with recommendations for priority improvements was drafted in 2012.

Public transportation services are provided by the Beaufort Area Transit System (BATS). BATS

was established through partnership between Beaufort County and the NC Department of Transportation to meet the needs of the general public, special needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities, and disadvantaged persons for whom mass transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. The system provides rural residents with access to employment, education, social events, medical and recreational activities.

Washington is served by twice-per-day Greyhound bus service, taxi service, and rental car agencies.

Offering regional air transportation near the City of Washington are Pitt County- City of Greenville Airport, and the Coastal Car-

olina Regional Airport in New Bern. Raleigh Durham International and Norfolk International in Virginia are the closest major airports.

The City of Washington has its own airfield, Warren Field (OCW), for private aviation services. This facility has great potential for growth and contribution to Washington's economic activity, and represents an important opportunity as the City of Washington continues to explore ways to attract businesses and employment centers.

As for alternative transportation, an initiative with the Mid-East Commission to prepare a new Bicycle Master Plan for the City of Washington is in the works.

Table 2.1 CITY OF WASHINGTON CLIMATIC CONDITIONS BY MONTH

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temp. (°F)	42	44.4	51.9	59.9	67.9	75.2	79.2	77.8	72.6	61.8	53.3	45.2
High temperature (°F)	52.3	55.2	63.1	71.7	78.7	85.3	88.8	87.3	82.5	73.2	64.7	55.9
Low temperature (°F)	31.6	33.5	40.7	48.2	57	65	69.5	68.2	62.6	50.4	41.7	34.4
Precipitation (in)	4.1	3.4	4.2	3.4	4.2	4.3	5.5	5.4	5.1	3.5	3.0	3.0
Days with precip.	11	10	11	9	10	9	12	11	9	8	9	10
Wind speed (mph)	10.2	10.4	10.8	10.5	9.5	9.1	8.6	8.2	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.7
Morning humidity (%)	80	79	80	79	83	85	87	88	87	86	83	81
Afternoon humidity (%)	62	59	57	54	60	63	65	66	64	60	59	61
Sunshine (%)	51	54	61	66	63	64	63	62	62	61	57	51
Days clear of clouds	9	9	10	10	9	7	7	8	10	12	11	10
Partly cloudy days	7	5	7	9	10	11	11	11	9	8	8	7
Cloudy days	16	14	14	11	13	12	13	12	11	12	12	14
Snowfall (in)	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7

Source: State Climate Office of North Carolina.



CITY OF WASHINGTON



Red-cockaded Woodpecker www.fws.gov

REGIONAL SCENIC, NATURAL, AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

At the regional scale, Washington is rich in natural resource parks which provide facilities such as camp grounds, canoeing, boating, fishing, biking, and hiking.

Over 300 miles of paddle trails have been mapped in the Pamlico River basin around Washington according to "littlewashingtonnc.com".

Washington is the home of Goose Creek State Park. In addition to water related activities, hiking trails, and camping, Goose Creek State Park's Environmental Education Center hosts workshops and training programs as well as exhibits for visitors.

Within an hours drive, residents can enjoy Mattamuskeet, Pocosin Lakes, Roanoke River and Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuges.

These and other open space resources are very beneficial to the economy of Eastern North Carolina. Recreational preferences are trending away from team sports and favoring activities that involve interaction with nature. There is great opportunity to create jobs that cater to these recreational visitors. 6

Table 2.2 Beaufort County Endangered and Threatened Species*

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status
Vertebrates	American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	FSC
	Atlantic Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	E
	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGPA
	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens waynei</i>	FSC
	Carolina Gopher Frog	<i>Rana capito capito</i>	FSC
	Eastern Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii susurrans</i>	FSC
	Atlantic Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	E
	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	FSC
	Red Wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	EXP
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
	West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	E
Vascular Plant	Grassleaf Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria weatherbiana</i>	FSC
	Rough-leaved Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i>	E
	Sensitive Joint-vetch	<i>Aeschynomene virginica</i>	T
	Venus Fly-trap	<i>Dionaea muscipula</i>	FSC

E = endangered

T = threatened

FSC = Federal Species of Concern

BGPA = Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle

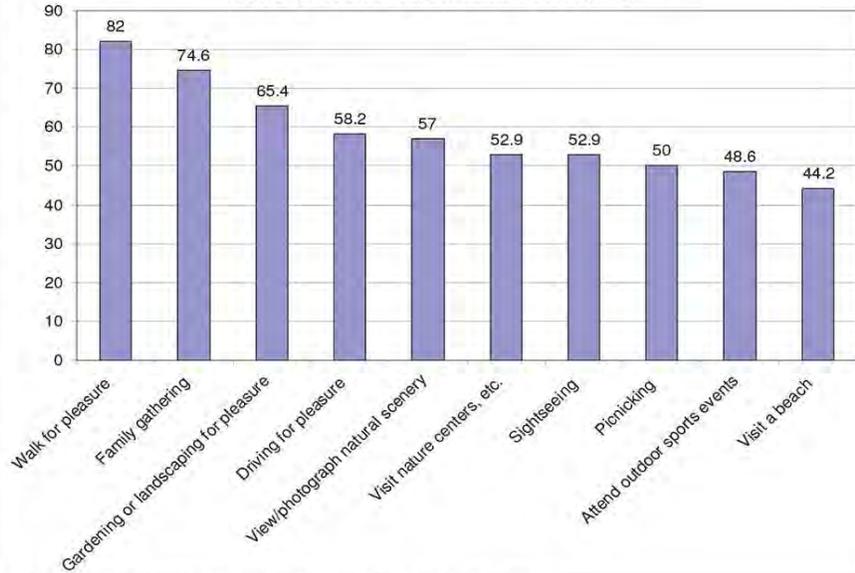
EXP = Experimental Population (treated as protected on public land)

* list does not include all protected species and is ever-changing. Refer to federal and local laws when developing where protected species are suspected.

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service;

www.fws.gov/raleigh/species/cntylist/beaufort.html

Table 2.3 North Carolina's Top 10 Recreational Activities According to Percentage of Residents Participating



source: North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009 - 2013

6. North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013; NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, p 1-1, 2008.



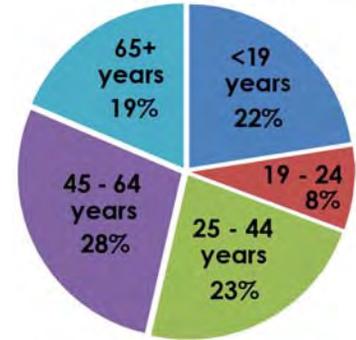
COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the City of Washington has grown steadily in population since 1980. Annexation of adjacent areas, the development of subdivisions along the eastern and western edges of the City, and the natural increase in population has attributed to the growth. However, the *rate* of growth has been slowly declining since 1990, with a significant drop in the last decade.

Growth The City's growth rate has been relatively slow compared to Beaufort County and State rates, and continues to decrease. Over the last decade, the City's growth rate was just 1.7%, while Beaufort County's growth rate was 6.2% and the North Carolina growth rate was 18.5%.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



Age The median age was 41.6 years. The median age in Beaufort County was slightly older at 43.8. The median age of North Carolinians was reported to be 37.4. This is reflective of a pattern which will likely continue into the future as the Mountains and Coastal regions are attractive retirement destinations while the Piedmont Region of the State attracts business and commerce.

In the years to come Washington's population will likely include a larger percentage of seniors and lower percentages of persons under 65 than the

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Total Population	8,961	8,418	9,075	9,583	9,744
Percent Change	n/a	-6.10%	7.80%	5.60%	1.70%

Table 2.5 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2005*	2010*	2015*	2020*	2025*	2030*
City of Washington Corporate Limits	9,671	9,954	10,173	10,392	10,541	10,707
City of Washington ETJ**	3,997	4,114	4,204	4,295	4,357	4,425
City of Washington Total Planning Area	13,668	14,068	14,377	14,687	14,898	15,132
Beaufort County (Excluding City and ETJ)	32,383	33,331	34,064	34,797	35,295	35,852
Beaufort County (Total)	46,051	47,399	48,441	49,484	50,193	50,984
% of Total (City)	29.7%	29.7%	29.7%	29.7%	29.7%	29.7%

*Forecast only. Beaufort County figures are produced by the NCSDO, City figures by Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., based on assumption that City will retain 29.7% of total County population throughout the forecast period.

**ETJ population is based on Holland Consulting Planners' estimates.

Source: NCSDO and Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



CITY OF WASHINGTON

present population. While this is a trend that is being seen around the nation as the baby boomer generation ages, the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) projects that Beaufort County will have a considerably higher percentage of adults over the age of 65 than the state of North Carolina over the next two decades.

According to the National Vital Statistics Office, in 2005 life expectancy was 77.8 years (75.2 for men and 80.4 for women). Medical advancements are also keeping us healthier longer. The Duke Center for Demographic Studies reports that Medicare recipients are much less likely to be disabled than 20 years ago. With longer, healthier lives, people are participating in their favorite activities longer in life creating an increased demand for recreation areas and facilities.

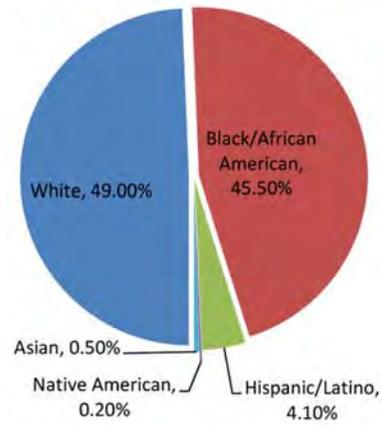
Race Beaufort County has experienced an increase in white population while the City of Washington's ethnic makeup remains fairly constant.

The City of Washington is far below the regional and statewide averages for all measures of income and economic wellbeing, and African-Americans are over four times more likely to live below the poverty line than whites.

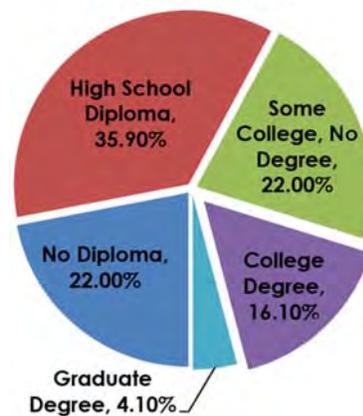
Education The high school completion rate compares favorably with the Beaufort County statistic of 33.8%. In the County 28.1 percent have achieved an Associates degree or higher.

Gender The 2010 Census data indicates that of the 9,744 citizens counted, 5,417 were females and 4,327 males.

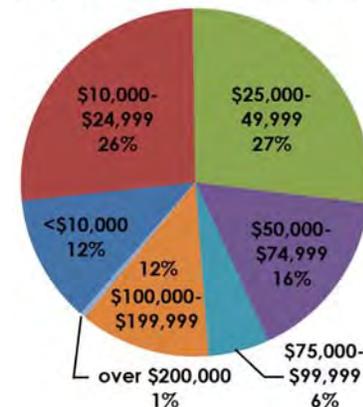
RACIAL DISTRIBUTION



EDUCATION



HOUSEHOLD INCOME



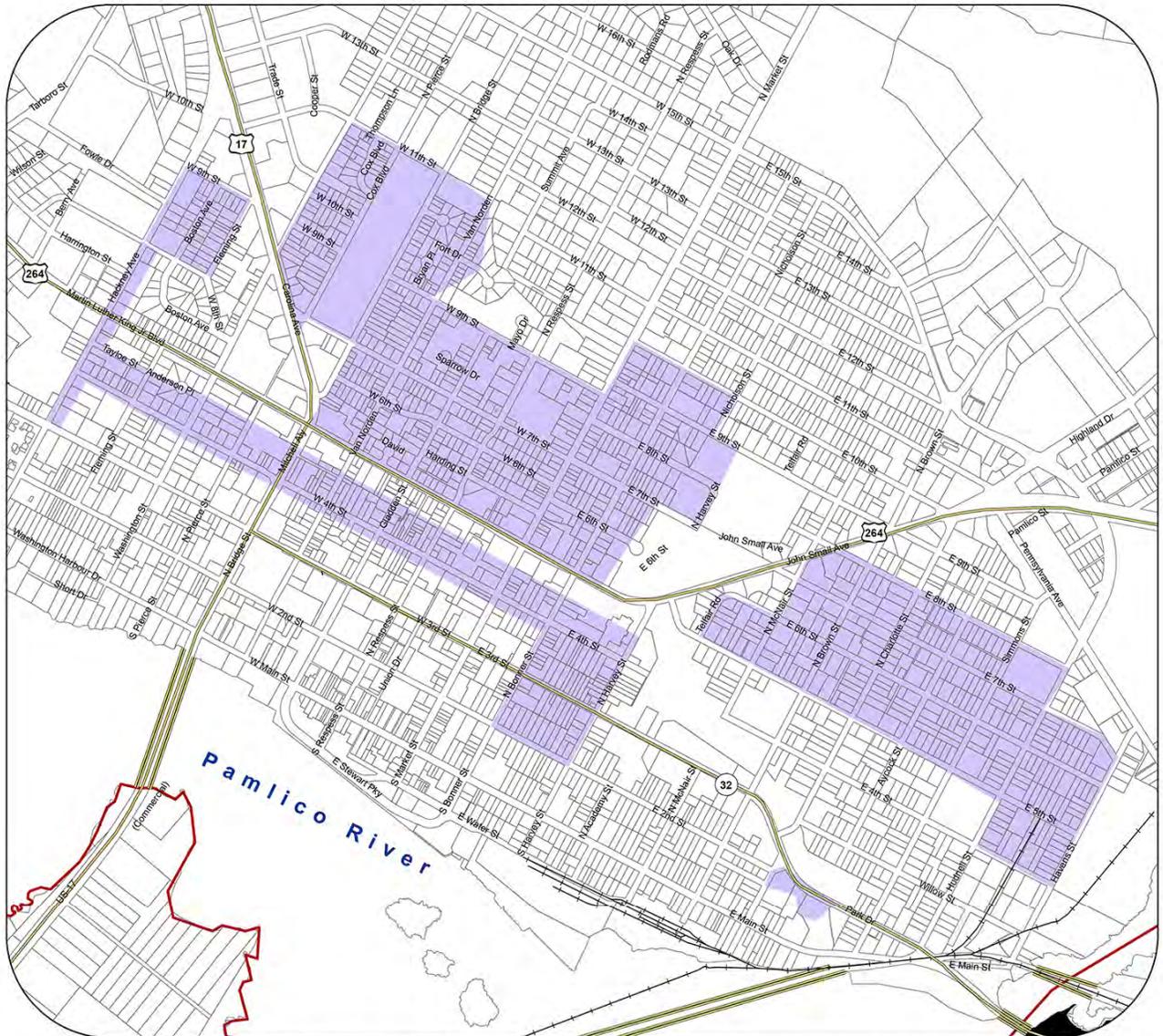
Industry	% of Workforce*
Education/Healthcare/Social Ass't	30.1
Arts/Entertainment, Recreation, Hospitality	11.8
Manufacturing	10.9
Retail Trade	8.6
Construction	7.8
Professional, Scientific, Administrative	7.2
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.1
Public Administration	4
Agriculture, Fishing, Forestry, Mining	2.9
Wholesale Trade	2.4
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	2.1
Information	0.6
Other	6.7

* Civilian employed population aged 16 and over



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The gender differential in Washington between men and women is much higher than the national average. This indicates that there is probably a higher than average incidence of women heading a household with no husband present. Numerous studies have documented the fact that women-headed households suffer a disproportionately high rate of poverty.



Areas of Substandard Housing

Legend	
	City Limits
	Substandard Housing
	Bridges
	Washington Park Planning Area
	Railroads
	Major Roads

Source: City of Washington CAMA Land Use Plan





CITY OF WASHINGTON

MASTER PLAN INTEGRATION



2008 WASHINGTON PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Washington’s City Council adopted the City’s previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan in February 2008. The Plan inventoried and evaluated the city’s 29 parks/facilities, noting the constraints, as well as the potential for each park/facility. The Plan also compared the City facilities with National standards and while the Plan found the City generally providing adequate facilities, it also recognized there were some unmet needs in the community.

Based on that finding, the Plan recommended:

- Building both a West Side and North Side Park;
- Making the temporary Dock Station and Restroom Facilities permanent facilities;
- Adding parking at Bobby Andrews Recreation Center;

- Building a gymnasium; and
- Developing additional adult athletic fields.

The Plan also recommended a Landscape Beautification Plan for all current and future city properties and incorporating the Harbor Management Plan into the Recreation Master Plan. The Plan included general policies and guidelines for the city to consider with respect to recreation and park facilities.

A few of Parks and Recreation Accomplishments since Implementation of last Master Plan:

- Expand awareness of facilities
- Actively seek grants and other funding opportunities
- Additional parking with ADA accessibility at Bobby Andrews
- Integrate tourism activities with Parks and Recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Washington Parks and Recreation Department is to encourage active, healthy living and environmental preservation through the provision of parks, facilities, open spaces, programs, and special events. The department is committed to safety and serving the diverse citizens and visitors of Washington with a dedicated professional staff.”



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

CITY OF WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA CAMA CORE LAND USE PLAN

In 2007 Washington adopted the CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) Land Use Plan which describes composite environmental conditions and problems and mandates steps for mitigation.

CAMA was established in an effort to recognize and respond to coastal area environmental threats. It provides a management system capable of preserving valuable ecological resources "on behalf of the people of North Carolina and the nation".

According to the CAMA Land Use Plan, State designated fragile areas in coastal North Carolina include coastal wetlands, ocean beaches and shorelines, estuarine waters and shorelines, public trust water, complex natural areas, areas sustaining remnant species, unique geological formations, registered natural landmarks, swamps, prime wildlife habitats, areas of excessive slope, areas of excessive erosion, scenic points, archeological sites, historical sites, wetlands. In addition, maritime forests and outstanding resource waters are also included but not formally designated by the state. Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) for Washington include coastal wetlands,

estuarine waters, estuarine shorelines, and public trust areas.

These areas were mapped and evaluated as part of the CAMA planning process. A composite map of environmentally sensitive areas was developed to identify three tiers of potential for land development limitations and hazards. Most land in Washington and its ETJ is considered suitable for development, however, much of the land south of the Tar/Pamlico is unsuitable due to severe environmental constraints (such as wetlands).

This plan also identifies issues judged to be significant to Washington's growth and environment over the next 20 years. The top 10 in descending order were:

- Improve Central Business District
- Minimize negative impacts of Hwy 17 Bypass
- Developing and improving gateways into the City
- Feasibility and cost of capital improvements
- Prioritization of Areas of Annexation
- Accommodating multiple uses of the river
- Stabilizing and improving neighborhoods adjacent to historic district



CITY OF WASHINGTON

- Strengthening code enforcement
- Promoting the City
- Encouraging Recreational uses on southern shore of Tar/Pamlico

The CAMA Plan cites three “Regionally Significant Parks” which, though not of particular significance from an environmental preservation standpoint, attract a significant number of visitors from outside the City limits:

- Havens Garden Park and 7th Street Park
- Stewart Parkway and Waterfront Docks
- Susiegray McConnell Sports Complex

The CAMA Land Use Plan advocates following “Smart Growth” principles and practices in the implementation of new development in Washington. Those principles are:

- Mix land uses
- Compact building design
- Range of housing opportunities and choices
- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.

- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective.
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

According to the CAMA Land Use Plan, the City of Washington will give priority protection to the following shoreline assets:

- Pamlico/Tar River,
- Hardwood swamps on the south side of the river and the Tar River National Heritage Priority area,

- US 17 bridge and causeway
- Stewart Parkway and recreation area,
- Washington Civic Center,
- NC Estuarium
- Castle Island,
- Havens Gardens,
- City of Washington Historic District,
- Tranters Creek NC Wildlife boat ramp,
- Washington Central Business District,
- City of Washington greenway system,
- Carolina Winds Yacht Club,
- Stewart Parkway Bulkhead Boat Dock.





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

CITY OF WASHINGTON 2023 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City's Comprehensive Plan provides a framework for overall strategic planning in Washington. It targets specific areas for consideration and creates a structured hierarchy to describe four levels of planning;

Vision– describes long term aspirations;

Goals– a statement about intended directions; and

Objectives– provides more specific guidance intended to direct policymaking.

Action Strategies– specific action steps toward achieving objectives.

This Plan lists ten major issue areas. For the purposes of this document, each of the 10 categories will be summarized with a perspective toward how the issue relates to parks and recreation:

Downtown/Waterfront Area:

Viewed as the City's core of "commerce, culture, and community", any development should capitalize on the sense of place provided by the river and historic character of the district. Enhancing and protecting the river is considered a priority. The plan suggests increasing

public infrastructure in the district with multiple components to appeal to a variety of users.

Specific recommendations (some of which the City has accomplished):

- provide space for events like Farmers Markets and concerts at Festival Park;
- expand municipal boat slips along with successful managing and marketing.

Economic Development:

Availability of quality facilities and public services is recognized as an important economic driver.

Community Appearance:

Visual character is enhanced by locating public improvements along well traveled corridors and at gateway locations.

Historic Preservation:

Find ways to connect visitors with an "authentic historical experience". The plan suggests the potential to re-use vintage buildings for residential and non-residential purposes in order to avoid demolition.

Tourism and Eco-Tourism:

The City's Comprehensive Master Plan recognizes a need to protect the City's

natural resources, for its own sake as well as for the potential to attract visitors. "The City of Washington will be a center of walking, biking, boating, and fishing activities that promote appreciation, preservation, and use of environmentally sensitive land and water features in the surrounding City."

Specific recommendations:

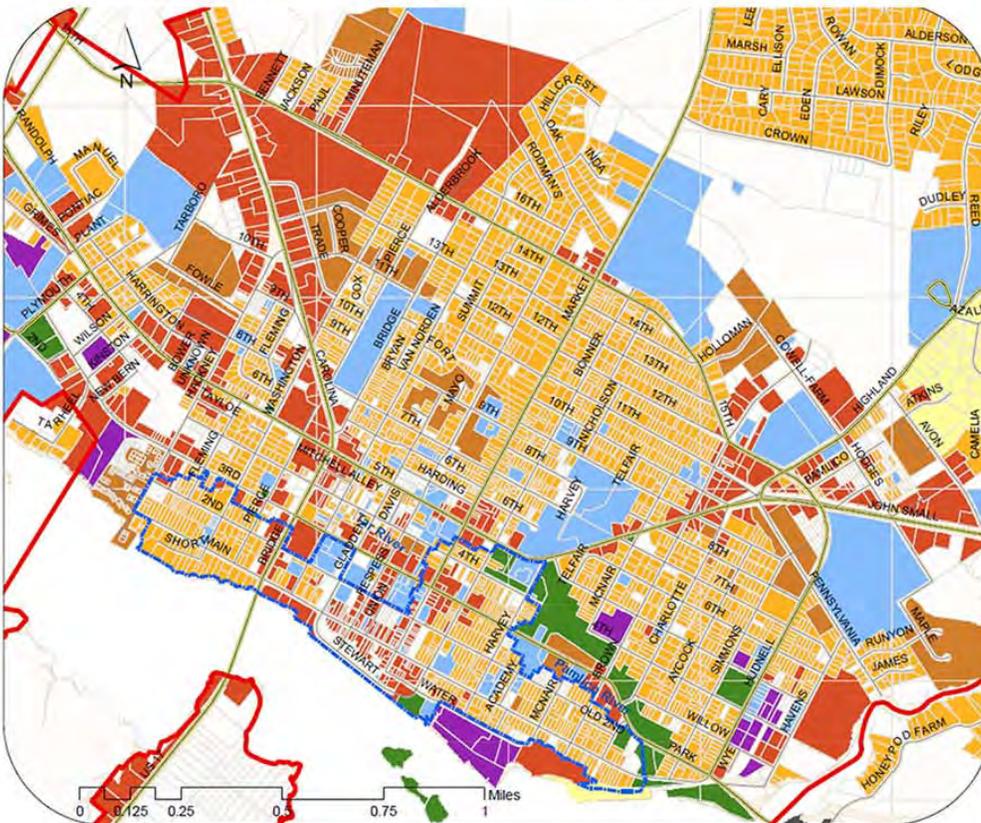
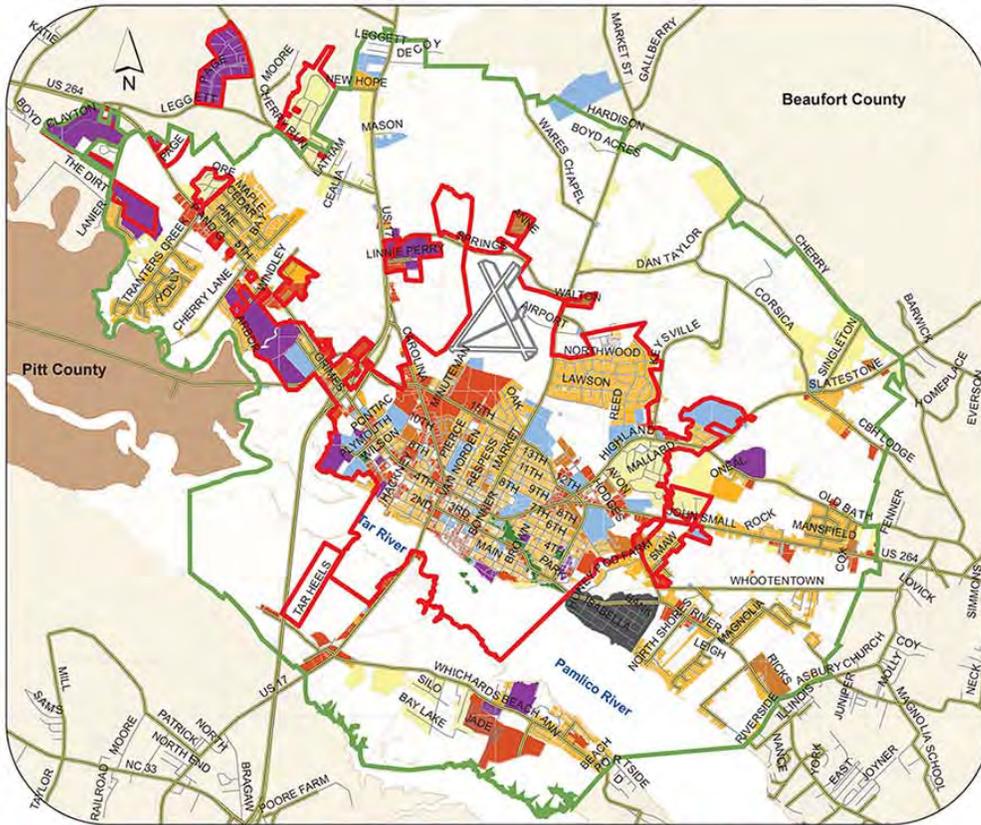
- Identify new opportunities to attract recreational boaters and outdoor activity;
- increase public access to water;
- provide non-motorized craft access ramps for the safety of paddlers;
- Improve the infrastructure (such as benches, boater bathrooms, a dock attendant's station and other amenities) at City docks;
- develop community pier;
- pursue construction of greenways and walking trails.

Transportation and Mobility:

Provide safe, convenient, and efficient opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian movement.

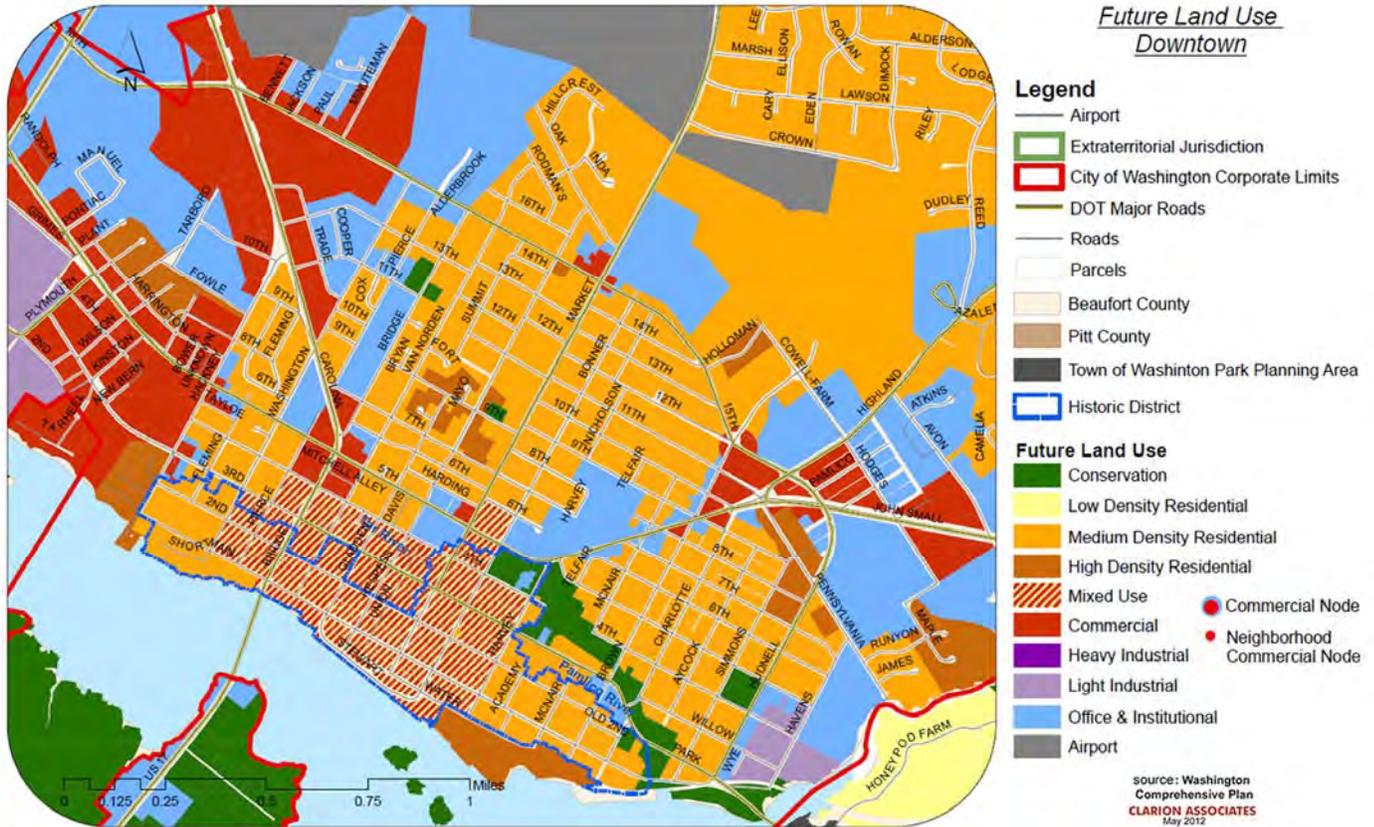


CITY OF WASHINGTON





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Public Facilities and Services:

“Parks and open space facilities, as well as programming, will meet the needs of the full community, including families, youth, seniors, and citizens with special needs.” The *City of Washington 2023 Comprehensive Plan* mandates a recreational facilities assessment, as found in this Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, to determine what has an immediate need, and what needs can be foreseen projecting into the future. It encourages a range of recreational programming to suit the varying

needs of this diverse community, as well as the evaluation of recreational trends and preference changes within the community.

The City is advised to meet or exceed State requirements to improve water quality including implementing best management practices for stormwater, erosion, and sediment control.

“Public facilities and public lands will be utilized at their highest and best use, except for lands in environmentally sensitive locations, where conservation should

be the objective.”

Commercial Business Districts:

Provision of a mix of facilities and amenities which draws patronage for local businesses.

Housing:

All people who live in Washington should have access to a decent place to live and work.

Neighborhoods:

Preserve the character and enhance the quality of the City’s existing neighborhoods. Promote livability and sense of community, as well as access to amenities appropriate to neighborhood character and scale.



CITY OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON WATERFRONT
VISUALIZATION & REINVESTMENT
STRATEGY

The Waterfront Plan calls for “well designed parks and recreational amenities” to support the downtown and waterfront experience. It calls for gathering spaces and children’s play areas closer to the water’s edge. According to this plan, design alternatives should:

- Support the creation of a Festival Park that includes a performance area, informal gathering spaces, restrooms, and other amenities;
- Provide interactive fountain area for children; [could be a “splash pad” or “sprayground”]
- Create pocket parks along Main Street and Market Street;
- Connect to greater greenway and park system planned from Washington to Greenville.

CITY OF WASHINGTON
PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

The City of Washington Pedestrian Master Plan was in response to a stated objective to provide to provide a safe and secure pedestrian route for citizens in any neighborhood

to reach community activities. Obstacles such as lack of sidewalks, unsafe vehicular crossings and high roadway speeds were mapped, and strategies toward improvements were proposed.

Walkability was identified as crucial to health and fitness, but also essential to many community members who have very limited access to other forms of transportation.

COASTAL CAROLINA TRAIL

The City of Washington currently has one designated bicycle route: The Mountains-to-Sea NC Bike Route 2:

SR 1403 (Clarks Neck Road) from Pitt County to US 264;

US 264 from SR 1403 to US 17 (Bridge Street);

US 17 from US 264 (5th Street) to Main Street;

Main Street from Bridge Street to Stewart Parkway;

Stewart Parkway—entire street;

Main Street from Stewart Parkway to 2nd Street;

2nd Street from Bridge Street to SR 1352 (Hudnell Street);

NC 32 from SR 1352 to SR 1331.

Coastal Carolina Trail is a planned thirty-mile Rails-to-Trails project using the former

Wilmington and Weldon Railroad right-of-way. Beginning in Oak City the route continues through Pictolus, Washington, and terminating in Chocowinity.



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

NORTH CAROLINA OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2009-2013

The State of North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan commissioned by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation recognizes three major issues to be addressed in the coming years:

- Conservation of Natural Resources/rapid loss of open space
- Improved Outdoor Recreation Resources and Services, and
- Enhanced Quality of Life and Economic Growth

Public input on paths to achieve these objectives was sought from the citizens of North Carolina. The resulting State Recreation Master plan is a great resource for understanding larger trends within the State.

The State has responded to concerns presented by the people of North Carolina by providing grant money for recreation and parks and by implementing and advocating for policy changes to support communities in achieving these goals.

North Carolina Resident Participation Number, Percent, and Percent Change by Activity Type

Activity Type	Percent participating 1995	Millions of participants 1995	Percent participating 2006	Millions of participants 2006	Percent change in # participants 1995-2006
Trail/street/road activities	66.1	3.713	85.7	5.812	56.5
Individual sports	20.2	1.137	28.2	1.913	68.2
Team sports	26.5	1.490	21.6	1.468	-1.5
Spectator activities	56.1	3.152	62.4	4.232	34.3
Viewing/learning activities	68.8	3.865	81.7	5.543	43.4
Snow/ice activities	11.8	0.662	17.9	1.212	83.1
Camping	21.8	1.226	28.7	1.949	59.0
Hunting	9.4	0.528	9.9	0.670	26.9
Fishing	26.7	1.500	36.7	2.493	66.2
Boating	28.7	1.612	31.0	2.105	30.6
Swimming (natural, pool, snorkeling)	50.8	2.856	53.1	3.605	26.2
Outdoor adventure activities	33.0	1.853	51.2	3.475	87.5
Social activities	67.8	3.811	88.2	5.986	57.1

Attitudes About Public Land Management For North Carolina and Surrounding States
(Percent saying important or very important)

Activity	Region	United States
Conserve and protect natural resources, especially water	91.0	91.5
Develop volunteer programs to improve natural resources	90.2	88.2
Inform public on environmental impacts of uses	85.6	79.4
Inform public about recreational concerns	85.2	85.5
Protect ecosystems & wildlife habitats	81.2	81.3

Source: National Survey on Recreation and the Environment



CITY OF WASHINGTON

SECTION 3: INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

One of the first steps in the recreation comprehensive planning process is to determine what currently exists and whether or not those facilities are meeting the needs of the population being served.

This section is an inventory and evaluation of existing recreational facilities that are currently available to Washington residents. Facilities fall into five main categories, based on the primary recreational use for the purpose of this task:

- Centers and Offices
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Athletic Sites
- Greenways and Trails
- Boating Areas

CENTERS AND OFFICES:

Administrative Offices

- Program registration, facility rentals and reservations, event planning, and contract administration
- Multi-purpose conference room
- Paved Parking

Bobby Andrews Recreation Center (indoor Features)

- Multi-purpose room
- Gymnasium for organized and free-play basketball
- Concession stand
- Volleyball Court
- Pickleball



Grace Martin Harwell Senior Center (1.21 acres)

- Programs, meetings and activities for senior adults ages 55+
- Two multi-purpose rooms
- Kitchen
- Media room with TV/VCR, computers, books, puzzles and games
- Billiards Room
- Fitness room with various exercise equipment
- Awarded "NC Senior Center of Excellence"





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Mildred T. Moore Aquatic & Fitness Center (5.03 acres)

- 25 yard indoor swimming pool
- Wading pool
- Fitness room with weight and cardiovascular machines
- Tanning deck
- Meeting room
- Use is by membership. Daily swim periods offered to non-members



Oakdale Center (1.02 acres)

- Basketball court
- Brick building (not ADA accessible)
- "Porta-John" restroom
- Gravel Parking
- Chess



PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS:

Beebe Park (3.38 acres)

- Large open lawn area with shade trees
- Memorials
- Picnic pavilion/Stage
- Walking circuit
- Benches
- Tables



7th Street Playground and Park (10.84 acres)

- Outdoor lighted basketball court
- Lighted open play areas
- Horseshoes
- Croquet
- Bocce Ball
- Playground
- Swings





CITY OF WASHINGTON

7th Street Playground and Park (continued)

- Bike Racks
- Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Large shade trees

Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark

- 8,000 sf skate-able concrete area with two bowls
- "Urban" skate elements



Bug House Park (1.25)

- Playground equipment
- Swings
- Jones-Modlin Tennis Complex
- Picnic shelter and tables
- Gravel Parking



Festival Park (2.46)

- Riverfront Multi-Use park with open lawn for large gatherings
- Performance Pavilion
- River view and access
- Nautical themed play area
- Picnic shelter
- Adirondack swing, and benches
- Restroom facility



Fifth and Charlotte Street Pocket Park (.57 acres)

- Open lawn area





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Havens Gardens Park (5.46 acres)

- Riverfront multi-use park with grassed open play area
 - Two covered picnic shelters
 - Fire pits/grills
 - Playground equipment
 - Fishing pier
 - Restroom facility
 - Paved parking
- (Not ADA accessible)



Pierce and Third Street Mini-Park (.24 acres)

- Playground equipment
- (Not ADA compliant)



Veterans Park (2.80 acres)

- Open lawn space
- On-street parking
- Benches
- Formal Memorial Area
- Memorial statues and plaques
- Flags





CITY OF WASHINGTON

Washington Dog Park (.58 acres)

- Fenced area with segregated areas for dogs 20 lbs and under and medium/large dogs
- Water area
- “Mutt-Mitts” and clean-up stations
- Large shade trees



ATHLETIC SITES:

Susiegray McConnell Sports Complex (42.51 acres)

- Lighted Softball field
- Lighted Baseball Field
- Soccer Field (no lights)
- Concession Stand and 2 storage buildings
- Walking trails
- Playground
- Picnic tables with trash and recycling facilities
- Restrooms



Tommy Stewart Memorial Courts (1.07 acres)

- Two full-size basketball courts
- Four half-size basketball courts.
- Area is lighted for night-time play





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS:

Jack's Creek Pocket Park and Greenway, Phase 1 (13.64 acres)

- Open lawn Space
- Greenway trail

Jack's Creek Greenway and Park, Phase 2 (13.47 acres)

- Benches
- Greenway
- Open lawn space



BOATING AREAS:

Havens Gardens Boat Launch (1.34)

- NC Wildlife Boat Ramp
- Two boat ramps
- Docks
- Parking for cars and trailers



Stewart Parkway and Waterfront Docks (5.4 acres)

- 36 pay docks with water, electricity and sewer pump-out for transient and permanent boaters
- Additional free transient and local day dockage
- Floating dinghy dock/canoe launch
- Brick promenade connecting to elevated, lighted boardwalk through wetland
- Benches
- Picnic tables





CITY OF WASHINGTON

- Walking trail
- Lighted

Mason's Landing (1.63)

- NC Wildlife Boat Ramp
 - Two boat ramps
 - Docks
 - Parking for cars and trailers
- Canoe trails planned starting from this location.*



SCHOOLS (JOINT USE AGREEMENT):

John Cotten Tayloe Elementary (19.72 acres)

- Open fields available after school hours and on weekends
- 2 Fields used by Women's and Girls Softball Leagues



EXISTING
PARKS & RECREATION
FACILITIES

MAP LEGEND

— CITY OF WASHINGTON BOUNDARY

✿ CENTERS & OFFICES

- 1 BOBBY ANDREWS RECREATION CENTER
- 2 GRACE MARTIN HARWELL SENIOR CENTER (& CABOOSE PARK)
- 3 MOORE AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER
- 4 OAKDALE RECREATION CENTER

■ PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

- A BEEBE PARK
- B SEVENTH STREET PLAYGROUND AND PARK
- C BUG HOUSE PARK
- D FESTIVAL PARK
- E PAPA'S PLAYGROUND
- F 5TH & CHARLOTTE STREET POCKET PARK
- G HAVENS GARDENS PARK
- H PIERCE & THIRD STREET MINI-PARK
- I STEWART PARKWAY & WATERFRONT DOCKS
- J TOMMY STEWART MEMORIAL COURTS
- K TAR RIVER NATURE PARK (PROPOSED)
- L VETERANS PARK
- M WASHINGTON DOG PARK

■ ATHLETIC SITES

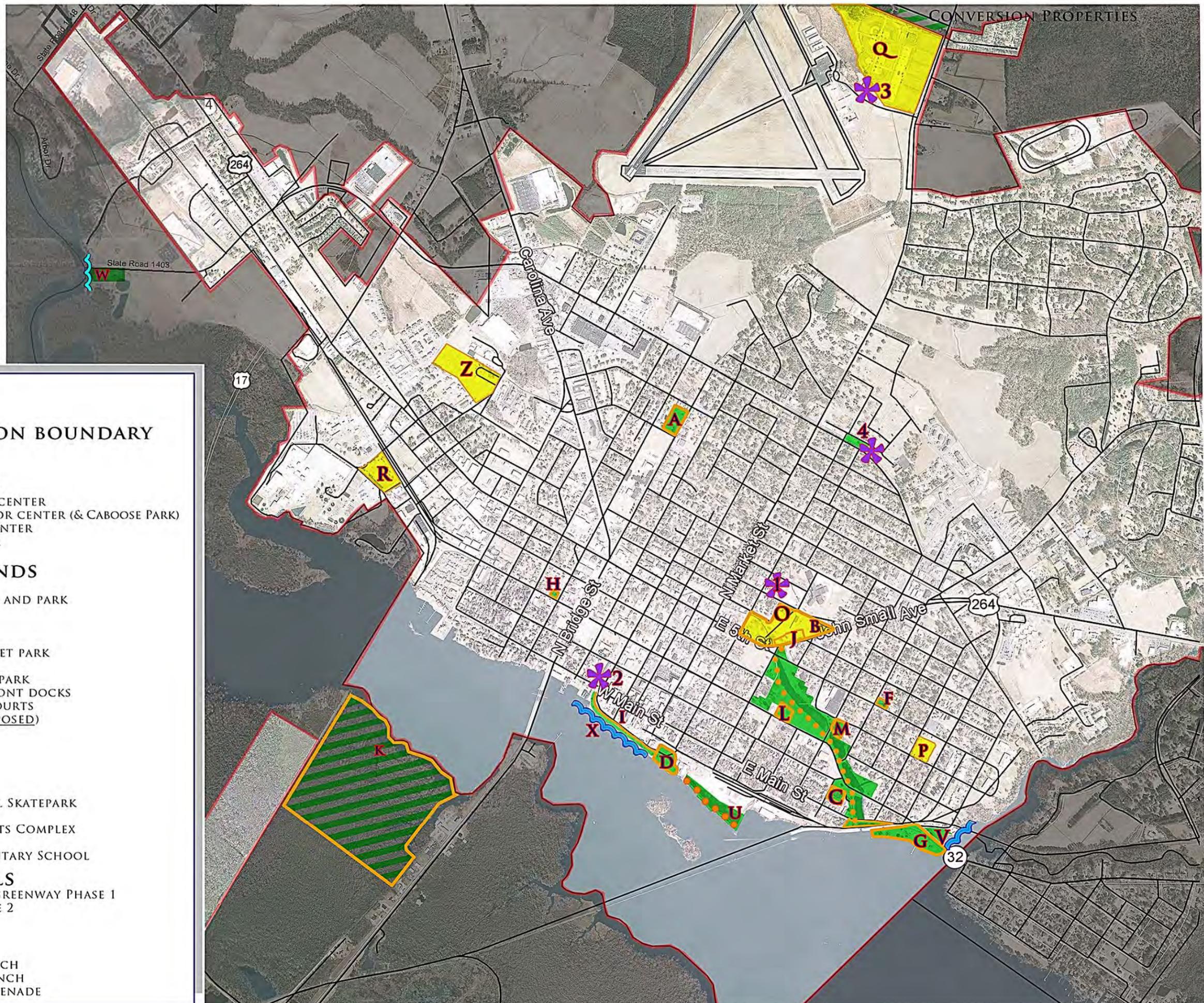
- N SEVENTH STREET BALL PARKS
- O PATRICK COCHRAN MEMORIAL SKATEPARK
- P KUGLER FIELD
- Q SUSIEGRAY MCCONNELL SPORTS COMPLEX
- R TODD MAXWELL COMPLEX
- Z JOHN COTTEN TAYLOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

■ GREENWAYS & TRAILS

- S JACK'S CREEK POCKET PARK & GREENWAY PHASE 1
- T JACK'S CREEK GREENWAY PHASE 2
- U WETLANDS BOARDWALK

■ BOATING AREAS

- V HAVENS GARDENS BOAT LAUNCH
- W MASON'S LANDING BOAT LAUNCH
- X WATERFRONT DOCKS & PROMENADE



EXISTING PARK-LAND INVENTORY ASSESSMENT

National and State minimum standards are useful guides in determining minimum requirements for recreation. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (NCDPR), developed levels of service (LOS) standards and classifications for parks and active recreation facilities. The recommended quantity and distribution of recreation land and facilities within a community can be assessed by these standards. (The NCDPR offers a size standard which is more applicable to Washington’s non-urbanized character.) Table 3.1 summarizes parkland classification guidelines.

Table 3.1 – NRPA & NCDPR Parkland Classification Guidelines				
Type	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acre/1000 Residents
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group, such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 Acre or less (NRPA)	0.25 – 0.5 Acres (NRPA)
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, crafts, playground apparatus areas, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ mile radius to serve population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ Acres (NRPS) 6-8 Acres (NCDPR)	1 – 2 Acres (NRPS)
Community Park/City Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be a combination of the above, depending upon site suitability & community need.	1 Mile radius (several neighborhoods)	50-100 Acres (NRPA), 10-20 Acres (NCDPR)	5 – 8 Acres (NRPA)
District/ Regional Park	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources. May include a sports complex.	Several Communities	200+Acres (NRPA & NCDPR)	10 Acres (NRPA), 20 Acres (NCDPR)
School Parks *	Areas located in conjunction with a school campus that allow for recreational opportunities that serves the school and the community (during non-school hours).	No Applicable Standards – Depends on location of school	Variable Depending on Desired Size	Variable – depends on function
Special Use Area *	Area for specialized or single purpose recreation activities such as campgrounds, golf courses, boating, etc.	No Applicable Standards	Variable Depending on Desired Size	Variable – depends on function

* There is not a NRPA or NCDPR Parkland Classification standard for schools and special use areas



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City of Washington parks and recreational facilities fall into the categories which were described in Table 3.1 as follows:

Table 3.2 Summary of Public Parks– Size & Facilities*

Mini-Parks		Neighborhood Parks		Community Parks		District/Regional		Special Use Areas		Schools	
Facility	Ac.	Facility	Ac.	Facility	Ac.	Facility	Ac	Facility	Ac.	Facility	Ac.
Fifth & Charlotte Str. Pocket Park	0.57	Beebe Park	3.38	Andrews Center, 7th Str. Complex, & Skate Park	10.84	McConnell Sports Complex	42.51	Havens Gardens Boat Launch	1.34	John Cotten Tayloe	19.72
Pierce & Third Str. Mini-Park	0.24	Bug House Park	1.25	Festival Park	2.46			Mason's Landing Boat Launch	1.63		
		Kugler Field	3.79	Havens Gardens Park	5.46			Waterfront Docks & Promenade	1.69		
		Oakdale Recreation Center	1.02	Jacks Creek Greenway Ph.1 & Pocket Park	13.64			Wetlands Boardwalk	4.55		
		Old Health Department	1.03	Jacks Creek Greenway Ph.2 & Park	13.47			Grace M. Harwell Senior Center	1.21		
		Tommy Stewart Memorial Courts	1.07	Moore Aquatic & Fitness Center	5.03						
		Veteran's Park	2.80								
		Todd Maxwell Complex	4.34								
		Oakdale Recreation Center	1.02								
		Washington Dog Park	0.58								
Total 0.81		Total 20.28		Total 50.90		Total 42.51		Total 10.42		Total 19.72	

* per Beaufort County GIS Data and available data from Washington Parks and Recreation Department



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Park Standards

Washington has **144.64** acres of public parks distributed in 26 parks and centers/offices with an average size of 5.56 acres. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (Department of Environmental and Natural Resources), developed Levels of Service (LOS) standards and classifications for parks and active recreation facilities.

The NRPA LOS Standards for parks is expressed as acres per 1,000 population. The calculations used to consider how Washington is meeting this standard are based on the 2010 Census findings which show a population of 9,744.

The “Assessment” portion of Table 3.3 applies those standards to the existing parks inventory on this per capita basis. For the Special Use and Schools categories established in Tables 3.1 and 3.2. these parks fall under the “Community Parks” descriptor for the purpose of discerning level of service for the different park types in Table 3.3.

Standards established by RPI Consulting (which are specifically tailored to the needs of small communities) recommends a “General Parkland Dedication Standard” of 14 acres per 1000 residents. By that standard Washington should have 137 dedicated acres. With 145 acres, Washington exceeds this standard.

Table 3.3 – NRPA Public Parks Level of Service per 1000 Population Standards		
		NRPA
Standards	Total Parkland	10 ac / 1,000
	Mini/Pocket Parks	1 ac/1,000
	Neighborhood Parks	1-2 ac** / 1,000
	Community Parks	5-8 ac** / 1,000
	District/Regional Parks	10 ac /1,000
Assessment	Total Parks Standard	97.44 acres
	Existing	144.64 acres
	Planned*	(113.86 acres)*
	Deficit	0 acres
	Level of Service	14.8 acres / 1,000
	Mini-Parks Standard	9.74 acres
	Existing	.81 acres
	Planned	0
	Deficit	8.93 acres
	Level of Service	.08 acres / 1,000
	Neighborhood Parks Standard	14.62 acres
	Existing	21.49 acres
	Planned	0
	Deficit	0 acres
	Level of Service	2.2 acres / 1,000
	Community Parks Standard	63.34 acres
	Existing***	81.04 acres
	Planned	0
	Deficit	0 acres
	Level of Service	8.3 acres / 1,000
District/Regional Parks Standard	97.44	
Existing	42.51	
Planned*	113.86	
Deficit	54.93	
Level of Service	4.4 acres / 1,000	

Baseline acreage standards based on median calculation where a range is given.

* Tar River Nature Park plus “Conversion Properties” adjacent to McConnell Sports Complex. Planned acreage is NOT calculated into meeting LOS standards.

** Where the standard is reflected as a range, a median was used in calculation

***There is not a standard for schools and special use areas. In Washington, the properties which fall into those categories can also be considered Community Parks and they are accounted for as such in the above calculations.



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According to the totals in Table 3.3, Washington exceeds the NRPA level of service recommendation for dedicated park land by 47 acres. But upon further review, the City falls short of the target in several categories.

In this section, we will consider what is meeting the standards as recommended by the NRPA, and also what is not - layering in the geographic and cultural particulars of Washington to help localize this generic measuring tool. Looking at the Levels of Service (LOS) of Washington's developed open space by category is a good way to begin to understand how some needs are being met while others are not... Starting at the category with most abundance and finishing the section with categories where improvement is needed.

ASSESSING LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR VARIOUS PARK TYPES

Community Parks: Utilization of the NRPA LOS assessment reveals that Washington has an abundance of community parks. With 8.3 acres of park land per 1000 population in this category, it exceeds the baseline standard of 5-8 acres by .2 acres.

Community Parks are intended to serve the active recreational needs of residents. They range in size from 10 to 20 acres (NCDRP standard), and should be considered key locations to site distinctive facilities which respond to recreational trends or unique community needs.

The properties in Table 3.2 "Special-Use" and "Schools" columns nests into "Community Parks" for this exercise, and also helps bolster the positive baseline assessment results. As mentioned above, the NRPA does not categorize "Special Use" areas or "Schools" that were accounted for in Table 3.2 because whether or not these facilities are available for public use vary too greatly

between municipalities to provide a valid quantitative analysis and cannot be used as a category unto itself.

Special Use facilities are dedicated to one specific use, and serve the entire community. Washington is particularly rich in Special Use Areas. The river creates a recreational hub for citizens and many of the river front parks fit into the "Special Use" category. This finding is not unusual for a waterfront community and is a sign that the City recognizes the wonderful recreational opportunity that the river provides. The first "Guiding Principle" of land-use policy in the 2023 Comprehensive Plan acknowledges the imperative to "Promote development of the Downtown Waterfront" and that includes providing recreational amenities. The waterfront is a core of history and culture and can be a draw for economic development through industry and tourism.

The river provides unique opportunities that other municipalities don't have. The Estuarium, the Docks and Promenade, the boat launch areas, and planned canoe trails are testaments to the recreational value of this resource.

The Bobby Andrews Center and Seventh Street Complex, as well as Jacks Creek Greenway and associated parks also fit within the Community Park designation.

Neighborhood Parks:

Neighborhood Parks offer local citizens a convenient source of accessible recreation, and serve as the basic unit of the parks and recreation system. These parks are intended to provide recreational opportunities within 1/2 mile radius of each resident's home or workplace, though this distance can vary depending on size of the park, population density, barriers to access, and availability of complementary recreational services. Neighborhood Parks should



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provide family oriented recreational activities such as court games, playground equipment, picnicking, and space for quiet/passive activities. While their small size requires intense development, fifty percent (50%) of each site should remain undisturbed to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent land owners and users.

The City of Washington meets the high end of the NRPA Level of Service expectation of 2 acres per 1000 population in the Neighborhood Parks category. The numbers don't tell the whole story, however. When you consider this finding along side Map it becomes apparent that the neighborhood parks are clustered.

In fact, as mentioned, the NRPA and NCDPR guidelines are merely measuring tools. And -while valuable in offering a way to quantify the availability of parks and recreation in relation to what is considered a healthy baseline- they must be evaluated in context. In the case of Washington, many parks that meet the physical description of a neighborhood park are adjacent to the Jacks Creek Greenway properties creating a cluster of parks that actually performs more like a community park. The parks classified as community parks which are tangent to other, larger park space are

Bug House Park, The "Old Health Department", Washington Dog Park, and Veterans Park. If these parks were considered realistically as being part of a larger community park and removed from the inventory of Neighborhood Parks there would still be 1.6 acres per 1000 population, which is within the healthy range for the category and indicates 8.8 acres per 1000 population in Community Parks.

District/Regional Parks: Per the NRPA/ NCDPR guidelines Washington is deficient in this park type which functions as the major source of active recreation in the municipalities they serve.

District Parks are similar, but more intensely developed than Community Parks. They normally include an indoor recreation building. Passive recreation opportunities are found in the undisturbed areas, preferably within surrounding buffers. McConnell Sports Complex qualifies as a District Park.

The acquisition and development of Regional Parks typically falls within the responsibility of county governments. Regional Parks are generally large sites that provide a wide and varied range of both active and passive recreational opportunities. These parks are intended to attract visitors

who are willing to spend travel time to visit the sites, and who reside both within and outside the municipality.

Many Regional Parks can be considered "destination parks" and it's common for them to be specialized in what they offer the public and draw participants from across multiple counties. Land selected for this type of park should be located adjacent to major transportation corridors and easily accessible by a large number of citizens. The majority of the site should be reserved for conservation and natural resource management. Less than 20% of the site should be utilized for active recreation, while maintaining some provision for passive recreation.

If implemented, the Tar River Nature Park would classify as a Regional Park.

Mini-Parks: On the other end of the size scale, mini-parks typically comprises one lot or less. They offer specialized facilities that often serve only one segment of the population. It is frequently purposed to provide a play area for younger children during daylight hours (tot lots), and sometimes used near senior housing and provide a place for elderly citizens to get outside and socialize. A mini-park's service area is very small - no more than ½ mile, but usually closer to ¼ or even 1/8 mile.



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For many municipalities, mini-parks are considered less desirable than having a few community parks or neighborhood parks because of the higher management and maintenance requirements. They are readily recognized as able to add value to the park system in certain situations – for example, placement along greenways to enhance the user experience. But, they also provide very valuable green space in isolated neighborhoods that are far from neighborhood

and community parks. Plus, they offer outdoor experience in population dense communities which is very important to people with limited access to transportation.

There are only two mini-parks (for a total of .08 acres per 1000 population) in Washington which is an indication that several significant segments of the population who are likely to benefit from access to mini-parks are very likely underserved.

What is indicated based on the Level of Service assessment is that Washington has thus far focused its land acquisition and development dollars very heavily in the Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks categories. The City is shown to have insufficient inventory of Mini-Parks and District/Regional Parks.



DENSITY OF PARK COVERAGE

Based on NRPA and NCDPR Service Area Standards described in **Table 3.1**

MAP LEGEND

— CITY OF WASHINGTON BOUNDARY

EXISTING PARKS & REC. PROPERTIES:

● MINI-PARKS (1/4 mile Service Area)

- F 5TH & CHARLOTTE STREET POCKET PARK
- H PIERCE & THIRD STREET MINI-PARK

● NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (1/4 mile Service Area)

- A BEEBE PARK
- 1 BOBBY ANDREWS RECREATION CENTER
- C BUG HOUSE PARK
- P KUGLER FIELD
- 4 OAKDALE RECREATION CENTER
- R TODD MAXWELL COMPLEX
- L VETERANS PARK

● COMMUNITY PARKS (1 mile Service Area)

- B 7TH STREET PLAYGROUND AND PARK
- N 7TH STREET RECREATION CENTER BALL PARKS
- 3 MOORE AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER
- D FESTIVAL PARK
- G HAVENS GARDENS PARK
- J TOMMY STEWART MEMORIAL COURTS
- O PATRICK COCHRAN MEMORIAL SKATEPARK
- S JACK'S CREEK POCKET PARK & GREENWAY PHASE 1
- T JACK'S CREEK GREENWAY PHASE 2
- M WASHINGTON DOG PARK

● DISTRICT/REGIONAL (1 mile Service Area)

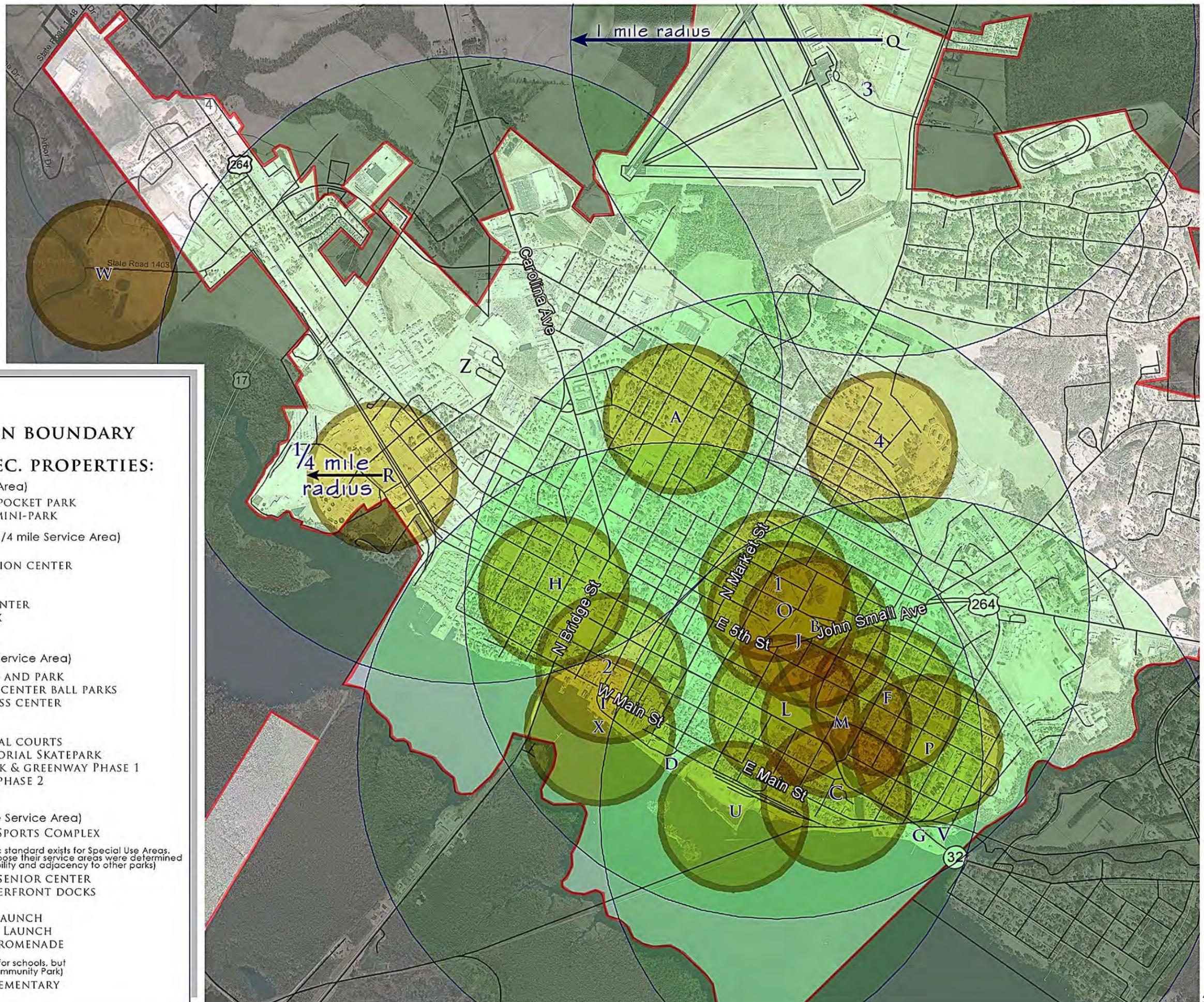
- Q SUSIEGRAY MCCONNELL SPORTS COMPLEX

SPECIAL USE AREAS (No specific standard exists for Special Use Areas. For this purpose their service areas were determined by accessibility and adjacency to other parks)

- 2 GRACE MARTIN HARWELL SENIOR CENTER
- I STEWART PARKWAY & WATERFRONT DOCKS
- U WETLANDS BOARDWALK
- V HAVENS GARDENS BOAT LAUNCH
- W MASON'S LANDING BOAT LAUNCH
- X WATERFRONT DOCKS & PROMENADE

SCHOOLS (No specific standard exists for schools, but Tayloe suits the category Community Park)

- Z JOHN COTTEN TAYLOE ELEMENTARY





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES INVENTORY ASSESSMENT

The NRPA provides guidelines for assessing the adequacy of specific recreational facilities such as soccer and baseball fields and guidelines for estimating special facilities (skate parks, driving ranges, etc.). These guidelines are shown in Appendix B. However, according to the 2009-2013 North Carolina’s Division of Parks and Recreation *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, it is no longer recommended that a community’s recreation needs be based on national standards since these standards are a “cookie-cutter approach that recommends the same services for all counties when in fact each county and community has unique characteristics and preferences.”

Instead the SCORP states “recreation needs should be determined by the preferences of the people in the market area, the existing recreation resources, levels of tourism, and the characteristics that make the area unique.”

In response, the SCORP has prescribed an appropriate level of recreation services for each county by applying a standard, which allows North Carolina Counties to be compared to each other by current recreation resources and population.

Another mode of assessing the sufficiency of facilities inventory was designed specifically for smaller communities is a useful tool for many municipalities.

Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards, written by RPI Consulting, Inc., for the Colorado Office of Local Affairs, Office of Smart

Growth, developed a model which is more appropriate in a “non-urbanized” environment with populations of 10,000 or less. This model is deemed to be

Table 3.4 – Existing Recreation Elements vs. NRPA Guidelines

Recreational Facilities	Total Existing in Washington	NRPA Recommended Guidelines: (facilities per Population)	Surplus/Deficit based on NRPA
Centers	4	1/20,000	3
Baseball/Softball Fields	3	1/5,000	
Multi-Use Fields	1	1/10,000	
Swimming Pools	1	1/20,000	
Tennis Courts	2	1/2,000	-3
Volleyball Courts	1	1/5,000	-1
Basketball Courts	4	1/5,000	
Football Field	N/A	1/20,000	
Running Track (1/4 mi)	0	1/20,000	-1
Trails	2	1 per region	1
Playground	6	1 area per 1000	-4
Skateboard Parks	1	NA	
Boat Ramps	3	NA	
Fishing Access	1	NA	
Picnicking Facilities	3	1 pavilion per 2000*	-2
Horseshoe Pits	1	NA	
Croquet	1	NA	
Auditoriums	0	NA	
Performance Pavilion	1	NA	
Gyms	1	NA	
Dog Park	1	NA	



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AREAS OF SUFFICIENT
COVERAGE AND
UNMET NEEDS

MAP LEGEND

- CITY OF WASHINGTON BOUNDARY
- - - POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR A GATEWAY PARK
- PARK LAND VERY ACCESSIBLE
- PARK LAND MODERATELY ACCESSIBLE
- PARK LAND MODERATELY INACCESSIBLE
- PARK LAND VERY INACCESSIBLE

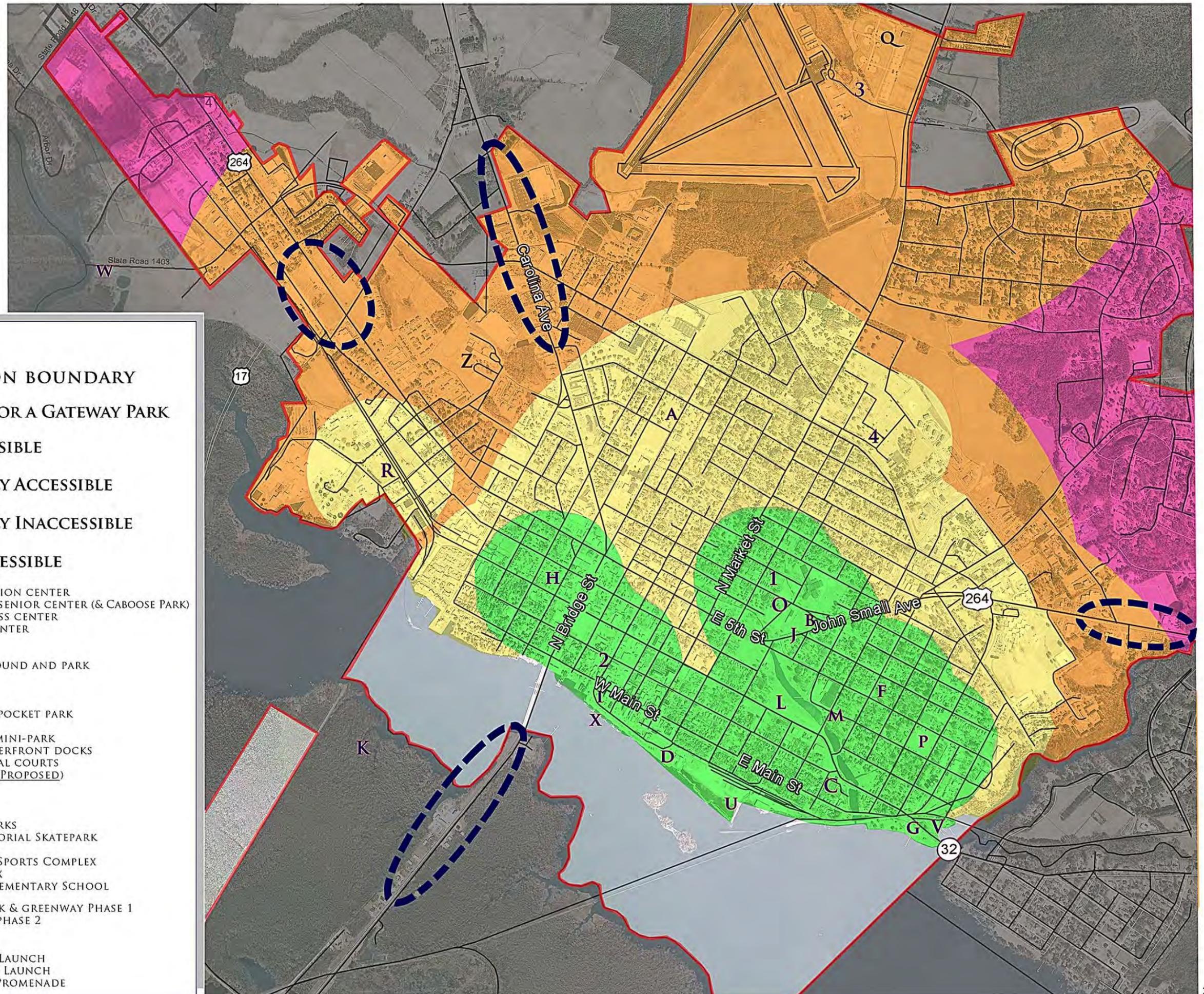
- CENTERS & OFFICES**
- 1 BOBBY ANDREWS RECREATION CENTER
 - 2 GRACE MARTIN HARWELL SENIOR CENTER (& CABOOSE PARK)
 - 3 MOORE AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER
 - 4 OAKDALE RECREATION CENTER

- PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS**
- A BEEBE PARK
 - B SEVENTH STREET PLAYGROUND AND PARK
 - C BUG HOUSE PARK
 - D FESTIVAL PARK
 - E PAPA'S PLAYGROUND
 - F 5TH & CHARLOTTE STREET POCKET PARK
 - G HAVENS GARDENS PARK
 - H PIERCE & THIRD STREET MINI-PARK
 - I STEWART PARKWAY & WATERFRONT DOCKS
 - J TOMMY STEWART MEMORIAL COURTS
 - K TAR RIVER NATURE PARK (PROPOSED)
 - L VETERANS PARK
 - M WASHINGTON DOG PARK

- ATHLETIC SITES**
- N SEVENTH STREET BALL PARKS
 - O PATRICK COCHRAN MEMORIAL SKATEPARK
 - P KUGLER FIELD
 - Q SUSIEGRAY MCCONNELL SPORTS COMPLEX
 - R TODD MAXWELL COMPLEX
 - Z JOHN COTTEN TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- GREENWAYS & TRAILS**
- S JACK'S CREEK POCKET PARK & GREENWAY PHASE 1
 - T JACK'S CREEK GREENWAY PHASE 2
 - U WETLANDS BOARDWALK

- BOATING AREAS**
- V HAVENS GARDENS BOAT LAUNCH
 - W MASON'S LANDING BOAT LAUNCH
 - X WATERFRONT DOCKS & PROMENADE





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

SECTION 4: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Introduction

With an understanding of the importance of giving a voice to all it's citizens, the City of Washington and it's consultants devised a multi-faceted strategy to encourage the highest potential for broad participation from the community regarding opinions about parks and recreation.

East Carolina University's Center for Survey Research (CSR) was hired to advise in the process and facilitate the public response. A public opinion survey was conducted by the CSR, which transpired over a four-month period in order to assure a representative sample of at least 400 respondents. Public opinions were received in three different ways:

1. Public comment was received through two Workshops and additional informal [Stakeholder Interviews](#).
2. [Random Sample Phone Interviews](#) were conducted in order to garner response from those who may not take the initiative to take the survey, or may not have access to a computer or visit locations where the surveys were offered. 421 people responded in the Phone Interview.
3. [Voluntary User Response Questionnaires](#) were available as hard copies, and there was also an online survey available to the community as well as visitors. This was the same survey that was provided in the phone interviews. There was a total of 236 participants who completed the survey in this manor. The results of this survey were tallied separately from the Random Sample Phone Interviews. On the pages that follow, the results are reported side-by-side for ease of comparison.

1. Stakeholder Interviews Input Summary:

These comment sessions were offered as an open forum to express interests and concerns. An organized transcription of the comments according to topic follows...

Parks:

- Beebe Memorial Park
 - “playground equipment has been discussed but I understand that gravesites may hinder this. Look into possibilities” “Also need park tables with covers placed throughout park”*
- Bughouse Park
 - “Tennis courts need work”. “City sponsored tennis competition would promote the sport”*
 - Backboard is missing from tennis court at Bughouse Park*
- Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park
 - could lose (not enough use) – still would need to mow grass*

Facilities Assessed

Parks and recreation facilities were broken down into four groups for ease of comparison:

Parks

- Beebe Memorial Park
- Bughouse Park
- Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park
- Festival Park
- Havens Gardens Park
- Jack's Creek Greenway and Park
- Pierce and Third Street Mini Park
- Veteran's Park
- Washington Dog Park

Waterfront

- Havens Gardens Boat Launch
- Mason's Landing Boat Launch
- The Promenade
- Waterfront Docks
- Wetlands Boardwalk

Recreation

- John Cotten Tayloe School
- Kugler Field
- McConnell Sports Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts
- Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark
- Todd Maxwell Complex
- Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts

General Office/Complex

- Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center
- Peterson Building
- Senior Center



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- Festival Park
 - More picnic tables along waterfront and Festival Park events – parking issues
 - Improve coordination between city events at Festival Park and estuarium
 - Provide more restroom facilities so park visitors don't have to use estuarium's
- Havens Gardens Park
 - “ two picnic areas need to be joined somehow, so children don't have to cross parking lot to get to playground”. “More covered picnic areas”. “Sandy volleyball area”
 - Haven's Garden's Bridge Pier – drug use
 - Haven's Garden's needs to be fenced in to make it safer (also keep kids from water)
- Jack's Creek Greenway and Park
 - Greenways are not safe due to lack of curb ramps and goose feces
 - Need good greenway trail connections on secondary roads and outlying parcels
 - No clear parking for Jacks Creek Greenway on either end of trail
- Veteran's Park
 - Veterans Park - “plan things in this park”. “Have a soldier sculpture or something to draw attention”

Waterfront:

- Waterfront Docks
 - More picnic tables along waterfront and Festival Park
 - Need more public boat slips close to Festival Park

Recreation:

- John Cotten Tayloe School
 - there is a track at this site. Only city access to a track – can it be restored?”
 - could be used for soccer or slow pitch
 - lights are insufficient
 - NOT City owned – year around agreement
 - dugouts have no roof
- Kugler Field
 - school owns – NOT ADA compliant
- McConnell Sports Complex
 - Pool facility= “Need an outdoor pool or waterpark!” “Need a true public pool. This one is cost prohibitive and sometimes access based on schedule of school swim team.”
 - Need batting cages
 - Soccer complex at McConnell is great but need more fields (need 1/2 as many facilities as currently have if lighted) (double number of facilities if NOT lighted) Sometimes use baseball fields as overflow facilities
 - Need lights (see above)
 - NEED commercial restroom fixtures (currently residential)
 - NEED swales between fields to allow fields to dry out faster after storm event
 - Currently 8 fields now with drainage issues
 - Hard soil conditions make grass hard to maintain - ESTABLISH regular



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grass maintenance Program

Fields have NO lines on them (use cones). NEED painted lines

For tournaments – have several larger fields they can shrink

-Scheduling problems – ended in June so had to play on Saturdays

-They play year around so need for play on weekends

-Could turn soccer fields into baseball wedges if soccer had its own complex

-Senior addition to McConnell Center

- Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts

” benches or bleachers for observers.”

- Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark

-“encourage local competitions and provide spectator seating”.

-“Allow vending at events”

- Todd Maxwell Complex

-need new fence

-Without upgrades it can only be for practice or make up games

-5 divisions = (7-8) (5-6) (9-10) (11-12) maxed out fields

-if one more field was added then baseball would be ok

General Office/Complex:

- Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex

-“air-conditioning PLEASE!”

-“better signage”

- Oakdale Recreation Center

-Oakdale recreation complex “ Is the building still in use? If not transform into a game room. “

- Senior Center

-“need fitness (cardio & toning) equipment“ “TV’s”

General Comments:

- Maintenance

-McConnell- Problem with rocks in fields

-McConnell- Should NOT be open to public all the time to allow for recovery of fields

-Maintenance should be under parks and recreation – large scale things would stay under public works

-Mac is trained and certified in playground herbicide

- General needs

-Look at who is already using facilities on Sunday evenings and expand on that before creating something new (events in downtown)

-Consolidate facilities

-Do not have facilities to support 35,000 population in ETJ

-Minority, low income and elderly communities are not being serviced



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- NOTHING OPEN ON MONDAY's – businesses should open on Monday for weekend visitors
- Passive recreation has increased but not enough support facilities have been added
- Sunday's – most of City is closed and that is not beneficial for a tourist town
- Specific need
 - Need gas on waterfront (majority say would be great but had several opposed to it – i.e. city manager)
 - Don't want gas on waterfront
 - Better wayfinding signage for all parks to visually distinguish them from private facilities
 - NEED more tennis courts
 - Soccer- 3 small fields (4,5,6 year olds) – could use 5 to 6 fields for this group
 - Soccer- 2 fields with goals (7-10 year olds) - this year making 2 big fields into smaller fields for 4 total) 3 full size fields
 - McConnell- Concession not sufficient – long lines
 - McConnell- Need larger storage building to house equipment
 - NEED more tennis courts
 - Alternative school has a good fitness circuit but not open to public – POSSIBLE partnership???
 - MISSING fishing and netting market! Have to go to outer banks if want to charter boat
 - Need for more restroom facilities along waterfront
 - Adequate park land in eastern part of city but not in west – growth is happening in west part of City
 - Need for improved interconnectivity between bicycle routes
 - Possible alternate bike routes - look into
 - Track at PS Jones is used by cyclist – safety
 - Need more bike racks
 - Need more public tennis courts
 - More shade structures at parks to prevent skin cancer and provide shade for spectators
- Marketing
 - Need more advertisement about what facilities are available – website etc.
 - Need to market and make nice the “3 door steps to Washington” 1) Roads 2) Water 3) Airport
 - Improve advertisement of program opportunities on City's website and with County – no weekend visitors coming from more than an hour away
 - Better way of getting information out to public
 - Good complexes and facilities



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- Funding
 - Optimist club pays Soccer fees for players
 - Soccer coaching- ALL volunteer's
 - 5013C – mayor wife raised money to let kids pay \$5 for all sports
 - KB Reynolds has community transformation grants that come in 100 million over 15 years
- Staff
 - Hard getting concerns heard
 - City of Washington needs a public information person – use to have one before budget cuts
 - Need to improve city and county working relationship
 - County has approximately 25,000 people using city facilities but did not give the City any money for recreation
 - Maintenance has been more reactive than proactive due to staffing capacity
 - Need to improve connections between waterfront and main street
 - Possible need for commercial uses on waterfront like jet ski rentals, charter fishing boats
 - Improved administration relationships could show need for money to improve facilities
 - Buildings and grounds fall under public works now with City restructuring
 - Expertise is a problem for staff – no training for staff to be specialized in one certain area
 - More Staff

Programming:

- (Baseball) increase participation rates
- (Baseball) City agreement can use \$ to lower fees for registration to \$25/year (registration went down)
- (Baseball) Moved season up two weeks to accommodate anticipated increase users
- (Baseball) An increase of 6 teams will run out of space for games.
- Local organization so NO state requirements for Soccer
- Currently host Soccer tournaments every few years - could host more often if had separate facility or additional fields
- Local guy makes soccer goals
- Special needs league plays soccer every Saturday
- Need more public docks
- Need gas on water – inter-coastal is too far for boaters to travel without place to fill up and grab supplies
- ALL feedback from tournaments has been NEGATIVE!!!! - do better getting word out about town and services offered
- Movie in park weekend before tournament is well attended



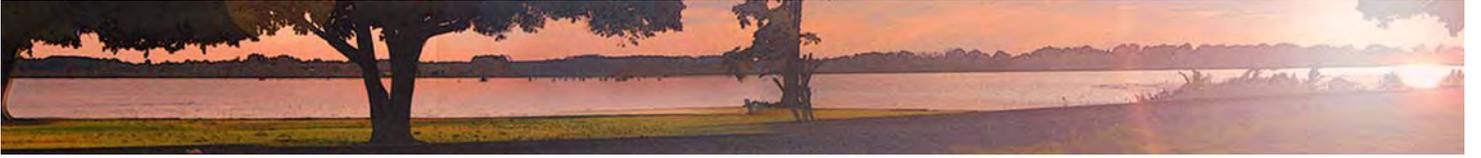
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- City should be running leagues or at least have members on their boards
- 1st year there has been no adult softball league
- Possibility to grow tournaments more than other communities
- Summer programs need to be reinstated as they were in the past – i.e. summer camps etc.
- “City sponsored tennis competition would promote the sport”
- Find ways to use skatepark more
- Soccer and football dropped fees
- Baseball and softball did NOT take money – NO MORE PLAYERS

Random Phone Sample and Voluntary User Surveys

The following tables and graphs represent the responses which East Carolina’s Center for Survey Research (CSR) received via two separate modes:

- Random Sample Phone Interview, and
- Voluntary User Response

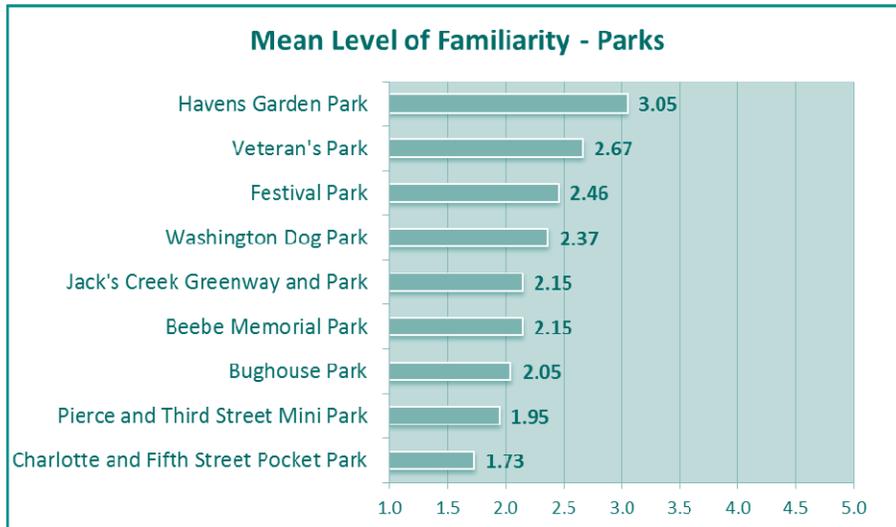


COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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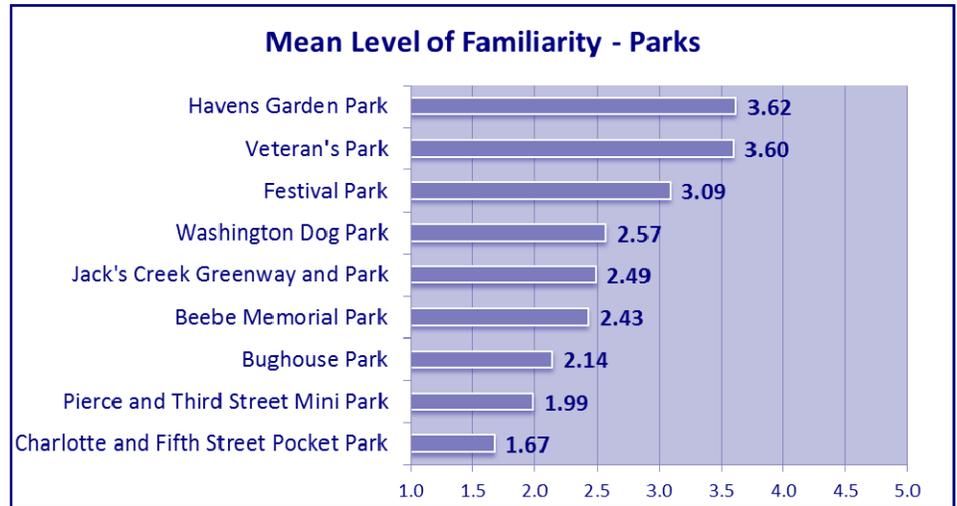
Random Sample Phone Interview

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
Parks	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Havens Gardens Park	52.6% (213)	12.8% (52)	9.6% (39)	10.1% (41)	9.6% (39)	4.0% (16)	1.2% (5)	405
Festival Park	65.1% (263)	9.2% (37)	8.2% (33)	6.2% (25)	5.9% (24)	3.2% (13)	2.2% (9)	404
Washington Dog Park	77.5% (313)	10.4% (42)	5.2% (21)	1.7% (7)	3.0% (12)	1.2% (5)	1.0% (4)	404
Beebe Memorial Park	78.2% (316)	9.7% (39)	5.4% (22)	1.2% (5)	2.7% (11)	1.7% (7)	1.0% (4)	404
Veteran's Park	74.4% (299)	13.9% (56)	4.7% (19)	3.5% (14)	2.2% (9)	1.0% (4)	0.2% (1)	402
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	78.9% (317)	9.7% (39)	4.5% (18)	2.5% (10)	2.0% (8)	1.7% (7)	0.7% (3)	402
Bughouse Park	81.1% (326)	8.7% (35)	5.0% (20)	2.0% (8)	1.2% (5)	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)	402
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	82.7% (334)	8.9% (36)	3.0% (12)	2.2% (9)	2.2% (9)	1.0% (4)		404
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	88.8% (358)	6.5% (26)	2.5% (10)	0.5% (2)	1.5% (6)	0.2% (1)		403



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

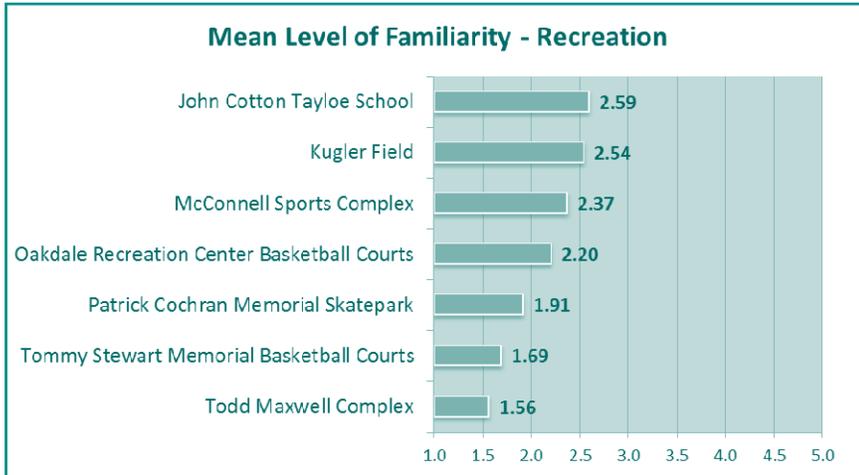
Voluntary User Response Questionnaire



How often do you visit the following facilities?								
Parks	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Festival Park	22.3% (50)	21.4% (48)	20.5% (46)	14.3% (32)	5.8% (13)	7.6% (17)	8.0% (18)	224
Havens Gardens Park	37.9% (85)	30.8% (69)	13.4% (30)	8.9% (20)	4.0% (9)	2.7% (6)	2.2% (5)	224
Veteran's Park	59.0% (131)	32.0% (71)	4.5% (10)	1.8% (4)	0.9% (2)		1.8% (4)	222
Jack's Creek Greenway & Park	74.1% (166)	15.6% (35)	4.0% (9)	3.1% (7)		0.9% (2)	2.2% (5)	224
Bughouse Park	73.5% (161)	18.7% (41)	3.2% (7)	3.7% (8)			0.9% (2)	219
Beebe Memorial Park	79.8% (174)	14.7% (32)	1.8% (4)	0.5% (1)		1.4% (3)	1.8% (4)	218
Washington Dog Park	81.3% (182)	10.3% (23)	4.9% (11)	1.8% (4)	0.4% (1)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	224
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	87.0% (194)	7.2% (16)	1.3% (3)	1.8% (4)	1.3% (3)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	223
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	91.4% (202)	5.0% (11)	0.5% (1)	1.8% (4)			1.4% (3)	221



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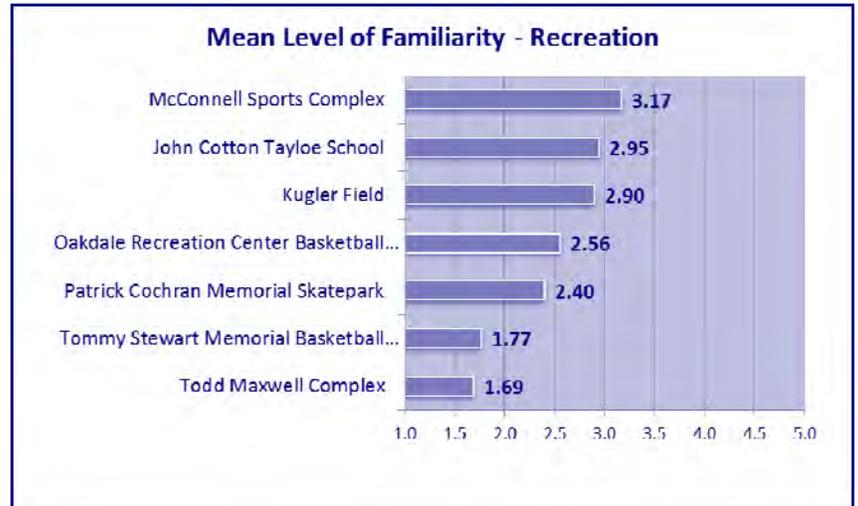
Random Sample Phone Interview

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
Recreation	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
McConnell Sports Complex	74.4% (302)	11.1% (45)	3.9% (16)	4.7% (19)	2.5% (10)	2.5% (10)	1.0% (4)	406
Kugler Field	77.8% (308)	9.3% (37)	3.5% (14)	4.3% (17)	3.0% (12)	1.5% (6)	0.5% (2)	396
John Cotten Tayloe School	79.5% (322)	9.4% (38)	4.2% (17)	1.5% (6)	2.2% (9)	1.2% (5)	2.0% (8)	405
Todd Maxwell Complex	84.8% (340)	7.5% (30)	3.5% (14)	0.7% (3)	2.7% (11)	0.7% (3)		401
Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts	84.8% (339)	8.0% (32)	3.0% (12)	2.0% (8)	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)	0.2% (1)	400
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark	87.3% (351)	6.7% (27)	2.0% (8)	1.5% (6)	2.0% (8)	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)	402
Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts	90.6% (367)	5.2% (21)	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)	1.2% (5)	0.7% (3)	0.2% (1)	405



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Voluntary User Response
Questionnaire

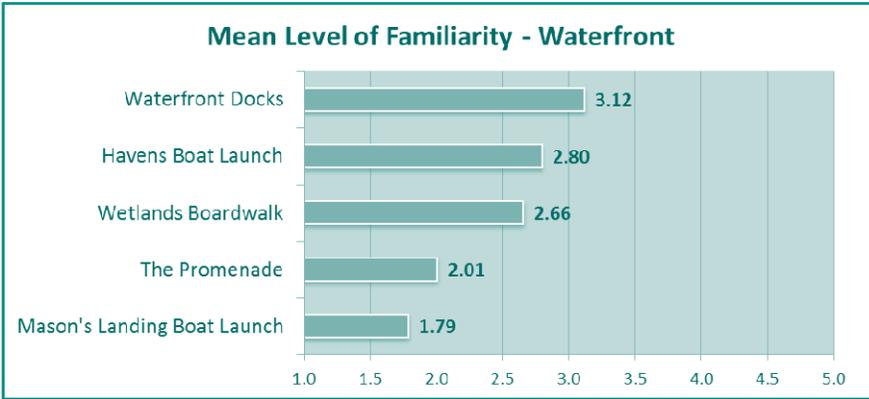


How often do you visit the following facilities?

Recreation	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
McConnell Sports Complex	47.6% (107)	19.6% (44)	4.4% (10)	3.1% (7)	3.6% (8)	13.3% (30)	8.4% (19)	225
John Cotton Tayloe School	66.4% (146)	20.5% (45)	2.7% (6)	2.3% (5)	0.5% (1)	2.3% (5)	5.5% (12)	220
Kugler Field	73.8% (163)	18.1% (40)	2.7% (6)	2.3% (5)	0.9% (2)	1.8% (4)	0.5% (1)	221
Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts	83.9% (187)	8.1% (18)	2.2% (5)	1.8% (4)	1.8% (4)		2.2% (5)	223
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark	86.0% (191)	8.1% (18)	2.7% (6)	0.5% (1)	1.4% (3)	0.5% (1)	0.9% (2)	222
Todd Maxwell Complex	85.7% (191)	9.4% (21)	2.2% (5)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	223
Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts	85.2% (190)	11.2% (25)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	223



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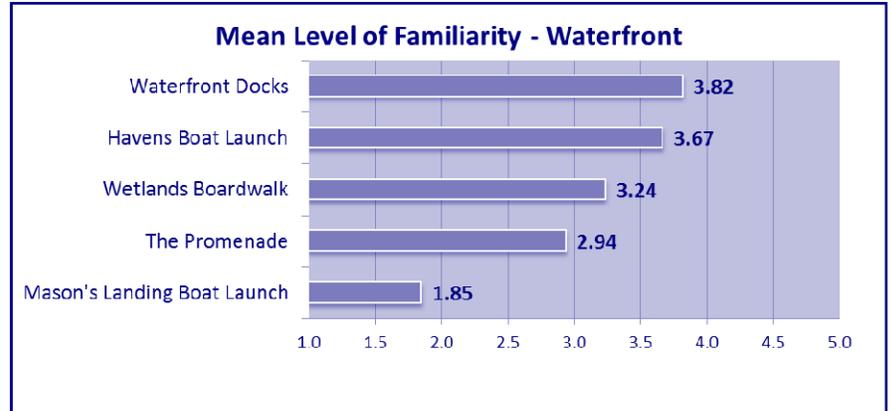
Random Sample Phone Interview

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
Waterfront	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Waterfront Docks	48.8% (200)	9.8% (40)	9.3% (38)	10.0% (41)	10.5% (43)	8.3% (34)	3.4% (14)	410
Wetlands Boardwalk	59.4% (240)	9.9% (40)	7.7% (31)	6.2% (25)	8.4% (34)	6.4% (26)	2.0% (8)	404
Havens Boat Launch	68.1% (277)	9.6% (39)	7.4% (30)	5.7% (23)	6.6% (27)	2.2% (9)	0.5% (2)	407
The Promenade	72.3% (292)	7.2% (29)	6.4% (26)	4.0% (16)	5.4% (22)	3.7% (15)	1.0% (4)	404
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	81.2% (328)	8.9% (36)	5.4% (22)	1.5% (6)	2.0% (8)	1.0% (4)		404



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

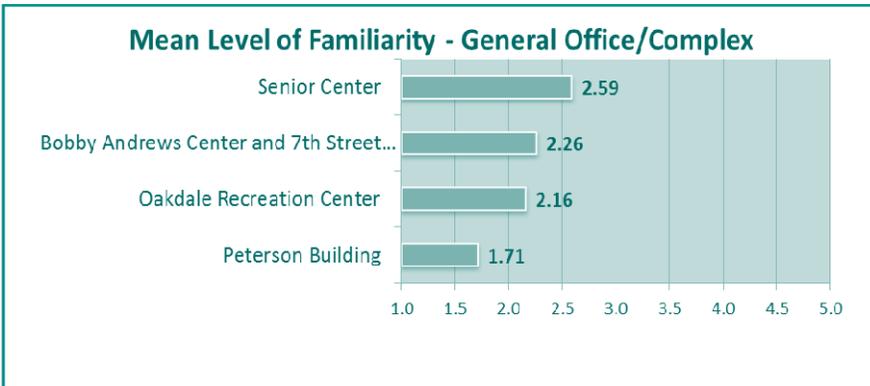
Voluntary User Response
Questionnaire



How often do you visit the following facilities?								
Waterfront	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Waterfront Docks	16.4% (37)	18.7% (42)	13.3% (30)	13.8% (31)	13.8% (31)	15.1% (34)	8.9% (20)	225
Wetlands Boardwalk	23.1% (52)	24.9% (56)	12.9% (29)	14.2% (32)	9.3% (21)	9.3% (21)	6.2% (14)	225
Havens Boat Launch	56.1% (125)	19.7% (44)	10.8% (24)	5.8% (13)	3.1% (7)	2.7% (6)	1.8% (4)	223
The Promenade	41.5% (93)	12.1% (27)	12.5% (28)	8.0% (18)	9.8% (22)	8.5% (19)	7.6% (17)	224
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	78.5% (175)	17.9% (40)	1.8% (4)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)		223



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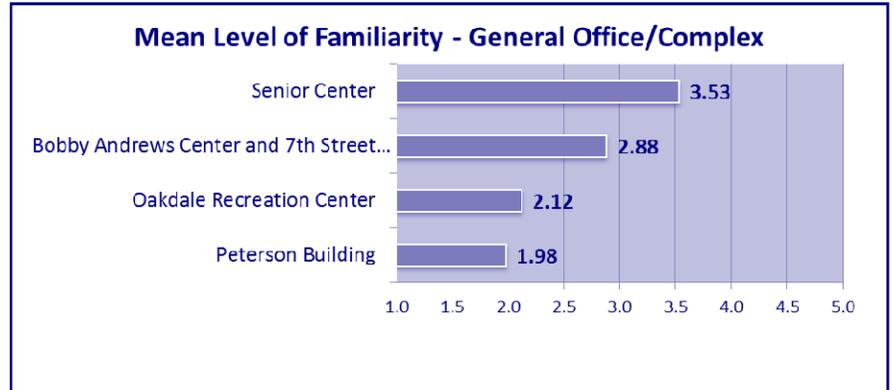
Random Sample Phone Interview

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
General Office/ Complex	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Senior Center	68.5% (278)	10.6% (43)	5.7% (23)	6.9% (28)	3.2% (13)	3.9% (16)	1.2% (5)	406
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	79.9% (321)	9.7% (39)	3.5% (14)	2.7% (11)	3.2% (13)	0.7% (3)	0.2% (1)	402
Oakdale Recreation Center	85.5% (342)	5.5% (22)	5.3% (21)	1.8% (7)	1.5% (6)	0.5% (2)		400
Peterson Building	88.6% (357)	6.5% (26)	2.0% (8)	1.7% (7)	1.0% (4)	0.2% (1)		403



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Voluntary User
Response
Questionnaire



How often do you visit the following facilities?								
General Office/ Complex	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Senior Center	38.5% (87)	12.8% (29)	4.4% (10)	9.3% (21)	10.6% (24)	15.5% (35)	8.8% (20)	226
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	66.7% (150)	21.3% (48)	1.8% (4)	3.6% (8)	4.0% (9)	1.3% (3)	1.3% (3)	225
Oakdale Recreation Center	86.0% (190)	10.0% (22)	1.8% (4)	0.5% (1)	0.5% (1)		1.4% (3)	221
Peterson Building	78.9% (176)	6.3% (14)	1.8% (4)	4.9% (11)	1.8% (4)	4.5% (10)	1.8% (4)	223



CITY OF WASHINGTON

Random Sample Phone Interview

How do you receive information about parks and recreation programs/events in the City of Washington		
	%	Freq (N)
Newspaper	56.5%	238
Word of mouth	39.0%	164
Brochures/Flyers	18.5%	78
Posted signs	10.5%	44
City website	10.5%	44
Email	6.2%	26
Facebook	2.1%	9

Voluntary User Response Questionnaire

How do you receive information about parks and recreation programs/events in the City of Washington		
	%	Freq (N)
Word of mouth	47.5%	112
Newspaper	38.1%	90
Posted Signs	29.7%	70
Facebook	23.3%	55
Brochures/Flyers	19.1%	45
City website	17.4%	41
Email	14.8%	35



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Please tell us what influences your use of the parks and recreation facilities		
	%	Freq (N)
I have no interest in using these parks and facilities	30.9%	130
They are not in a convenient location for me/my family	12.6%	53
They are too crowded	6.7%	28
The grounds are not adequately maintained	4.8%	20
They are not safe	4.5%	19
They are not clean	4.0%	17
They are not pet friendly	2.4%	10
They are not well lit for nighttime use	2.4%	10

In addition to the tabulated information above, the survey respondents were asked to give more specific information which influences their use of parks and recreation facilities. In general, many people reported visits to facilities as opportunities to visit with family (especially children or grandchildren). The desire to stay healthy and fit was another common theme.

Many older participants reported that they used the parks and recreation facilities for activities like bingo, bridge, quilting, tai chi, or senior dances.

Some typical responses for *not* using the parks and recreation facilities included being too busy due to work or other family needs, being older and less physically capable of getting out, and also not having young-

er children or grandchildren around. A number of participants also reported that they were not aware of the many parks and recreation facilities available in the area.

A few participants suggested specific improvements that could be made to parks and recreation facilities to increase public usage.

These responses include better seating at the fields at Tayloe, more bleachers at Kugler Field, better lighting at the basketball courts, cleaner bathrooms at Haven’s Garden, more picnic areas, play equipment for very small children, and fishing access for persons without a boat. An additional request was made to stop activity at Oakdale Memorial Basketball Courts when funerals are in procession.

A minority of participants indicated that they did not use the parks and recreation facilities as often due to a lack of familiarity with what was available. There were a few suggestions provided by participants to increase the usage of parks and recreation facilities. These included having more recreational opportunities for smaller children, paving clear walking or biking paths in the parks, adding lights to the soccer fields, adding public tennis courts, holding daily water aerobics classes, and adding free WiFi to the waterfront.



CITY OF WASHINGTON

Random Sample
Phone Interview

Activities with High Levels of “Participation”		
	%	Freq (N)
Walking/jogging	69.4%	292
Attending outdoor performances	38.0%	160
Group gathering	36.8%	155
Bicycling	35.6%	150
Fitness-related classes	30.9%	130
Walking programs	29.9%	126
Nature activities	28.3%	119
Picnicking	28.0%	118
Playing on a playground	24.0%	101
Boating	23.3%	98
Special event/field trip	22.3%	94
Swimming	21.1%	89
Basketball	17.8%	75
Arts and crafts classes	16.6%	70
Dances	14.5%	61
Summer camp/program	14.0%	59
Baseball	13.1%	55
Football	10.2%	43

Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

Participants were provided with a list of parks and recreation activities and asked whether or not they personally or another member of their household had participated in such activities over the last year.

The tables above and to the right provide lists of activities **participated in by at least 10%** of participant households. The activity most often cited in both survey modes was Walking or Jogging followed by Attending outdoor performances.

One of the reasons to conduct these surveys and report them separately is because Random Sample participants are less likely to be very active parks and recreation users. People who happen upon the survey or actively log on to a website to take a survey often are regular users or have a particular vested interest.

There is evidence for this in noticing that the general levels of participation are higher on the Voluntary User Response Ques-

tionnaire. Not only that, but the list of activities that a member of the household participated in over the course of the year is longer, suggesting that these respondents participated a broader array of activities with more frequency than the general population.

It is important to note that there are activities where high levels of participation were reported amongst the Voluntary Response users that occurred be-



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Activities with High Levels of “Participation”		
	%	Freq (N)
Walking/jogging	65.3%	154
Attending outdoor performances	53.4%	126
Bicycling	47.0%	111
Swimming	40.3%	95
Boating	39.4%	93
Playing on a playground	37.7%	89
Fitness-related classes	36.4%	86
Picnicking	35.2%	83
Special event/field trip	35.2%	83
Group gathering	29.7%	70
Walking programs	28.0%	66
Nature activities	27.5%	65
Arts and crafts classes	25.4%	60
Corn hole	22.9%	54
Dances	20.8%	49
Baseball	18.6%	44
Summer camp/program	17.4%	41
Soccer	17.4%	41
Softball	16.9%	40
Basketball	14.8%	35
Billiards	13.1%	31
Football	12.3%	29
Tennis	11.4%	27
Bocce Ball	11.0%	26
After-school program	10.6%	25
Volleyball	10.6%	25

[Voluntary User Response Questionnaire](#)

low the 10 percent threshold for the Random Phone Sample respondents. If this isn't noted it can skew the numbers because of the way the survey results were reported. Those participation percentages which were high enough to report within the

Voluntary User Response Survey only are:

- Cornhole 22.9%
- Softball 16.9%
- Billiards 13.1%
- Tennis 11.4%
- Bocce Ball 11.0%
- Volleyball 10.6%



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Random Sample Phone Interview

Activities with High Levels of “Interest”						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Not Inter- ested	Slightly Interest- ed	Moderately Interested	Very In- terested	Extremely Interest- ed	
Walking/ jogging	27.6% (112)	8.4% (34)	22.4% (91)	32% (130)	9.6% (39)	406
Attending outdoor performances	38.5% (157)	9.6% (39)	21.8% (89)	23.8% (97)	6.4% (26)	408
Walking programs	45.2% (185)	8.3% (34)	21.5% (88)	18.6% (76)	6.4% (26)	409
Fitness-related classes	45.4% (182)	10.2% (41)	22.7% (91)	16.5% (66)	5.2% (21)	401
Bicycling	47.8% (194)	9.6% (39)	18.5% (75)	18.7% (76)	5.4% (22)	406
Nature activities	53.4% (214)	7.7% (31)	13.2% (53)	19.2% (77)	6.5% (26)	401
Group gathering	51.1% (207)	6.9% (28)	22.2% (90)	15.6% (63)	4.2% (17)	405
Boating	58.2% (237)	5.9% (24)	11.5% (47)	16.2% (66)	8.1% (33)	407
Swimming	56.7% (229)	8.4% (34)	15.8% (64)	13.9% (56)	5.2% (21)	404
Picnicking	54.7% (222)	10.3% (42)	17.0% (69)	14.8% (60)	3.2% (13)	406



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Voluntary User Response Questionnaire

Activities with High Levels of “Interest”						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Not Inter- ested	Slightly Interest- ed	Moderately Interested	Very In- terested	Extremely Interest- ed	
Walking/jogging	10.8% (23)	8.9% (19)	26.3% (56)	26.8% (57)	27.2% (58)	213
Attending outdoor performances	14.2% (30)	9.9% (21)	24.1% (51)	26.9% (57)	25.0% (53)	212
Fitness-related classes	20.9% (42)	10.0% (20)	26.4% (53)	25.4% (51)	17.4% (35)	201
Walking programs	19.8% (42)	18.4% (39)	21.7% (46)	22.2% (47)	17.9% (38)	212
Boating	31.0% (63)	9.9% (20)	15.8% (32)	19.2% (39)	24.1% (49)	203
Nature activities	24.2% (50)	13.0% (27)	21.7% (45)	24.6% (51)	16.4% (34)	207
Arts and crafts classes	23.2% (47)	15.8% (32)	25.6% (52)	19.7% (40)	15.8% (32)	203
Bicycling	21.9% (46)	12.9% (27)	32.4% (68)	20.0% (42)	12.9% (27)	210
Swimming	29.1% (59)	11.3% (23)	26.1% (53)	17.7% (36)	15.8% (32)	203
Picnicking	23.0% (47)	18.6% (38)	25.0% (51)	24.0% (49)	9.3% (19)	204



CITY OF WASHINGTON

Additions to the City of Washington Parks and Recreation Facilities

Participants were asked to indicate level of agreement on a 5-point scale. The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses.

There is an interesting difference of opinions between the two survey groups on this question.

Participants were also asked if there was anything else that

they believed the City of Washington needs more of to improve the current parks and recreation facilities. Responses included basketball courts, swimming pools, bowling alleys, drive-in theaters, water parks, YMCAs, roller skating rinks, and public beach access.

There were also requests for more toddler friendly parks

and no cost child activities. Public transportation was also reported as needed in the City of Washington.

Free responses from participants about what would benefit the City of Washington included clubs, nature trails, a golf course, expansion of current docks, and public summer programs.

Random Sample Phone Interview

The City of Washington needs more...						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Park land acquisition	7.9% (33)	31.0% (130)	18.1% (76)	37.0% (155)	6.0% (25)	419
Sports fields	7.0% (29)	30.8% (128)	18.6% (77)	34.5% (143)	9.2% (38)	415
Parks	7.4% (31)	31.0% (130)	13.8% (58)	40.1% (168)	7.6% (32)	419
Trails/ Greenways	4.3% (18)	22.5% (93)	15.1% (63)	48.0% (200)	10.3% (43)	417
Community centers	3.4% (14)	19.2% (80)	16.1% (67)	49.3% (205)	12.0% (50)	416
Activities on the water/Blueways	2.9% (12)	15.9% (66)	15.4% (64)	45.2% (188)	20.7% (86)	416
Community events	2.4% (10)	13.1% (54)	11.4% (47)	54.7% (226)	18.4% (76)	413



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Voluntary User Response Questionnaire

The City of Washington needs more...						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Community events	2.4% (5)	3.3% (7)	28.8% (61)	44.3% (94)	21.2% (45)	212
Trails/ Greenways	5.7% (12)	6.6% (14)	29.7% (63)	32.1% (68)	25.9% (55)	212
Activities on the water/Blueways	5.3% (11)	3.3% (7)	33.5% (70)	36.4% (76)	21.5% (45)	209
Community centers	3.7% (8)	7.0% (15)	42.5% (91)	32.2% (69)	14.5% (31)	214
Park land acquisition	7.3% (15)	13.2% (27)	33.7% (69)	26.3% (54)	19.5% (40)	205
Parks	7.7% (16)	13.0% (27)	41.1% (85)	21.7% (45)	16.4% (34)	207
Sports fields	8.5% (18)	10.0% (21)	43.6% (92)	16.6% (35)	21.3% (45)	211



Random Sample Phone Interview

The following would benefit Washington residents and visitors...						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
A BMX bike park	13.6% (56)	24.9% (103)	25.2% (104)	32.4% (134)	3.9% (16)	413
A disc golf course	7.2% (30)	26.3% (109)	23.4% (97)	33.3% (138)	9.7% (40)	414
More public docks	6.1% (25)	21.1% (86)	19.6% (80)	43.4% (177)	9.8% (40)	408
Greenway connectivity improvement	5.8% (24)	16.8% (70)	22.8% (95)	45.3% (189)	9.4% (39)	417
Senior center relocation and expansion to serve as a community center	7.0% (29)	13.9% (58)	20.9% (87)	45.9% (191)	12.3% (51)	416
A central hub for Parks and Recreation Offices	4.3% (18)	16.5% (69)	20.3% (85)	51.7% (216)	7.2% (30)	418
Outdoor fitness equipment	5.8% (23)	20.0% (83)	13.7% (57)	45.2% (188)	15.4% (64)	416
Athletic tournaments	4.7% (19)	13.6% (55)	18.6% (75)	52.2% (211)	10.9% (44)	404
A grocery/ convenience store within walking distance of the waterfront	3.4% (14)	19.9% (83)	12.9% (54)	43.9% (183)	19.9% (83)	417
Downtown bike rentals	1.9% (8)	12.7% (53)	13.0% (54)	57.5% (239)	14.9% (62)	416
Summer programs	2.4% (10)	7.0% (29)	11.0% (46)	66.9% (279)	12.7% (53)	417

Voluntary User Response Questionnaire

The following would benefit Washington residents and visitors...						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
A BMX bike park	8.2% (18)	17.4% (38)	48.9% (107)	15.5% (34)	10.0% (22)	219
A disc golf course	6.0% (13)	9.6% (21)	48.6% (106)	22.5% (49)	13.3% (29)	218
More public docks	9.5% (21)	8.1% (18)	38.5% (85)	24.0% (53)	19.9% (44)	221
Greenway connectivity improvement	5.1% (11)	7.0% (15)	43.5% (93)	24.8% (53)	19.6% (42)	214
Athletic tournaments	6.0% (13)	3.7% (8)	38.9% (84)	31.5% (68)	19.9% (43)	216
Senior center relocation and expansion to serve as a community center	7.2% (16)	9.9% (22)	30.6% (68)	27.9% (62)	24.3% (54)	222
Outdoor fitness equipment	6.7% (15)	7.1% (16)	31.3% (70)	34.8% (78)	20.1% (45)	224
Downtown bike rentals	5.5% (12)	5.0% (11)	34.1% (75)	37.7% (83)	17.7% (39)	220
A central hub for Parks and Recreation Offices	1.9% (4)	6.6% (14)	33.6% (71)	41.2% (87)	16.6% (35)	211
A grocery/ convenience store within walking distance of the waterfront	6.3% (14)	5.4% (12)	23.1% (51)	40.3% (89)	24.9% (55)	221
Summer programs	2.8% (6)	2.3% (5)	20.8% (45)	51.4% (111)	22.7% (49)	216



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SECTION 5- SUMMARY OF UN-MET NEEDS

PUBLIC OPINION INPUT SYNOPSIS

In conducting the Parks and Recreation needs assessment for the City of Washington, roughly six-hundred participants contributed to the effort in the form of public comment. The magnitude of information made scaling information down in order to discern the consensus a daunting task. The information found in the tables on this page is a condensation of the findings from the public process. It is a synthesis of data from all the various input sources.

Table 6.1 Categorizes and distills information from Stakeholder interviews, Focus Groups, and Workshops. Tables 6.2 and 6.3 averages together the interests and participation levels reported by both the Random Phone Sample and the Voluntary

User survey responses. Tables 6.4 and 6.5 adds the total number of respondents who agree as well as those who disagree in both survey modes then divides by the response frequency to get a percent average.

Table 6.2: Total Surveyed Who Report a High Interest in...

Walking/Jogging	55%
Attending outdoor performances	38%
Nature Activities	31%
Boating	30%
Walking Programs	30%
Fitness-related classes	29%
Bicycling	27%
Swimming	24%
Picnicking	23%

Table 6.3: Total Surveyed Who Reported High Levels of Participation in...

Walking/Jogging	67%
Attending outdoor performance	46%
Bicycling	41%
Fitness Related Classes	34%
Group Gathering	33%
Picnicking	32%
Playing on a Playground	31%
Swimming	31%
Boating	31%
Walking Programs	29%
Special Event/Field Trip	28%
Nature Activities	28%
Arts and Crafts Classes	21%
Dances	18%
Basketball	16%
Baseball	16%
Summer Camp Programs	16%
Football	11%

Table 6.1 – Top 20 Stakeholder Interviews/Workshop Comments

Topic Commented On	frequency of response
More activities for Youth	15
Better maintenance of existing facilities	14
Light sports fields	13
More and better restroom facilities	11
New soccer fields/allow room for more baseball	7
Better Marketing/access to information	6
More/better/expanded facilities for seniors	6
Concerts, games, tournaments on Waterfront	5
More equitable access to facilities/underserved parts of town	5
Public Access Boat Docks	4
Facilities for bicycling	4
Public Pool	4
Sand Volleyball	4
More/better public transportation	3
Problems with crime and drugs in parks	3
Church/industrial/organized sports leagues	3
Trails	3
More picnic tables	3
Encourage businesses to stay open late/Sundays	3
More green space/open space	3

Table 6.4: Total Surveyed Who Agreed that Washington Needs More...

	Percent Who Agreed	Percent Who Disagreed
Community Events	71%	12%
Activities on Water	63%	15%
Trails/Greenways	58%	22%
Community Centers	56%	18%
Park Land Acquisition	44%	32%
Sports Fields	42%	31%
Parks	32%	32%

Table 6.5: Total Surveyed Who Say Washington Would Benefit From...

	Percent Who Agreed	Percent Who Disagreed
Summer Programs	78%	8%
Downtown Bike Rentals	67%	13%
Waterfront Grocery/Store	64%	19%
Athletic Tournaments	59%	15%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	59%	21%
Central Hub for P&R Offices	58%	17%
Senior Center Relocation	56%	20%
Greenway Connectivity	51%	19%
More Public Docks	50%	24%
Disc Golf Course	40%	27%
BMX Bike Park	33%	34%



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Un-met Needs: Park-land

Neighborhood Parks: The NRPA Assessment does not tell the whole story when it comes to meeting community need for neighborhood parks. Much of the parkland that falls into that category is clustered around Jacks Creek. There needs to be better disbursement throughout the community of this park type. There especially needs to be better coverage in the West. In neighborhoods where there is a low standard of living people are not as mobile... they may not have access to a car, and there is some indication that there are some deficiencies in public transportation. There needs to be equitable park distribution.

Mini-Parks: Likewise, mini-parks are in short supply.

Mini-parks (sometimes referred to as "pocket parks") are unique in a park system. They are not intended to serve an entire community – just the surrounding neighborhood, within a few square blocks. When reviewing the public opinion surveys, it may appear that the two mini-parks in Washington (Pierce and Third and Charlotte and Fifth) are under-used, but it is impossible to judge the value of these parks based on how popular they are compared to the Community, Neighborhood, and District parks because a mini-park is designed to be used by only a fragment of the City while the latter is more accessible to the whole.

Inner-city residents often have limited access to quality recreational open space. Sometimes there are mobility issues, especially among youth, the elderly, and low income citizens so these parks need to be located within about ¼ mile walking distance of the residents they serve.

Mini-parks can serve a variety of functions: small event space, play space for children, space to relax and meet a friend or enjoy a lunch break. They need be no larger than about a quarter acre, and can be even smaller. Mini-parks are a good use for a vacant lot, they could be on a rooftop, or in any other leftover, forgotten or unused space. In residential neighborhoods (especially high density urban environments), they serve as communal back yards. They may also occur in commercial districts, where they are places of respite for tired shoppers, tourists, and workers on their lunch breaks. A mini-park with authentic historic character would be a great addition to Washington's Historic District.

Mini-parks can come in many forms. The most important criteria is that



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they be designed with a clear understanding of the needs and desires of the people they serve. Community gardens have become a popular choice when creating mini-parks for neighborhood interaction between people of all ages. They can help urban children learn about food production, encourage healthier eating, and facilitate community solidarity and a spirit of cooperation.

The benefits of mini-parks extend beyond the neighborhoods they serve and positively impact the entire city. A research team from University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine found that distressed neighborhoods that had a vacant lot converted to a mini-park had a diminished crime rate compared to neighborhoods where the lot remained unimproved. No doubt, it takes more than improved green space to cure crime and improve general health, but residents with improved lots in their neighborhoods reported "significantly less stress" and "more exercise".

Mini-parks do require significant planning to ensure sustainability. A design, implementation, and management plan which involves resident participation is important. An active investment in the park by the community fosters pride in ownership which leads to a strong incentive to care for and preserve the park.

Many of these parks are formed as a result of community groups rallying for more open space within the urban environment. They are often purchased with public money with an agreement that they will be maintained by a foundation or other organization. There are many possible funding sources for mini-parks. The Trust for Public Lands offers assistance for public and private funding specifically for mini-parks. At the local level, public-private ventures, individual contributions, and philanthropic support are often solicited to underwrite start-up and equipment costs.

Recommendations:

- Engage local civic organizations and advocacy groups who may be willing to help build and maintain mini parks in dense downtown neighborhoods, with the goal of having one mini-park within 1/4 mile radius for every resident.
- Consider zoning requirement for developers of new subdivisions to set aside a percentage of open space for conservation and recreational use and incorporate a mini-park or neighborhood park, or provide a "fee in lieu of" doing such.



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District/Regional Parks: The McConnell Sports Complex is Washington's only District park. There should be some improvements to it to maximize its potential as a regional draw. If plans are carried out to implement the Tar River Nature Park, it would be a second District/Regional Park. This is recommended as that facility would provide for other publicly expressed needs also... More trails, a place to launch paddle boats, and possibly swimming and camping. There is a growing trend toward nature-related recreation. The park should be designed for conservation, with low-impact human activities.

Land banking and Conservation: As Washington grows in population and land mass there will be a growing demand for parks, and a diminishing availability of land. In the interest of water quality, scenic quality and habitat preservation land should be acquired for the purpose of conservation and in some areas, low impact recreation.

Un-met Needs: Facilities

Maintenance of existing facilities: general things like grass mowed and restrooms cleaned more frequently. Expand staff as required to keep existing facilities in working order. Cleanliness is one of the major inhibitors to citizens using park facilities, and tax payers will be more receptive to approving new projects if existing ones are perceived as well maintained. Major maintenance is needed in some locations like the tennis courts.

Improvements to existing facilities:

drainage problems at McConnell Sports Complex as well as lighting, marking of the fields, and improved restrooms and concessions;

Sub-standard levels of service According to the NRPA LOS Assessment there are too few tennis courts, volleyball courts, running tracks and picnicking facilities and the community input detected significant public interest in each of these facilities. There is also a shortage of playgrounds. With a population of about 10,000 in Washington proper, there are only 6 playground owned by parks and recreation when the standard suggests one for every thousand residents, so there is an immediate need for 4 more.

Facilities with high levels of public interest: Soccer Fields, and more/better facilities for baseball, Paddle trails, Community Centers, Greenway Trails, Public Swimming Pool, facilities for bicycling, facilities for senior activities (especially exercise equipment).



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Un-met Needs: Programs

One way to meet citizen demand to provide better recreational opportunities for the youth is to reinstitute the Summer programs.

There is a higher than average percentage of single parent households in Washington. These families would be well served by offering broader after-school recreational programs.

There is significant interest in organized sports leagues in the community and concern for underprivileged kids who can't afford fees.

Nature-related programming

Other Needs

Get the word out more efficiently to the community (about programs and events). Also work with Chamber of Commerce and other City organizations to market Community amenities especially within 100 mile radius target area.

Staging certain activities around the business district on Sundays and after hours might encourage shops and restaurants to expand their hours. This has been tried and was not successful in the past, however, the possibility exists to receive input from local business owners about what types of events (and what policies surrounding events (perhaps it would help them to limit permits for food trucks)) do and do not work well for them. They are potential allies in sponsoring local teams and in providing added value to the recreational experience. Their cooperation can help add to the vitality that many surveyed and interviewed Washington residents expressed a desire for.



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SECTION 6– RECOMMENDATIONS

Methodology

As stated at the beginning of this document, the main purpose of this Plan is to improve the recreational opportunities and quality of life for all citizens of the City of Washington by identifying areas where improvements can be made. Each Section has provided clues which, when analyzed together, provide a basis for these recommendations.

The starting point was understanding why we bother to master plan in the first place... What evidence exists that leads to a fuller understanding of why we need to plan well.

Information was collected to establish familiarity with the history, geography, and demographics of Washington so that the Master Plan reflects a “sense of place”, and an understanding of the people for whom we are planning.

Next the consultant team began the process of talking to staff and stakeholders of Washington’s Parks and Recreation. Over six-hundred people offered input via phone, or written survey, or personal interview. This information was gathered and tabulated by East Carolina University’s Survey Research and Leadership Initiative then analyzed by the Master Planning team at Rivers and Associates.

Information which was gathered and carefully assessed by other consultants to the City, in the context of other master plans (such as the Washington Waterfront Visualization & Reinvestment Strategy and the City of Washington CAMA Core Land Use Plan) was taken into account.

The parks and facilities were inventoried, then locally and nationally recognized standards applied in order to begin to see the patterns of strengths and deficiencies emerge.

This final step toward recommendations entails a process of assimilation and distillation. What emerges here can be used by the City not only as a resource to help guide in decision making, but also as a touchstone to develop a deeper understanding of the people of Washington as the City strives to provide its citizens with the best possible facilities.



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Master Plan Recommendations

The following recommendations are in no particular order:

Prioritize meeting the demands of deferred maintenance of existing facilities before beginning new projects.

- Correct current staffing level deficiencies by increasing personnel to meet industry standards and maintain those standards to meet the demand for facilities that are constructed in the future. The minimum standard set by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for maintenance staffing for Parks and Recreation is one full-time person for every 18 to 20 developed park acres. The best practice standard is 12:1. With 144 developed acres and a five-person maintenance staff the ratio for Washington is 28:1.
- Maintenance deficiencies include, but are not limited to:
 - Repair tennis courts
 - Fix drainage issues on fields
- Develop maintenance schedule for parks which is more proactive than reactive.
- Coordinate with sports leagues to rotate use of fields, and mandate time for turf recovery.
- Implement an "Adopt-A-Park" program where businesses and groups of individuals commit themselves to help with care for a park in return for recognition (usually in the form of signage).
- Consider measures to discourage geese in locations where they are the biggest nuisance. Canada Geese prefer short, tender grass. Areas where grass is mown up to the water's edge is ideal Canada Goose habitat. Effectively controlling geese is usually a multi-faceted effort, however, one easy and fairly effective tactic is to allow tall native vegetation to grow at the water's edge. Canada Geese walk (instead of fly) from the water to the grassy feeding areas, and they do not like to walk through tall vegetation.



Above: In Greensboro, NC, an Adopt a Park program is part of a Citywide initiative to increase volunteer participation known as GIVE (Greensboro's Inclusive Volunteer Experience). There is a Service-Learning component in which volunteer efforts are sometimes directed by individuals with specialized skills such as master gardener led efforts to remove invasive plants and ornithologist assisted seasonal bird counts.

Images from: <http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts/content/PRecParks/Articles/VolunteerProgram.html>

International City/County Management Association: http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/14724/Maintenance_Standards_for_Parks_and_Facilities



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Consider the recommendations of various other master plans in tandem with this Plan.

In Section 2 of this document, highlights from Washington’s other Master Planning efforts have been gleaned which have the most direct correlation to Parks and Recreation planning. It would be helpful in planning new facilities to resource those documents for additional guidance.

- The *City of Washington CAMA Core Land Use Plan* recommends the “minimization of negative impacts of Hwy 17 Bypass”, in part, by developing and improving gateways into the City. This recommendation is independently reinforced by the findings of this current Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan which recommends building a new Gateway Park.
- The *City of Washington CAMA Core Land Use Plan* also recommends the identification of “environmentally sensitive area” and the importance of referring to the findings of that document when considering suitability of specific uses (such as the proximity of sports fields, etc, to sensitive waters).
- The *City of Washington Pedestrian Master Plan* recommends providing a safe and secure pedestrian route for citizens in any neighborhood to reach community activities. The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan concurs with this advice. A safe and effective sidewalk system improves the overall accessibility for pedestrians, which is a core goal for establishing a healthier community.

Review Section 2 – Master Plan Integration in this document for other cues to the findings of others on Washington’s behalf.

Enhance Overall Perception of Safety at Facilities

- Consider installing Blue Light Call Boxes
- Improve sidewalk system as necessary to provide safe access routes to parks.
- Clearer wayfinding



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Secure Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Develop Environmental Education Program

- There needs to be land within Washington’s park system where the protection and management of the natural environment is primary, and recreational use is secondary. According to the State Parks and Recreation Plan these areas should be sized sufficient to protect and manage the primary resource while providing secondary recreational use. Conservation Land Trusts may be able to help acquire properties. Care should be taken to make sure activities designed for these areas are ecologically appropriate.

Consistent Signage for City Parks (visual branding)

Public input indicated that park users are not always aware of whether an area that looks as if it’s public is actually park land. Clear wayfinding is also important for visitors.

- The City of Washington should consider developing Parks and Recreation facilities signage within the context of a plan to create a hierarchy of signage. This might include:
 - Gateway signs at major entry points,
 - District Signs (Historic District, Waterfront District, etc)
 - Public facilities signage for parks and other areas that welcome visitors

Strengthen existing relationships and establish new partnership opportunities (agreements)

- Coordinate interdepartmentally and inter-jurisdictionally. There may be opportunities to coordinate plans and pool resources.
- Consider public/private partnerships. There may be opportunities to get new parks built especially in low-income neighborhoods.
- Consider additional Shared Use Agreements
- Develop volunteer programs. Consider what other municipalities have done as potential models. Involve civic groups in these discussions. Creative ways to help meet maintenance needs could also be devised to be fun and educational addressing the need for more nature related activities.



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Acquire (obtain) property to meet the park facilities needs of under-served areas.

As reflected on Map x.x, there are areas of insufficient coverage within the Parks and Recreation system. There may be some private facilities within these regions which help mitigate the situation. It is important to the wellbeing of these neighborhoods that there be public access to recreational green space within at least ½ mile of every residence (1/4 mile would be optimum). These areas should include a variety of recreational opportunities including both passive (benches, picnic areas) and active areas (play structures, open lawns, and ball fields or courts) to meet the needs of an array of age groups, abilities, and interests. Referencing Map x.x,, recommendations for each color-coded region of the map are as follows:

- The Green portion of the map represents sufficient coverage - meaning people who live within this area have excellent opportunity to access diverse recreational facilities within ¼ miles of their home or place of business. Any resources employed in this area should be to resolve issues of deferred maintenance, improve signage/wayfinding, and installation of call boxes/ blue lights, to enhance perception of security.
- The Yellow area represents moderate sufficiency of park accessibility, with some definite caveats. For the most part, this area of the City consists of dense residential development. In this type of living condition where lots are small and yards are very scarce to non-existent, parks provide a very important function of communal gathering and recreational space. The parks which do exist in this yellow zone are Todd Maxwell Complex, Beebe, and Oakdale Recreation Center. This area would benefit greatly from playgrounds, open play fields, and possibly additional basketball courts located at a distance from the well-used Oakdale Courts. The addition of 3 or 4 mini-parks is recommended in the "Yellow" zone.
- The "Orange" area of the map includes some new development, and includes a high potential for future development. There is also some farm land and forested area. In this area Washington should work to identify areas to set aside for conservation and scenic quality purposes. Along the corridors entering the City Washington may find the potential to build a "Gateway Park" which creates an enhanced entry experience coming into



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town for visitors. This would also be a great area to look for land to build a new Soccer Complex. Taking advantage of the opportunity to provide a better entry experience can serve a dual purpose to help meet the demand of underserved neighborhoods in this area. A further recommendation which impacts this area (and mentioned elsewhere in this section of the Master Plan) is the establishment of “fee-in-lieu-of” policies for new development with the understanding that money would go to providing parks/recreational open space areas to serve new development.

- The Pink area of Map x.x includes some relatively new development. As in the “Orange” area of the map, it would be helpful to establish land planning policies which require developers to contribute to the cost of creating and maintaining new parks to serve these populations. These communities currently need mini-parks or small neighborhood parks to bring them in line with the Level of Service standard.

Increase Facilities where Deficiencies are Recognized

- Playgrounds- achieve and maintain NRPA standard of one playground area per 1000 residents. These facilities should be dispersed throughout the City so that every child has a playground within –at most- ½ mile from their home. Washington needs at least one playground that is designed to be “Universally Accessible” including play equipment which can be used by kids who have physical challenges... and also designed for those with developmental and cognitive impairments. A well design playground can have a therapeutic nature and the City of Washington might consider teaming with healthcare providers or private institutions to help fund such a facility.
- Relocate Soccer field to its own facility
- Add new lighted Baseball Field
- Batting cages at McConnell Sports Complex
- Two additional picnic facilities located outside the “Green” area on Map on page 38. These facilities should be included as one of several elements in new mini-parks or neighborhood parks. Picnic shelters might also be included as part of a new Gateway Park or Soccer Complex.



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- Paddle Trails with separate launch access from motorized watercraft.
- Running track
- Outdoor, senior-friendly fitness equipment (potentially in the form of a “fitness trail” as part of a new, or existing, facility).
- Identify opportunities to hold programmed events at existing facilities. There is a strong preference indicated in the surveys for more youth activities. There is also a desire for more Summer Programs. There was at least one comment that suggests the Skatepark is underutilized... it may provide an excellent venue for some events geared toward youth. Citizens are also interested in “nature related activities”. Some activities could be coordinated with the Estuarium.

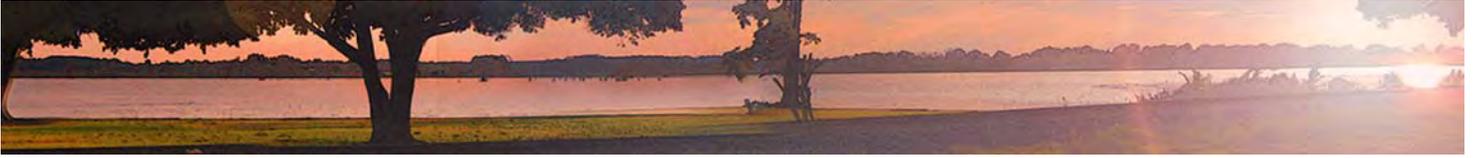
Integrate parks and recreation activities with tourism initiatives and other programs with potential economic benefits

According to the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan there has been a significant increase in ecotourism activities in the State in recent years. As an historic community with a unique riparian environment, Washington is well poised to reap the economic benefits of this trend. The City of Washington should consider:

- Moving forward with plans for the Tar River Nature Park. Care should be taken to make the primary focus conservation with recreational use as secondary. This would help meet the demand for more nature related activities and could provide paddle trail docking access. Many communities feature environmental education opportunities at similar facilities. This type of park can help in the development of summer programs
- Coordinate the integration of new facilities with existing ecotourism destinations such as the Estuarium.
- Work to expand upon the potential to host regional tournaments and other events at Susiegray McConnell Sports Complex.

Build upon marketing & programming efforts during tournaments

Consider the survey responses to the question “How do you receive information about Parks and Recreation Programs/Events” when marketing to targeted groups. Notice the dramatic difference



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between the ways the participants in the Random Sample receive information from the way those responding via Voluntary User Survey get their updates. The latter group consists of more active users, but when trying to reach new users, this information should be taken into account.

Provide a Multi-Functional, Interactive Water Feature for Summer Activities

Public process revealed that there is interest an outdoor swimming facility. If providing an outdoor pool is not feasible, the City of Washington should consider:

- A “sprayground” facility to offer a cost effective place to cool off in the summer,
- Establishing a public access area for swimming in the river.



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Issues Which Merit Further Study

- Conduct a survey to determine what privately owned park facilities exist within the City of Washington which help fulfill the needs of neighborhoods in terms of accessibility to park space within ¼ mile (preferable) to ½ mile of every residence. Any parks which are located only count toward meeting the Level of Service Standard if they are open to the public.
- What real estate within Washington jurisdiction and extra-jurisdictional areas is best suited for conservation land banking? This should be based upon importance for water quality, preservation of scenic character, and protection of sensitive animal and plant communities. Also a consideration is conservation planning for land in primary flood zones, and lands with low suitability for development, however farmland conservation and preservation of upland forests also have merit from an ecological perspective as well as in protecting scenic character.
- Provisioning of fuel on the waterfront. This seems like a good idea from the perspective of attracting recreational boaters and tourism. But can this be done without compromising water quality? Would it discourage other recreational watercraft (where there is an upward trend in popularity)? This issue would benefit from further public process along with input from water quality specialists, and from review of case studies from other communities.
- Potential areas of connectivity to regional trail system. Coordinate with the County, neighboring Counties, planners of the Coastal Carolina Trail, and Rails-to-Trails advocates to identify potential projects to tie into.
- There was a fairly significant interest expressed for downtown bicycle rentals. This may be considered in conjunction with the forthcoming Bicycle Master Plan, as well as case studies of other cities who have implemented such plans.



City of Washington Parks & Recreation

Public Opinion Initiative

Report of Results – Survey & Focus Groups

November 2013



Introduction

Purpose

The focus of this project was to collect public opinions of Washington, NC residents regarding parks and recreation services and facilities. The input collected will be used as the first phase of an updated parks and recreation plan for the city of Washington.

Method

East Carolina University's Center for Survey Research (CSR) prepared and administered a phone survey to a random sample of Washington, NC residents. Phone numbers were provided to CSR by Washington's City Hall. The same survey was also administered in hard copy and available online for Washington residents and visitors to complete. Additionally, two focus groups were conducted with citizens of Washington, NC.

Results

The first section of the report provides results from the random sample of Washington residents. The second section references data collected from both hard copy and online survey completions. The third section includes all focus group results.

For the phone, hard copy, and online surveys, participants were provided a list of parks and recreation facilities in the City of Washington and asked to indicate their levels of familiarity with each location as well as how often they visit. Participants were also asked what sorts of recreational activities they enjoy and might be interested in. Other questions were asked about why participants use the parks and recreation facilities and what could be done to improve and influence more usage of those facilities. The survey section closes with participants overall satisfaction levels of parks and recreation in the City of Washington.

For the focus groups, participants were asked fairly similar questions to the surveyed samples. Some examples include 'What is the best thing about the parks and recreation in the City of Washington?' and 'What can be done to ensure the parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington are enjoyed by all community members?'. A complete list of questions asked can be found in both the focus group section and the appendix of this report.

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City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Random Sample

Sample Demographics

Sample Location

There were a total of 421 participants who completed the survey over the phone. The table below provides percentage and frequency of participants based on location in the City of Washington or its surrounding areas. The majority of participants (92.2%) reported that they lived in the City of Washington. Some participants (6.4%) considered themselves residents of the City of Washington while living outside the city limits. Lastly, few participants (1.4%) reported that they did not live in the City of Washington nor considered themselves residents.

Do you live in the city of Washington?		
	%	Freq (N)
Yes	92.2%	388
No, but still considered a resident	6.4%	27
No	1.4%	6
	Total (N)	421

The table below provides percentage and frequency of participants for length of time having lived in the City of Washington. The majority of participants (58.6%) indicated that they had lived in the City of Washington for more than 15 years. The fewest amount of participants indicated that they had lived in the City of Washington for less than one year (1.9%) or were just visitors (0.2%).

How long have you lived in Washington?		
	%	Freq (N)
< 1 year	1.9%	8
1-5 years	11.9%	49
6-10 years	19.1%	79
11-15 years	8.2%	34
> 15 years	58.6%	242
I am a visitor	0.2%	1
	Total (N)	413

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Sample Household Sex & Age Distribution

Participants were asked to provide both the sex and age of each member currently living in their household. The table below shows the number of participants who reported each sex and age combination present in their current household. The percentage represents the percent of the total sample to have reported at least one member of their household present in the respective sex and age combination. The majority of participants indicated that at least one female over the age of 61 was present (29.9%). The sex and age combination least reported as present in each household were both females and males under the age of 5 with only 5.2% of households indicating at least one person present.

Sex & Age of each individual in household				
	# of persons in household			
Sex/Age	1	2	3	% of Sample with at least 1 person in household
Male < 5	17	4	1	5.2%
Female < 5	19	3		5.2%
Male 6-12	24	8		7.6%
Female 6-12	26	6		7.6%
Male 13-18	30	2		7.6%
Female 13-18	27	2		6.9%
Male 19-35	55	1	1	13.5%
Female 19-35	47	4		12.1%
Male 36-45	54	3		13.5%
Female 36-35	68	1		16.4%
Male 46-60	87	1		20.9%
Female 46-60	120	5		29.7%
Male > 61	99	3		24.2%
Female > 61	120	6		29.9%

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate level of familiarity on a 5-point scale (1=Not Familiar; 2=Somewhat Familiar; 3=Familiar; 4=Very Familiar; 5=Extremely Familiar) with a list of parks and recreations facilities in the City of Washington. Parks and Recreation facilities have been broken down into four groups for better ease of comparison:

Parks

- Beebe Memorial Park
- Bughouse Park
- Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park
- Festival Park
- Havens Garden Park
- Jack's Creek Greenway and Park
- Pierce and Third Street Mini Park
- Veteran's Park
- Washington Dog Park

Waterfront

- Havens Boat Launch
- Mason's Landing Boat Launch
- The Promenade
- Waterfront Docks
- Wetlands Boardwalk

Recreation

- John Cotton Tayloe School
- Kugler Field
- McConnell Sports Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts
- Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark
- Todd Maxwell Complex
- Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts

General Office/Complex

- Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center
- Peterson Building
- Senior Center

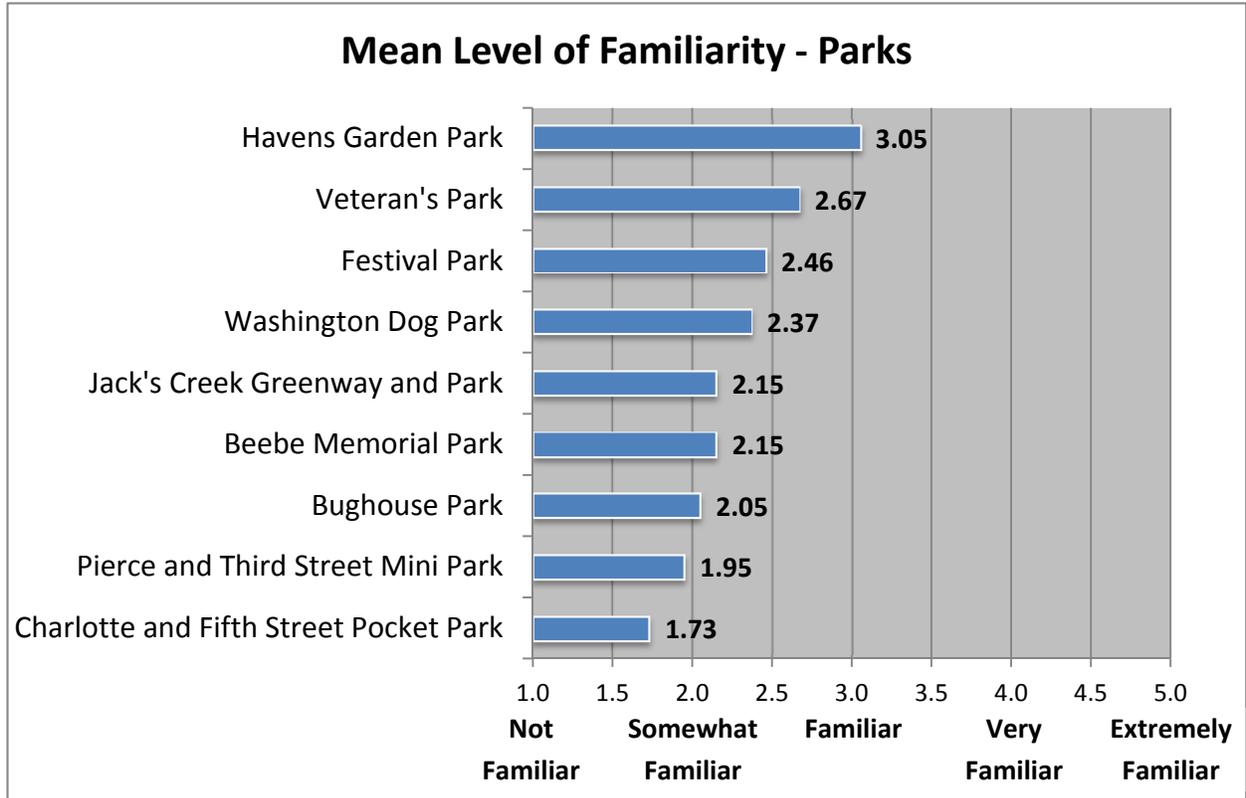
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Parks

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. Havens Garden Park was reported as most familiar (3.05; Familiar) with 7.5% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park was reported as least familiar (1.73; Somewhat Familiar) with 62.9% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
Parks	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
Havens Garden Park	17.1% (71)	6.5% (27)	38.5% (160)	30.5% (127)	7.5% (31)	416
Veteran's Park	26.2% (109)	10.3% (43)	38.9% (162)	19.5% (81)	5.0% (21)	416
Festival Park	34.9% (145)	9.4% (39)	34.2% (142)	17.8% (74)	3.6% (15)	415
Washington Dog Park	36.9% (154)	12.5% (52)	30.2% (126)	17.0% (71)	3.4% (14)	417
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	44.8% (186)	13.5% (56)	25.5% (106)	14.2% (59)	1.9% (8)	415
Beebe Memorial Park	42.2% (176)	14.4% (60)	31.2% (130)	10.8% (45)	1.4% (6)	417
Bughouse Park	50.8% (210)	10.4% (43)	24.0% (99)	12.1% (50)	2.7% (11)	413
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	51.8% (215)	12.0% (50)	26.7% (111)	8.4% (35)	1.0% (4)	415
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	62.9% (261)	10.6% (44)	19.0% (79)	5.3% (22)	2.2% (9)	415

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative



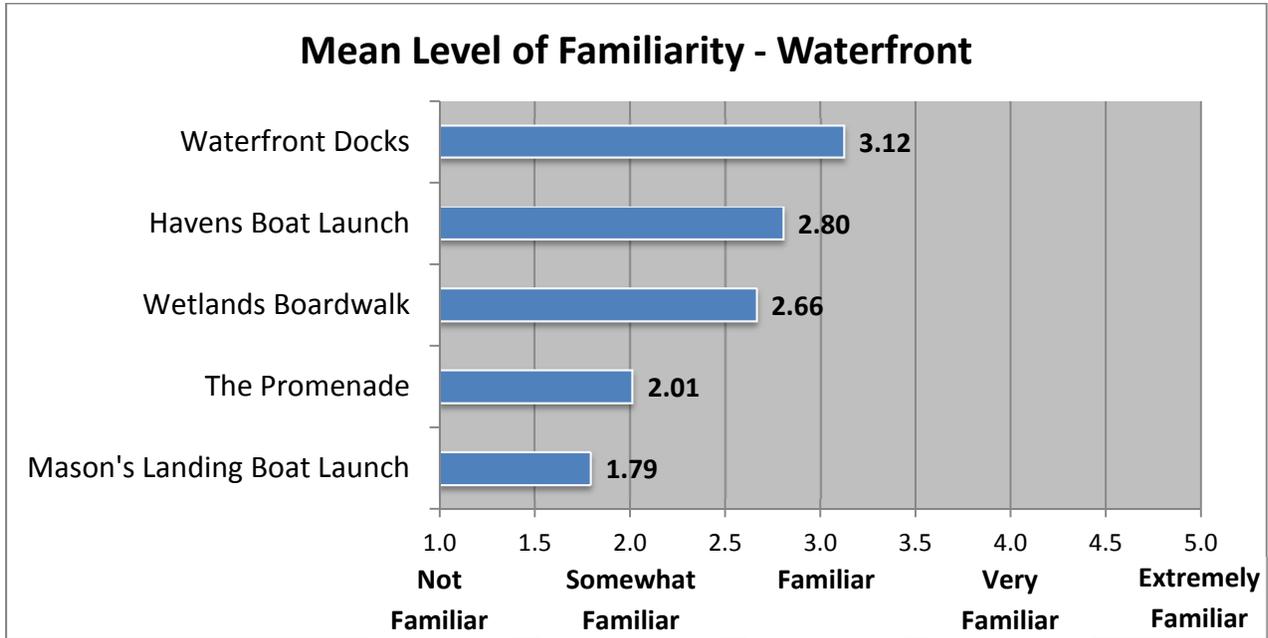
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Waterfront

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. Waterfront Docks was reported as most familiar (3.12; Familiar) with 9.6% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. Mason’s Landing Boat Launch was reported as least familiar (1.79; Somewhat Familiar) with 59.9% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
Waterfront	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
Waterfront Docks	13.6% (57)	8.1% (34)	40.7% (170)	28.0% (117)	9.6% (40)	418
Havens Boat Launch	24.5% (102)	8.4% (35)	36.3% (151)	24.0% (100)	6.7% (28)	416
Wetlands Boardwalk	29.8% (124)	7.9% (33)	33.7% (140)	23.6% (98)	5.0% (21)	416
The Promenade	55.5% (231)	6.5% (27)	21.6% (90)	13.7% (57)	2.6% (11)	416
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	59.9% (248)	9.7% (40)	22.9% (95)	6.0% (25)	1.4% (6)	414

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative



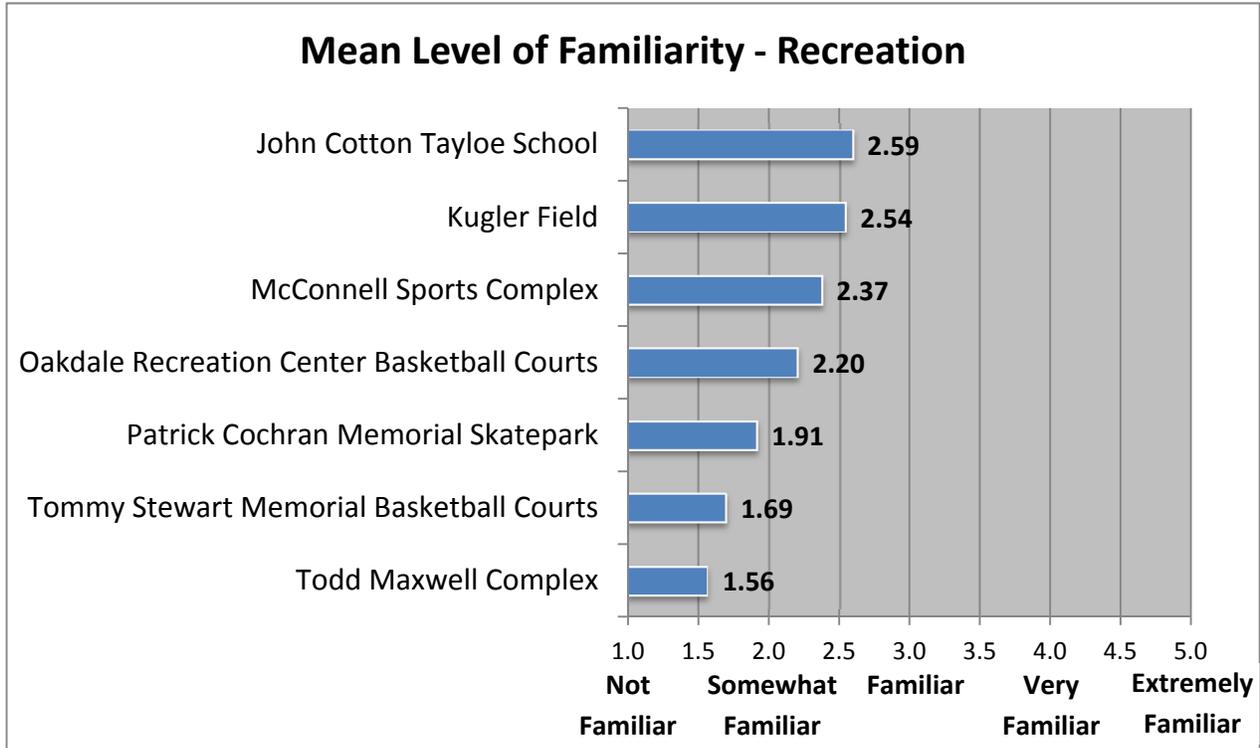
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Recreation

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. John Cotton Tayloe School was reported as most familiar (2.59; Somewhat Familiar-Familiar) with 4.3% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. Todd Maxwell Complex was reported as least familiar (1.56; Not Familiar-Somewhat Familiar) with 72.4% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
Recreation	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
John Cotton Tayloe School	27.4% (114)	11.8% (49)	39.4% (164)	17.1% (71)	4.3% (18)	416
Kugler Field	34.2% (141)	8.3% (34)	32.5% (134)	18.9% (78)	6.1% (25)	412
McConnell Sports Complex	39.5% (163)	10.7% (44)	28.3% (117)	16.2% (67)	5.3% (22)	413
Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts	42.6% (176)	13.8% (57)	27.8% (115)	12.3% (51)	3.4% (14)	413
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark	52.4% (217)	16.4% (68)	20.5% (85)	8.7% (36)	1.9% (8)	414
Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts	65.3% (269)	9.2% (38)	18.7% (77)	5.1% (21)	1.7% (7)	412
Todd Maxwell Complex	72.4% (297)	6.6% (27)	14.1% (58)	5.9% (24)	1.0% (4)	410

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

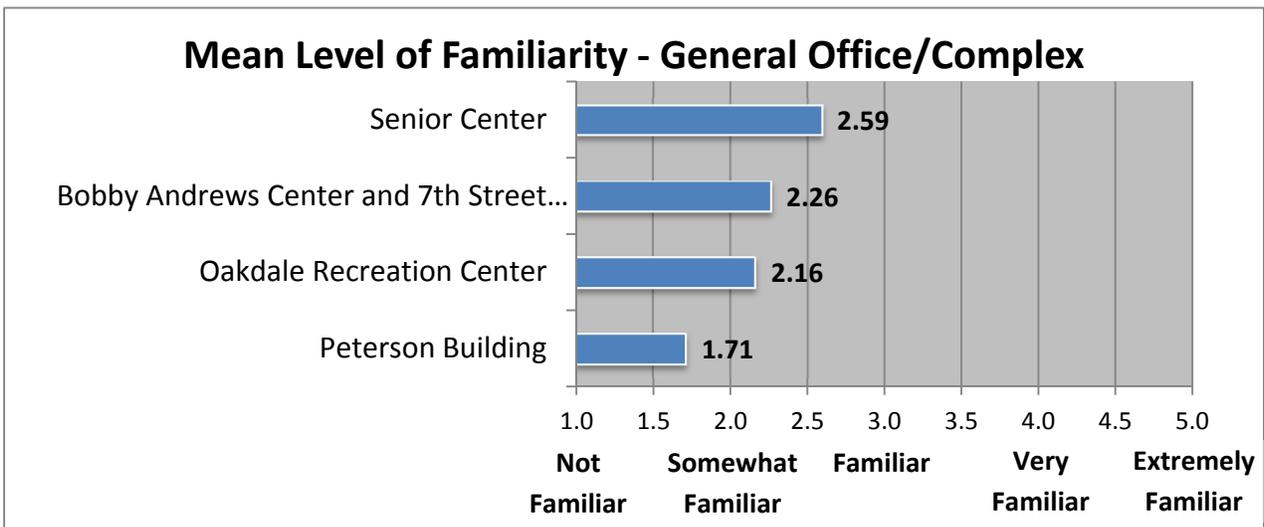


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with General Office/Complex

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. The Senior Center was reported as most familiar (2.59; Somewhat Familiar-Familiar) with 6.0% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. The Peterson Building was reported as least familiar (1.71; Somewhat Familiar) with 67.5% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
General Office/Complex	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
Senior Center	27.2% (113)	15.2% (63)	34.9% (145)	16.6% (69)	6.0% (25)	415
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	41.2% (172)	12.2% (51)	29.0% (121)	14.6% (61)	2.9% (12)	417
Oakdale Recreation Center	45.7% (188)	12.2% (50)	26.0% (107)	12.4% (51)	3.6% (15)	411
Peterson Building	67.5% (280)	5.8% (24)	17.3% (72)	7.2% (30)	2.2% (9)	415



City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Parks and Recreation Facilities Conclusions

The parks and recreation facility that participants reported as most familiar overall was the Waterfront Docks (3.12; Familiar), with 9.6% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar with the area. The parks and recreation facility reported as least familiar overall was Todd Maxwell Complex (1.56; Not Familiar-Somewhat Familiar); with 72.4% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar with the area.

Three of the top five most familiar parks and recreation facilities were part of the Waterfront group (Waterfront Docks, Havens Boat Launch, Wetlands Boardwalk), with the other two facilities representing the Parks group (Havens Garden Park, Veteran's Park).

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate frequency of visitation on a 7-point scale (1=Never; 2=Less than once a month; 3=Once a month; 4= 2-3 times a month; 5=Once a week; 6= 2-3 times a week; 7=Daily) with a list of parks and recreations facilities in the City of Washington. Parks and Recreation facilities have been broken down into four groups for better ease of comparison:

Parks

- Beebe Memorial Park
- Bughouse Park
- Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park
- Festival Park
- Havens Garden Park
- Jack's Creek Greenway and Park
- Pierce and Third Street Mini Park
- Veteran's Park
- Washington Dog Park

Waterfront

- Havens Boat Launch
- Mason's Landing Boat Launch
- The Promenade
- Waterfront Docks
- Wetlands Boardwalk

Recreation

- John Cotton Tayloe School
- Kugler Field
- McConnell Sports Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts
- Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark
- Todd Maxwell Complex
- Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts

General Office/Complex

- Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center
- Peterson Building
- Senior Center

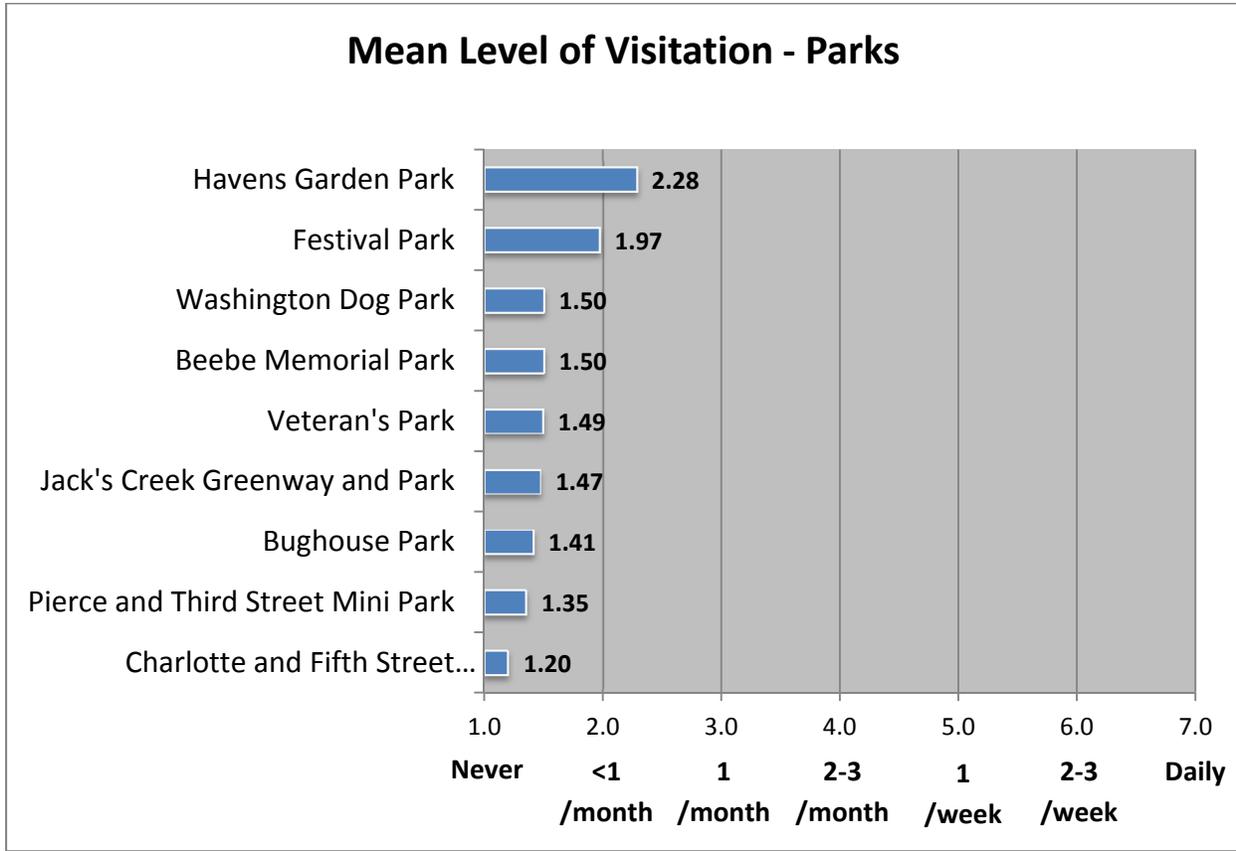
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of Parks

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. Havens Garden Park was reported as most often visited (2.28; Less than once a month) with 15.8% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park was reported as least often visited (1.20; Never) with 88.8% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
Parks	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Havens Garden Park	52.6% (213)	12.8% (52)	9.6% (39)	10.1% (41)	9.6% (39)	4.0% (16)	1.2% (5)	405
Festival Park	65.1% (263)	9.2% (37)	8.2% (33)	6.2% (25)	5.9% (24)	3.2% (13)	2.2% (9)	404
Washington Dog Park	77.5% (313)	10.4% (42)	5.2% (21)	1.7% (7)	3.0% (12)	1.2% (5)	1.0% (4)	404
Beebe Memorial Park	78.2% (316)	9.7% (39)	5.4% (22)	1.2% (5)	2.7% (11)	1.7% (7)	1.0% (4)	404
Veteran's Park	74.4% (299)	13.9% (56)	4.7% (19)	3.5% (14)	2.2% (9)	1.0% (4)	0.2% (1)	402
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	78.9% (317)	9.7% (39)	4.5% (18)	2.5% (10)	2.0% (8)	1.7% (7)	0.7% (3)	402
Bughouse Park	81.1% (326)	8.7% (35)	5.0% (20)	2.0% (8)	1.2% (5)	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)	402
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	82.7% (334)	8.9% (36)	3.0% (12)	2.2% (9)	2.2% (9)	1.0% (4)		404
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	88.8% (358)	6.5% (26)	2.5% (10)	0.5% (2)	1.5% (6)	0.2% (1)		403

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative



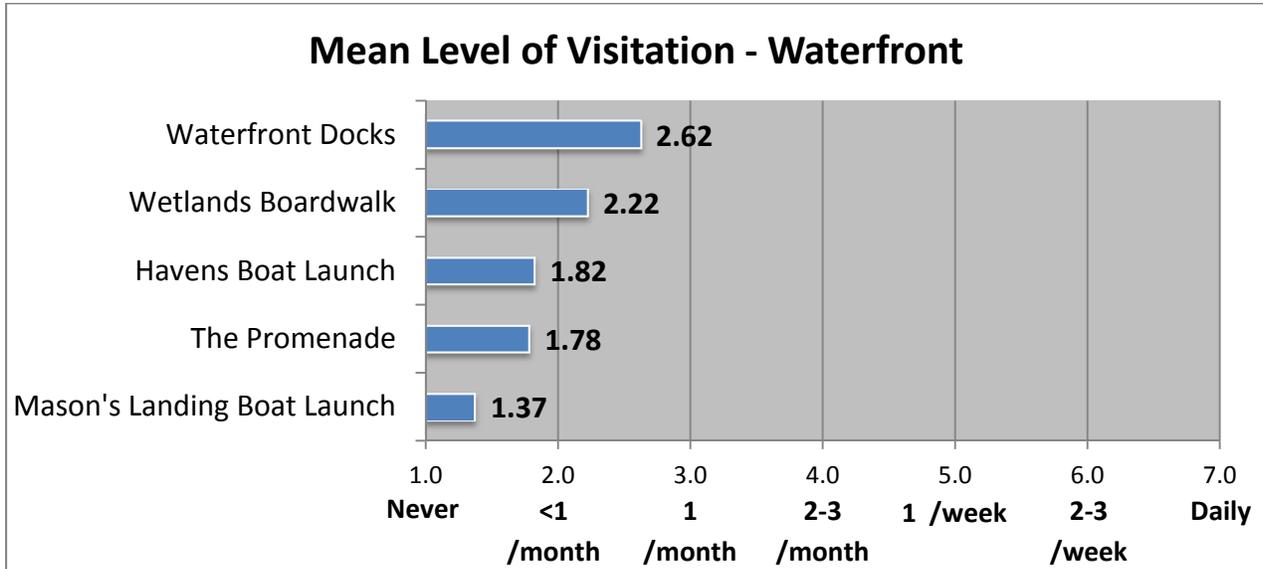
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of Waterfront

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. The Waterfront Docks was reported as most often visited (2.62; Once a month) with 22.2% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. Mason’s Landing Boat Launch was reported as least often visited (1.37; Never) with 81.2% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
Waterfront	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Waterfront Docks	48.8% (200)	9.8% (40)	9.3% (38)	10.0% (41)	10.5% (43)	8.3% (34)	3.4% (14)	410
Wetlands Boardwalk	59.4% (240)	9.9% (40)	7.7% (31)	6.2% (25)	8.4% (34)	6.4% (26)	2.0% (8)	404
Havens Boat Launch	68.1% (277)	9.6% (39)	7.4% (30)	5.7% (23)	6.6% (27)	2.2% (9)	0.5% (2)	407
The Promenade	72.3% (292)	7.2% (29)	6.4% (26)	4.0% (16)	5.4% (22)	3.7% (15)	1.0% (4)	404
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	81.2% (328)	8.9% (36)	5.4% (22)	1.5% (6)	2.0% (8)	1.0% (4)		404

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative



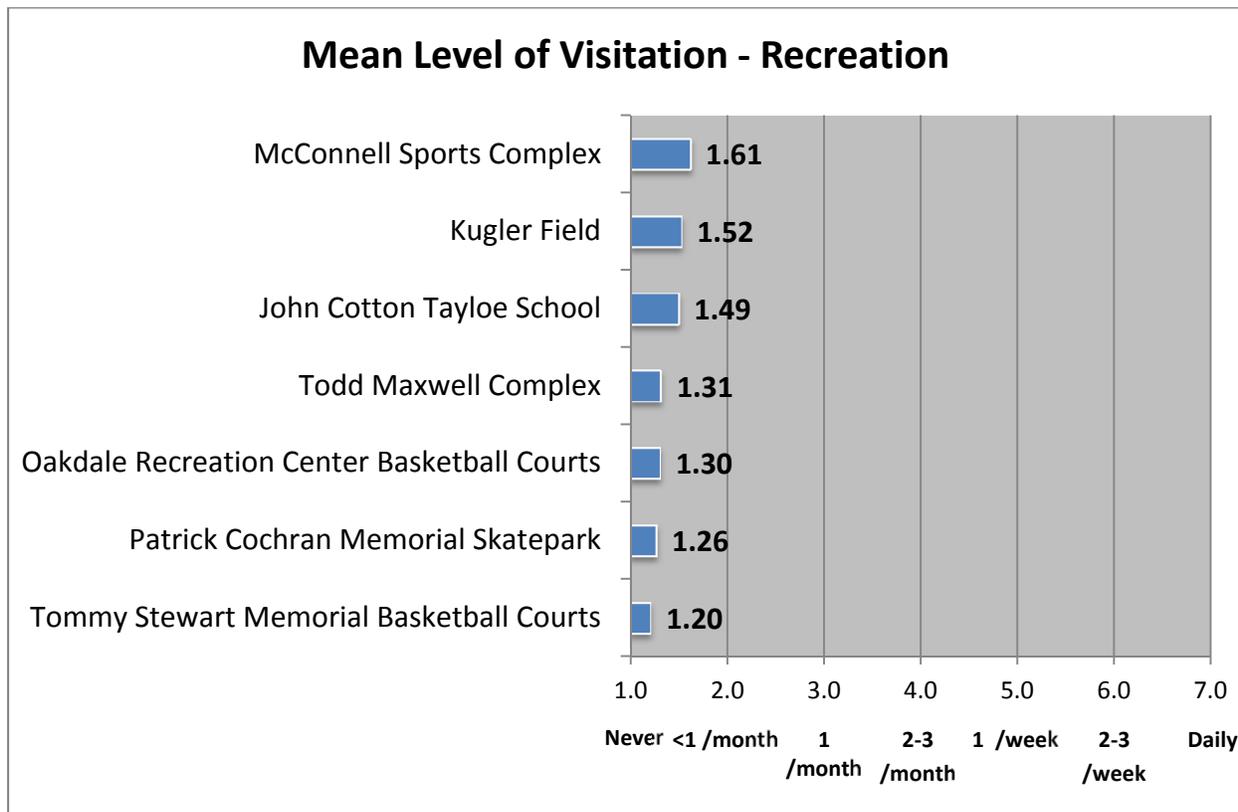
Visitation of Recreation

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. McConnell Sports Complex was reported as most often visited (1.61; Less than once a month) with 6.0% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts was reported as least often visited (1.20; Never) with 90.6% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
Recreation	% (N)							Total (N)
	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
McConnell Sports Complex	74.4% (302)	11.1% (45)	3.9% (16)	4.7% (19)	2.5% (10)	2.5% (10)	1.0% (4)	406
Kugler Field	77.8% (308)	9.3% (37)	3.5% (14)	4.3% (17)	3.0% (12)	1.5% (6)	0.5% (2)	396
John Cotton Tayloe School	79.5% (322)	9.4% (38)	4.2% (17)	1.5% (6)	2.2% (9)	1.2% (5)	2.0% (8)	405
Todd Maxwell Complex	84.8% (340)	7.5% (30)	3.5% (14)	0.7% (3)	2.7% (11)	0.7% (3)		401

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts	84.8% (339)	8.0% (32)	3.0% (12)	2.0% (8)	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)	0.2% (1)	400
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark	87.3% (351)	6.7% (27)	2.0% (8)	1.5% (6)	2.0% (8)	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)	402
Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts	90.6% (367)	5.2% (21)	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)	1.2% (5)	0.7% (3)	0.2% (1)	405

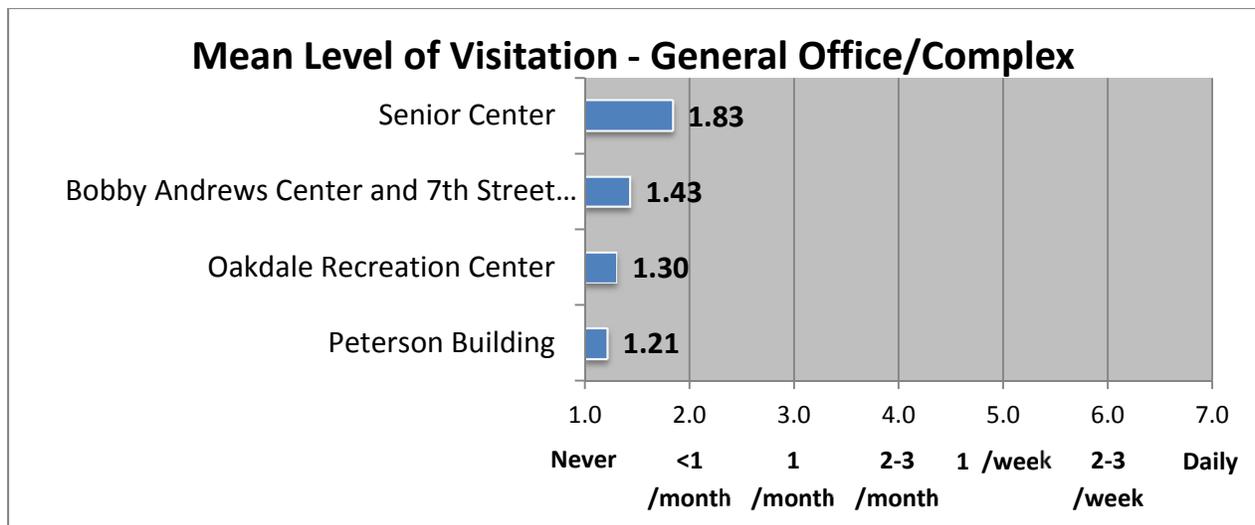


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of General Office/Complex

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. The Senior Center was reported as most often visited (1.83; Less than once a month) with 8.3% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. The Peterson Building was reported as least often visited (1.21; Never) with 88.6% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
General Office/Complex	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Senior Center	68.5% (278)	10.6% (43)	5.7% (23)	6.9% (28)	3.2% (13)	3.9% (16)	1.2% (5)	406
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	79.9% (321)	9.7% (39)	3.5% (14)	2.7% (11)	3.2% (13)	0.7% (3)	0.2% (1)	402
Oakdale Recreation Center	85.5% (342)	5.5% (22)	5.3% (21)	1.8% (7)	1.5% (6)	0.5% (2)		400
Peterson Building	88.6% (357)	6.5% (26)	2.0% (8)	1.7% (7)	1.0% (4)	0.2% (1)		403



City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitations of Parks & Recreation Facilities Conclusions

The parks and recreation facility that participants reported visiting most often overall was the Waterfront Docks (2.62; Once a month), with 22.2% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. The parks and recreation facility reported as visited least often overall was Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park (1.20; Never); with 88.8% of participants reporting having never visited the area.

Two of the top five most visited parks and recreation facilities were part of the Waterfront group (Waterfront Docks, Wetlands Boardwalk), with two other facilities representing the Parks group (Havens Garden Park, Festival Park) and the final area representing the General Office/Complex group (Senior Center).

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Influences on Usage of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Participants were asked to provide reasons that they may or may not use parks and recreation facilities in the City of Washington. The table below provides the percentage and frequency of respondents who indicated each of the following as a personal influence. More than one option could be selected, and participants were also able to provide other reasons not listed in the provided prompts below.

Most participants reported not using the parks and recreation facilities simply because they were not interested (30.9%). Reasons reported the least often by participants for not using the parks and recreation facilities included being poorly lit for nighttime use (2.4%) and not being pet friendly (2.4%).

Please tell us what influences your use of the parks and recreation facilities		
	%	Freq (N)
I have no interest in using these parks and facilities	30.9%	130
They are not in a convenient location for me/my family	12.6%	53
They are too crowded	6.7%	28
The grounds are not adequately maintained	4.8%	20
They are not safe	4.5%	19
They are not clean	4.0%	17
They are not pet friendly	2.4%	10
They are not well lit for nighttime use	2.4%	10

Participants were also able to provide responses other than those listed above. Some common responses for using the parks and recreation facilities included liking to stay active and having children or grandchildren that play sports or enjoy spending time at the park. Some common responses for *not* using the parks and recreation facilities included being too busy due to work or other family needs, being older and less physically capable of getting out, and also not having younger children or grandchildren around. A number of participants also reported that they were not aware of the many parks and recreation facilities available in the area.

A few participants suggested specific improvements that could be made to parks and recreation facilities to increase public usage. These responses were better seating at the fields at Tayloe, more bleachers at Kugler Field, better lighting at the basketball courts, cleaner bathrooms at Haven's Garden, more picnic areas, play equipment for very small children, and fishing access for persons without a boat. An additional request was made to stop activity at Oakdale Memorial Basketball Courts when funerals are in procession.

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Travel to Parks and Recreation Facilities

Participants were asked to indicate the mode of transportation used for the most recent visit to a parks and recreation facility in the City of Washington. Most participants indicated that they had traveled by car (80.2%). Other forms of transportation to the park included traveling by bus, boat, skateboard, or by running.

For the most recent visit to the nearest park, greenway or public open space by someone in your household, how did he or she get there?

	%	Freq (N)
Car	80.2%	329
Walk	13.4%	55
Bicycle	2.7%	11
Other	3.7%	15
	Total (N)	410

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Additions to the City of Washington Parks and Recreation Facilities

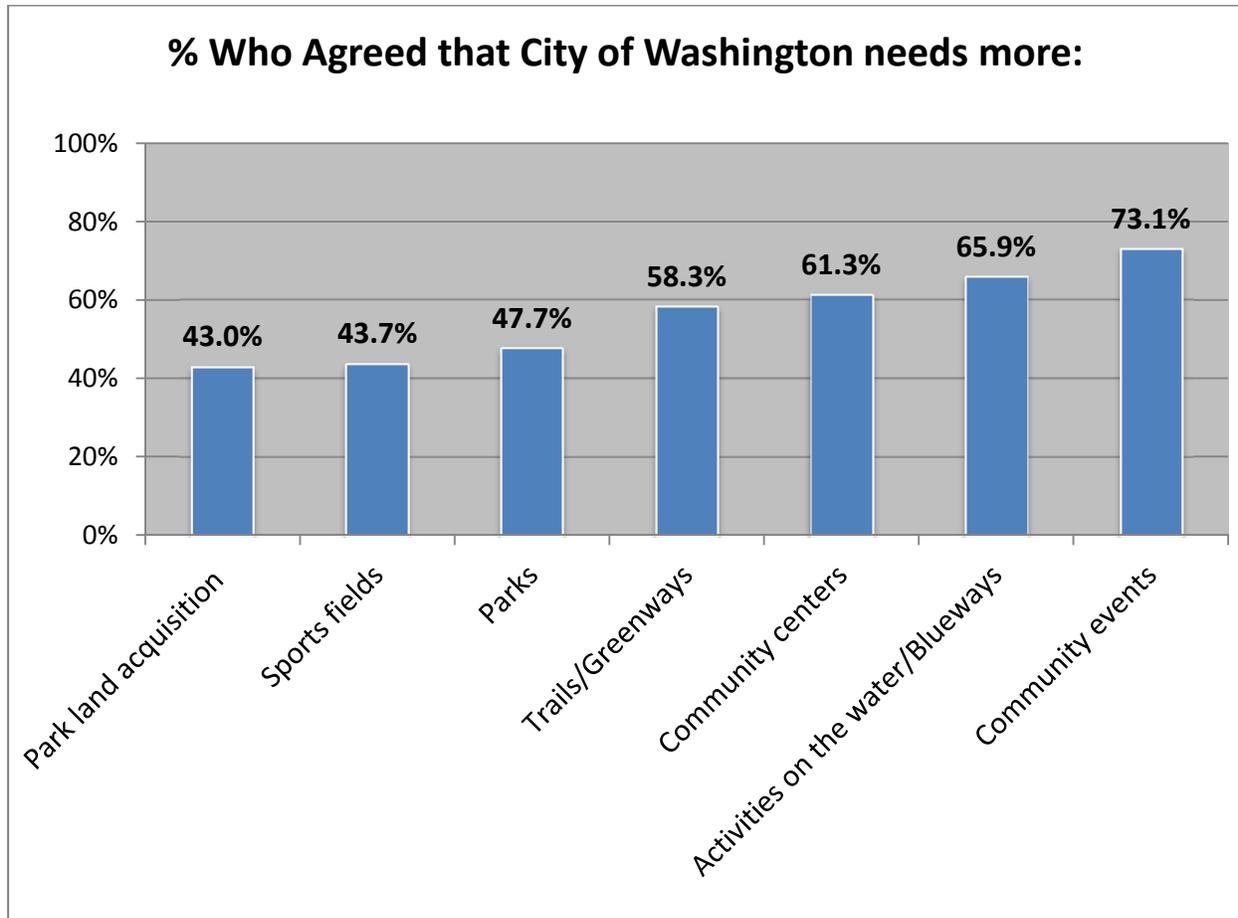
Adding to Current Resources

Participants were asked to indicate level of agreement on a 5-point scale (1=Strongly Disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neither Agree nor Disagree; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly Agree) with a question asking about increases to current parks and recreation facilities and activities available in the City of Washington. The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each resource. The greatest amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that more Community Events are needed (73.1%). The least amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that more Park Land Acquisition is needed (43.0%).

The City of Washington needs more:						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Park land acquisition	7.9% (33)	31.0% (130)	18.1% (76)	37.0% (155)	6.0% (25)	419
Sports fields	7.0% (29)	30.8% (128)	18.6% (77)	34.5% (143)	9.2% (38)	415
Parks	7.4% (31)	31.0% (130)	13.8% (58)	40.1% (168)	7.6% (32)	419
Trails/ Greenways	4.3% (18)	22.5% (93)	15.1% (63)	48.0% (200)	10.3% (43)	417
Community centers	3.4% (14)	19.2% (80)	16.1% (67)	49.3% (205)	12.0% (50)	416
Activities on the water/Blueways	2.9% (12)	15.9% (66)	15.4% (64)	45.2% (188)	20.7% (86)	416
Community events	2.4% (10)	13.1% (54)	11.4% (47)	54.7% (226)	18.4% (76)	413

Participants were also asked if there was anything else that they believed the City of Washington needs more of to improve the current parks and recreation facilities. Responses included basketball courts, swimming pools, bowling alleys, drive-in theaters, water parks, YMCAs, roller skating rinks, and public beach access. There were also requests for more toddler friendly parks and no cost child activities. Public transportation, affordable housing, and greater variety of stores were also reported as needed in the City of Washington.

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative



Adding New Resources

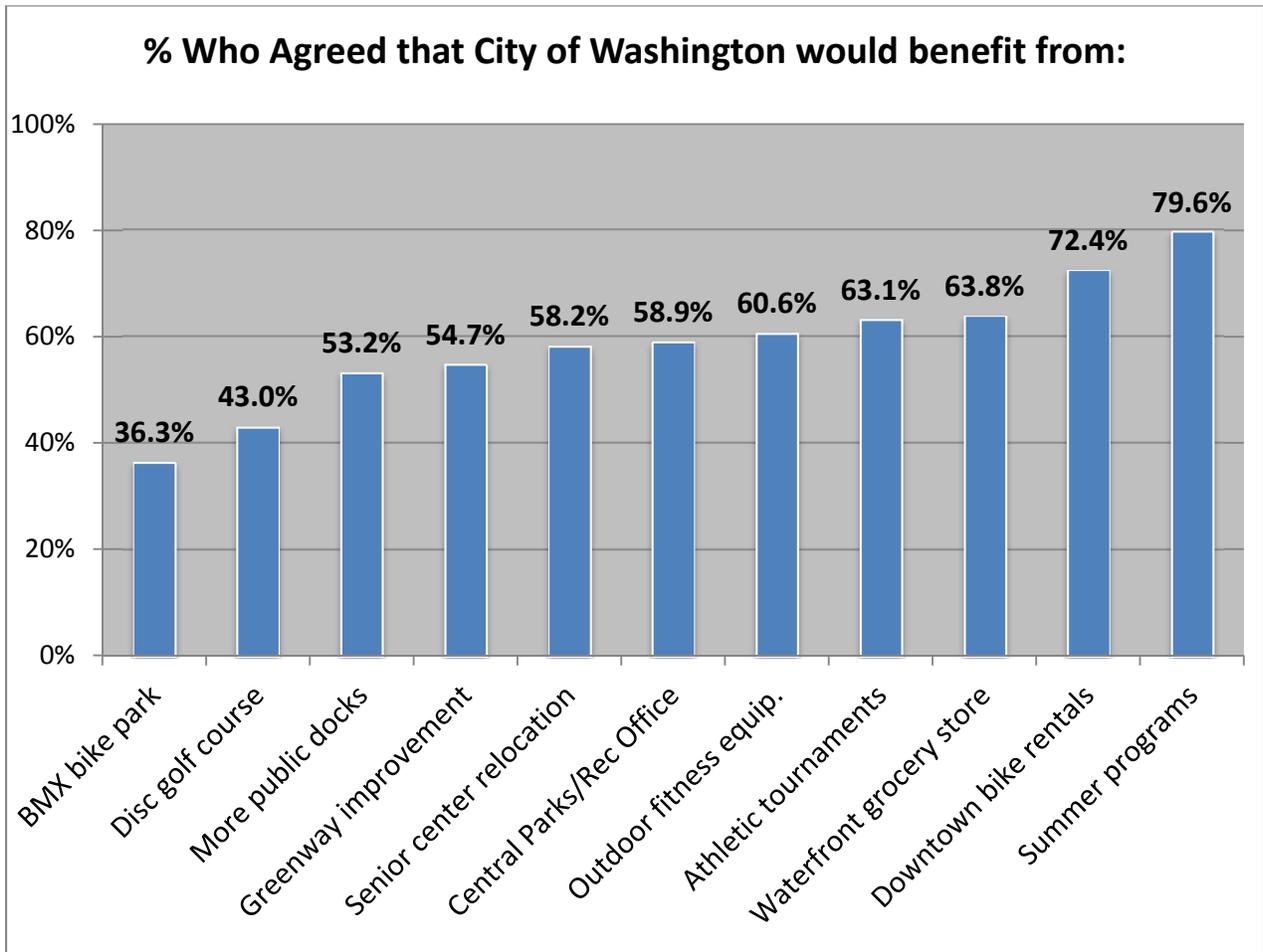
Participants were asked to indicate level of agreement on a 5-point scale (1=Strongly Disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neither Agree nor Disagree; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly Agree) with a question asking about the potential benefit of additions to current parks and recreation facilities and activities available in the City of Washington. The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each resource.

The greatest amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that Summer Programs would be beneficial (79.6%) with a small amount of participants disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that they would be beneficial (9.4%). The least amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that a BMX Bike Park would be beneficial (36.3%), with a slightly greater amount of participants disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that it would be beneficial (38.5%). Free responses from participants about what would benefit the City of Washington included clubs, nature trails, a golf course, expansion of current docks, and public summer programs.

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The following would benefit Washington residents and visitors						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
A BMX bike park	13.6% (56)	24.9% (103)	25.2% (104)	32.4% (134)	3.9% (16)	413
A disc golf course	7.2% (30)	26.3% (109)	23.4% (97)	33.3% (138)	9.7% (40)	414
More public docks	6.1% (25)	21.1% (86)	19.6% (80)	43.4% (177)	9.8% (40)	408
Greenway connectivity improvement	5.8% (24)	16.8% (70)	22.8% (95)	45.3% (189)	9.4% (39)	417
Senior center relocation and expansion to serve as a community center	7.0% (29)	13.9% (58)	20.9% (87)	45.9% (191)	12.3% (51)	416
A central hub for Parks and Recreation Offices	4.3% (18)	16.5% (69)	20.3% (85)	51.7% (216)	7.2% (30)	418
Outdoor fitness equipment	5.8% (23)	20.0% (83)	13.7% (57)	45.2% (188)	15.4% (64)	416
Athletic tournaments	4.7% (19)	13.6% (55)	18.6% (75)	52.2% (211)	10.9% (44)	404
A grocery/ convenience store within walking distance of the waterfront	3.4% (14)	19.9% (83)	12.9% (54)	43.9% (183)	19.9% (83)	417
Downtown bike rentals	1.9% (8)	12.7% (53)	13.0% (54)	57.5% (239)	14.9% (62)	416
Summer programs	2.4% (10)	7.0% (29)	11.0% (46)	66.9% (279)	12.7% (53)	417

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative



Parks and Recreation Activities

Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

Participants were provided with a list of parks and recreation activities and asked whether or not they personally or another member of their household had participated in such activities over the last year. The table below provides a list of activities participated in by at least 10% of participant households. The most often cited activity was Walking or Jogging with 69.4% of participants reporting having taken part over the last 12 months.

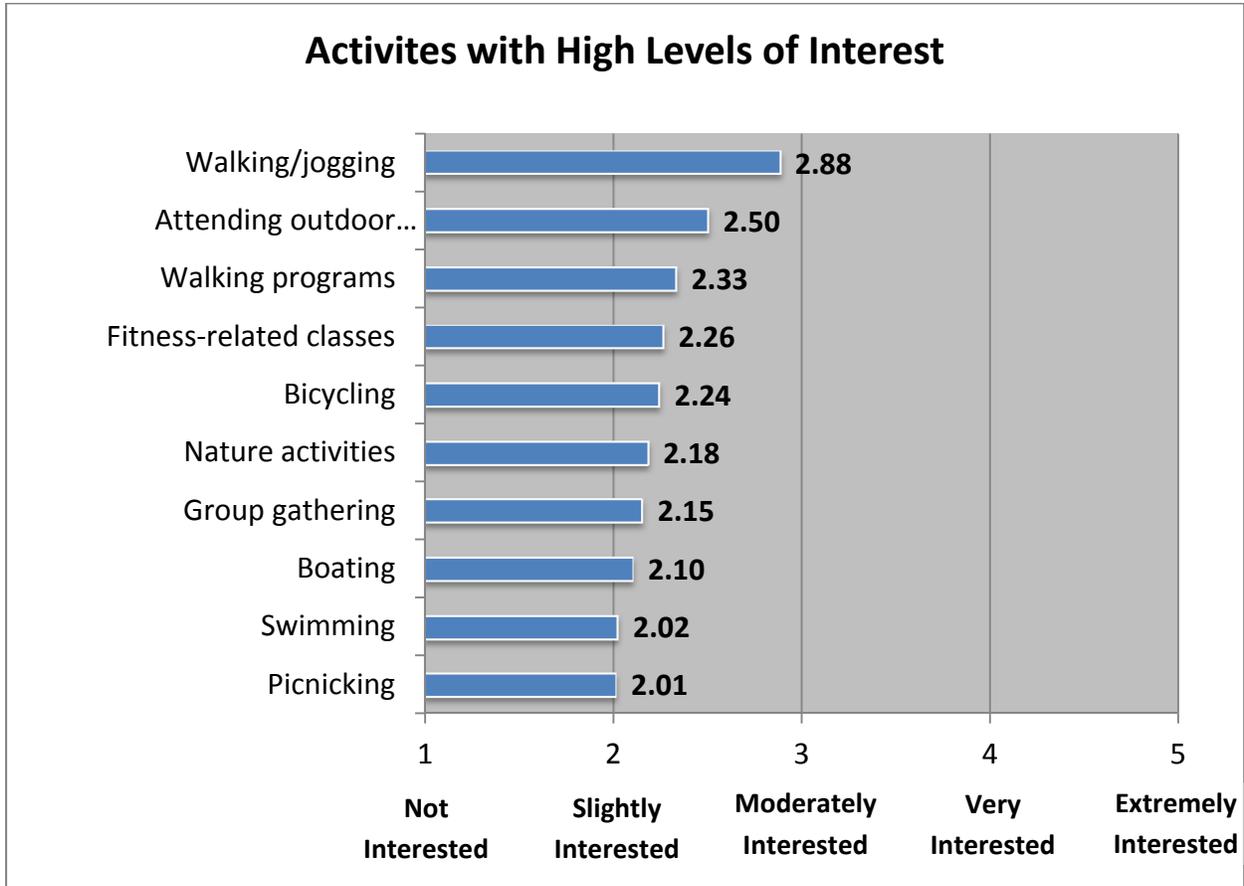
Activities with High Levels of Participation		
	%	Freq (N)
Walking/jogging	69.4%	292
Attending outdoor performances	38.0%	160
Group gathering	36.8%	155
Bicycling	35.6%	150
Fitness-related classes	30.9%	130
Walking programs	29.9%	126
Nature activities	28.3%	119
Picnicking	28.0%	118
Playing on a playground	24.0%	101
Boating	23.3%	98
Special event/field trip	22.3%	94
Swimming	21.1%	89
Basketball	17.8%	75
Arts and crafts classes	16.6%	70
Dances	14.5%	61
Summer camp/program	14.0%	59
Baseball	13.1%	55
Football	10.2%	43

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Interest in Parks and Recreation Activities

Participants were asked to indicate their personal level of interest of a 5-point scale (1=Not Interested; 2=Slightly Interested; 3=Moderately Interested; 4=Very Interested; 5=Extremely Interested) in a provided list of parks and recreation activities. The table and graph below represent those activities that received the highest level of interest, specifically the top 10 activities. The activity with the most reported interest was Walking or Jogging (3.51; Moderately Interested-Very Interested).

Activities with High Levels of Interest						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Not Interested	Slightly Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested	Extremely Interested	
Walking/jogging	27.6% (112)	8.4% (34)	22.4% (91)	32% (130)	9.6% (39)	406
Attending outdoor performances	38.5% (157)	9.6% (39)	21.8% (89)	23.8% (97)	6.4% (26)	408
Walking programs	45.2% (185)	8.3% (34)	21.5% (88)	18.6% (76)	6.4% (26)	409
Fitness-related classes	45.4% (182)	10.2% (41)	22.7% (91)	16.5% (66)	5.2% (21)	401
Bicycling	47.8% (194)	9.6% (39)	18.5% (75)	18.7% (76)	5.4% (22)	406
Nature activities	53.4% (214)	7.7% (31)	13.2% (53)	19.2% (77)	6.5% (26)	401
Group gathering	51.1% (207)	6.9% (28)	22.2% (90)	15.6% (63)	4.2% (17)	405
Boating	58.2% (237)	5.9% (24)	11.5% (47)	16.2% (66)	8.1% (33)	407
Swimming	56.7% (229)	8.4% (34)	15.8% (64)	13.9% (56)	5.2% (21)	404
Picnicking	54.7% (222)	10.3% (42)	17.0% (69)	14.8% (60)	3.2% (13)	406



City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Receiving Information about Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate ways in which they receive information regarding parks and recreation in the City of Washington. The table below provides percentage and frequency of participants who indicated each response. Participants were able to select multiple responses. The newspaper was listed as the most common source of information (56.5%) and Facebook was listed as the least common source of information (2.1%). Other responses not listed but still reported by participants as sources of information included mailings, magazines, phone calls, radio, television, and the internet. Some participants also referenced the Chamber of Commerce and council meetings as sources of information.

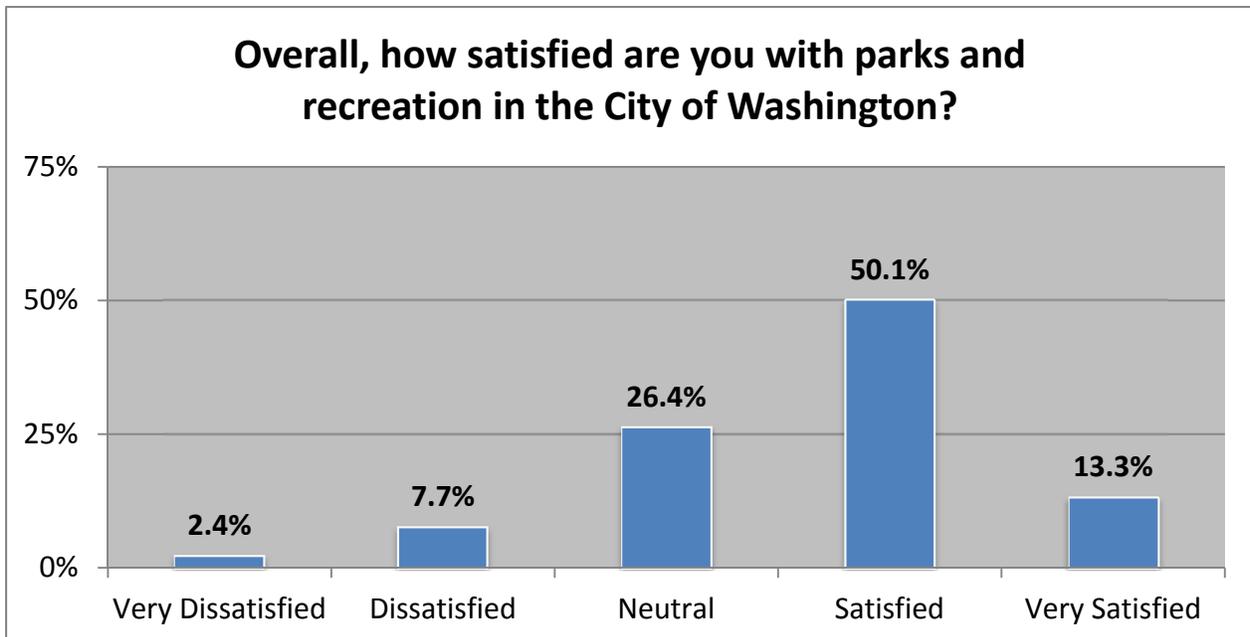
How do you receive information about parks and recreation programs/events in the City of Washington		
	%	Freq (N)
Newspaper	56.5%	238
Word of mouth	39.0%	164
Brochures/Flyers	18.5%	78
Posted signs	10.5%	44
City website	10.5%	44
Email	6.2%	26
Facebook	2.1%	9

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate level of satisfaction on a 5-point scale (1=Very Dissatisfied; 2=Dissatisfied; 3=Neutral; 4=Satisfied; 5=Very Satisfied) with parks and recreation in the City of Washington. The table and graph below show the percentage and frequency of participants who indicated each response. The majority of participants indicated that they were Satisfied (50.1%) and a very small minority of participants indicated that they were either Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied (10.1%).

Overall, how satisfied are you with parks and recreation in the City of Washington?		
	%	Freq (N)
Very Dissatisfied	2.4%	10
Dissatisfied	7.7%	32
Neutral	26.4%	109
Satisfied	50.1%	207
Very Satisfied	13.3%	55
	Total (N)	413



Supplemental Sample

Sample Demographics

Sample Location

There were a total of 236 participants who completed the survey either in person or online. The table below provides percentage and frequency of participants based on location in the City of Washington or its surrounding facilities. More than one third of participants (36.3%) reported that they lived in the City of Washington. Another third of participants (36.3%) considered themselves residents of the City of Washington while living outside the city limits. Slightly less than a third of participants (27.4%) reported that they did not live in the City of Washington nor considered themselves residents.

Do you live in the city of Washington?		
	%	Freq (N)
Yes	36.3%	81
No, but still considered a resident	36.3%	81
No	27.4%	61
	Total (N)	222

The table below provides percentage and frequency of participants for length of time having lived in the City of Washington. The majority of participants (54.8%) indicated that they had lived in the City of Washington for more than 15 years. The fewest amount of participants indicated that they had lived in the City of Washington for less than one year (3.0%) or were just visitors (2.4%).

How long have you lived in Washington?		
	%	Freq (N)
< 1 year	3.0%	5
1-5 years	11.9%	20
6-10 years	16.1%	27
11-15 years	11.9%	20
> 15 years	54.8%	92
I am a visitor	2.4%	4
	Total (N)	167

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Sample Household Sex & Age Distribution

Participants were asked to provide both the sex and age of each member currently living in their household. The table below shows the number of participants who reported each sex and age combination present in their current household. The percentage represents the percent of the total sample to have reported at least one member of their household present in the respective sex and age combination. The majority of participants indicated that at least one female over the age of 61 was present (38.7%). The sex and age combination least reported as present in each household was males under the age of 5 with only 3.8% of households indicating at least one person present.

Sex & Age of each individual in household					
	# of persons in household				
Sex/Age	1	2	3	4	% of Sample with at least 1 person in household
Male < 5	6	3			3.8%
Female < 5	11		1		5.1%
Male 6-12	24	6			12.7%
Female 6-12	18	2			8.5%
Male 13-18	16	1		1	7.6%
Female 13-18	15	5			8.5%
Male 19-35	33	2	1		15.3%
Female 19-35	40		1		17.4%
Male 36-45	28	1			12.3%
Female 36-35	38	2			16.9%
Male 46-60	47	1			20.3%
Female 46-60	44				18.6%
Male > 61	69				29.2%
Female > 61	90	1			38.6%

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate level of familiarity on a 5-point scale (1=Not Familiar; 2=Somewhat Familiar; 3=Familiar; 4=Very Familiar; 5=Extremely Familiar) with a list of parks and recreations facilities in the City of Washington. Parks and Recreation facilities have been broken down into four groups for better ease of comparison:

Parks

- Beebe Memorial Park
- Bughouse Park
- Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park
- Festival Park
- Havens Garden Park
- Jack's Creek Greenway and Park
- Pierce and Third Street Mini Park
- Veteran's Park
- Washington Dog Park

Waterfront

- Havens Boat Launch
- Mason's Landing Boat Launch
- The Promenade
- Waterfront Docks
- Wetlands Boardwalk

Recreation

- John Cotton Tayloe School
- Kugler Field
- McConnell Sports Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts
- Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark
- Todd Maxwell Complex
- Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts

General Office/Complex

- Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center
- Peterson Building
- Senior Center

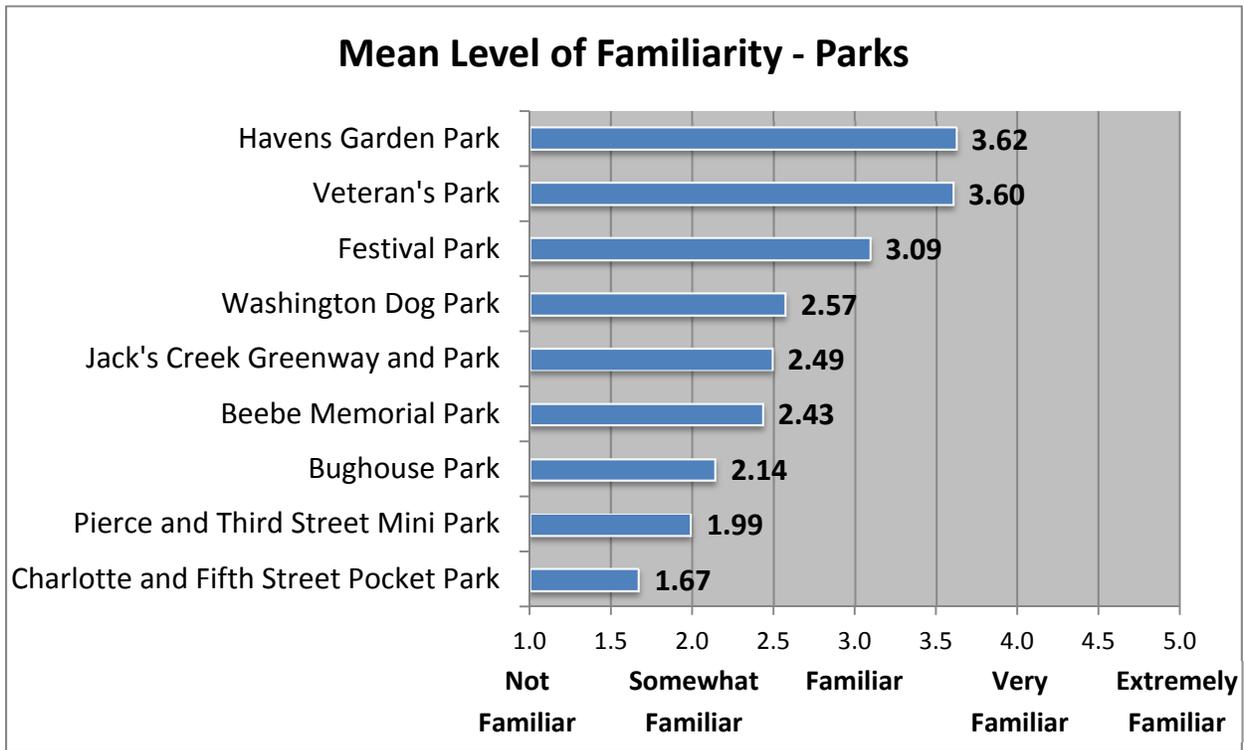
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Parks

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. Havens Garden Park was reported as most familiar (3.62; Very Familiar) with 35.4% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park was reported as least familiar (1.67; Somewhat Familiar) with 67.1% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
Parks	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
Havens Garden Park	13.1% (30)	6.1% (14)	22.3% (51)	23.1% (53)	35.4% (81)	229
Festival Park	13.1% (30)	9.2% (21)	18.3% (42)	23.1% (53)	36.2% (83)	229
Veteran's Park	16.9% (39)	15.2% (35)	28.1% (65)	22.1% (51)	17.7% (41)	231
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	38.6% (88)	11.0% (25)	20.2% (46)	15.4% (35)	14.9% (34)	228
Washington Dog Park	36.5% (84)	14.8% (34)	24.8% (57)	10.9% (25)	13.0% (30)	230
Bughouse Park	44.6% (99)	10.8% (24)	16.2% (36)	14.0% (31)	14.4% (32)	222
Beebe Memorial Park	49.5% (110)	15.3% (34)	16.7% (37)	8.6% (19)	9.9% (22)	222
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	52.7% (119)	16.8% (38)	17.7% (40)	4.9% (11)	8.0% (18)	226
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	67.1% (153)	13.2% (30)	9.6% (22)	5.7% (13)	4.4% (10)	228

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

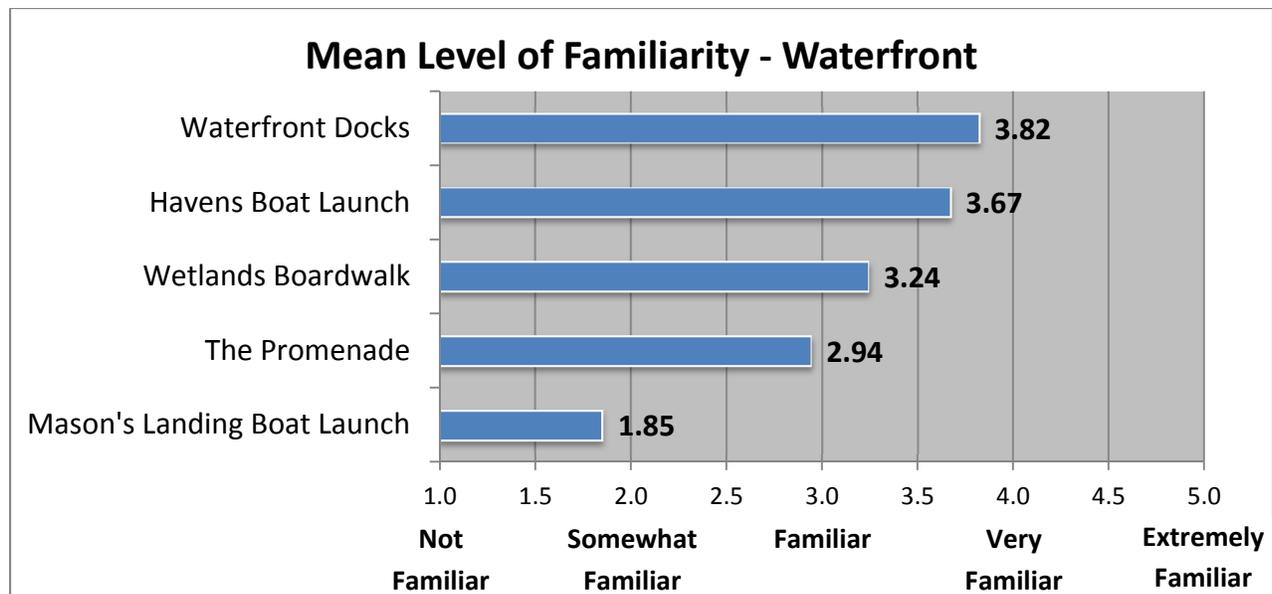


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Waterfront

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. Waterfront Docks was reported as most familiar (3.82; Very Familiar) with 41.5% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. Mason’s Landing Boat Launch was reported as least familiar (1.85; Somewhat Familiar) with 60.0% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
Waterfront	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
Waterfront Docks	7.0% (16)	9.2% (21)	20.5% (47)	21.8% (50)	41.5% (95)	229
Havens Boat Launch	20.8% (48)	10.8% (25)	19.5% (45)	21.6% (50)	27.3% (63)	231
Wetlands Boardwalk	15.9% (36)	5.7% (13)	14.5% (33)	22.9% (52)	41.0% (93)	227
The Promenade	31.9% (73)	10.5% (24)	14.4% (33)	18.3%(42)	24.9% (57)	229
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	60% (135)	15.1% (34)	10.7% (24)	8.0% (18)	6.2% (14)	225

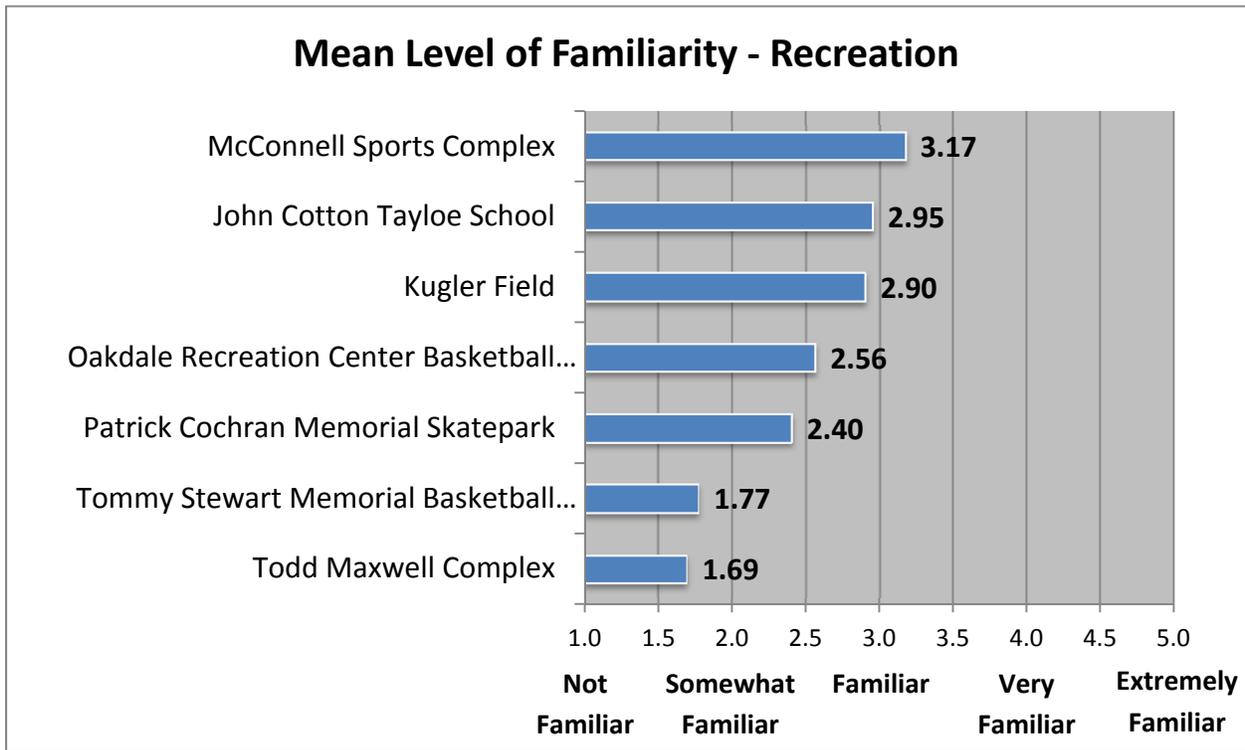


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Recreation

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. McConnell Sports Complex was reported as most familiar (3.17; Familiar) with 33.6% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. Todd Maxwell Complex was reported as least familiar (1.69; Somewhat Familiar) with 72.2% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
Recreation	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
McConnell Sports Complex	25.4% (59)	9.1% (21)	22.0% (51)	9.9% (23)	33.6% (78)	232
John Cotton Tayloe School	25.3% (58)	16.2% (37)	19.7% (45)	15.7% (36)	23.1% (53)	229
Kugler Field	27.1% (61)	13.8% (31)	23.6% (53)	12.9% (29)	22.7% (51)	225
Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts	36.7% (84)	12.2% (28)	23.6% (54)	13.1% (30)	14.4% (33)	229
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark	41.4% (94)	14.5% (33)	19.8% (45)	11.5% (26)	12.8% (29)	227
Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts	68.9% (157)	8.3% (19)	8.8% (20)	5.3% (12)	8.8% (20)	228
Todd Maxwell Complex	72.2% (156)	6.9% (15)	7.9% (17)	5.1% (11)	7.9% (17)	216

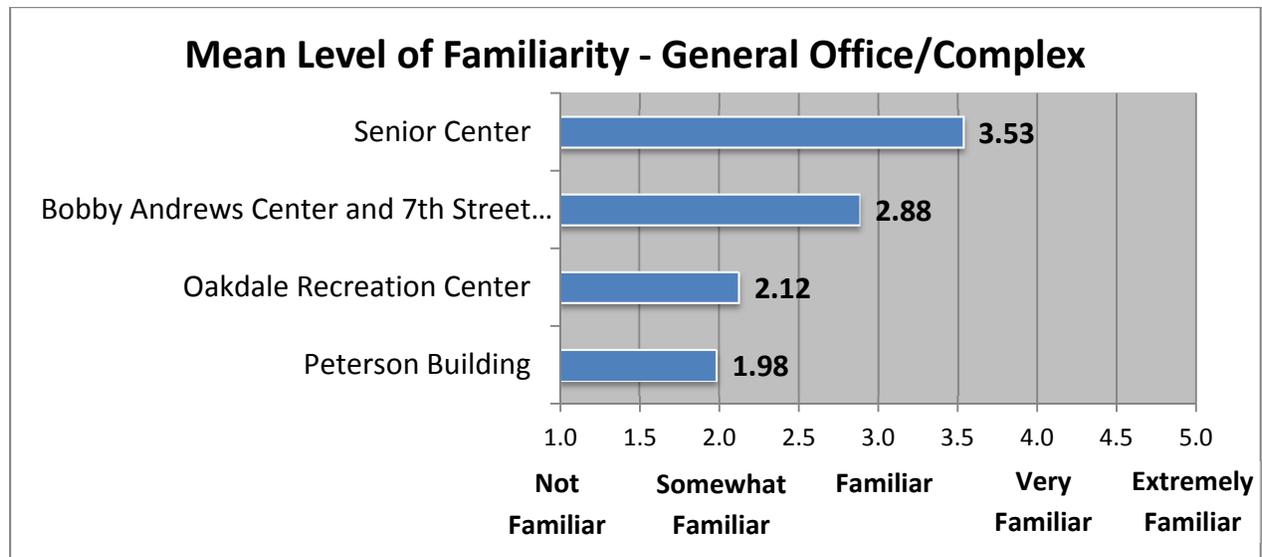


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with General Office/Complex

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of familiarity. The Senior Center was reported as most familiar (3.53; Familiar-Very Familiar) with 33.5% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar. The Peterson Building was reported as least familiar (1.98; Somewhat Familiar) with 59.8% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar.

Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?						
	% (N)					Total (N)
General Office/Complex	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar	
Senior Center	10.6% (24)	14.1% (32)	20.7% (47)	21.1% (48)	33.5% (76)	227
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	30.8% (70)	9.7% (22)	22.9% (52)	14.1% (32)	22.5% (51)	227
Oakdale Recreation Center	51.5% (118)	13.1% (30)	17.0% (39)	8.7% (20)	9.6% (22)	229
Peterson Building	59.8% (137)	10.5% (24)	11.8% (27)	7.9% (18)	10.0% (23)	229



City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Familiarity with Parks and Recreation Facilities Conclusions

The parks and recreation facility that participants reported as most familiar overall was the Waterfront Docks (3.82; Very Familiar), with 41.5% of participants reporting having been Extremely Familiar with the area. The parks and recreation facility reported as least familiar overall was Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park (1.67; Somewhat Familiar); with 67.1% of participants reporting having been Not Familiar with the area.

Two of the top five most familiar parks and recreation facilities were part of the Waterfront group (Waterfront Docks, Wetlands Boardwalk), with two other facilities representing the Parks group (Havens Garden Park, Festival Park), and the final area representing the General Office/Complex group (Senior Center).

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate frequency of visitation on a 7-point scale (1=Never; 2=Less than once a month; 3=Once a month; 4= 2-3 times a month; 5=Once a week; 6= 2-3 times a week; 7=Daily) with a list of parks and recreations facilities in the City of Washington. Parks and Recreation facilities have been broken down into four groups for better ease of comparison:

Parks

- Beebe Memorial Park
- Bughouse Park
- Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park
- Festival Park
- Havens Garden Park
- Jack's Creek Greenway and Park
- Pierce and Third Street Mini Park
- Veteran's Park
- Washington Dog Park

Waterfront

- Havens Boat Launch
- Mason's Landing Boat Launch
- The Promenade
- Waterfront Docks
- Wetlands Boardwalk

Recreation

- John Cotton Tayloe School
- Kugler Field
- McConnell Sports Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts
- Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark
- Todd Maxwell Complex
- Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts

General Office/Complex

- Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex
- Oakdale Recreation Center
- Peterson Building
- Senior Center

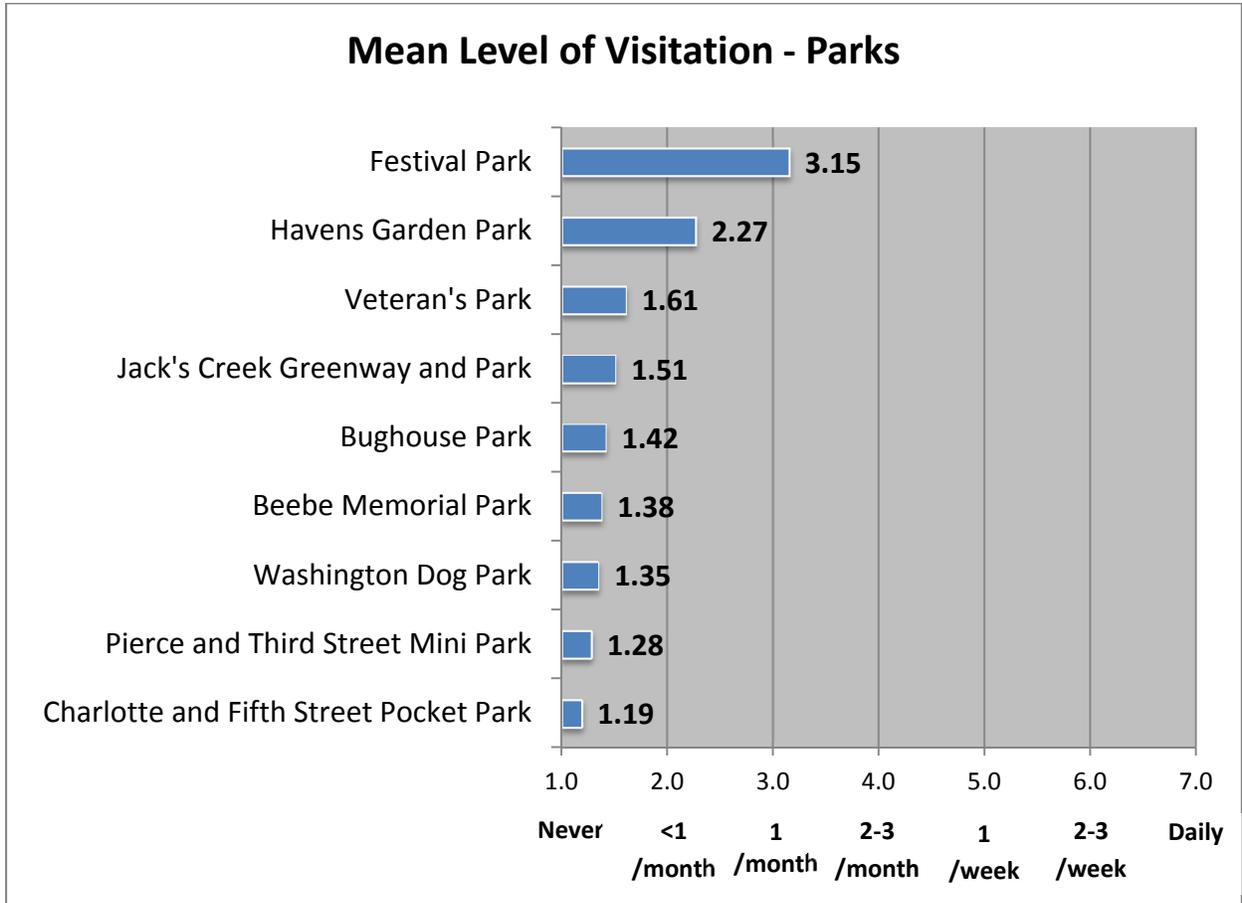
City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of Parks

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. Festival Park was reported as most often visited (3.15; Once a month) with 15.8% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park was reported as least often visited (1.19; Never) with 91.4% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
Parks	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Festival Park	22.3% (50)	21.4% (48)	20.5% (46)	14.3% (32)	5.8% (13)	7.6% (17)	8.0% (18)	224
Havens Garden Park	37.9% (85)	30.8% (69)	13.4% (30)	8.9% (20)	4.0% (9)	2.7% (6)	2.2% (5)	224
Veteran's Park	59.0% (131)	32.0% (71)	4.5% (10)	1.8% (4)	0.9% (2)		1.8% (4)	222
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	74.1% (166)	15.6% (35)	4.0% (9)	3.1% (7)		0.9% (2)	2.2% (5)	224
Bughouse Park	73.5% (161)	18.7% (41)	3.2% (7)	3.7% (8)			0.9% (2)	219
Beebe Memorial Park	79.8% (174)	14.7% (32)	1.8% (4)	0.5% (1)		1.4% (3)	1.8% (4)	218
Washington Dog Park	81.3% (182)	10.3% (23)	4.9% (11)	1.8% (4)	0.4% (1)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	224
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	87.0% (194)	7.2% (16)	1.3% (3)	1.8% (4)	1.3% (3)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	223
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	91.4% (202)	5.0% (11)	0.5% (1)	1.8% (4)			1.4% (3)	221

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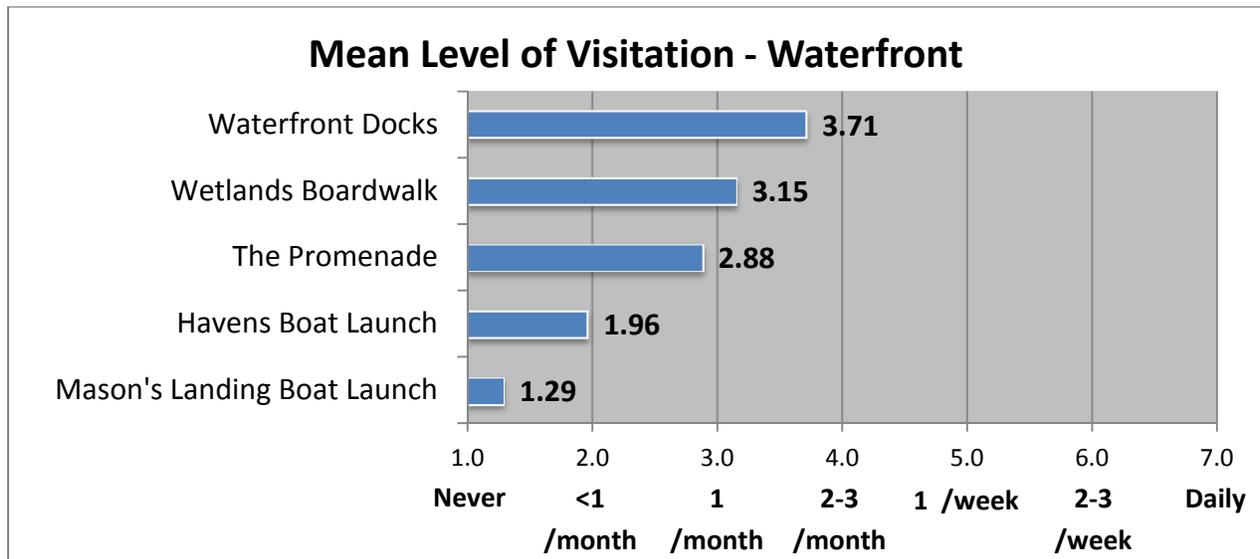


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of Waterfront

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. The Waterfront Docks was reported as most often visited (3.71; 2-3 times a month) with 37.8% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. Mason's Landing Boat Launch was reported as least often visited (1.29; Never) with 78.5% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
Waterfront	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Waterfront Docks	16.4% (37)	18.7% (42)	13.3% (30)	13.8% (31)	13.8% (31)	15.1% (34)	8.9% (20)	225
Wetlands Boardwalk	23.1% (52)	24.9% (56)	12.9% (29)	14.2% (32)	9.3% (21)	9.3% (21)	6.2% (14)	225
Havens Boat Launch	56.1% (125)	19.7% (44)	10.8% (24)	5.8% (13)	3.1% (7)	2.7% (6)	1.8% (4)	223
The Promenade	41.5% (93)	12.1% (27)	12.5% (28)	8.0% (18)	9.8% (22)	8.5% (19)	7.6% (17)	224
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	78.5% (175)	17.9% (40)	1.8% (4)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)		223



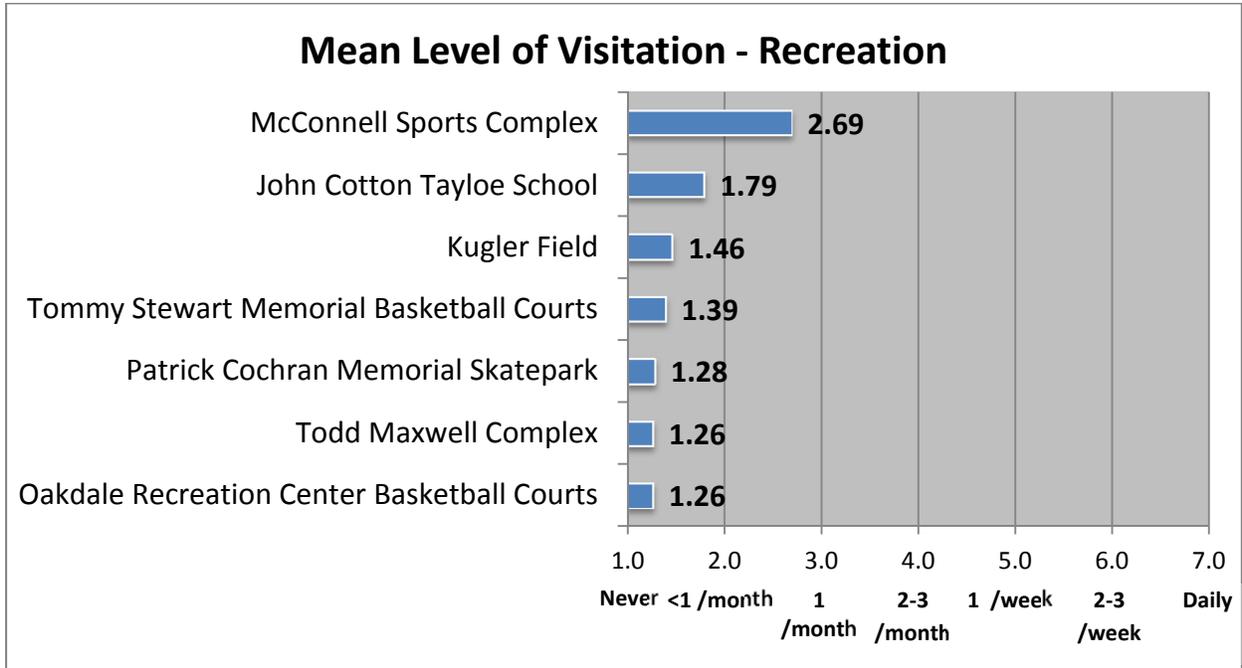
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Visitation of Recreation

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. McConnell Sports Complex was reported as most often visited (2.69; Once a month) with 25.6% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. Oakdale Recreation Basketball Courts were reported as least often visited (1.26; Never) with 85.2% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
Recreation	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
McConnell Sports Complex	47.6% (107)	19.6% (44)	4.4% (10)	3.1% (7)	3.6% (8)	13.3% (30)	8.4% (19)	225
John Cotton Tayloe School	66.4% (146)	20.5% (45)	2.7% (6)	2.3% (5)	0.5% (1)	2.3% (5)	5.5% (12)	220
Kugler Field	73.8% (163)	18.1% (40)	2.7% (6)	2.3% (5)	0.9% (2)	1.8% (4)	0.5% (1)	221
Tommy Stewart Memorial Basketball Courts	83.9% (187)	8.1% (18)	2.2% (5)	1.8% (4)	1.8% (4)		2.2% (5)	223
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skatepark	86.0% (191)	8.1% (18)	2.7% (6)	0.5% (1)	1.4% (3)	0.5% (1)	0.9% (2)	222
Todd Maxwell Complex	85.7% (191)	9.4% (21)	2.2% (5)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	223
Oakdale Recreation Center Basketball Courts	85.2% (190)	11.2% (25)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	0.4% (1)	0.9% (2)	223

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

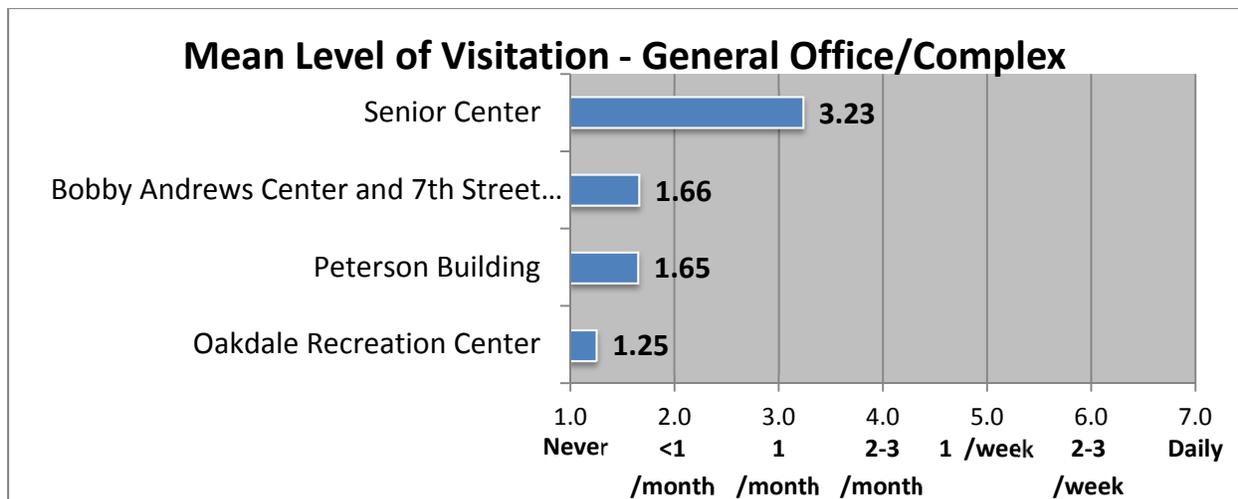


City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitation of General Office/Complex

The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each parks and recreation facility as noted on the scale of visitation. The Senior Center was reported as most often visited (3.23; Less than once a month) with 34.9% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. The Oakdale Recreation Center was reported as least often visited (1.25; Never) with 78.9% of participants reporting having never visited.

How often do you visit the following facilities?								
	% (N)							Total (N)
General Office/Complex	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily	
Senior Center	38.5% (87)	12.8% (29)	4.4% (10)	9.3% (21)	10.6% (24)	15.5% (35)	8.8% (20)	226
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	66.7% (150)	21.3% (48)	1.8% (4)	3.6% (8)	4.0% (9)	1.3% (3)	1.3% (3)	225
Oakdale Recreation Center	86.0% (190)	10.0% (22)	1.8% (4)	0.5% (1)	0.5% (1)		1.4% (3)	221
Peterson Building	78.9% (176)	6.3% (14)	1.8% (4)	4.9% (11)	1.8% (4)	4.5% (10)	1.8% (4)	223



City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Visitations of Parks & Recreation Facilities Conclusions

The parks and recreation facility that participants reported visiting most often overall was the Waterfront Docks (3.71; 2-3 times a month), with 37.8% of participants reporting having visited at least once a week. The parks and recreation facility reported as visited least often overall was Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park (1.19; Never); with 91.4% of participants reporting having never visited the area.

Three of the top five most visited parks and recreation facilities were part of the Waterfront group (Waterfront Docks, Wetlands Boardwalk, The Promenade), with one other facilities representing the Parks group (Festival Park) and the final area representing the General Office/Complex group (Senior Center).

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Influences on Usage of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Participants were asked to freely respond about why they may or may not use the parks and recreation facilities in the City of Washington. The majority of participants indicated that they used the parks and recreation facilities for walking and exercise purposes, which were often done either on the Boardwalk or at the Senior Center. Many participants also reported that they spent time at the parks and recreation facilities for their children or grandchildren who were involved in sports leagues. Older participants that did not reference children said that they used the parks and recreation facilities for activities like bingo, bridge, quilting, tai chi, or senior dances. There were few participants that referenced aspects such as cleanliness, safety, lighting, and parking as factors that influence their use of parks and recreation facilities.

A minority of participants indicated that they did not use the parks and recreation facilities as often due to a lack of familiarity with what was available. There were a few suggestions provided by participants to increase the usage of parks and recreation facilities. These included having more recreational opportunities for smaller children, paving clear walking or biking paths in the parks, adding lights to the soccer fields, adding public tennis courts, holding daily water aerobics classes, and adding free WiFi to the waterfront.

Travel to Parks and Recreation Facilities

Participants were asked to indicate the mode of transportation used for their most recent visit to a parks and recreation facility in the City of Washington. Most participants indicated that they had traveled by car (84.3%). Additional forms of transportation reported included traveling by motorcycle, scooter, or boat.

For the most recent visit to the nearest park, greenway or public open space by someone in your household, how did he or she get there?

	%	Freq (N)
Car	84.3%	177
Walk	10.0%	21
Bicycle	1.4%	3
Other	4.3%	9
	Total (N)	210

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Additions to the City of Washington Parks and Recreation Facilities

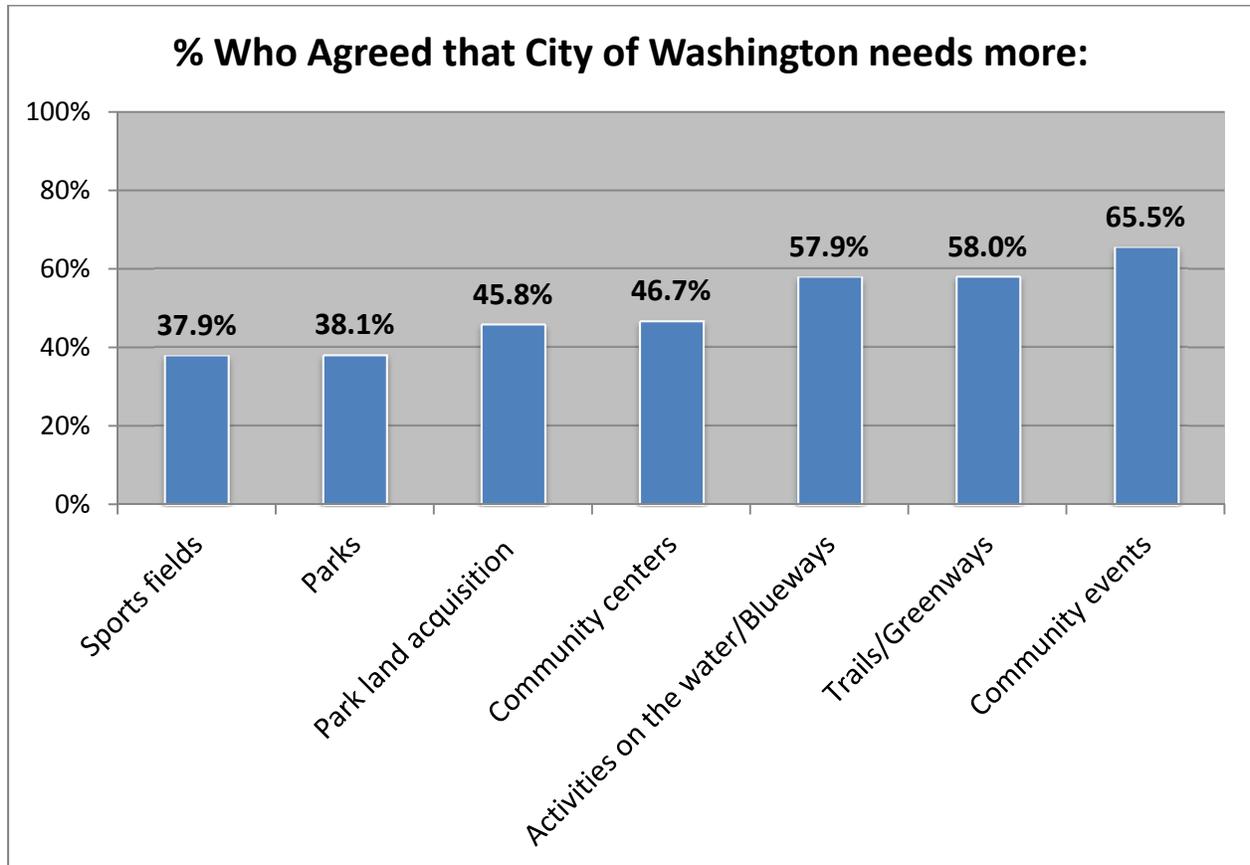
Adding to Current Resources

Participants were asked to indicate level of agreement on a 5-point scale (1=Strongly Disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neither Agree nor Disagree; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly Agree) with a question asking about increases to current parks and recreation facilities and activities available in the City of Washington. The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each resource. The greatest amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that more Community Events are needed (65.5%). The least amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that more Sports Fields are needed (37.9%).

Participants were also able to freely respond to what more is needed in the City of Washington. Common responses included clearer paths for biking or walking, more parking at the senior center and sports fields, new soccer fields that are well-lit, a new senior center with daily outdoors activities for adults, a fenced sand volleyball court at Havens Gardens, public tennis courts, public swimming areas, and overall more activities offered for all ages.

The City of Washington needs more:						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Community events	2.4% (5)	3.3% (7)	28.8% (61)	44.3% (94)	21.2% (45)	212
Trails/ Greenways	5.7% (12)	6.6% (14)	29.7% (63)	32.1% (68)	25.9% (55)	212
Activities on the water/Blueways	5.3% (11)	3.3% (7)	33.5% (70)	36.4% (76)	21.5% (45)	209
Community centers	3.7% (8)	7.0% (15)	42.5% (91)	32.2% (69)	14.5% (31)	214
Park land acquisition	7.3% (15)	13.2% (27)	33.7% (69)	26.3% (54)	19.5% (40)	205
Parks	7.7% (16)	13.0% (27)	41.1% (85)	21.7% (45)	16.4% (34)	207
Sports fields	8.5% (18)	10.0% (21)	43.6% (92)	16.6% (35)	21.3% (45)	211

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Adding New Resources

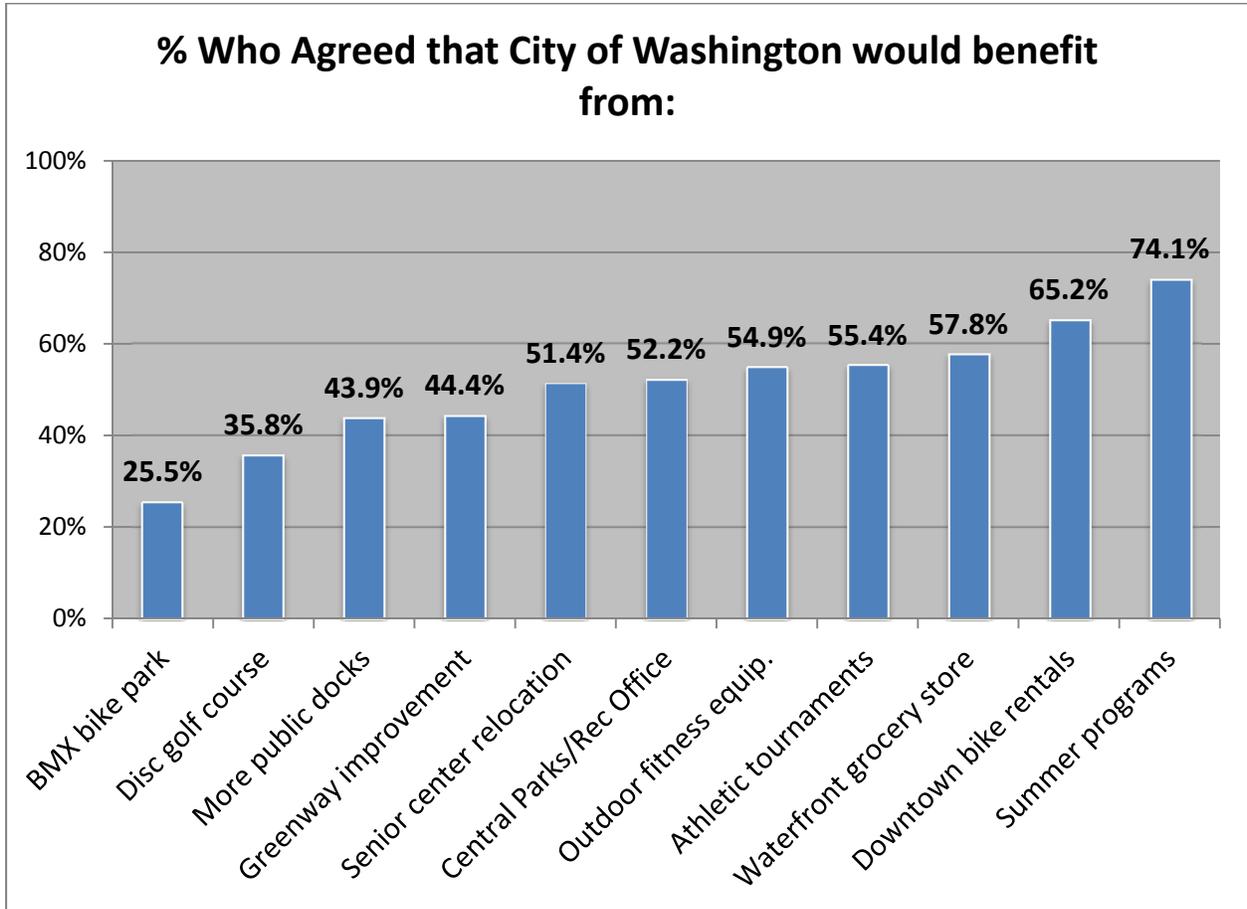
Participants were asked to indicate level of agreement on a 5-point scale (1=Strongly Disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neither Agree nor Disagree; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly Agree) with a question asking about the potential benefit of additions to current parks and recreation facilities and activities available in the City of Washington. The table below provides both a percentage (%) and frequency (N) distribution of all responses. The graph below provides a mean score for each resource.

The greatest amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that Summer Programs would be beneficial (74.1%) with a small amount of participants disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that they would be beneficial (5.1%). The least amount of participants agreed or strongly agreed that a BMX Bike Park would be beneficial (25.5%), with a nearly equivalent amount of participants disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that it would be beneficial (25.6%). Other free responses provided by participants included sand volleyball courts, better lighting at sports fields, more parking at facilities, clearer trails for walking or biking, public swimming areas, and more landscaping.

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

The following would benefit Washington residents and visitors						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
A BMX bike park	8.2% (18)	17.4% (38)	48.9% (107)	15.5% (34)	10.0% (22)	219
A disc golf course	6.0% (13)	9.6% (21)	48.6% (106)	22.5% (49)	13.3% (29)	218
More public docks	9.5% (21)	8.1% (18)	38.5% (85)	24.0% (53)	19.9% (44)	221
Greenway connectivity improvement	5.1% (11)	7.0% (15)	43.5% (93)	24.8% (53)	19.6% (42)	214
Athletic tournaments	6.0% (13)	3.7% (8)	38.9% (84)	31.5% (68)	19.9% (43)	216
Senior center relocation and expansion to serve as a community center	7.2% (16)	9.9% (22)	30.6% (68)	27.9% (62)	24.3% (54)	222
Outdoor fitness equipment	6.7% (15)	7.1% (16)	31.3% (70)	34.8% (78)	20.1% (45)	224
Downtown bike rentals	5.5% (12)	5.0% (11)	34.1% (75)	37.7% (83)	17.7% (39)	220
A central hub for Parks and Recreation Offices	1.9% (4)	6.6% (14)	33.6% (71)	41.2% (87)	16.6% (35)	211
A grocery/ convenience store within walking distance of the waterfront	6.3% (14)	5.4% (12)	23.1% (51)	40.3% (89)	24.9% (55)	221
Summer programs	2.8% (6)	2.3% (5)	20.8% (45)	51.4% (111)	22.7% (49)	216

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Parks and Recreation Activities

Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

Participants were provided with a list of parks and recreation activities and asked whether or not they personally or another member of their household had participated in such activities over the last year. The table below provides a list of activities participated in by at least 10% of participant households. The most often cited activity was Walking or Jogging with 65.3% of participants reporting having taken part over the last 12 months.

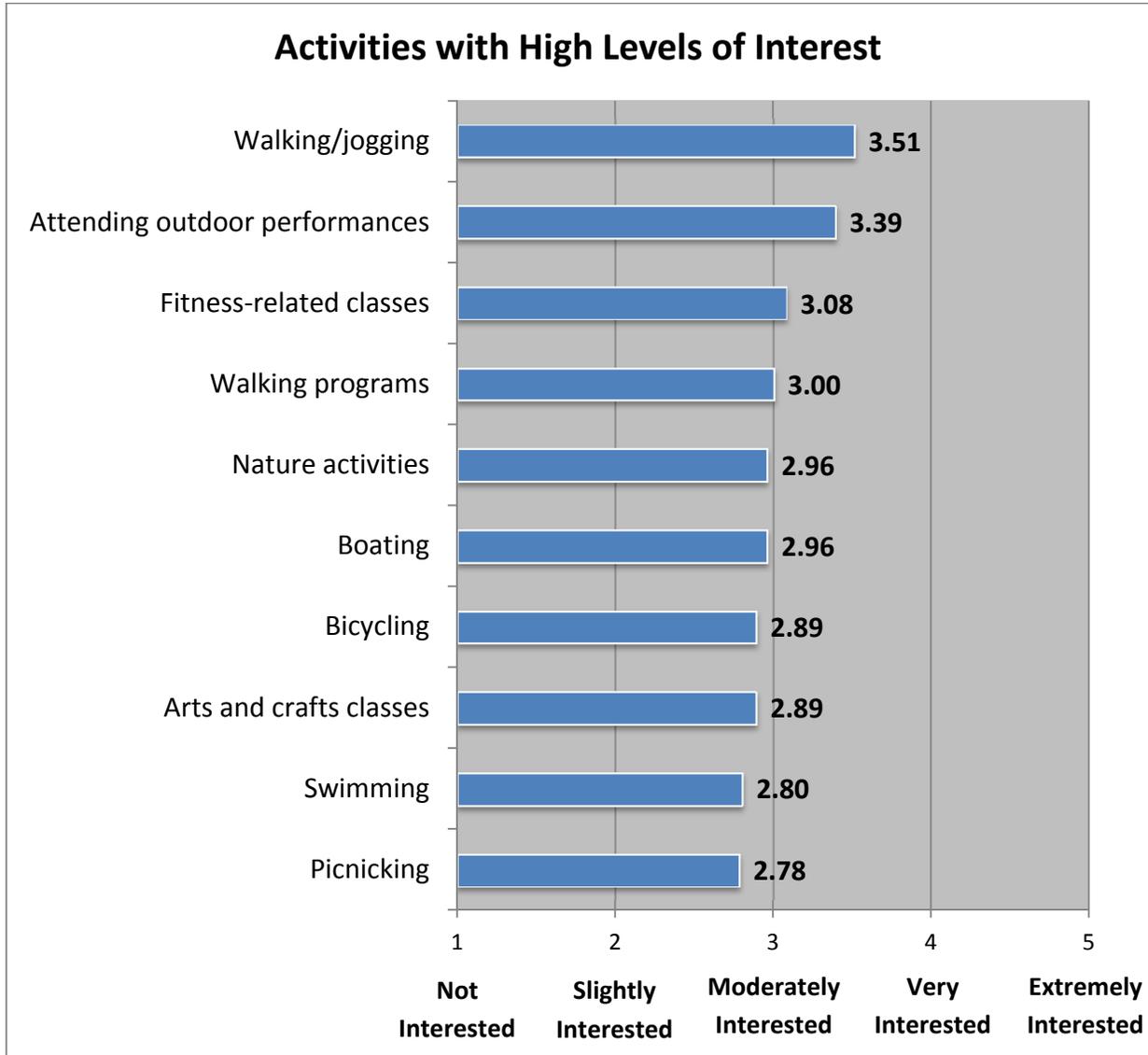
Activities with High Levels of Participation		
	%	Freq (N)
Walking/jogging	65.3%	154
Attending outdoor performances	53.4%	126
Bicycling	47.0%	111
Swimming	40.3%	95
Boating	39.4%	93
Playing on a playground	37.7%	89
Fitness-related classes	36.4%	86
Picnicking	35.2%	83
Special event/field trip	35.2%	83
Group gathering	29.7%	70
Walking programs	28.0%	66
Nature activities	27.5%	65
Arts and crafts classes	25.4%	60
Corn hole	22.9%	54
Dances	20.8%	49
Baseball	18.6%	44
Summer camp/program	17.4%	41
Soccer	17.4%	41
Softball	16.9%	40
Basketball	14.8%	35
Billiards	13.1%	31
Football	12.3%	29
Tennis	11.4%	27
Bocce Ball	11.0%	26
After-school program	10.6%	25
Volleyball	10.6%	25

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Interest in Parks and Recreation Activities

Participants were asked to indicate their personal level of interest of a 5-point scale (1=Not Interested; 2=Slightly Interested; 3=Moderately Interested; 4=Very Interested; 5=Extremely Interested) in a provided list of parks and recreation activities. The table and graph below represent those activities that received the highest level of interest, specifically the top 10 activities. The activity with the most reported interest was Walking or Jogging (3.51; Moderately Interested-Very Interested).

Activities with High Levels of Interest						
	% (N)					Total (N)
	Not Interested	Slightly Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested	Extremely Interested	
Walking/jogging	10.8% (23)	8.9% (19)	26.3% (56)	26.8% (57)	27.2% (58)	213
Attending outdoor performances	14.2% (30)	9.9% (21)	24.1% (51)	26.9% (57)	25.0% (53)	212
Fitness-related classes	20.9% (42)	10.0% (20)	26.4% (53)	25.4% (51)	17.4% (35)	201
Walking programs	19.8% (42)	18.4% (39)	21.7% (46)	22.2% (47)	17.9% (38)	212
Boating	31.0% (63)	9.9% (20)	15.8% (32)	19.2% (39)	24.1% (49)	203
Nature activities	24.2% (50)	13.0% (27)	21.7% (45)	24.6% (51)	16.4% (34)	207
Arts and crafts classes	23.2% (47)	15.8% (32)	25.6% (52)	19.7% (40)	15.8% (32)	203
Bicycling	21.9% (46)	12.9% (27)	32.4% (68)	20.0% (42)	12.9% (27)	210
Swimming	29.1% (59)	11.3% (23)	26.1% (53)	17.7% (36)	15.8% (32)	203
Picnicking	23.0% (47)	18.6% (38)	25.0% (51)	24.0% (49)	9.3% (19)	204



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Receiving Information about Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate ways in which they receive information regarding parks and recreation in the City of Washington. The table below provides percentage and frequency of participants who indicated each response. Participants were able to select multiple responses. The newspaper was listed as the most common source of information (56.5%) and Facebook was listed as the least common source of information (2.1%).

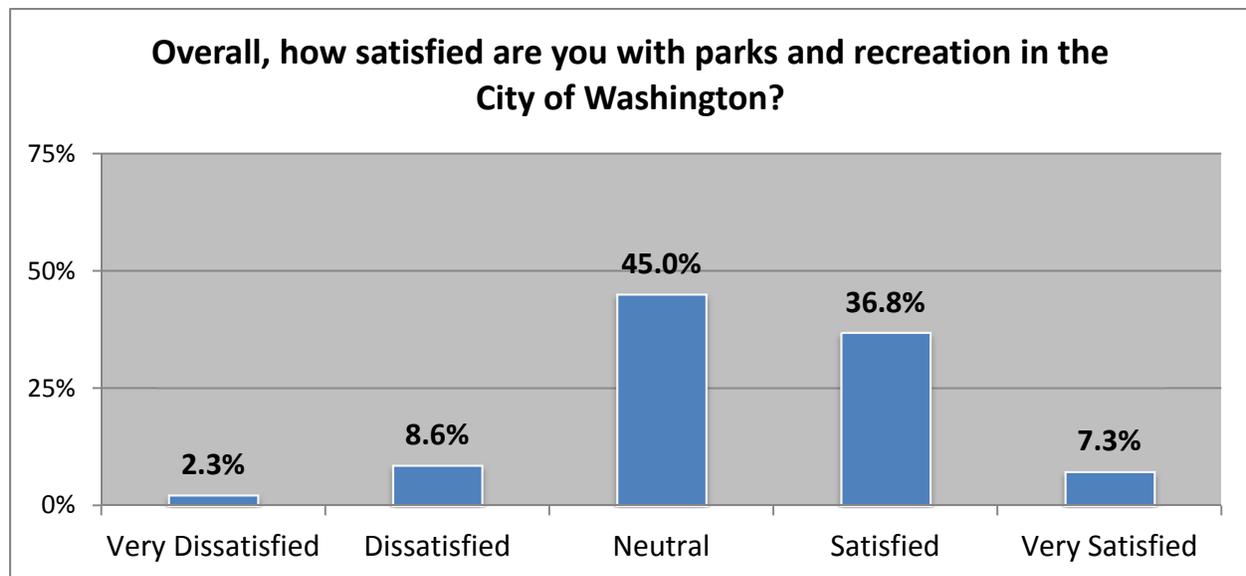
How do you receive information about parks and recreation programs/events in the City of Washington		
	%	Freq (N)
Word of mouth	47.5%	112
Newspaper	38.1%	90
Posted Signs	29.7%	70
Facebook	23.3%	55
Brochures/Flyers	19.1%	45
City website	17.4%	41
Email	14.8%	35

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Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation

Participants were asked to indicate level of satisfaction on a 5-point scale (1=Very Dissatisfied; 2=Dissatisfied; 3=Neutral; 4=Satisfied; 5=Very Satisfied) with parks and recreation in the City of Washington. The table and graph below show the percentage and frequency of participants who indicated each response. The majority of participants indicated that they were Satisfied (50.1%) and a very small minority of participants indicated that they were either Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied (10.1%).

Overall, how satisfied are you with parks and recreation in the City of Washington?		
	%	Freq (N)
Very Dissatisfied	2.3%	5
Dissatisfied	8.6%	19
Neutral	45.0%	99
Satisfied	36.8%	81
Very Satisfied	7.3%	16
Total (N)		220



City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Focus Group Sample

Two focus groups were conducted with Washington, NC residents. Participants were asked questions regarding their feelings and attitudes towards parks and recreation in the City of Washington. Presented below are sample demographics (Table 1) and participant responses (Table 2). Responses were sorted into main points with direct quotes provided for support as needed.

Table 1. Summary Table (4 males, 6 females)

Location	Date	Attendance
Washington Senior Center	10/28/13	1 male, 1 female
Washington Senior Center	10/29/13	3 males, 5 females

Table 2. Main Points

Questions	Responses
1. What is the best thing about the parks and recreation in the City of Washington?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied parks: waterfront parks, children’s parks, greenways, and dog parks • Cromwell Complex • Aquatics center • Parks are free to the public • “The parks do a good job providing opportunities for younger people” • The fees for sports are affordable
2. What types of events or activities do community members engage in at the parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming, softball, baseball, soccer, football • Exercise and walking • Being outdoors • Music events • Kayaking/boating • State softball championships last summer • Triathlons and 5Ks • Cycling • Family reunions/picnics • Fishing

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<p>3. What is the main reason you choose to go to specific parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convenience/distance ● Availability of parking ● Public transportation ● It depends on the activity you're doing ● The waterfront and children's playgrounds draw people to go travel further ● Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "I like the one my son plays basketball at on 15th Street because there's a lot of riff raff activity on 9th Street, a lot of drugs and stuff that I would prefer for him not to be around."
<p>4. What is the largest problem with the City of Washington's parks and recreation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of money/unequal distribution of money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "There is always a struggle going on about who's going to get what money." ● Budget issues ● Lack of supervision at the parks facilities ● Long range plans being unfulfilled ● Maintenance does not get done in a timely manner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Public parks do take a lot of heavy wear and tear but if they city stays on top of it, then it can minimize that." ● Some aspects of maintenance are focused on while others are ignored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "They go there and they pick up the trash but they don't think of doing something about the weeds growing within the bricks." ● Lack of accessibility for all community members ● The Special Olympics program in Beaufort County is 100% volunteer ● Issues being able to use the parks and recreation vans for events ● Transportation ● It is difficult to get in contact with the right person about certain parks and recs issues ● The pool at the aquatic center is too cold for some seniors and special needs individuals ● Unsupervised youth ● Not enough police presence ● Inconsistent enforcement of rules

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<p>5. What are possible solutions to the problems faced by the City of Washington’s parks and recreation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More flexible transportation ● Formalizing/streamlining the communication process for requests ● Awareness of who to go to for different issues ● Improving the website ● “One of the solutions is having a community group called Friends of the Park which actually would advocate for things that need to be done” ● Create a paid Special Olympics Coordinator position ● Build a parking deck ● Increase the temperature of the pool or put in a hot tub ● Random patrolling of the parks at night ● More structured activities for the youth
<p>6. What new park/facility or upgrade to an existing park/facility is most needed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a nature park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Habitats are getting destroyed, so this is something we want to preserve and it helps with making Washington what it is, a green, natural place.” ● Move forward with the People’s Pier ● Create a venue that could be used for farmers markets and craft fairs ● Upgrade the ballpark bathrooms on 3rd Street ● Haven’s Gardens needs to be renovated ● More pedestrian and bicycle paths ● Finish the Rails to Trails project ● Improve the pocket parks downtown ● Possibly build another community pool ● Upgrade Charlotte Street pocket park (playground equipment and picnic tables)
<p>7. Are there certain groups of people who use the parks more readily than others?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children and teenagers ● Senior citizens ● Special needs individuals ● “There is certainly good participation in various things from all different groups.”
<p>8. What can be done to ensure the parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington are enjoyed by all community members?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More access to transportation ● More advertisement through churches and schools ● Create a special program for obese children to be able to play sports

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

<p>9. Is there anything else you would like to add, or you think would be helpful for us to know?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More incorporation of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps that are here in the county• “I would like to see a glossy brochure that would have all of our parks and all of our amenities that could be distributed to the welcome centers in the area.”• Washington would be a perfect location for a formal sailing program• Advertise the City of Washington on Facebook and Twitter
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Appendix

Additional Participant Comments on Washington Parks & Recreation Facilities

Random Sample

"Chop, chop get to work" and let residents know what is available!

Activities for seniors are up to date but the activities for the youth and certain neighborhoods are not.

Better lighting at the sports fields and parking lot.

Add a bowling alley and more public transportation.

Boys and Girls Club could be improved.

Cleaner parks. Families shouldn't have to pay to participate in activities. Should be funded by the city

Could be more recreation facilities.

Demographics, because a lot of the facilities that are currently present aren't catered towards the Minority Community.

Don't have enough staff to keep greenways mowed.

Festival party planning was a little screwed up. The bathroom should have be on the lift station.

Fix the sidewalks.

Gym should be open more hours for the youth.

Handicapped parking closer to the fields out at the complex. Fields are too far from parking.

Have more jobs available for 16 year olds.

Havens Park needs to be cleaned up bad. It's inconvenient when trying to register for events and programs that aren't online. Nowhere to put your boat when wanting to eat at the restaurants.

Tax payers should not pay for all these things. They need to run the drunks and drug dealers away from the parks.

Improve the exercise equipment for the senior adults!

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Improve the facilities.

It's pretty expensive for young people to participate in a lot of things, therefore a lot of kids can't participate.

Keep kids safe.

Keep more events going for the youth in the city.

Kids need more to do. Needs mentors in the recreation centers.

Lights to the soccer field.

McConnell Sports complex can add more weights. More cultural programs and dances, more main stream restaurant.

More activities at the parks to offer to kids and elderly.

More activities for median range of adults from ages 30 - 50.

More activities for seniors. Exercise equipment.

More activities for the younger generation to help keep them busy and stay out of trouble.

More activities are needed for younger folks.

More events happening on the waterfronts. Concerts, games, cornhole tournament and community related activities.

More green trails, and more activities to do with the performing arts theatres.

More parking by the turners creek boat launch.

More public announcements.

More rest areas.

More restrooms in facilities.

More seating areas at the parks and expansion.

More things for the youth (programs, facilities etc).

More things like indoor games for the youth such as video games or sports for youth to participate. Activities for youth to engage in during the winter so they aren't kept in the house and can stay out of trouble.

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Need a community baseball team. More place for people to stay downtown (Hotel)
Need a fitness center.

Need a marina that sells gas for boats.

Need church and industrial league baseball games to come back

Need a city pool.

Need more bathrooms downtown.

Need more cultural activities, need more for the kids.

Need more places for pool, and billiards, and ping pong tables, etc.

Need more places to play pickle ball, need nicer centers like the ones in Greenville.

Need more public docks downtown. They will promote for business downtown.

Need more sidewalks so you can walk without being in the road.

Need picnic tables. We don't do enough to get people to the waterfront. Where they built the restroom was wrong. Need a building for the farmers market near the waterfront. Need improvement near the waterfront. Need more green space.

Need proper up keep of all facilities. Need AC need to be painted. Bathrooms are horrible.

Need to advertise more.

Need to focus more on the citizens of Washington.

Need to make better utilization of the centers available, Minority parts of the community are not supported with these facilities and not funded money. Abandoned recreation center/ boys and girls club on West end of town.

Need youth girls' volleyball league.

Needs more lifeguards at swimming complexes. Needs more supervision amongst the skate parks so the kids will be safe.

Nothing to draw you out there. The biggest focus should be jobs and there is nothing there in Washington. Nowhere for starting a life.

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Parking needs to be increase at McConnell.

Parks and Recs should be more inclusive in the community, cost are too high for people to participate in the more well-structured programs. Poor kids never get an opportunity to participate. The fees should be modified. Staff should be more diverse. I have yet to see more than one African American in an administrative office.

Parks need more restrooms and water fountains.

Extra funds should not go to the Parks and Recreation Department. Funds should go to fixing roads and other services like veterans' assistance programs. The Parks and Recreation Department has destroyed the waterfront. Sport seasons for youth are too short.

Public transportation isn't adequate.

Get a shooting range, and a karate tournament.

Safer parks.

Improve the tennis courts because they are so damaged. It isn't right that I have to go out of my way to go bicycling and to play tennis!

The City puts forth some effort but still needs to do more.

The facilities do not represent the middle aged population as well as they should.

There isn't enough for the kids to do during the summer. Some low-income camps for kids to go to. Also need more things for the seniors to do in the senior center.

The parks could cleaner.

The parks need to be made larger with newer equipment with all age ranges included. The park at the waterfront needs to be expanded with more equipment. Classes need to be offered outside. Pottery/ arts and craft classes.

The Parks needs to be cleaned up a lot better.

There is no bike lanes, access in the city, cemetery.

There is no playground equipment at the parks. No structured parks and rec. Should have a water park or something to generate revenue. No access to the water other than looking at it.

There are not enough activities for adults and kids to keep them off the street. The kids have nowhere good to go. Need a public swimming pool.

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They let people walk with their animals in the graveyards and the boardwalk. Don't have anywhere for kids to go. Washington needs to encourage more people to do things.

They need to put in more boat docks.

They need to treat everyone equally as far as the demographics and facilities. They shouldn't show any favoritism towards any specific ethnic group.

They should be improved.

Thinks the City of Washington should find ways to help the youth go out and enjoy the facilities more.

Too many surveys with no results.

Unfortunate that residents do not have accessible ways to enjoy water fronts

Want people to have more of a voice than a survey.

Washington needs to offer more for the youth and older adults.

Washington should provide more advertisements through the mail/on paper or newspaper.

Waterfront has close parking and it will allow handicapped people to access the waterfront better.

When they built the boat docks and they rented boats to everybody. Need boats that the average person can rent and not just the richer people.

Why did they take the park away from Oakdale Recreation Center?

Wish they would come down and update the facility.

Would like to see more skateboarding ramps for crowds that don't have anything to do.

Would love to see the department expanded. Would really love to have a bicycling trail to avoid the traffic. Definitely need to work with the cleanliness of shore fronts and a hotel would also be very beneficial as well.

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Supplemental Sample

A new soccer venue would allow soccer to grow and hopefully improve the parking. This would hopefully also allow the baseball/softball to expand the number of fields. I also believe a Frisbee golf course and pickle ball courts would improve our community.

Additional picnic areas and affordable outdoor wedding venues around the city are needed.

Adult softball would be wonderful!

Bathroom facilities are badly needed.

Bathrooms at Havens Gardens. Better ways for the people to park at dog park instead of blocking views from traffic turning off 4th onto Brown Street or whichever side. It is dangerous for people to park on corners at that park. They could use a small area for parking. The Bughouse could use cleaning better. We have such pretty park areas. It's a shame they are not being maintained after the money is put in them.

Bob Andrews is a good building, but needs air conditioning.

Brochures or education for facility use and policies.

Emphasis should be on increasing programming, not building new facilities. Bughouse Park, Jack's Creek Greenway, Moore Aquatic Center, Veteran's Park, etc. are all under-utilized. We need far more tree cover. It's also sad that we are a river community and do not have a public swim beach. It would be the most popular park if we had one.

Facilities need to be maintained much better. If business stayed open past 5pm, there would be more people in town who would support activities. Now, everyone goes to Greenville.

For the most part I am satisfied, but more needs to be done for the teens. The Dock Masters are very polite and pleasant. Please do not privatize the docks! Would like text alerts for public meetings.

Great job! The results of this survey should tell a lot. Should convert at least one tennis court outdoors to pickleball.

Hours opened during the summer months for our youth to stay active and maybe some activities to motivate their minds intellectually in the recreation centers.

I am fairly satisfied with city facilities. There is room for improvements at the sports facilities with more fields, lighting and parking. Bathrooms at the soccer complex need updating for heavy use. Need more soccer fields. Could be used for Lacrosse. Area group has discussed having lacrosse but no fields to have it. Field hockey or roller hockey rink would be used. A lot of children go to other towns to play hockey.

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I can't think of anything that wasn't addressed. Staff is very nice.

I feel that the cleanliness of the city is really sub-par.

I feel that Washington has done a great job of providing quality facilities for all ages. The Waterfront parks and walkways are the best. We need to be sure we maintain them. They are not only enjoyed by folks like myself who live here but most visitors to our town end up at one of our parks. Great athletic facilities, Susie Gray McConnell complex is a real asset.

I have participated in sports all of my life and also helped coach several softball, baseball, and soccer teams. We have improved a lot since the days of games at the Little Tarheel Field on 3rd street, but we could improve even more. Susie Gray is a nice sports field, but needs more fields for soccer. They could also use lights. It really limits the time that coaches have to hold practices during the week, especially with it getting darker in the evenings faster. Kids do not get out of school until 3 and most coaches are not off work until 5. If the fields had lights there could be more practices. More parking would help to. If there is a tournament going on, you run out of parking quickly, and even the pool has a hard time keeping their spaces.

I have young children who visit area parks and I am concerned about the mulch used to surround play areas. I have visited Raleigh parks and am curious as to why we do not use recycled tires or other softer materials.

I hope this survey opens up the eyes of the City of Washington to make this town more interesting and fun. There are barely any special parks and the ones that are around are old and have VERY POOR maintenance. I'm a very active person and I would like to see more parks come about so the youth of the city can have something to do instead of getting into trouble. I heard about this survey through the Washington Optimist Club and I would also like to put in a request for them to get lights on the fields so they can host tournaments. I played there for a good 12 years of my life and I would like to see some improvements on their fields and possibly even expansion.

I just wanted to say that I really appreciate the fact that the City is making the greenway through town. I am impressed with how much this relatively small town offers as far as activities, events, and green spaces for everyone to use. It would be great if there was a crackdown on littering, because it really marks the City. The parking lot my office uses in the downtown area is always full of dirty diapers and beer bottles, which really detracts from what the City seems to be trying to do. Make sure the already available spaces are able to be adequately cared for in the long run before expanding to other areas and then not being able to maintain any of it!

I think a public swimming pool and/or water pad would be a great addition to our community.

I think that Kristi has done a wonderful job in really keeping things going well for Washington. If the economy would pick back up and more growth occurs, I could easily see the City of Washington at least doubling their population within 1 year and growing a lot like Greenville has done. Having different activities around the city keeps more and more people interested in staying around Washington.

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I think the City has all it can afford to do at this time regarding parks and recreation. They should concentrate on how to reduce our utility bills.

I think the city should take care of Kugler Field so the volunteers can take care of instruction instead of hard labor. I think the city should own it and work together with the Youth Football league to provide the best program for the children. Cooperation is the name of the game.

I would like a picnic and recreational and swimming area on the river in Washington. We always go to Goore Creek but would like an area like that in Washington.

I would like to be put on email list. bethsaleeby@gmail.com.

Kayaking is a very popular activity here. We really need a kayak ramp separate from the power boats so we don't have to worry about getting run over by boaters backing their trailers into the water. Also would like more green space for picnicking, lounging and enjoying the outdoors. I think the McConnell Sports Center and Pool are very nice and an asset to the city. I would prefer not to see more development on the waterfront. I like the concert area and free space.

Like the different programs offered, but need consistency in offering these programs. Need to invest in the Rec & Park buildings. Both buildings need updating. Moore Aquatics athletic equipment needs updating.

Loved the bike demonstration performance this year. It was a real exciting time for the young boys and girls. Let's do it again! This is a big sport for teens and youth. They probably need more of the jumping boards to perform on.

More concerts at Festival Park please!

More hours for swimming at the Aquatic Center.

More needle work classes and less needle point instruction.

Motor boat rentals.

Music in the streets is good. Artisan Center provides more entertainment than anyone else. Turnage was a great thing, even though mismanaged.

Need lighting at the Suzie Gray complex and more parking.

Need lights at soccer field!

Need lights on all fields. There are other sports besides softball that draw money for the area. Support soccer.

Need to add to the softball and baseball fields. Need to have more soccer fields and might need to locate somewhere else. Also need to have nice bathrooms and concession stands for the soccer fields. All need to

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have lights so that night time playing can happen. Need to make sure there is enough parking especially during tournaments. If we do this should be able to bring more tournaments to this area which will bring more people and dollars into our city.

Need to have more sun shade areas at the sports complex. Shelter to get under to eat and have relief from the sun.

Not enough space for all of the soccer programs offered.

Public Park area's and public access to water front are important to the broad segment of our city. It helps build a healthy sense of community and attracts new people to city.

Rec programs offered to children are often done unfair. Children that play on rec teams should not have to compete against children that play on travel teams. It is an unfair way of playing the sport. The children realize it and so do the adults. My family has been invited to play on travel teams but cannot afford to do so. It is unfortunate that a child has to listen to adults (parents and coaches) use language such as "rec ball is just practice for our travel team".

Safety at the parks. The last visit I made to Haven's Gardens, there seemed to be illegal activity going on and someone was lying in the grass acting strangely.

Senior Center needs parking area.

Suitable Bus.

The addition of Sand Volleyball Courts will lead the way to a healthier lifestyle. Running and moving around on the sand is a great conditioning workout. Volleyball is a fun game that can be played at all levels and pretty much all ages. You can also generate revenue from organized leagues and tournaments.

The Brown Library should be expanded to replace the County Library and funding should increase to bring Brown to the standard of many other town/county libraries throughout the state.

The care and maintenance of existing facilities. Susie Grey pool needs more care than 17-18 year old lifeguards are willing to provide.

The city had a good infrastructure started at Susie Gray McConnell Complex, but the buildings that were constructed look very cheap and run down looking, bathroom facilities and thrown up shelter with storage building may be useful, but does not match the other nice buildings on the site. The parking lot needs to be paved. Many of the projects look like after thoughts. If the city wishes to attract tournaments, then the plywood buildings need to be replaced. It does not match other cities complexes. ie...Greenville, Wilson, or Raleigh. It is quite embarrassing when other area teams visit. Washington also needs to have one nice playground with nice equipment, instead of trying to keep up so many small parks.

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The condition of the existing playground areas are not kept in good condition. Prime example being Haven's Gardens. The last time I was there, the bathrooms were filthy and scary to go into. The picnic area was not kept; and the playground equipment seemed old. We had a small family reunion at one of the shelters and the picnic tables were in such bad shape, my 100 lbs 80 year old uncle sat on it and it broke! I would prefer for the City to consolidate playground areas or concentrate on the existing playgrounds instead of creating a new one. Sports is also a BIG BIG BIG part of my family's life. We travel to Greenville several times a week to play Disc Golf and have recently started using the Disc Golf course at Washington High School.

The joining fee at the pool could be lower. Might get more patrons. Maybe put a basketball court there.

The McConnell complex needs more parking or soccer needs its own fields. The softball program needs more fields. Softball is a growing sport in Washington and has shown its capability to bring revenue to the city.

There is a lot of interest in volleyball leagues in Beaufort County (many people played in the league at Bobby Andrews gym) and we are looking for avenues to continue playing in Beaufort county. Many residents actually drive all the way to Greenville to play beach volleyball at the Sonic because it is ideal and because it has a fence. It would be very beneficial for promoting physical fitness and physical activity in Washington if the parks & rec dept. would install a sand volleyball court with a high fence at Haven's Gardens. It would be even better to have two or more courts so that the rec dept. could host tournaments which it could make profit from, but please at least install one! It will also show the community that the rec dept. is making changes.

There should be weekly Friday night concerts during the good weather months on the grass where the pavilions are near the Estuarium.

I've noticed that once an outdoor fitness circuit is constructed, there's no upkeep and the equipment is used less and less until it becomes an eyesore. The heart to success of every one of these ideas is upkeep.

Too many VAC housing units that people NEED. What is holding it up?

Veteran's park is a nice idea but no one can experience it with goose crap everywhere. There needs to be a shaded greenway like Tarboro. The Parks dept does not need any more parks to maintain though. I am dissatisfied with the construction at Susie Grey Complex. Fields not graded properly, parking lot not paved, restroom is some kind of shed, ditches around ball fields are not cemented, towers don't match the quality of the concession. Concession stand at the soccer field looks like a thrown together after thought. The city should be setting the example for businesses to follow. Some businesses look run down but the city cannot enforce or say anything because city has parks and buildings that look run down. Replace the rusty fences.

We love the waterfront and it attracts so many locals and visitors. I would like to see programs added in this area.

We need a larger Senior Center and more parking spaces to provide for all the senior citizens that participate in the activities.

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We need a new senior building. We have very limited parking. Our seniors are important. We need additional spaces.

We need better restaurants.

We need more community centered activities, mainly in the arts, such as plays, art shows, and dances. It would be nice to see more culture in Little Washington.

We need more soccer fields and a bigger parking area. Lighted soccer fields would be great. Keep the waterfront as it is, no more commercial development!

We really need lights and more space at the McConnell Complex.

We should better maintain the buildings and parks that are already in our care before expanding our town further.

When I told my son, Dr. Kevin Biese, who is residency director for emergency medicine at UNC Chapel Hill, that the indoor pool is closed when there is nearby thunder or lightening, he was astonished. There is absolutely no reason to do that!

Would like more attention to the Moore Pool. Lower chlorine level (it's excessive), raise water temperature to 83-85 degrees, and offer more water aerobics classes.

Would like to see more family activities.

Would like to see more trips of one and three days. Later sign up times.

Would love to see a group of fenced beach volleyball courts in Havens Garden Park!

You need some sort of adult, non-religious affiliated, recreational sports leagues, particularly softball.

You need to maintain the buildings already set in place and give more money to programs set in place as well.

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Survey Instrument

Do you live in the City of Washington?

- Yes, I live within the city limits of Washington
- No, I live outside the city limits of Washington but consider myself a resident of Washington
- No, I do not live in Washington

How long have you lived in Washington?

- Less than a year
- 1 - 5 years
- 6 - 10 years
- 11 - 15 years
- More than 15 years

For each individual in the household, please indicate the number of males and females in each age category. Enter a number beside the correct age and gender.

	Number of each	
	Male	Female
5 years old and under		
6 - 12 years old		
13 - 18 years old		
19 - 35 years old		
36 - 45 years old		
46 - 60 years old		
61 years old and above		

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Are you familiar with the following parks or recreation facilities?

	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	<input type="radio"/>				
Todd Maxwell Complex	<input type="radio"/>				
John Cotten Tayloe School	<input type="radio"/>				
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Beebe Memorial Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Peterson Building and Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>				
Waterfront Docks and Promenade	<input type="radio"/>				
Festival Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Wetlands Boardwalk	<input type="radio"/>				
Bughouse Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Veteran's Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Old Health Department (North Bonner Street)	<input type="radio"/>				
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street Complex	<input type="radio"/>				
Patrick Cochran Memorial Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Washington Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Kugler Field	<input type="radio"/>				
Haven's Boat Launch	<input type="radio"/>				
Haven's Gardens Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Oakdale	<input type="radio"/>				

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Recreation Center					
McConnell Sports Complex	<input type="radio"/>				
Conversion Property (Springs Road)	<input type="radio"/>				
Proposed Tar River Nature Park (Hwy 17 South)	<input type="radio"/>				
Tommy Stewart Memorial Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Jack's Creek Pocket Park and Greenway Phase 1	<input type="radio"/>				

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How often do you visit the following facilities?

	Never	Less than Once a Month	Once a Month	2-3 Times a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Daily
Mason's Landing Boat Launch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Todd Maxwell Complex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
John Cotten Tayloe School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pierce and Third Street Mini Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beebe Memorial Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peterson Building and Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waterfront Docks and Promenade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Festival Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetlands Boardwalk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bughouse Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jack's Creek Greenway and Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Veteran's Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Old Health Department (North Bonner Street)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bobby Andrews Center and 7th Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Complex Patrick Cochran Memorial Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>						
Washington Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>						
Kugler Field	<input type="radio"/>						
Haven's Boat Launch	<input type="radio"/>						
Haven's Gardens Park	<input type="radio"/>						
Oakdale Recreation Center	<input type="radio"/>						
McConnell Sports Complex	<input type="radio"/>						
Conversion Property (Springs Road)	<input type="radio"/>						
Proposed Tar River Nature Park (Hwy 17 South)	<input type="radio"/>						
Tommy Stewart Memorial Courts	<input type="radio"/>						
Charlotte and Fifth Street Pocket Park	<input type="radio"/>						
Jack's Creek Pocket Park and Greenway Phase 1	<input type="radio"/>						

Please tell us what affects your use of these parks and recreation facilities.

For the most recent visit to the nearest park, greenway or public open space by someone in your household, how did (s)he get there?

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- Car
- Walk
- Bike
- Other, please specify: _____

The City of Washington needs more:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Park land acquisition (Secure more land for future parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails/Greenways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activities on the water/Blueways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, Please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The following would benefit Washington residents and visitors:

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	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Summer programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A central hub for Parks and Recreation Offices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A grocery/convenience store within walking distance of the waterfront	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor fitness equipment (i.e. warm-up and light activity stations for all ages of adults at any fitness level)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downtown bike rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A disc golf course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A BMX bike park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center relocation and expansion to serve as a community center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greenway connectivity improvement (currently begins and ends on a street)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More public docks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic tournaments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Below is a list of recreation activities that you could do at a public park or recreation facility. Please indicate any activities you or someone in your household did during the past 12 months.

- Bicycling
- Playing on playground

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

- Special event/field trip
- Summer camp/program
- Preschool classes
- Picnicking
- Group gathering
- Fitness-related classes
- After-school program
- Attending outdoor performances
- Softball
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Lacrosse
- Football
- Walking/jogging
- Arts/crafts classes
- Geocaching
- Skateboarding
- Shuffleboard
- Dances
- Disc golf
- Billiards
- Walking programs
- Beach volleyball
- Boating
- Nature activities
- Corn hole
- Pickle Ball
- Horseshoes
- Bocce Ball
- Other, please specify: _____
- Other, please specify: _____

Please rate your interest in the activities below.

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	Not Interested	Slightly Interested	Moderately Interested	Very Interested	Extremely Interested
Bicycling	<input type="radio"/>				
Playing on playground	<input type="radio"/>				
Special event/field trip	<input type="radio"/>				
Summer camp/program	<input type="radio"/>				
Preschool classes	<input type="radio"/>				
Picnicking	<input type="radio"/>				
Group gathering	<input type="radio"/>				
Fitness-related classes	<input type="radio"/>				
After-school program	<input type="radio"/>				
Attending outdoor performances	<input type="radio"/>				
Softball	<input type="radio"/>				
Basketball	<input type="radio"/>				
Baseball	<input type="radio"/>				
Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>				
Soccer	<input type="radio"/>				
Tennis	<input type="radio"/>				
Swimming	<input type="radio"/>				
Lacrosse	<input type="radio"/>				
Football	<input type="radio"/>				
Walking/jogging	<input type="radio"/>				
Arts/crafts classes	<input type="radio"/>				
Geocaching	<input type="radio"/>				
Skateboarding	<input type="radio"/>				
Dances	<input type="radio"/>				
Disc golf	<input type="radio"/>				
Billiards	<input type="radio"/>				
Walking programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Beach volleyball	<input type="radio"/>				
Boating	<input type="radio"/>				
Nature activities	<input type="radio"/>				

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Corn hole	<input type="radio"/>				
Pickle Ball	<input type="radio"/>				
Horseshoes	<input type="radio"/>				
Bocce Ball	<input type="radio"/>				
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>				
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>				

How do you receive information about park and recreation programs/events in Washington? (Please choose all that apply)

- Newspaper
- Brochures/flyers
- Posted signs
- Word of mouth
- City website
- Email
- Other, please specify: _____

Overall, how satisfied are you with parks and recreation in Washington?

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

Please provide any additional comments about the Washington Parks and Recreation Department and its facilities that you feel were not addressed in this survey.

Please provide your name and address to be kept up to date on Washington Parks and Recreation! (Optional - this information will remain separate from your responses)

Name
 Address
 Address 2
 City
 State
 Zip Code

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

Focus Group Script

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hello everyone. I first want to thank each of you for taking the time to participate in today's session.

INTRO:

My name is _____. I will be the moderator for today's focus group session. Our purpose today is to talk about parks and recreation in the City of Washington to help with planning.

AGENDA:

In regard to today's agenda, we will all be participating in a free flowing discussion. Throughout the discussion, it's important to remember that there are no wrong answers and that we are looking for different points of view.

MODERATOR:

I work for East Carolina University's Center for Survey Research in Greenville, North Carolina. I'm working on this project as a research consultant to help learn more about the parks and recreation in the City of Washington.

DISCLOSURES:

There are a few things that I would like to make you aware of before we begin. We will be recording today's session with observers who will be taking notes and voice recorders. The session is being recorded to help construct an accurate final report. Specific details, such as who said what, will not be included in the recordings or report, only what was said by the group.

PERMISSIONS:

At any time feel free to excuse yourself for any reason. However, we do ask that only one person be up at a time to help keep the conversation flowing.

GUIDELINES:

In order to make this a successful research session, we have a few guidelines we would like to set:

1. Please talk one at a time
2. Talk in a voice as loud as mine
3. Avoid side conversations with your neighbors
4. Work for equal talking time
5. Allow for different points of view

City of Washington Parks & Recreation - Public Opinion Initiative

6. Say what you believe, there are no wrong answers
7. Only one person up or out of the room at one time

INTRODUCTIONS:

Please introduce yourself to the group and tell us:

- Your name
- How long you have lived in Washington
- Your current occupation

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. What is the best thing about the parks and recreation in the City of Washington?
2. What types of events or activities do community members engage in at the parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington?
3. What is the main reason you choose to go to specific parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington?
4. What is the largest problem (if there is one) with the City of Washington's parks and recreation?
5. What are possible solutions to the problems faced by the City of Washington's parks and recreation?
6. What new park/facility or upgrade to an existing park/facility is most needed?
7. Are there certain groups of people who use the parks more readily than others?
8. What can be done to ensure the parks and recreation locations in the City of Washington are enjoyed by all community members?
9. Is there anything else you would like to add, or you think would be helpful for us to know?

CLOSING:

Thank you very much for your participation in today's discussion. We really appreciate you taking the time to come and offer your opinions.

Appendix B - Public Involvement Meetings & Survey Comments

Map Workshop Comments

John Cotton Tayloe park - "there was a track at this site. Only city access to a track – can it be restored?"

Beebe Memorial Park - "playground equipment has been discussed but I understand that gravesites may hinder this. Look into possibilities" "Also need park tables with covers placed throughout park"

Peterson Building and Senior Center - "need fitness (cardio & toning) equipment" "TV's"

Bughouse Park - "Tennis courts need work". "City sponsored tennis competition would promote the sport"

Veterans Park - "plan things in this park". "Have a soldier sculpture or something to draw attention"

Bobby Andrews = "air-conditioning PLEASE!"

Skate Park = "encourage local competitions and provide spectator seating". "Allow vending at events"

Seventh Street Recreation Center = "better signage"

Havens Gardens = "two picnic areas need to be joined somehow, so children don't have to cross parking lot to get to playground". "More covered picnic areas". "Sandy volleyball area"

Pool facility= "Need an outdoor pool or waterpark!" "Need a true public pool. This one is cost prohibitive and sometimes access based on schedule of school swim team."

Oakdale recreation complex = "benches or bleachers for observers." "Is the building still in use? If not transform into a game room. "

Stakeholder Interview Responses:

Greenways are not safe due to lack of curb ramps and goose feces

Need good greenway trail connections on secondary roads and outlying parcels

No clear parking for Jacks Creek Greenway on either end of trail

Haven's Garden's Bridge Pier – drug use

Look at who is already using facilities on Sunday evenings and expand on that before creating something new (events in downtown)

Cal Ripken

Baseball= increase participation rates

City agreement can use \$ to lower fees for registration to \$25/year (registration went down)

Todd Maxwell = need new fence

Todd Maxwell = Without upgrades it can only be for practice or make up games

5 divisions = (7-8) (5-6) (9-10) (11-12) maxed out fields

*****if one more field was added then baseball would be ok*****

Moved season up two weeks to accommodate anticipated increase users

An increase of 6 teams will run out of space for games.

McConnell = Need batting cages

Health Department

Haven's Garden's needs to be fenced in to make it safer (also keep kids from water)

More shade structures at parks to prevent skin cancer and provide shade for spectators

KB Reynolds has community transformation grants that come in 100 million over 15 years

Healthy Carolinas = (check on what this is..... cancer???)



CITY OF WASHINGTON

Washington Harbor District Alliance (WHDA)

More picnic tables along waterfront and Festival Park

*Hard getting concerns heard****

Need more advertisement about what facilities are available – website etc.

No boater on parks and recreation advisory board

General

Need more public boat slips close to Festival Park

Need gas on waterfront (majority say would be great but had several opposed to it –i.e. city manager)

Need to market and make nice the “3 door steps to Washington” 1) Roads 2) Water 3) Airport

Consolidate facilities

Senior addition to McConnell Center – Council wants to build and move senior center to McConnell Complex

Maintenance

Kruger Field = school owns – going away – NOT ADA compliant

League wants Washington to take over football

John Cotton Tayloe School = NOT City owned – year around agreement

John Cotton Tayloe School = dugouts have no roof

Charlotte & Fifth Street Pocket Park = could lose (not enough use) – still would need to mow grass

Buildings and grounds fall under public works now with City restructuring

Expertise is a problem for staff – no training for staff to be specialized in one certain area

Mac is trained and certified in playground herbicide

More Staff

Consolidated facilities for ease of maintenance

Seasonal help would be a huge help (April to end of august) to the department and would put off the need for full time staff

Use to have seasonal staff but not now due to budget cuts

Have enough mowing equipment just not enough staff!!!!!!!!!!!!

Washington Housing Authority

125 kids in system

East Haven Senior housing???????

Beaufort County Developmental Center (BCDC)

Better wayfinding signage for all parks to visually distinguish them from private facilities

Build upon established working relationship with Washington P&R department

Soccer

Local organization so NO state requirements

Soccer complex at McConnell is great but need more fields (need 1/2 as many facilities as currently have if lighted) (double number of facilities if NOT lighted)



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Need lights (see above)

Currently host tournaments every few years - could host more often if had separate facility or additional fields

NEED commercial restroom fixtures (currently residential)

NEED swales between fields to allow fields to dry out faster after storm event

Currently 8 fields now with drainage issues

Hard soil conditions make grass hard to maintain - ESTABLISH regular grass maint. Program

Fields have NO lines on them – use cones NEED painted lines

Do their own sign ups with online registration

Sometimes use baseball fields as overflow facilities

Optimist club pays fees for players

ALL volunteer's

3 small fields (4,5,6 year olds) – could use 5 to 6 fields for this group

2 fields with goals (7-10 year olds) - this year making 2 big fields into smaller fields for 4 total)

3 full size fields

Local guy makes soccer goals

Special needs league plays every Saturday

Concession not sufficient – long lines

Need larger storage building to house equipment

Problem with rocks in fields

Should NOT be open to public all the time to allow for recovery of fields

Chamber of Commerce

Need more public docks

Need gas on water – inter-coastal is too far for boaters to travel without place to fill up and grab supplies

ALL feedback from tournaments has been NEGATIVE!!!! - do better getting word out about town and services offered

Movie in park weekend before tournament is well attended

Good complexes and facilities

Backboard is missing from tennis court at Bughouse Park

NEED more tennis courts

Alternate school has a good fitness circuit but not open to public – POSSIBLE partnership???

*Consider investing in larger stage facility if larger venues such as Carolina Symphony are encouraged to perform at Festival Park
(brought their own \$8k stage)*

Better way of getting information out to public

City of Washington needs a public information person – use to have one before budget cuts

USE skatepark more

City may want to take over league for football

5013C – mayor wife raised money to let kids pay \$5 for all sports



CITY OF WASHINGTON

Soccer and football dropped fees

Baseball and softball did NOT take money – NO MORE PLAYERS

Leagues are difficult to deal with

NOTHING OPEN ON MONDAY's – businesses should open on Monday for weekend visitors

MISSING fishing and netting market! Have to go to outer banks if want to charter boat

Softball League

For tournaments – have several larger fields they can shrink

Scheduling problems – ended in June so had to play on Saturdays

They play year around so need for play on weekends

Could turn soccer fields into baseball wedges if soccer had its own complex

John Cotten Tayloe School = could be used for soccer or slow pitch

John Cotten Tayloe = lights are insufficient

Drainage is problem on baseball fields – McConnell Sports Complex

Need shade structures for bleachers – shade sails

McConnell Sports Complex = fields 4,5 and 6 need fence extension

McConnell Sports Complex = fields 2 & 3 had fence extended

Drainage problems in middle of park – cannot reach parking capacity when standing water is present

Lost significant parking spaces in back of park site

Baseball fields drain really well

Recommendations = pipe and cover ditches to get water off of fields and accommodate larger crowds

Need to update batting cages

County may be more inclined to give money if it was more direct instead of giving it to P& Rec and TRUST that it will be given out fairly

NEED gates for dugouts – safety issue for kids

Community & Cultural Service Director

Approximately 10,000 people inside city limits (35,000 inside ETJ)

Do not have facilities to support 35,000 population in ETJ

Passive recreation has increased but not enough support facilities have been added

Maintenance should be under parks and recreation – large scale things would stay under public works

City should be running leagues or at least have members on their boards

1st year there has been no adult softball league

Possibility to grow tournaments more than other communities

Summer programs need to reinstated as they were in the past – i.e. summer camps etc.

Need to improve city and county working relationship

County has approximately 25,000 people using city facilities but did not give the City any money for recreation

Adequate park land in eastern part of city but not in west – growth is happening in west part of City



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Maintenance has been more reactive than proactive due to staffing capacity

Need for more restroom facilities along waterfront

Need to improve connections between waterfront and main street

Possible need for commercial uses on waterfront like jet ski rentals, charter fishing boats

Need more public tennis courts

Improved administration relationships could show need for money to improve facilities

Basketball League

Continue to improve upon crowd control at games

Need for second facility – possible location could be alternative school

Mid-East Planning

Need for improved interconnectivity between bicycle routes

Possible alternate bike routes - look into

Track at PS Jones is used by cyclist – safety

Need more bike racks

Minority, low income and elderly communities are not being serviced

NC Estuarium

Improve coordination between city events at Festival Park and estuarium events – parking issues

Provide more restroom facilities so park visitors don't have to use estuarium's

Sunday's – most of City is closed and that is not beneficial for a tourist town

Improve advertisement of program opportunities on City's website and with County – no weekend visitors coming from more than an hour away

Mid-East AAA

Need more senior friendly fitness equipment

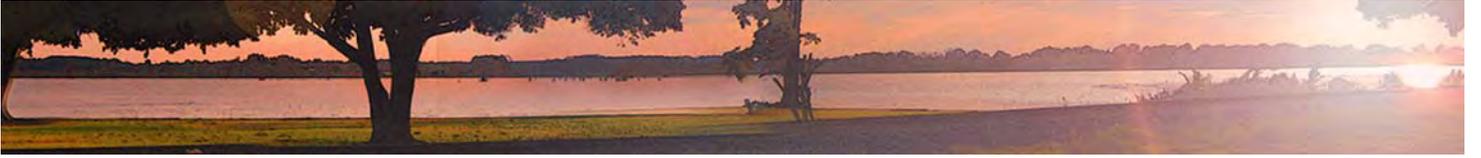
BCCC / Veteran's Park

Need more seating at the dog park

Boat docks need repairs

Improve wayfinding signage for all parks and update information on City's webpage

Increase programs like "wholesome way" to encourage low income families to eat healthier.



COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN