

# 2020 Wahkiakum County Park and Recreation Plan



This study was funded by and prepared for Wahkiakum County.

Prepared by:



Thanks to:

Ron Wright

Mike Backman

Johnson Park Board Members

Wahkiakum County  
64 Main Street  
Cathlamet, WA 98612  
<https://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/>

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# SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

Wahkiakum County is located in southwest Washington, approximately 20 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The county's southern border is the Columbia River.

As with the population of Wahkiakum County, the demand for park and recreation options to serve county residents continues to grow. In order to meet the demand of the community for places to recreate, while at the same time protecting and preserving the county's precious natural and cultural resources, Wahkiakum County has partnered with the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments to implement a planning process to guide future improvements and changes to parks land and facilities.

The Wahkiakum County Park Plan establishes a long-range vision of future park uses and features that are specific to a given park. Framed by Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and Wahkiakum County policies, the plan integrates a detailed knowledge of each individual park's conditions with the desires of the community to provide a document that will guide and inform future uses within that park. Public input is a critical component in the development of the park master plan.

### *Benefits of Parks in Wahkiakum County*

- Increase physical activity and health conditions of population
- Provides an area to socialize with the community
- Stimulate economic development
- Increase the quality of life
- Provides an opportunity to connect with nature close to home

### *Public Involvement*

- County-wide community survey – both online and hard copies at various locations throughout the county
- Activity at the Wahkiakum County Fair
- Stakeholder meeting at Johnson Park

### *Entities with Park Land in Wahkiakum County*

- Cathlamet
- Port District One
- Port District Two
- Wahkiakum County

## History of the Region

Wahkiakum County is uniquely positioned atop a broad tidal estuary near the mouth of the Columbia River. This has provided unbridled natural resource opportunities that have fueled and sustained local populations for centuries. From the Chinook native people to today's inhabitants, communities have continually used the abundant natural resources of the Columbia River and the surrounding lush forests—and the plentiful amounts of wildlife which inhabit them—to their advantage. The famed Lewis and Clark expedition was nearing the end of their search as they explored the area included in Wahkiakum County today. The concentration of Lewis and Clark Heritage sites is strong and includes

eight sites in Wahkiakum County. As a whole, Wahkiakum County provides numerous opportunities to view its scenic nature and copious wildlife while providing an eclectic mix of rich historical experiences. This extraordinary mix has continually shaped and molded the community and largely influences the community today.

## Geographic and Demographic Context

Community health is an important concept taken into account in this county-wide park plan. Access to recreation, interaction with nature, and an ability to access food sources that nature provides is important to the planning process.

As cited in the Social and Economic Factors of Health in the 2019 Cathlamet Waterfront Park Plan, over 35% of Wahkiakum County residents are at or below 20% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). This is more than Washington State (30%) and the United States average (34%). Financial wellbeing is a critical factor of the overall health of a person. The regional poverty levels are a detriment to a healthy community and the enhancement of local parks and gathering places can support access to an active living lifestyle for some of those residents. An active lifestyle can help the population to overcome negative health outcomes, such as hypertension, heart disease, cancer, shortened life expectancy, and a wide range of mental health issues (Wadsworth and Rienks, American Psychological Association, 2012).

Wahkiakum County has less park access and lower access to healthy food than surrounding counties (CDC, 2016). In Wahkiakum County, 80% of residents have low food access, which is much higher than the 12% in Washington State as a whole. Creating additional park activities that include opportunities encourage activity and where events such as farmers markets and other community events can be held will provide a much-needed amenity for the local community.

In Wahkiakum county, over 24% percent of the population has a disability of some kind, which is nearly double the amount for Washington State (12.65%). Enhancing park facilities with features for an aging population, along with children's play elements, will greatly benefit both younger and older residents in and around the County.

## Cooperative Planning

Citizen input is vitally important to the planning process. Not only is it important for citizens to critique ideas brought by planners and community leaders, but it is also important that citizens themselves come up with ideas for the future of their community. A county-wide park plan can be a great way to get that input, as people generally directly interact with parks on a regular basis and can provide recommendations based on experience with the park facilities.

Planners, engineers, county and port officials, and other local leaders and interested parties collaborated to identify key needs within the park systems of Wahkiakum County. The input from the citizens and leadership tells the story of the need to enhance and improve the overall park system to support the needs of the population and to help attract modest growth in the tourism sector.

## SECTION 2: INVENTORY SUMMARY

### Existing Facilities

Figure 2.1 depicts a map of the parks and recreation inventory within the county. The inventory narrative provides a summary of the facilities and opportunities that exist in Wahkiakum County. Most of the population of the county resides within ten miles of Cathlamet, but there are many needs in the western part of the county near Rosburg. The current inventory does not include the depth of resources needed to satisfy the desires of the local population nor support the growth of the visitor market to any significant degree. Preservation of the current facilities is crucial to the long-term health and overall use of the park system.

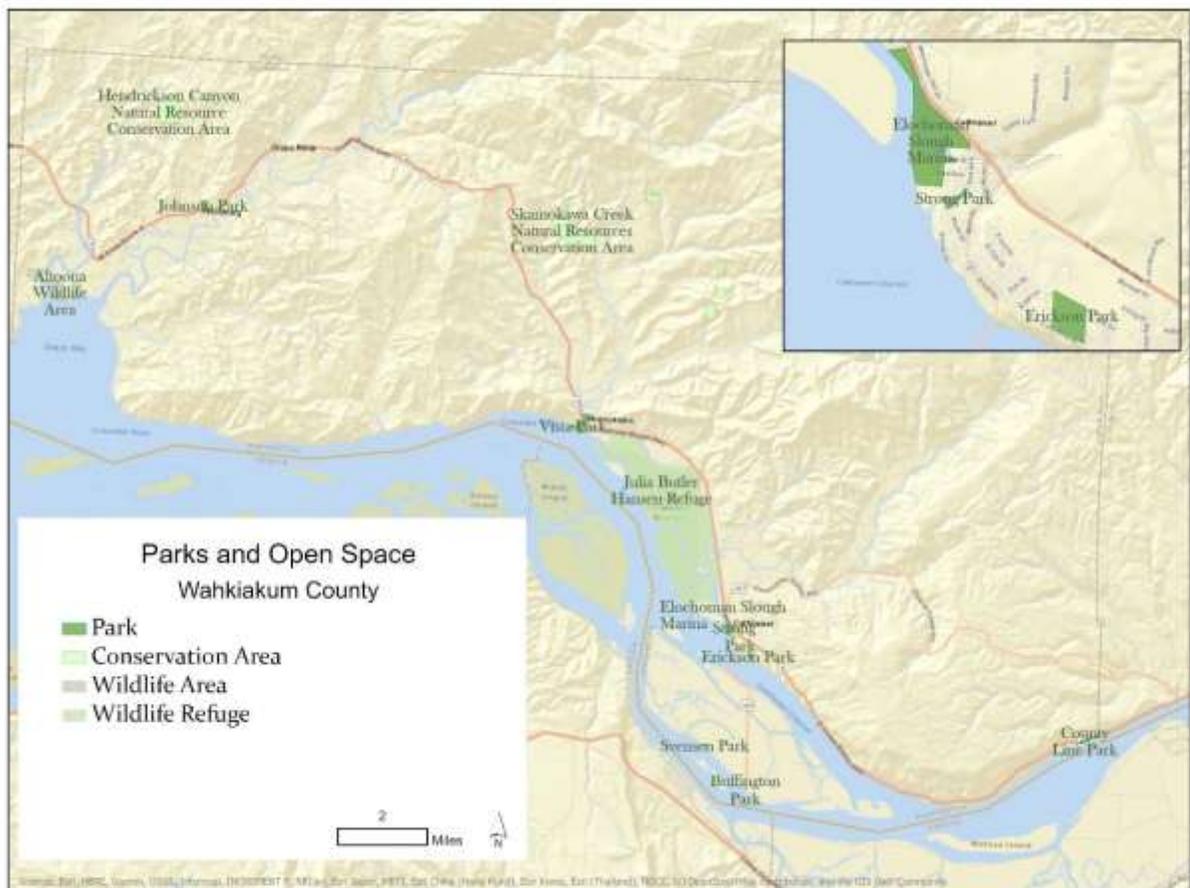


Figure 2.1: Existing Facilities

## Wahkiakum County Parks Inventory

### Wahkiakum County Inventory

#### *Buffington Park*

Buffington Park, located on Puget Island, is the access point for the Wahkiakum County Ferry. The Ferry is the last passenger ferry on the lower Columbia and takes passengers across to Oregon. Buffington Park is an important asset to Wahkiakum County as it is a Heritage Site and is also a great spot for fishing. Located at the south end of State Route (SR) 409, this pocket park has two picnic tables, a dog exercise area, a portable toilet, and access to water via a beach. The ferry departs from Puget Island, Washington, which the



Julia Butler Hansen Bridge links to the mainland. SR 409 is a spur from SR 4, and the ferry thus connects that highway to U.S. Route 30 in Oregon. Its status as an extension of SR 409 is why the State of Washington, since 1969, has provided financial support for the operation of the ferry.

Proximity to the Wahkiakum Ferry Landing provides this





Wahkiakum County Ferry Route – Google Maps

small park with daily exposure that is unique to other parks. As motorists wait for the ferry to arrive, there is an opportunity to get out of the car and enjoy the scenery. As Wahkiakum County continues to change, so will the use of the ferry. Park amenities need to meet those population demands.

Puget Island is becoming a popular place for bikers to ride in a safe low-traffic environment. Riding a bike along Sunny Sands Road provides a unique cycle experience, where riders can travel around the island and enjoy the rural scenery. Buffington Park is becoming more popular for bikers to stop and take a break or enjoy an afternoon. Providing the proper facilities to meet these outdoor recreation needs makes Buffington Park a recreational destination on Puget Island.

### *Johnson Park*

The Community Center located in Johnson Park is the old Rosburg Schoolhouse and is a historic feature of the county. Although it is not a registered historic structure, it is important that this building is not only registered but restored. The school originally served grades K-6, with older students attending the Naselle schools. The original building contains seven classrooms, a cafeteria, gymnasium, and stage on a three-acre site.

The Rosburg School site was “sold” to the Naselle school district by the Johnson family. Terms of the sale required that the building be used for educational uses by the district and that in the event that the district no longer needed the building, it would be transferred to the county. The structure is currently being used as a community activity center, which includes the plan for an effort to provide commercial

space for business development and a technology center. The community center strives to create uses that would be compatible with the school as a centerpiece.



Johnson Park currently lacks the proper facilities to fully function as a day-use park. Survey totals collected at the Wahkiakum County Fair (see Attachment E) showed the respondents support the construction of outdoor restrooms, covered picnic area, ballfield improvements, and installation of playground equipment. Furthermore, the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey found that about 57% of respondents picnic at least once a year and about 46% of the respondents supported the construction of covered picnic facilities. As it relates to other facilities in Johnson Park, 46% of the respondents supported the construction

of outdoor restrooms (53% of the respondents either weren't sure or needed more information) and 43% of respondents supported the construction of new playground equipment (57% of the respondents either weren't sure or needed more information).

The septic system in Johnson Park will also need to be replaced to meet the current needs and support future proposed activities. There is no current documentation on the age of the septic system and there will need to be an evaluation and study to determine the most appropriate approach to provide an acceptable solution.

Johnson Park provides the local community and the greater lower Columbia River community with a unique public space with room for many community and voluntary efforts. The Center, as it is sometimes called, also rents rooms to individuals, businesses, the Department of Health and Human Services, the West End Food Pantry, and the Sheriff's Department.

Among the Center's star attractions include:

- Gymnasium
- Sewing Center
- Exercise Room
- Commercial Kitchen
- Cafeteria
- The Mayme Johnson Activity Room
- Library and Computer Center
- Game Room
- Craft Room
- Walking Trails
- Baseball Field
- Picnic Area

Johnson Park currently provides beautiful grounds for children of all ages with limited amenities to attract area residents. A movie is shown every Friday night at 7:00 PM in the Mayme Johnson Room and yoga classes are taught regularly. The facility is available for public use, for free, and for private groups, for established fees.

The Center at Johnson Park is manned by volunteers and ongoing facility improvement efforts are organized by the Johnson Park Citizen Advisory Board — which is appointed by the Wahkiakum County Board of Commissioners.

### *Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge*

Two miles west of Cathlamet is the entrance to the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge for the Columbian White-Tailed Deer. An information kiosk and wildlife observation platforms are located along SR 4. The 5,600-acre refuge offers wildlife viewing, an interpretive center, and camping. Lewis and Clark noted that these deer were a separate species and remarked upon their unusual gait. The deer are protected as a threatened species. The refuge also offers birding opportunities year-round. Julia Butler Hansen was the first Congresswoman from Washington State. There is a five-mile loop through the Wildlife Refuge for hiking, biking, or driving.

### *Wahkiakum County Fair Grounds*



On the Northside of SR 4, across from Skamokawa Vista Park, is the Wahkiakum County Fair Grounds. The county fair is located here every August and according to the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey, it is the second most attended park in the county with 93% of respondents having been there in the last year.

Over the years there has been an increase in demand for public camping and day-use at the fairgrounds during the intermittent months

when the fair is not operating. Currently, the fairgrounds cannot meet the needs for weekend campers or day use without facility upgrades.

This site consists of several exhibit buildings on eight acres. Grange and county volunteers constructed a horse arena in the 1990s. The day-use park has picnic tables, fire pits, a playground, horseshoe pits, and a covered area. Recent discussions have focused on expanding the use of the fairgrounds for more activities year-round, with the goal of becoming a self-supporting entity.

## Cathlamet Inventory

### *Potential Cathlamet Waterfront Park*

In 1971, the Town of Cathlamet deeded land for what is now the Elochoman Slough Marina to the Wahkiakum Port District #1. Situated adjacent to the waterfront park's north boundary, it provides the most important access to the Columbia River in Cathlamet. The marina is a multi-dimensional facility and an asset to the community. It provides a gas dock; overnight accommodations such as a campground, yurts, cabins, hot showers, and restrooms. It also features a fishermen's memorial and hosts a Salmon Derby and the Wooden Boat Festival, both very popular events. Yacht clubs, kayakers, and other similar groups are welcomed at the marina. Fishing is both a revenue generator and a beloved pastime in Wahkiakum County. In the 1980s, the Cathlamet Town Council constructed a public marina to attract small cruise ships, fishermen, boaters, and other river travelers to area businesses.



*2019 Cathlamet Waterfront Masterplan*



*Final Phase – 2019 Cathlamet Waterfront Masterplan*

Aside from the Elochoman Marina, and Skamokawa Vista Park several miles from Cathlamet, there are few places for visitors and residents to access the Columbia River for relaxation or recreation. Most riverfront access points are places of industry where the community has “turned its back to the waterfront.” The Cathlamet Waterfront Park offers a shoreline experience, within the heart of Cathlamet, for residents and visitors to connect with nature and to represent the town’s namesake.

Recognizing the need for pedestrian access to the water, the Town of Cathlamet has spearheaded a process to begin to transform three former open-air wastewater treatment lagoons along the Columbia

River into a new 17-acre waterfront park. Once completed, the new waterfront park will be a single contiguous open space, providing new recreation opportunities, amenities, and connections to various cultural, historical and social places within the town.

### *Erikson Park*



Photo by Rick Nelson, Wahkiakum County Eagle

This ten-acre park is located within a residential area and just south of the Julius A. Wendt Elementary School, the John C Thomas Middle School and the Wahkiakum High School. This park is typically used by residents of Cathlamet and has a high level of usage by families due to the park's amenities.

The Town, with the assistance of state and federal grants-in-aid, has redeveloped the park. It includes restrooms, a multi-purpose shelter, tennis courts, a basketball and multipurpose court, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, nature

paths, drinking fountain, and a parking area. A Community Garden was added in 2010 which is run in conjunction with Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services, WSU Extension office, and dedicated volunteers. The Garden is actively contributing to the local food banks and is open to the public.

The Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey, located in Attachment D, found that about 73% of respondents have been to Erikson Park within the past year.



*Erickson Park Swing Set (Town of Cathlamet Website)*



*Erickson Park in Proximity to Schools in Cathlamet (Google Maps)*



*Erickson Park Playground and Wahkiakum County Community Garden (Town of Cathlamet Website)*



*Erikson Park Picnic Shelter (Town of Cathlamet Website)*

### ***Strong Park***

Strong Park is comprised of two acres on the Cathlamet waterfront adjacent to the Wahkiakum County Museum. Strong Park includes the following:

- Birnie Creek Bridge and the G. Alan Johnson "riverfront trail" connecting Strong Park to the Elochoman Marina and to the Columbia River beach area
- Historical totem pole, locomotive, and mural
- Picnic tables and benches
- Special Columbia River's Cathlamet Channel viewing benches offering the visitor a site from which to observe passing ocean-going vessels.



*Strong Park Entrance (Town of Cathlamet)*

The antique locomotive was once used for railroad logging in the area. Representing the history of Cathlamet, a colorful mural depicting historical events is located in the park. The lighted waterfront trail provides a wonderful view of the Columbia River leading from the park to the Elochoman Slough Marina. The trail crosses over Birnie Creek and the Cathlamet Future Farmers of American (FFA) fish-rearing project.



*Locomotive (Town of Cathlamet Website)*

Being that this park is adjacent to the Wahkiakum County Museum, visitors are provided with both an indoor and outdoor way to experience history within the County. The Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey, located in Attachment D, found that about 71% of respondents have been to Erikson Park within the past year. The need to provide amenities that keep county residents coming to the park is important as its unique historic theme provides both a recreational and educational opportunity that seems to be in demand due to the survey responses. About 43% of respondents listed the park amenities as good-fair, showing that there is a need for improvement.

## Port District One Inventory

### *Elochoman Slough Marina*

The Elochoman Slough Marina is located on the Columbia River at river mile 38 in Cathlamet, Washington and is a key location on the Lower Columbia Water Trail. It is located near a small car ferry that connects Westport, Oregon and Puget Island, Washington, which is a link to Cathlamet via the Julia Butler Hansen Bridge.

Port property ownership includes approximately 25 acres of land surrounding the Elochoman Marina. All of the property under Port ownership is within the Town of

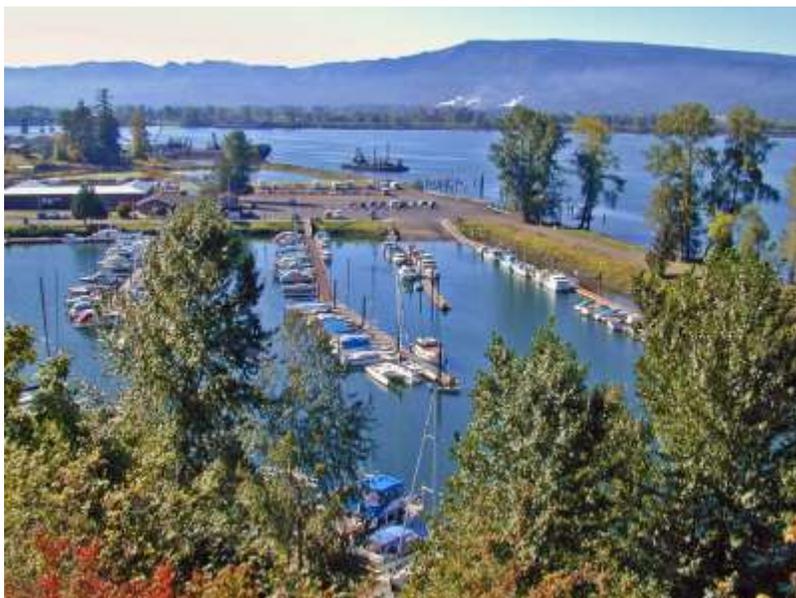
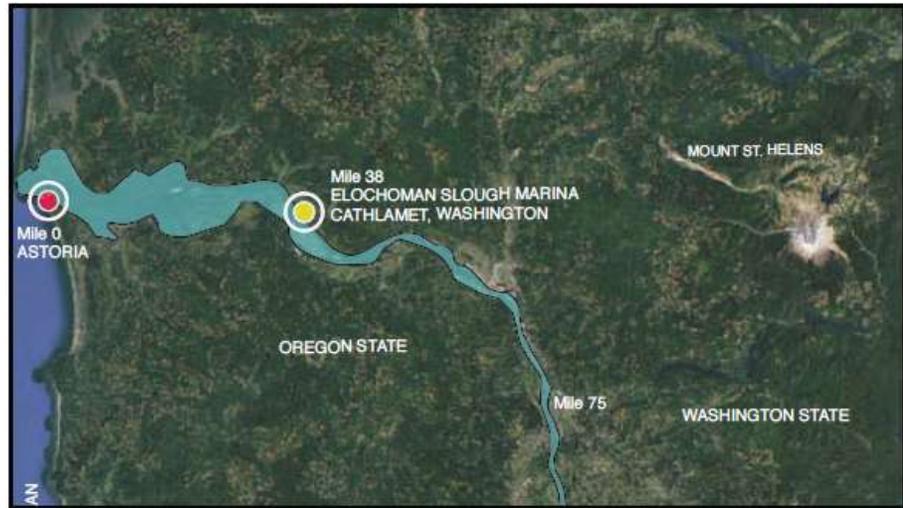
Cathlamet municipal boundary. The land is zoned Commercial/Industrial District. This zoning designation allows a high degree of flexibility in the types of activities allowed.

The Elochoman Slough Marina is focused on Wahkiakum County recreational and economic activity.

Boaters from Portland, Vancouver, Ilwaco, Astoria, and other areas flock to the Elochoman Slough Marina because of its location, its historical river town amenities, and the pristine rural character of the surrounding land. Both commercial and recreational fishermen frequent the Elochoman Slough Marina, especially during salmon fishing windows in the spring and the fall. In addition, the Army Corps of Engineers and other entities utilize the Marina when conducting operations in adjacent areas of the Columbia River.

The marina basin opens into the Elochoman Slough and is just about two hundred yards from the Columbia River. Boaters have ready access to prized fishing locations in and around Puget Island and along the Cathlamet Channel.

The Elochoman Slough Marina provides a wide range of paddling opportunities and support services for motorized users and paddle sport enthusiasts on the Lower Columbia River. Specifically, the site has become a trailhead destination for paddlers recreating on the Lower Columbia Water Trail serving as a starting point, termination point, or mid-way resupply point.



Less experienced paddlers use Elochoman Slough, behind Hunting Islands, as an access point for a more protected paddling experience that avoids high winds and shipping traffic encountered on the main channel. More experienced paddlers explore the main channel with destinations that include paddling upstream to Little Cape Horn, across the river to explore Puget Island's farmhouse-dotted sloughs, or downstream to experience the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbia White-Tailed Deer and Lewis and Clark Wildlife Refuge.

As paddler sports and activities increase at the marina, the need to provide a launch site that will separate uses and reduce conflicts between motorized and non-motorized boats and kayaks at the boat ramp has increased. Separating the facilities will reduce user conflict and congestions while improving access to the overall user experience for those accessing the water trail. In addition, a launch area servicing those paddlers will increase boater safety and result in a more welcoming environment.



The Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey results, located in Attachment D, found that about 89% of respondents have been to Elochoman Slough Marina within the past year and 76% of respondents found that the marina facilities were in excellent or good condition. Continuing maintenance and replacing obsolete facilities to the marina is important as it is directly abutting the commercial district in Cathlamet.

In summary, Elochoman Slough Marina has many opportunities to capitalize on its surroundings to meet the needs of the population. Recreational opportunities such as kayaking, fishing, and power boating are popular activities in the area. This is taken into account when identifying a need. Recreational activities are also catalysts for economic development and can lead to more business opportunities in Cathlamet.

## Port District Two Inventory

The port district runs several parks in the county including Vista Park, County Line Park, and Svensen Park.

### *County Line Park*

Located at the east end of Wahkiakum County off SR 4, County Line Park has RV campsites, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, fishing, walking path, and river access. The park is a flat 5.5-acre wedge of land between the Columbia River and Ocean Beach Highway. Operated jointly by Port District Two and Wahkiakum County, this waterfront park serves as the eastern gateway to the County. With 3,000 feet of shoreline, the park was originally developed through a partnership with six state and federal agencies, as well as both Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

Many people who drive this highway stop at the park to watch the river traffic, large ships, and barges. The vessels transiting the river often are taking timber and grain products produced in the Northwest to other places around the world or bringing in commodities from other parts of the world including oil, cement, wood chips, and automobiles.



Port District Two provides the first recreational opportunity for water access and camping for those coming from the East in the Kelso/Longview metro area into Wahkiakum County. This is a vitally important park for both the County and Port District Two as it is the closest park to the most populated area near the county. Located right off SR-4, this park is easy to find and easy to access. With this park being visible to those on SR-4, its extremely important that the facilities are in good working order and the aesthetics of the park are kept up.

### *Skamokawa Vista Park*

Skamokawa Vista Park opened in 1981 on a 77-acre site with sweeping river views. Each year it draws locals and tourists alike for tent and yurt camping, picnicking, easy beach access, and recreational activities.



Vista Park offers basketball, baseball, horseshoes, tennis, two playgrounds, bird watching, ship watching, fishing, and sunbathing. For those wanting to venture away from the campground, there is plenty to do in the surrounding area including kayaking, disc golf, several museums, hiking, and fishing.

The survey in Attachment D found that 95% of respondents have visited Skamokawa Vista Park, which is the highest rate of all the parks in Wahkiakum County and over 85% of

the respondents found the facilities to be excellent or good.

The camping aspect plays a vital role in the success of the park. Providing infrastructure for extended stays would encourage additional use of the facilities throughout their stay.

Skamokawa Vista Park provides the following accommodations for campers:



The park is connected to the Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds via the pedestrian bridge over Skamokawa Creek. A community library sits adjacent to the park site, in the port office.

### ***Svensen Park and Boat Launch***

Port District Two operates Svensen Park and the Boat Launch on the southwest side of Puget Island directly across from Coffee Pot Island. The park was purchased in 1997 and developed in 2007. The park has one small boat launch and parking for 20 vehicles. The boat launch is accessible year-round for waterfront enjoyment. However, the busiest time for the boat launch is the fishing season, especially during salmon fishing season. Many anglers choose this launch because it is so close to the Main River Channel. Future plans for a picnic area, full-service restrooms, and a fish cleaning station are in the planning state.

Salmon fishing season in August and late September is one of the busiest times for Svensen Park. Although data on park visitation during the salmon season has not been collected, the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey shows that 63% present of the respondents visit Svensen Park at least once annually and about 52% of the recreate in Wahkiakum County for fishing. Future monitoring of activity will need to take place in order to fulfill the needs of park visitors.

# SECTION 3: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

## Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey

During the summer of 2019, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) created a Countywide Park Plan survey for the citizens of Wahkiakum County. The survey (Attachment C) encouraged input from students, senior citizens, and everyone in between. The goals were to get a comprehensive view of what the community needs as it relates to parks within the county. The results of this survey are located in *Attachment D: Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey Results*.

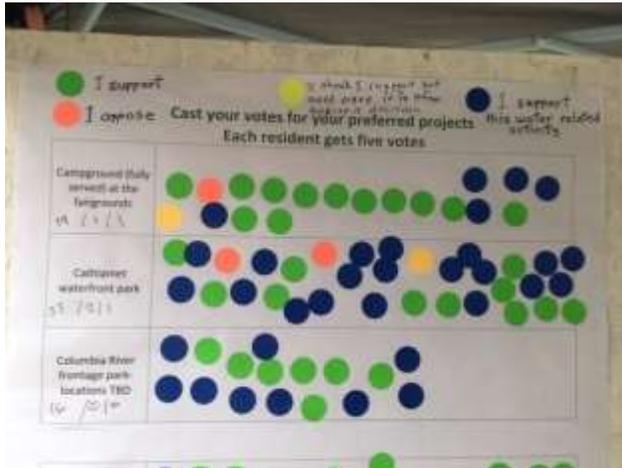
The big takeaways from the survey were the following:

- Activities that received a response rate of over 50%
  - Gardening
  - Hiking
  - Picnicking
  - Sightseeing
  - Walking
  - Fishing
  
- Possible projects that got a response rate of over 50%
  - Cathlamet Waterfront Park
  - Educational Trails System in the 80+ acres the school district owns off of SR 4
  - Handicapped fishing dock locations
  - Non-motorized boat launch sites
  - Pet area at Vista Park
  - Public restrooms at Julia Butler Hansen Refuge
  
- Waterfront parks and multi-use trails were listed as “very important” with a response rate of over 50 percent.
  
- Public wi-fi Access is wanted at park facilities.

## Wahkiakum County Fair Outreach

During the Wahkiakum County Fair, from August 15-19, CWCOG set up a bulletin board with scenarios in which citizens identified which they supported and which they did not. The results are broken down in *Attachment E: Tabulations from Public Input at the Wahkiakum County Fair*.

The Scenarios that received 20 or more votes for “support” included:



- Cathlamet Waterfront Park
- Day use facility in Brookfield area
- Educational trails system in the 80+ acres the School District owns off of SR 4
- Disabled accessibility for fishing
- Non-motorized boat launch sites
- Public restrooms at Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Refuge

The only scenario that got a negative reaction was a possible electronic games pavilion, which received 14 votes for “opposes”.



**Johnson Park Meeting (September 17, 2019)**

The meeting at Johnson Park focused on the western side Wahkiakum County, including Johnson Park, and its assets. Since most of the population is located on the southcentral and eastern edge of the county and includes the only incorporated town in the county, Cathlamet, community surveys only painted half the picture

when it came to identifying needs. This meeting was held to discuss parks' infrastructure

condition, needs as it relates to repairs, renovation, adding additional infrastructure. The overall goal was to help provide a park system that meets the needs of all residents of the county, including the more rural western half of Wahkiakum County.

Below are the results of this meeting:

- Provide additional recreational opportunities at Johnson Park
- Provide day-use picnic area in Johnson Park with amenities for cooking (grills, running water, garbage receptacles, etc.)
- Build an outdoor restroom
- Replace the septic system
- Renovate the community center and designate it as a historic landmark
- Create a more extensive trail system in and around Johnson Park

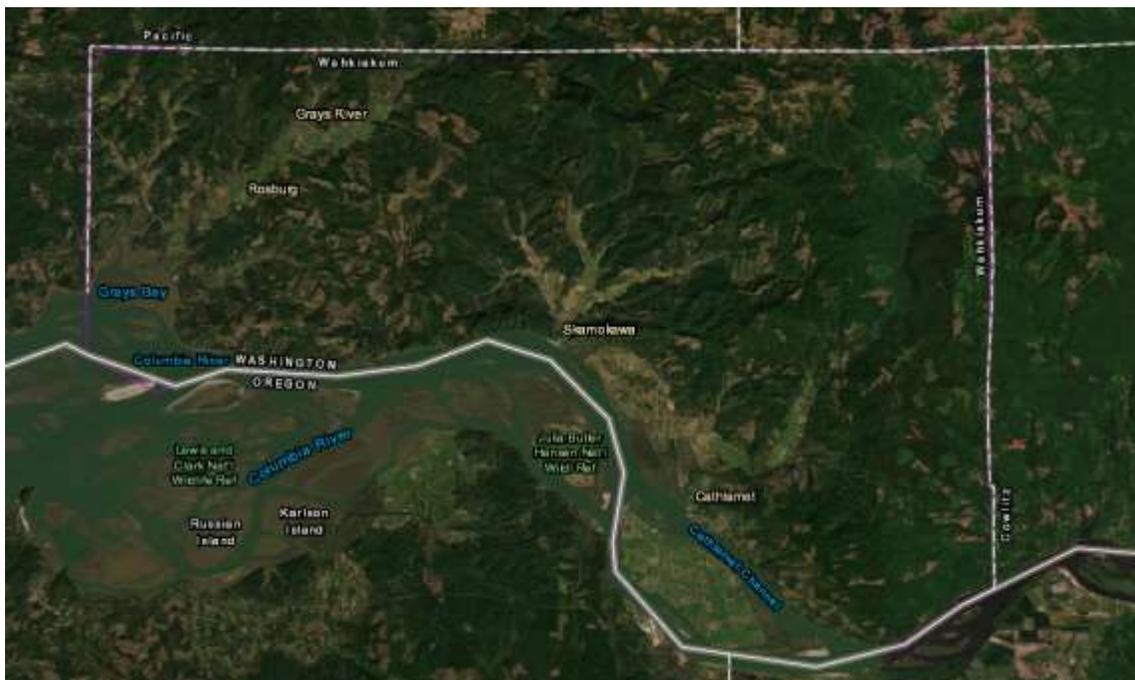
# SECTION 4: DEMAND/NEED ANALYSIS

## Wahkiakum County Parks Demand and Needs Analysis

A specific level of service benchmarks for park facilities, trails, and other park-related amenities have not been set by Wahkiakum County. During the public outreach phase, there was enough information collected to warrant specific needs at different parks within the county. For other instances, issues that were not identified as a need by the public, but was considered a high need by the county, used a different set of criteria beyond public support such as availability of park services. There is an understanding of the importance of attracting more motorists traveling SR 4 through the County to stop and enjoy the amenities and support local businesses. Few expect or want to bloom as a tourism Mecca, but know that improved facilities will improve economic opportunities.

For park facilities in the more rural regions of the county, access to adequate recreational facilities and the ability of these facilities to serve the local population were taken into account. In the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey, it was found that people were less likely to go to parks that were in the more rural areas of the county, and therefore, not see improvements as a high priority. It must be noted that 60% of the respondents reported that they had visited each park in the county at least once in the past year. With that being said, parks in Wahkiakum County are well used by its residents, but less so on the western side of the county.

In preparation for this Park plan, there was a review of the 2018 Cathlamet Park and Open Space Plan which focused on waterfront development in the Town of Cathlamet. Other plans reviewed included the Port District No. 2 of Wahkiakum County 2020 Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Development Scheme for Port District No. 1 of Wahkiakum County, Washington (2016), and the 2019 River Access Planning Guide.



Wahkiakum County (Wahkiakum GIS)

## Demographics

The population in 2010, according to the census data, was 3,978 with a 4 percent increase in population since 2000; housing increased 12.2 percent from 2000 to 2009. The Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimated population in 2020 is between 3,512 (Low) and 4,295 (High). These increases show that the economy within the County continues to recover, albeit at a slow pace. The County is home to small industries and employment opportunities that include logging, construction, manufacturing, local government, and nonretail services (Employment Security Department, Washington State 2018). The lack of major highways makes the County a rural destination for residents and visitors. According to the Washington State Employment Security Department, in 2017 people older than 65 years of age made up 34.7 percent of the population, people under 18 made up 15.8 percent, and the adults between 19 and 64 made up 45.9 percent of the population.

Table 4.1 OFM Population Projections for Wahkiakum County	
Year	Low
2020	3,512
2025	3,407
2030	3,302
2035	3,197
Medium	
2020	3,877
2025	3,830
2030	3,772
2035	3,716
High	
2020	4,295
2025	4,345
2030	4,395
2035	4,445

Table 4.1 details the population to reflect current trends in Wahkiakum County's basic demographics to the year 2035. These estimates provide a general outlook on what the demand for park service could be in the future. As population growth continues, Wahkiakum County and other jurisdictions that contain parkland within the county must be vigilant as it relates to monitoring and accounting for increased demand, change in demographics, and the needs associated with those changes.

## Community Parks

As shown in the Inventory Summary of this plan, Wahkiakum County owns Johnson Park and Buffington Park and has a cooperative service agreement with Port District Two for County Line Park and an agreement with the Wahkiakum County Fair Board for the Fairgrounds.

For the purpose of this plan, community parks are defined as smaller facilities that serve a more limited population surrounding the park and typically contain playgrounds, basketball courts, multi-use fields, pathways, and other day-use amenities.

Johnson Park is the only county-owned facility that has the potential to meet the needs of the residents of western Wahkiakum County. Individual volunteers and community groups are currently instrumental in building partnerships to support the operations and maintenance of Johnson Park. Without the volunteer base the County would be stretched to keep the community center open.

## Shoreline Access

County-owned parkland is limited in relation to shoreline access. The county will need to coordinate with the Port District 1 and 2, the Town of Cathlamet, and other jurisdictions with shoreline access.

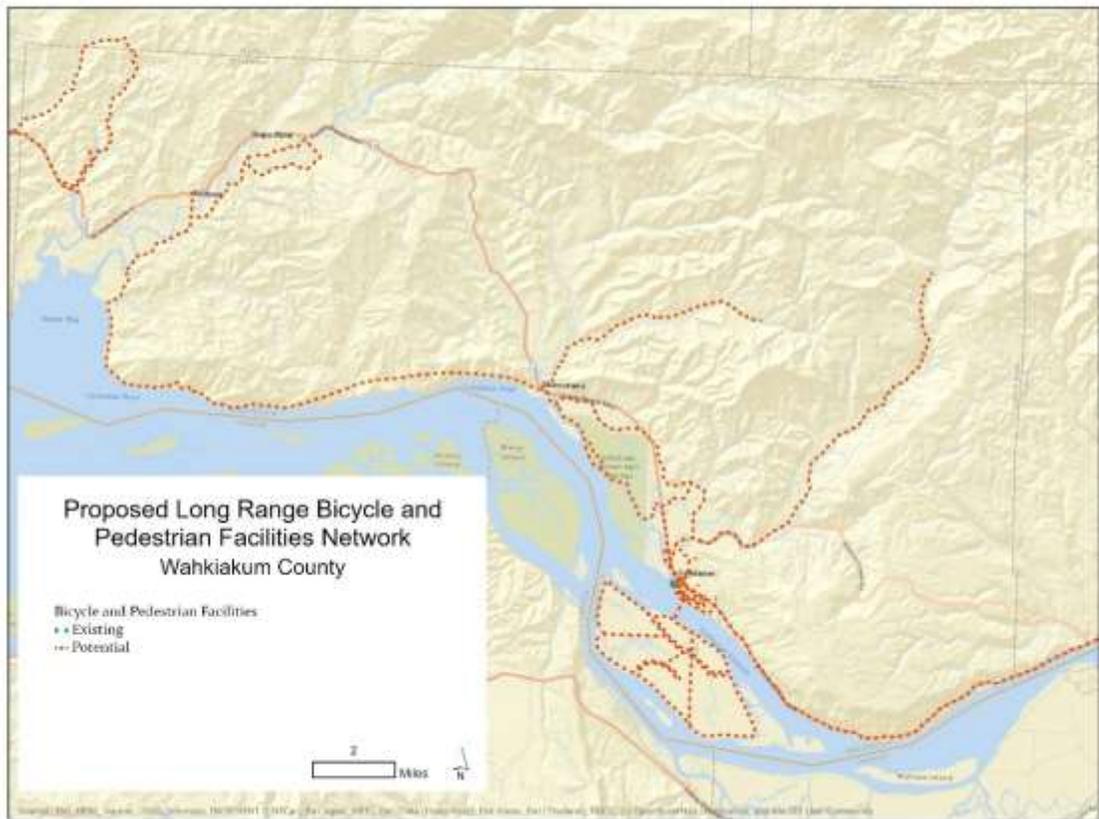
## Trails and Biking

Respondent of the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey (see Attachment D) cited trail needs within the county. Biking in the county is popular, with about 25 percent of respondents stating the biking was the number one desirable improvement in the types of trails the county can provide. Bike route maps that show safe and enjoyable places to ride would provide a needed benefit in the county.

There are not many trails within Wahkiakum County. This provides the county with a unique opportunity to meet the needs of residents and coordinate with other entities in order to create a trails system that connects to amenities throughout the county.

The County is currently exploring several projects that are discussed in brief here. Two of these (Island Bridge and the proposed path between the Cathlamet Marina and SR4) had been discussed on the bicycle committee and they are still developing additional information. The third project is the widening of Jacobsen Road to complement work already in the planning stages. The widening would include dedicated bike lanes. A fourth project is related to Oneida boat launch area and is still in the initial development phase.

There is strong interest in the extension of a multiuse path from the covered bridge to the Columbia River, in the vicinity of the Altoona-Pillar Rock Road. There is also interest in modifying the paths on Puget Island to provide additional safety and accessibility. No cost estimates are available currently for these efforts, but work will continue to better identify the routes and estimated costs in the coming months.



## Activities

### *Playgrounds*

None of the county-owned park properties have playground equipment. Johnson Park is the only county-owned park that has the potential to have a playground and meet service needs in the western part of Wahkiakum County.

### *Camping*

County Line Park does provide an option for camping, but needs improvements to the water system, as sited in the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey. Other parks that provide the opportunity for camping are not owned by the county and would require coordination with these entities to identify needs and service gaps.

Wahkiakum County Fair Grounds does have the potential for camping, however coordination between the County and the Fair Board is needed to establish a vision as to what type of camping would be

acceptable and what type of amenities would need to be included or improved upon. The Capital Improvements sections of this plan outline some of the proposed needs.

### *Boat Launches and Water Access*

There are numerous places in Wahkiakum County to access the Columbia River but other than County Line Park no other publicly accessible parkland currently owned by the county has access to water. The promotion of water access would require cooperation with other entities in which access to water is within their park boundaries.

### *Community Centers*

Johnson Park has the only community center owned by Wahkiakum County. The facility is in need of renovation as the building is currently inadequate for the existing community demands. The County will need to partner with other agencies in order to fund renovations. Through multiple public outreach efforts, the facilities at Johnson Park are intended to serve as a civic and recreational gathering place for community residents of all ages—day and night. A study will need to be completed in order to provide a full scope of what renovations are needed.

There is also a community center serving the county that is located on Main St in Cathlamet, WA. This Center hosts many public services and events and is owned by the Town of Cathlamet. The Public Library is featured on the top floor of this newly remodeled building.

### *Picnic Facilities*

Johnson Park and Buffington Park have the potential for picnic facilities. Buffington Park currently has a covered picnic shelter and would benefit from an area for cooking or grilling food for day users or those who choose to bike around the island.

Johnson Park lacks the day-use amenities for picnics. The open area that Johnson park provides was identified in the Wahkiakum County Countywide Park Plan Survey as an asset but needs investments such as grills, BBQ pits, covered picnic area, and outdoor restrooms are needed to provide day-use amenities to park goers.

### *Athletic Facilities and Fields*

Johnson Park has the potential to have a softball and soccer field. Currently, options for outdoor athletic fields are located near Cathlamet and are not reasonably accessible to residents in the western part of Wahkiakum County. Athletic fields can serve as locations for unstructured, pick-up, and spontaneous recreational activities or have the potential for more organized events. They provide an important and valued function for many types of recreation and will be provided in Johnson Park if funding support can be obtained.

# SECTION 5: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goals and Objectives

**GOAL: Wahkiakum County will continue to play a role in providing parks, recreation, and open space to the region.**

Objective: Collaborate with citizens, nonprofits, and other jurisdictions to help keep parks open when operating funds are in short supply.

**GOAL: Provide the highest quality of county facilities as possible.**

Objective: Work with county staff and local groups and develop a maintenance standard for all county parks.

Objective: Focus development and capital maintenance resources on specific parks to achieve the prescribed maintenance standard.

Objective: Develop and maintain a six-year capital maintenance program.

Objective: Research grant opportunities and work to build projects that maximize the full utility of grants or other funding opportunities.

**GOAL: Cost-effectively operate Wahkiakum County's park, recreation, and open space system.**

Objective: Investigate potential resources for funding or support for providing existing and future facilities and services.

Objective: Develop facilities which require low maintenance costs but still meet the goal of providing the highest quality of county facilities possible.

Objective: Develop or renovate areas and facilities to enhance revenue-generating activities.

Objective: Develop and manage park facilities for multiple uses.

**GOAL: Create partnerships with other agencies and organizations to meet all identified needs, including those beyond the primary responsibilities of Wahkiakum County.**

Objective: Coordinate efforts with other facility providers (such as the ports) to meet needs identified in this plan.

Objective: Enhance access for all park facilities and provide for diverse interests, populations, and abilities.

**GOAL: Cultivate relationships with the public in all aspects of departmental responsibilities.**

Objective: Utilize the resources of the members of Wahkiakum County, Cathlamet, the ports, and the Fair Board.

Objective: Create and work cooperatively with a committee dedicated to stewardship in the planning, development, and maintenance of park sites.

Objective: Provide public information on park and recreation facilities via various media and websites.

Objective: Develop a marketing program in cooperation with the local Chamber of Commerce.

**GOAL: Improve coordination with other trail plans and trail management systems throughout the County.**

Objective: Inventory all existing trails within the county and work to provide connections throughout the county.

Objective: Acquire and develop a countywide network of off-road non-motorized trails, connecting parks, population centers, schools, historically significant locations, and other destinations.

## SECTION 6: FUNDING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

### Capital Funding Opportunities

The funding sources identified in the 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Plan include cost estimates of projects or anticipated share of County General Funds. Successful delivery of park improvements and public accommodations will also depend on obtaining funding from other sources. **These sources could include:**

- Grants:** The majority of grants secured for park acquisition and development projects are provided through the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Department of Ecology (DOE) on a competitive basis. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) offers funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Numerous private and nonprofit organizations provide funding opportunities for funding playgrounds including KaBOOM!, American Express, and the Campbell Soup Foundation.
- User Fees:** Can be charged for a wide range of activities, including parking, and special park uses such as corporate picnics, camping, regattas, and other special events. While some user fees are implemented to reduce vandalism and control park usage, some user fees could generate additional revenues to implement other elements of the Comprehensive Parks, and Recreation.
- Donations:** Donations can be used as a match for additional acquisitions through state and federal grant programs.

### Wahkiakum Parks Capital Improvements Plan

This section of the Wahkiakum County Park Plan includes detailed information on the proposed investments into the county parks and public recreational spaces. As the timing of the implementation for each project is largely tied to the availability of federal, state, regional, private grants and other funding sources, project dates may be moved and priorities may be reevaluated.

Table 6.1 – WAHAKIACUM COUNTY PARKS CAPITAL PLAN 2020-2025

IMPROVEMENTS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTALS
Trail Connections			\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 14,000.00
Locations Maps		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
Bike Map of Puget Island	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00				\$ 3,000.00
Bike Racks-Buffington Park	\$ 1,000.00						\$ 1,000.00
BBQ Pit-Buffington Park	\$ 500.00						\$ 500.00
Water System Replacement-County Line Park				\$ 50,000.00			\$ 50,000.00
Park Grounds Assessment and Plan - Johnson Park	\$ 5,000.00						\$ 5,000.00
School Building Assessment-Johnson Park	\$ 5,000.00						\$ 5,000.00
Purchase Very Small Land Wedge Allowing Access to Property Corner - Johnson Park						\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Outdoor Septic Tank-Johnson Park		\$ 40,000.00					\$ 40,000.00
Outdoor Restrooms-Johnson Park			\$100,000.00				\$ 100,000.00
Charcoal Grill- (6 @ \$200/ea)-Johnson Park				\$ 1,200.00			\$ 1,200.00
Park Benches (10 @ \$200/ea) -Johnson Park			\$ 2,000.00				\$ 2,000.00
Picnic Tables (12 @ 800/ea, 6 in each year)-Johnson Park				\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00		\$ 9,600.00
Picnic Shelter-Johnson Park				\$ 46,500.00			\$ 46,500.00
Level Playground Area-Johnson Park		\$ 5,000.00					\$ 5,000.00
Playground Equipment - Johnson Park			\$ 50,000.00				\$ 50,000.00
BBQ Pit-Johnson Park				\$ 5,000.00			\$ 5,000.00
Fenced-In Dog Area-Johnson Park		\$ 5,000.00					\$ 5,000.00
Park					\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00
Outdoor Plumbing Improvements - Johnson Park					\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Parking Area Redesign, Access Road Redesign, New Blacktop - Johnson Park						\$150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Power Generator-Fair Grounds					\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
Mobile Outdoor Restrooms-Fair Grounds						\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Amphitheater (700 seating)-Fair Grounds					\$100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00
Public Map of Camp Site Layout-Fair Grounds			\$ 500.00				\$ 500.00
Kitchen Facilities Renovation-Fair Grounds					\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00
Signage to Trails-Fair Grounds				\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Hiking Trails and Improvements to Trails		\$ 15,000.00					\$ 15,000.00
Ballfield Upgrades		\$ 2,000.00					\$ 2,000.00
Install Bus Stop and Rain Protector						\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Elochoman Valley Road from SR-4 to County Health and Human Services Compound		\$ 35,000.00	\$150,000.00				\$ 185,000.00
Bike and Pedestrian Shoulder on South Jacobson Rod from SR -4 to Columbia Street		\$ 35,000.00	\$180,000.00				\$ 215,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 12,500.00</b>	<b>\$140,500.00</b>	<b>\$489,500.00</b>	<b>\$114,500.00</b>	<b>\$225,800.00</b>	<b>\$211,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,193,800.00</b>

## SECTION 7: ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Self Certification Form

Attachment B – County Resolution

Attachment C - Wahkiakum County Park Survey

Attachment D - Survey Results

Attachment E - Tabulations from Public Input at the Wahkiakum County Fair

## Attachment A – Self Certification Form

### Self-Certification Form

Fill out the information on the first three lines. On the fourth line indicate if you are seeking eligibility for recreation grants, conservation grants, or both recreation and conservation grants.

Initial each plan element that will be provided to RCO with this form. In the right column, enter information that will enable RCO staff to quickly locate each item initialed.

Certify the accuracy of the information on the form by completing the signature line and submit all material to RCO according to the submission requirements for final plans.

## Planning Eligibility Self-Certification Form

*Use this form to certify that the need for any grant projects have been developed through an appropriate planning process. Provide the completed form with the subject plans and adoption documentation to RCO via e-mail or other means of electronic access (i.e. Web link, Box.com, etc.).*

**Organization Name: Wahkiakum County**

**Contact Name:**

**Adoption Date of Submitted Documents:**

**Seeking Eligibility for:**  Recreation Grants       Conservation Grants       Both

Initial Each to Certify Completion	Plan Element Certification	Document and Page Number Location of Information
	<b>Goals, objectives:</b> The attached plan supports our project with broad statements of intent (goals) <i>and</i> measures that describe when these intents will be attained (objectives). Goals may include a higher level of service.	Pg. 28
	<b>Inventory:</b> The plan includes a description of the service area’s facilities, lands, programs, and their condition. <i>(This may be done in a quantitative format or in a qualitative/narrative format.)</i>	Pg. 6
	<b>Public involvement:</b> The planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in plan development and adoption.	Pg. 20
	<p><b>4a. Demand and Need analysis:</b> In the plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An analysis defines priorities, as appropriate, for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement, management, etc., and explains why these actions are needed.</li> <li>• The process used in developing the analysis assessed community desires for parks, recreation, open space, and/or habitat, as appropriate, in a manner appropriate for the service area (personal observation, informal talks, formal survey(s), workshops, etc.).</li> </ul>	Pg. 22
	<b>4b. Level of Service assessment (optional):</b> An assessment of the criterion appropriate to your community. Possibly establish a higher level of service as a plan goal (above).	N/A
	<b>5. Capital Improvement Program:</b> The plan includes a capital improvement/facility program that lists land acquisition, development, and renovation projects by year of anticipated implementation; include funding source. The program includes any capital project submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for funding.	Pg. 29
	<b>Adoption:</b> The plan and process has received formal governing body approval <i>(that is, city/county department head, district ranger, regional manager/supervisor, etc., as appropriate)</i> . Attach signed resolution, letter, or other adoption instrument.	Pg. 35

**Certification Signature**

I certify that this information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Print/Type Name: Daniel L Cothran

Signature (Hand Written or Digital): Daniel L Cothran

Title: CHAIRMAN, WAHIAKUM COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Date: 2-18-20

Attachment B – County Resolution

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**RESOLUTION NO. 25 -20**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WAHKIAKUM COUNTY,  
ADOPTING THE 2020 WAHKIAKUM COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the County Commission authorized the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments to create the County's 2020 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan was drafted in accordance with the guidelines of the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office planning policies; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 15, 2020, pursuant to RCW 53.08.270, the draft plan was provided to local park and recreation agencies with jurisdiction for their review; and

**WHEREAS**, notices were published in the Wahkiakum County Eagle on February 6, 2020, and February 13, 2020, announcing a public hearing on February 18, 2020 at 9:45 a.m. for the purpose of allowing interested parties an opportunity to provide written and oral testimony directly to the Wahkiakum County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft plan was published on the Wahkiakum County website on February 6, 2020, for public scrutiny and comment; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft plan was presented to the County Commission at the public hearing on February 18, 2020, to enable public testimony; and

**WHEREAS**, public comments were accepted on the plan through February 18, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, County staff shall submit the 2020 Wahkiakum County Park and Recreation Plan to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), thus meeting the eligibility requirements for the next six years.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Wahkiakum County as follows:

The 2020 Wahkiakum County Park and Recreation Plan is hereby adopted.

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**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WAHKIAKUM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**ATTEST:**

  
Daniel L. Cothren, Chair

  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mike Backman, Commissioner

**APPROVED AS TO FORM** this  
3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2020.

  
Gene Strong, Commissioner

  
Daniel H. Bigelow  
Prosecuting Attorney

## Attachment C - Wahkiakum County Park Survey

The County is developing a county-wide park plan and is seeking input on the goals and objectives to include in the plan. Your input is greatly appreciated. Resources are limited and the County and other stakeholders, will be working to prioritize investments in the regional park and facility system in an effort to improve amenities available to local residents and support visitor traffic.

1. In the past 12 months, about how many times has anyone in your household used the following parks/facilities?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffington Park/Ferry Landing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Butler Hansen Community Pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathlamet Community Center              | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida Boat Launch -Grays River    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathlamet Community Library             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Community Center           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathlamet Waterfront Trail              | <input type="checkbox"/> River Life interpretive Center     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Line Park                        | <input type="checkbox"/> (Redmen Hall)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elochoman Slough marina                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Skamokawa Vista Park               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erickson Park                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Park                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Grays River Covered Bridge     | <input type="checkbox"/> Svensen Boat Ramp Port District #2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Johnson Park Community Center           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Butler Hansen Columbia            | <input type="checkbox"/> Wahkiakum County Historical        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whitetail Deer National Wildlife Refuge | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum                             |

Feel free to add additional thoughts on these resources or to identify park resources in the county that may have been missed.

2. How would you rate or rank the following parks/facilities?

Park or Facility	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
Buffington Park/Ferry Landing					
Cathlamet Community Center					
Cathlamet Community Library					
Cathlamet Waterfront Trail					
County Line Park					
Elochoman Slough Marina					
Erickson Park					
Historic Grays River Covered Bridge					
Johnson Park Community Center					
Julia Butler Hansen Columbia Whitetail Deer National Wildlife Refuge					

<b>Park or Facility</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
Pioneer Community Center					
River Life interpretive Center (Redmen Hall)					
Skamokawa Vista Park					
Strong Park					
Svensen Boat Ramp					
Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds					
Wahkiakum County Historical Museum					

Feel free to add additional thoughts on these resources or to identify park resources in the county that may have been missed.

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3. Which of these activities do you participate in at least once a year? Check all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling (road)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling (trail)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (power boat)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming (indoor)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (RV)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming (outdoors)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (tent)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Target practice (bow or firearms) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Weight lifting                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wind surfing                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group exercise classes        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jogging                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kite boarding                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off road driving (4X4)        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off Road driving (ATV)        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off road driving (motorcycle) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pack animal assisted hiking   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle ball                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play at playground            |  |

4. For each of the following questions indicate your level of support for the project. The list is taken from the efforts of community volunteers working to support community improvements.

**Possible Parks/Facilities**

<b>Park/Facility</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Need Information</b>
Campground (fully served) at the fairgrounds			
Cathlamet waterfront park			
Columbia River frontage park-locations TBD			
Day use facility in Brookfield area			
Day-use facility on Coffee Pot Islands			
Educational trail system in the 80+ acre site the school district owns off of SR4			
Electron games pavilion, location to be determined			
Handicapped fishing docks, location(s) TBD			
Non-motorized boat launch sites			
Playground equipment at Johnson Park			
Picnic Tables (covered) at Johnson Park			
Pet area at Vista Park			
Paint ball park, location TBD			
Public Restrooms / Johnson Park			
Public Restrooms / Julia Butler Hansen Refuge			
Skateboard/bike park upgrade in Cathlamet area			

Feel free to add other thoughts on these or other park ideas you might have.

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5. Please prioritize the types of trails that are needed and that you would support. Rank with 1 being the most desirable.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bicycle
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental and educational trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Equestrian
- \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap accessible trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Historical trails with markers regarding Indian heritage and early settlers
- \_\_\_\_\_ On water routes (kayak/canoe river trails)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pack animal trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walking/Hiking including riparian corridors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other – please provide a short overview \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed survey to CWCOG, Administration Annex, 207 4th Ave. North, Kelso, WA 98626, or drop into the box at the CWCOG booth at the Wahkiakum County Fair. You may also deliver your completed survey to the County Courthouse, Commissioners Office.

## Attachment D - Survey Results

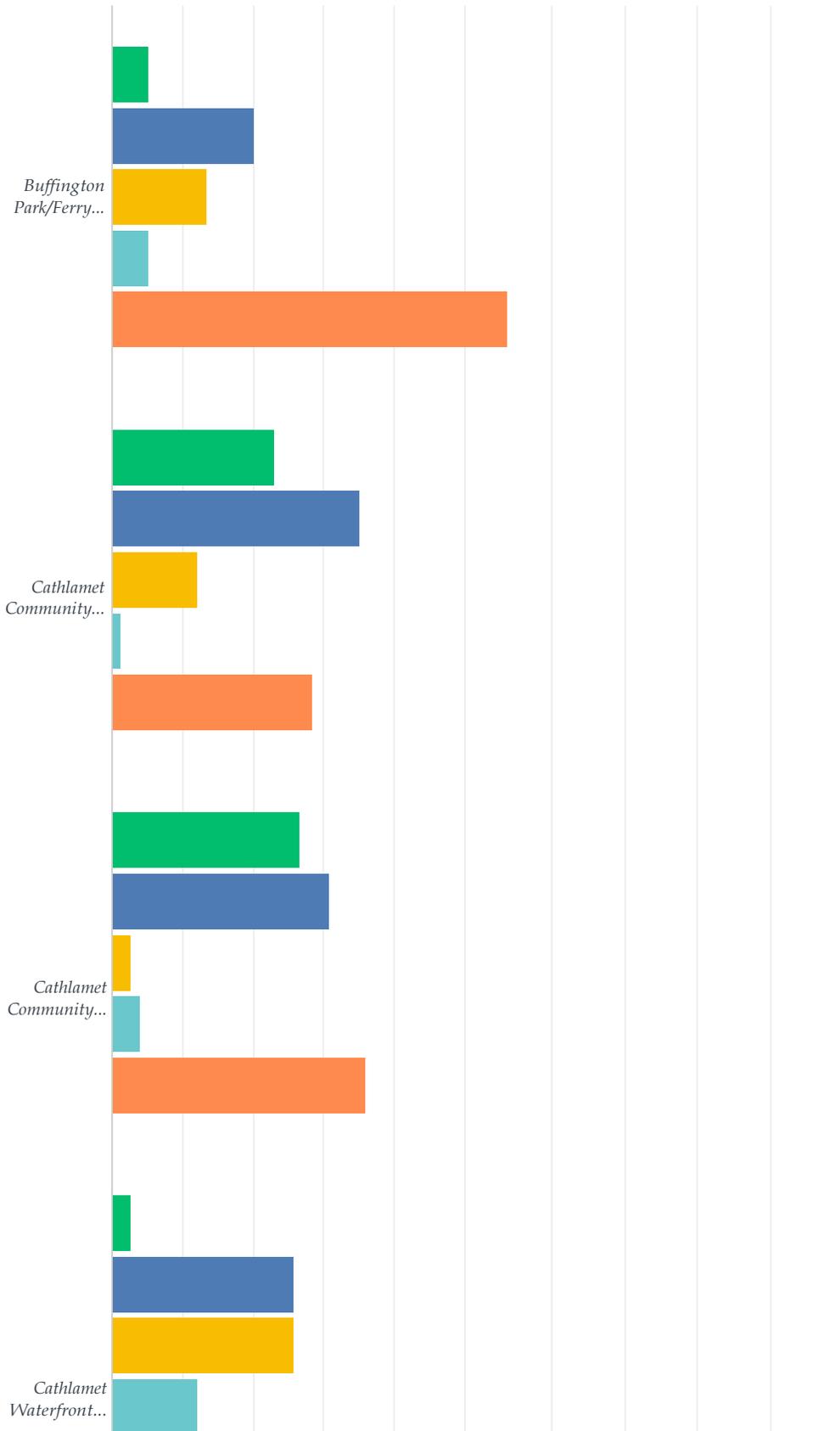
Q1 In the past 12 months, about how many times has anyone in your household used the following parks/facilities?

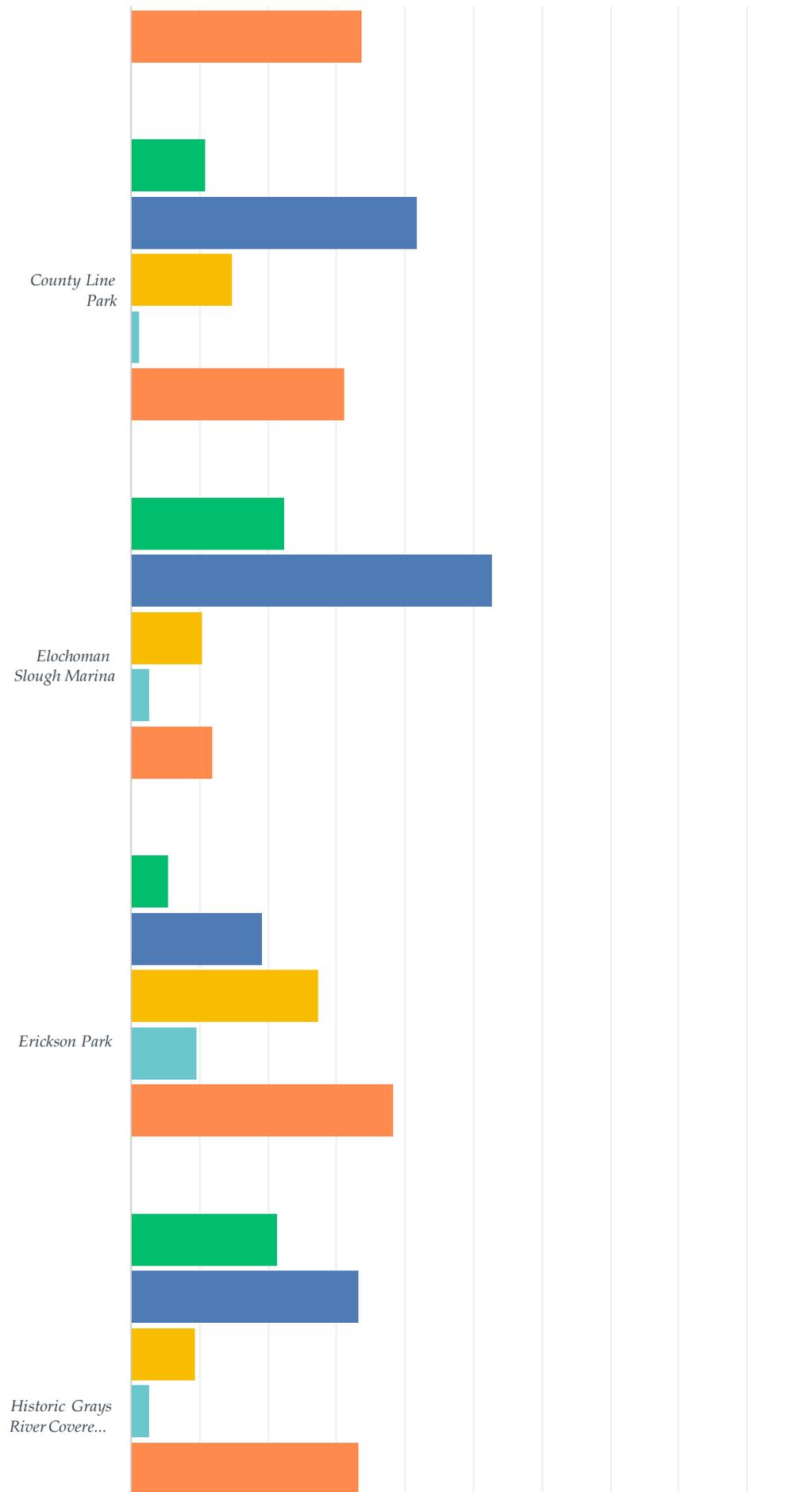
Answered: 77 Skipped: 1

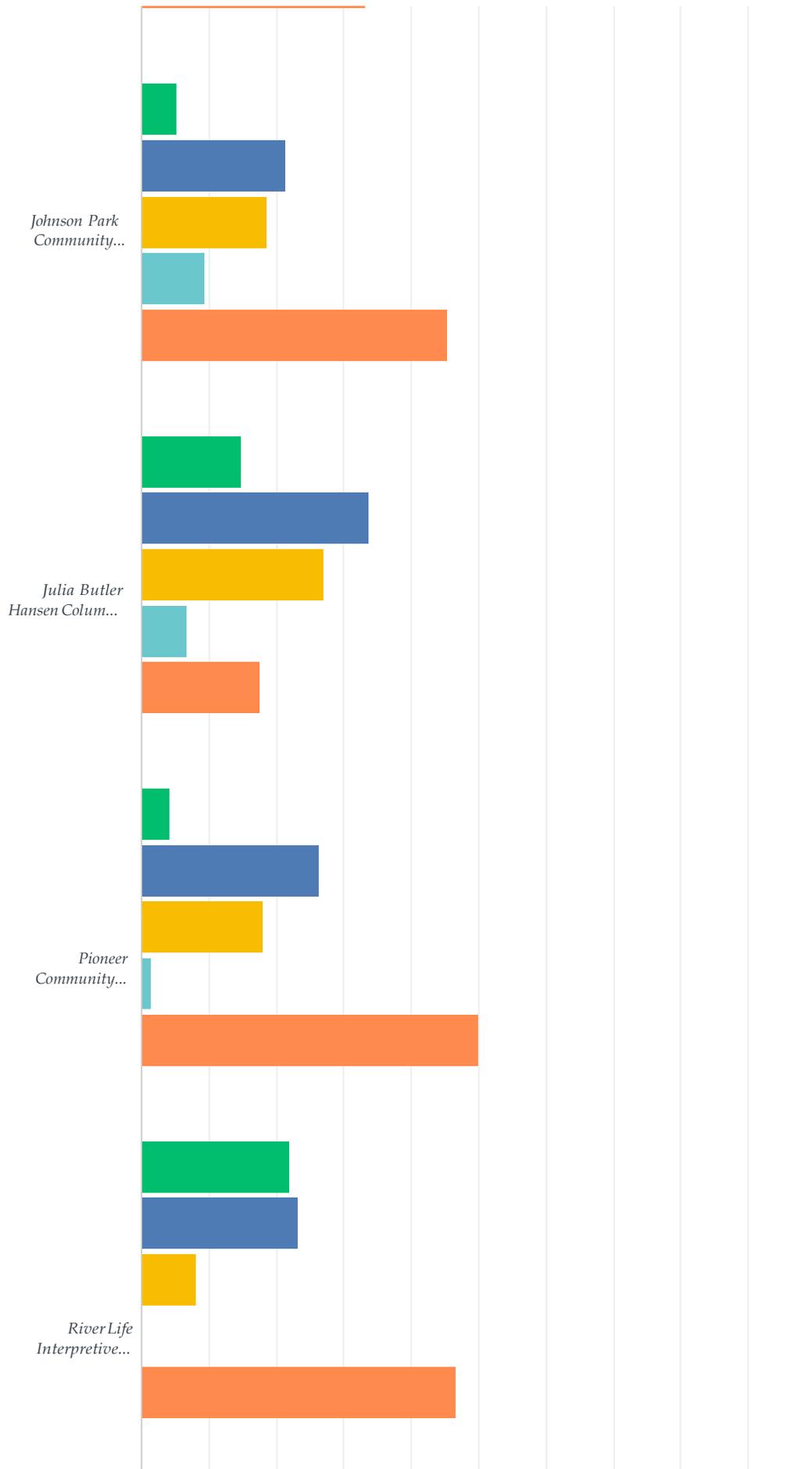
<u>ANSWER</u>	<u>RESPONS</u>	
<i>Buffington Park/Ferry</i>	68.83%	53
<i>Landing Cathlamet</i>	80.52%	62
<i>Community Center Cathlamet</i>	77.92%	60
<i>Community Library</i>	72.73%	56
<i>Cathlamet Waterfront Trail</i>	76.62%	59
<i>County Line Park</i>	89.61%	69
<i>Elochoman Slough Marina</i>	74.03%	57
<i>Erickson Park</i>	80.52%	62
<i>Historic Grays River Covered Bridge</i>	71.43%	55
<i>Johnson Park Community Center</i>	83.12%	64
<i>Julia Butler Hansen Columbia Whitetail Deer National</i>	70.13%	54
<i>Wildlife Refuge Julia Butler Hansen Community Pool</i>	63.64%	49
<i>Oneida Boat Launch -Grays River</i>	64.94%	50
<i>Pioneer Community Center</i>	79.22%	61
<i>River Life Interpretive Center (Redmen Hall)</i>	94.81%	73
<i>Skamokawa Vista Park</i>	72.73%	56
<i>Strong Park</i>	64.94%	50
<i>Svensen Boat Ramp Port District #2</i>	93.51%	72
<i>Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds</i>	67.53%	52
<i>Wahkiakum County Historical</i>	18.18%	14
<i>Museum Other, please specify.</i>		

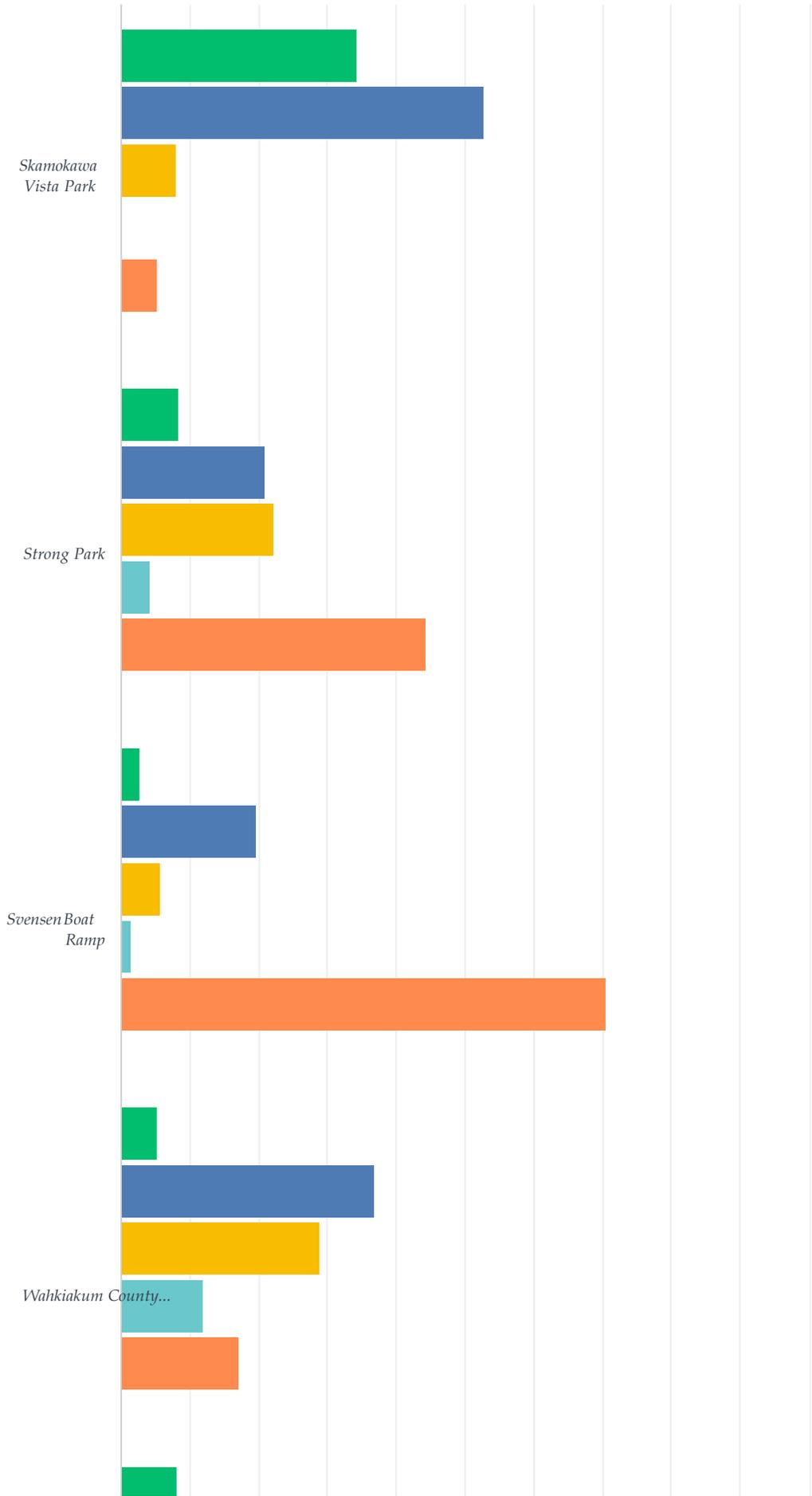
Q2 How would you rate or rank the following parks/facilities?

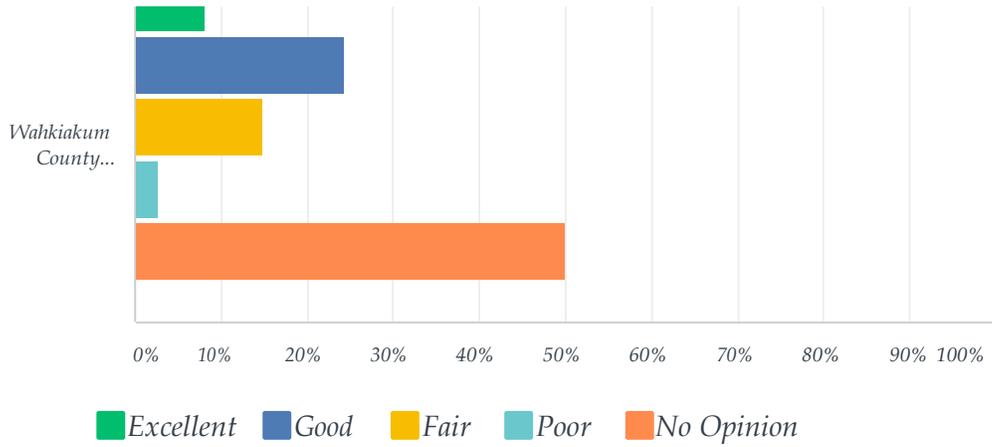
Answered: 77 Skipped: 1









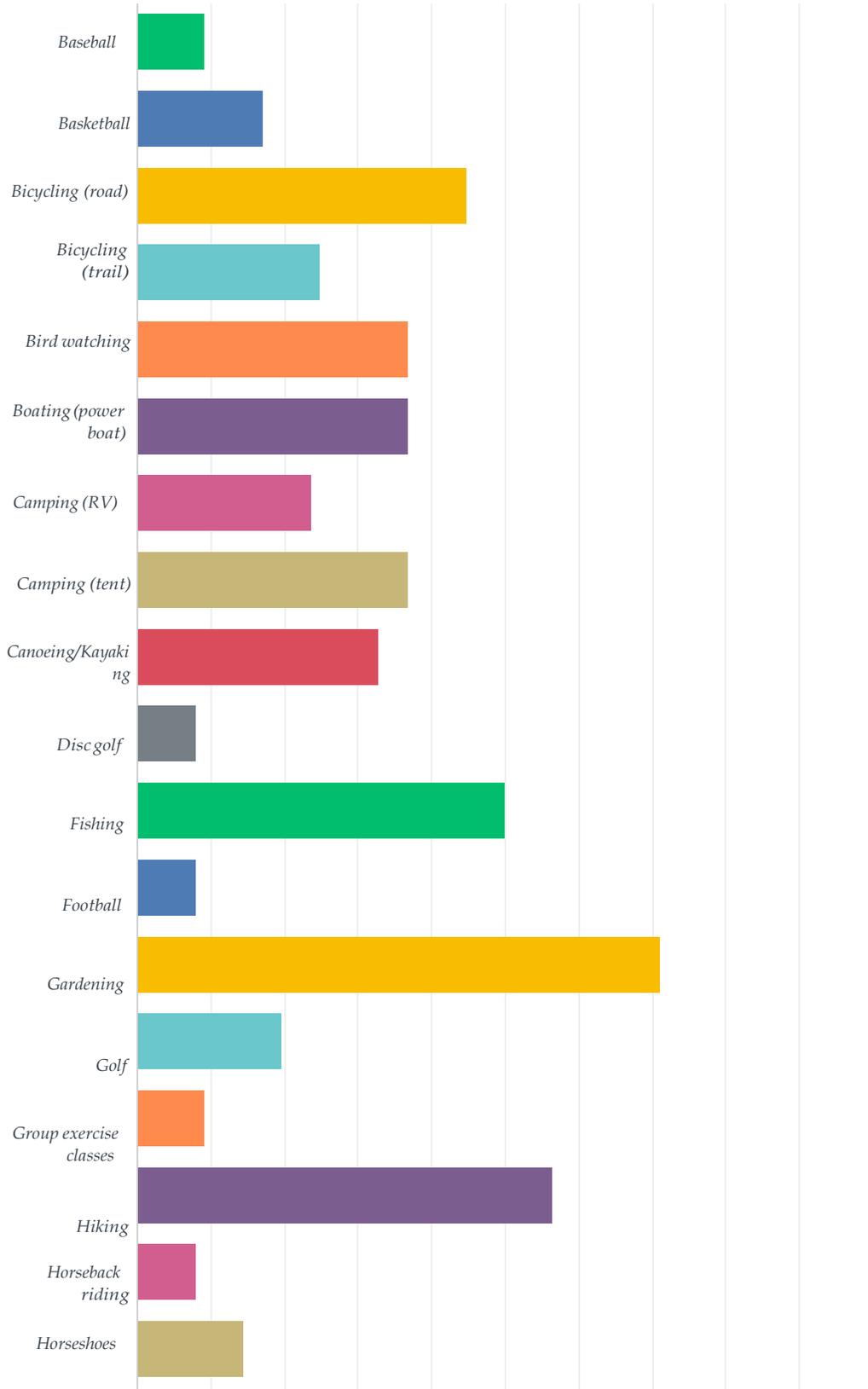


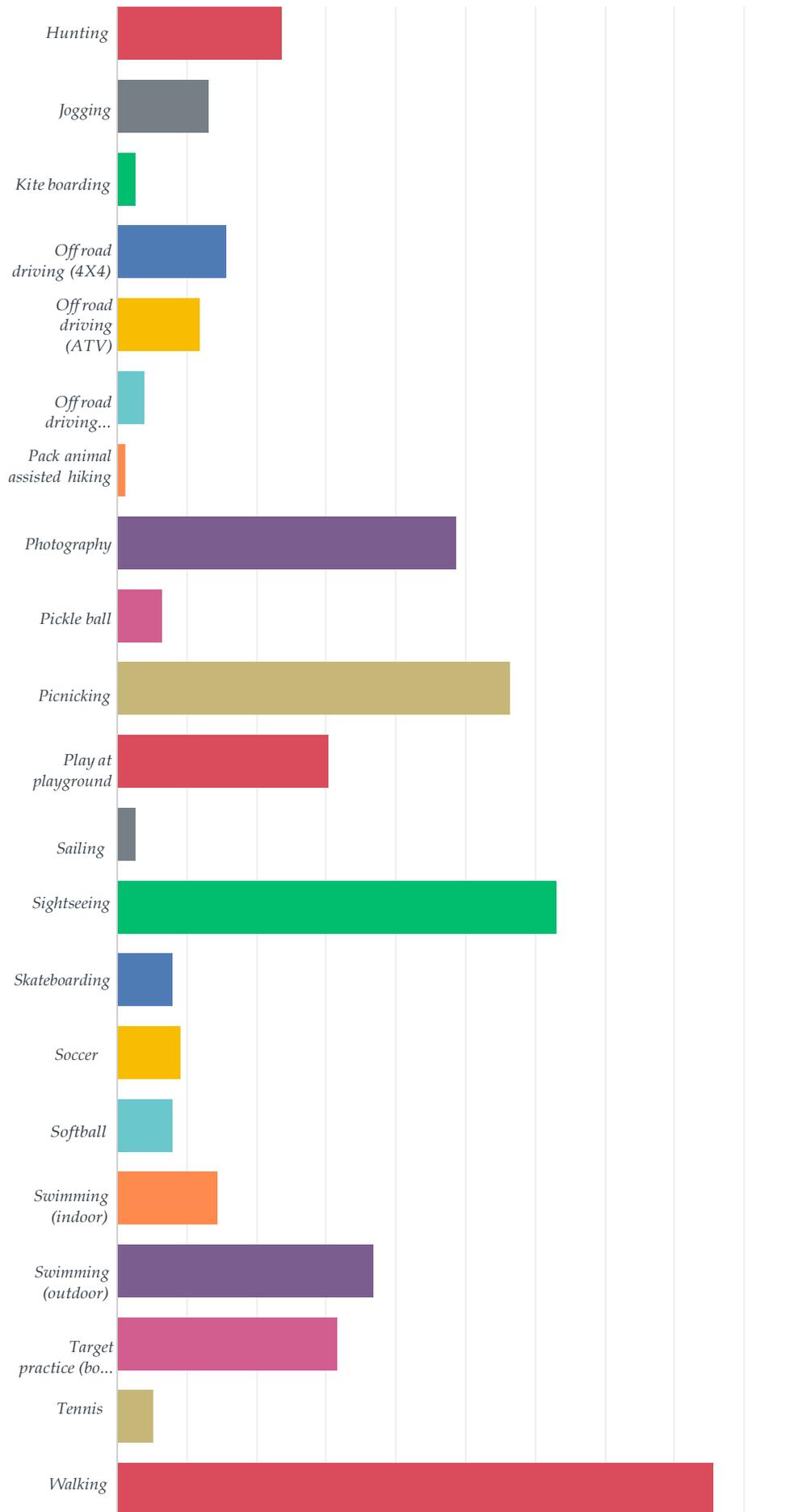
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Buffington Park/Ferry Landing	5.33% 4	20.00% 15	13.33% 10	5.33% 4	56.00% 42	75	3.87
Cathlamet Community Center	22.97% 17	35.14% 26	12.16% 9	1.35% 1	28.38% 21	74	2.77
Cathlamet Community Library	26.67% 20	30.67% 23	2.67% 2	4.00% 3	36.00% 27	75	2.92
Cathlamet Waterfront Trail	2.70% 2	25.68% 19	25.68% 19	12.16% 9	33.78% 25	74	3.49
County Line Park	10.81% 8	41.89% 31	14.86% 11	1.35% 1	31.08% 23	74	3.00
Elochoman Slough Marina	22.37% 17	52.63% 40	10.53% 8	2.63% 2	11.84% 9	76	2.29
Erickson Park	5.48% 4	19.18% 14	27.40% 20	9.59% 7	38.36% 28	73	3.56
Historic Grays River Covered Bridge	21.33% 16	33.33% 25	9.33% 7	2.67% 2	33.33% 25	75	2.93
Johnson Park Community Center	5.33% 4	21.33% 16	18.67% 14	9.33% 7	45.33% 34	75	3.68
Julia Butler Hansen Columbia Whitetail Deer National Wildlife Refuge	14.86% 11	33.78% 25	27.03% 20	6.76% 5	17.57% 13	74	2.78
Pioneer Community Center	4.17% 3	26.39% 19	18.06% 13	1.39% 1	50.00% 36	72	3.67
River Life Interpretive Center (Redmen Hall)	21.92% 16	23.29% 17	8.22% 6	0.00% 0	46.58% 34	73	3.26
Skamokawa Vista Park	34.21% 26	52.63% 40	7.89% 6	0.00% 0	5.26% 4	76	1.89
Strong Park	8.33% 6	20.83% 15	22.22% 16	4.17% 3	44.44% 32	72	3.56
Svensen Boat Ramp	2.82% 2	19.72% 14	5.63% 4	1.41% 1	70.42% 50	71	4.17
Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds	5.26% 4	36.84% 28	28.95% 22	11.84% 9	17.11% 13	76	2.99
Wahkiakum County Historical Museum	8.11% 6	24.32% 18	14.86% 11	2.70% 2	50.00% 37	74	3.62

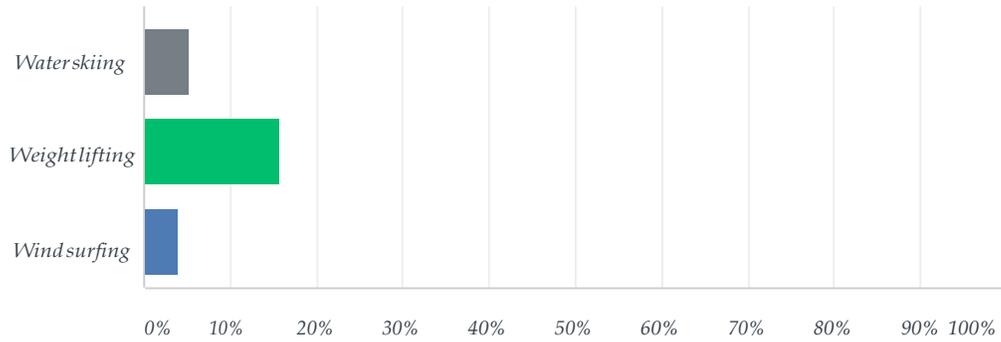
Q3 Which of these activities do you participate in at least once a year?

*Check all that apply.*

*Answered: 76 Skipped: 2*







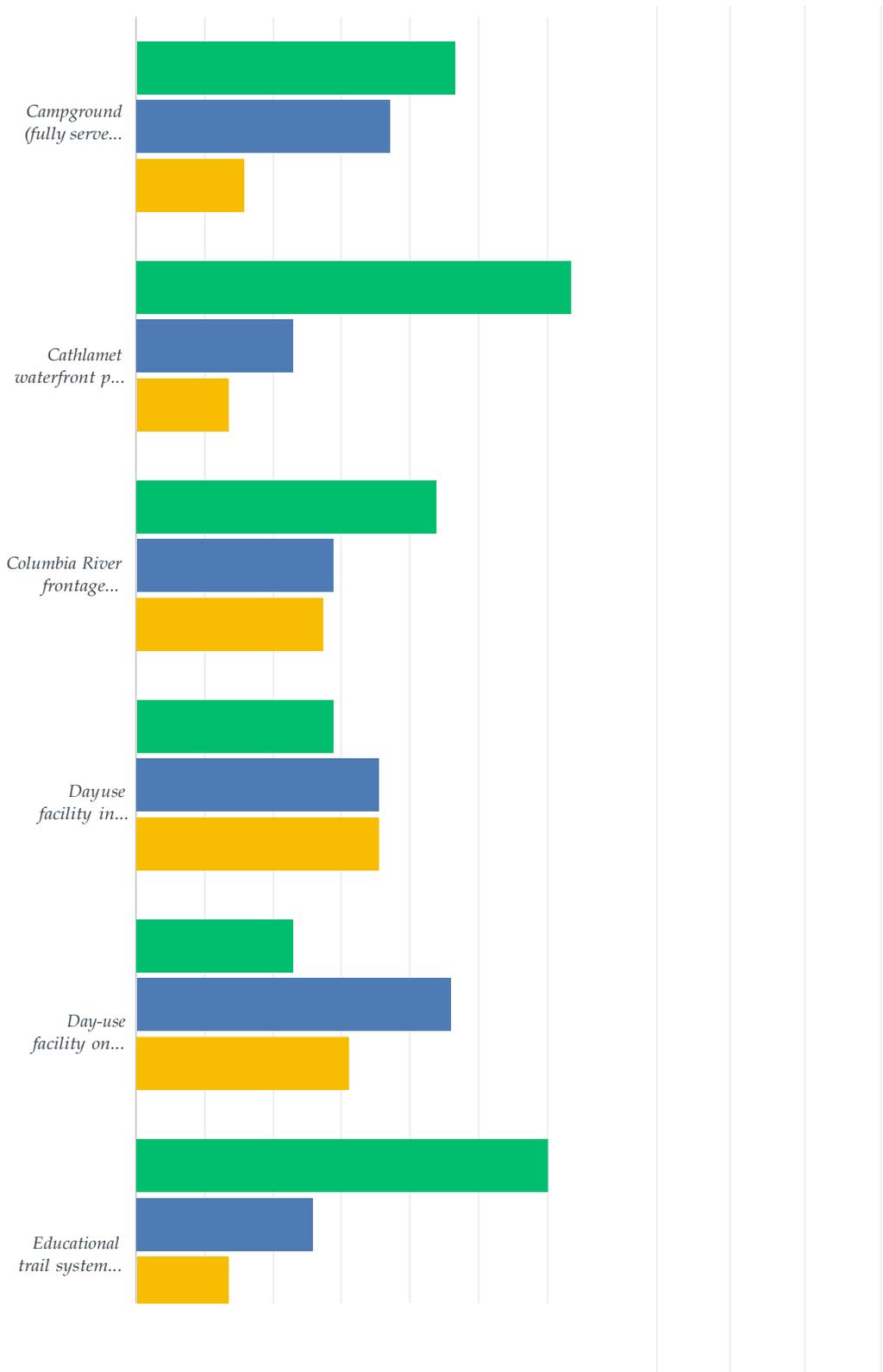
<b>ANSWER CHOICES</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>	
Baseball	9.21%	7
Basketball	17.11%	13
Bicycling (road)	44.74%	34
Bicycling (trail)	25.00%	19
Bird watching	36.84%	28
Boating (power boat)	36.84%	28
Camping (RV)	23.68%	18
Camping (tent)	36.84%	28
Canoeing/Kayaking	32.89%	25
Disc golf	7.89%	6
Fishing	50.00%	38
Football	7.89%	6
Gardening	71.05%	54
Golf	19.74%	15
Group exercise classes	9.21%	7
Hiking	56.58%	43
Horseback riding	7.89%	6
Horseshoes	14.47%	11
Hunting	23.68%	18
Jogging	13.16%	10
Kite boarding	2.63%	2
Off road driving (4X4)	15.79%	12
Off road driving (ATV)	11.84%	9
Off road driving (motorcycle)	3.95%	3
Off road driving (motorcycle) Pack animal	1.32%	1
assisted hiking	48.68%	37
Photography	6.58%	5
Pickle ball		

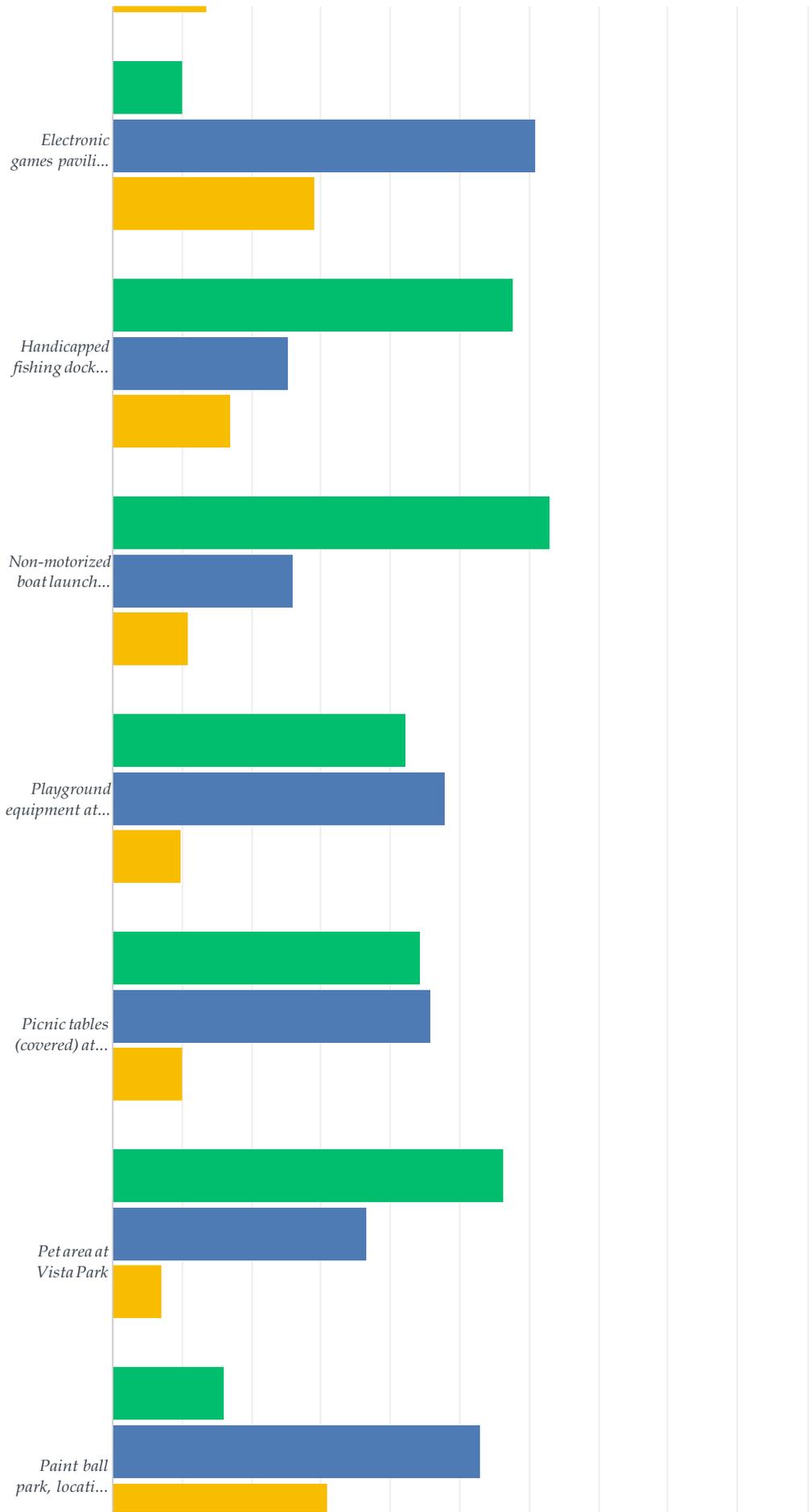
<i>Picnicking</i>	56.58%	43
<i>Play at playground</i>	30.26%	23
<i>Sailing</i>	2.63%	2
<i>Sightseeing</i>	63.16%	48
<i>Skateboarding</i>	7.89%	6
<i>Soccer</i>	9.21%	7
<i>Softball</i>	7.89%	6
<i>Swimming (indoor)</i>	14.47%	11
<i>Swimming (outdoor)</i>	36.84%	28
<i>Target practice (bow or firearms) Tennis</i>	31.58%	24
<i>Walking</i>	85.53%	65
<i>Water skiing</i>	5.26%	4
<i>Weight lifting</i>	15.79%	12
<i>Wind surfing</i>	3.95%	3

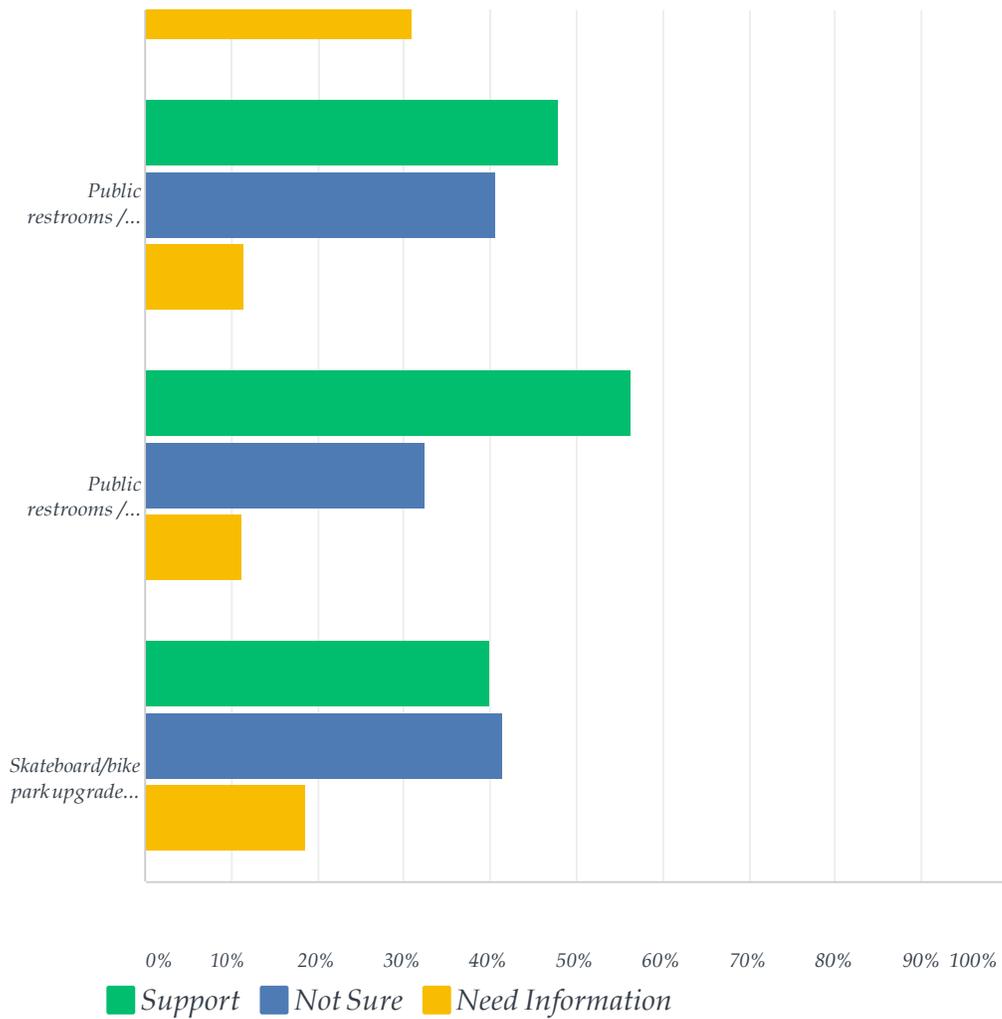
Total Respondents: 76

Q4 For each of the following possible parks/facilities indicate your level of support for the project. The list is taken from the efforts of community volunteers working to support community improvements.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 3





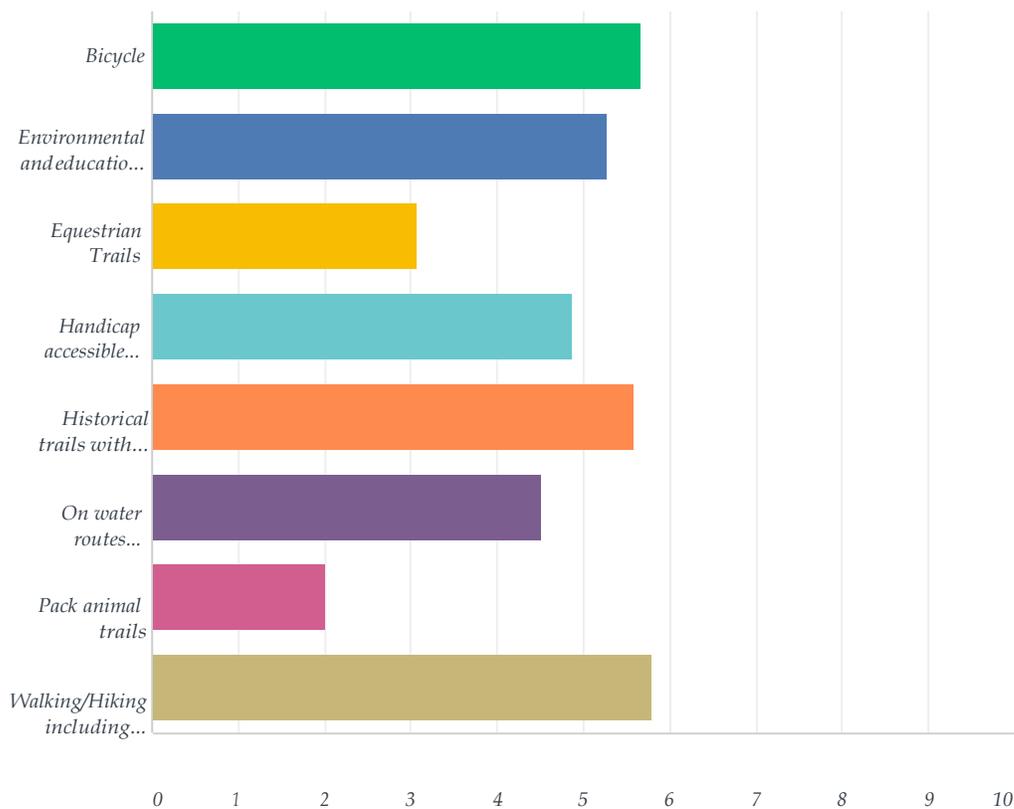


	SUPPORT	NOT SURE	NEED INFORMATION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Campground (fully served) at the fairgrounds	46.67% 35	37.33% 28	16.00% 12	75	1.69
Cathlamet waterfront park	63.51% 47	22.97% 17	13.51% 10	74	1.50
Columbia River frontage park-locations TBD	43.84% 32	28.77% 21	27.40% 20	73	1.84
Day use facility in Brookfield area	28.77% 21	35.62% 26	35.62% 26	73	2.07
Day-use facility on Coffee Pot Islands	22.97% 17	45.95% 34	31.08% 23	74	2.08
Educational trail system in the 80+ acre site the school district owns off of SR4	60.27% 44	26.03% 19	13.70% 10	73	1.53
Electronic games pavilion, location to be determined	10.14% 7	60.87% 42	28.99% 20	69	2.19
Handicapped fishing docks, location(s) TBD	57.75% 41	25.35% 18	16.90% 12	71	1.59
Non-motorized boat launch sites	63.01% 46	26.03% 19	10.96% 8	73	1.48
Playground equipment at Johnson Park	42.25% 30	47.89% 34	9.86% 7	71	1.68

Picnic tables (covered) at Johnson Park	44.29% 31	45.71% 32	10.00% 7	70	1.66
Pet area at Vista Park	56.34% 40	36.62% 26	7.04% 5	71	1.51
Paint ball park, location TBD	16.18% 11	52.94% 36	30.88% 21	68	2.15
Public restrooms / Johnson Park	47.83% 33	40.58% 28	11.59% 8	69	1.64
Public restrooms / Julia Butler Hansen Refuge	56.34% 40	32.39% 23	11.27% 8	71	1.55
Skateboard/bike park upgrade in Cathlamet area	40.00% 28	41.43% 29	18.57% 13	70	1.79

Q5 Please prioritize the types of trails that are needed and that you would support. Rank with 1 being the most desirable.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 3

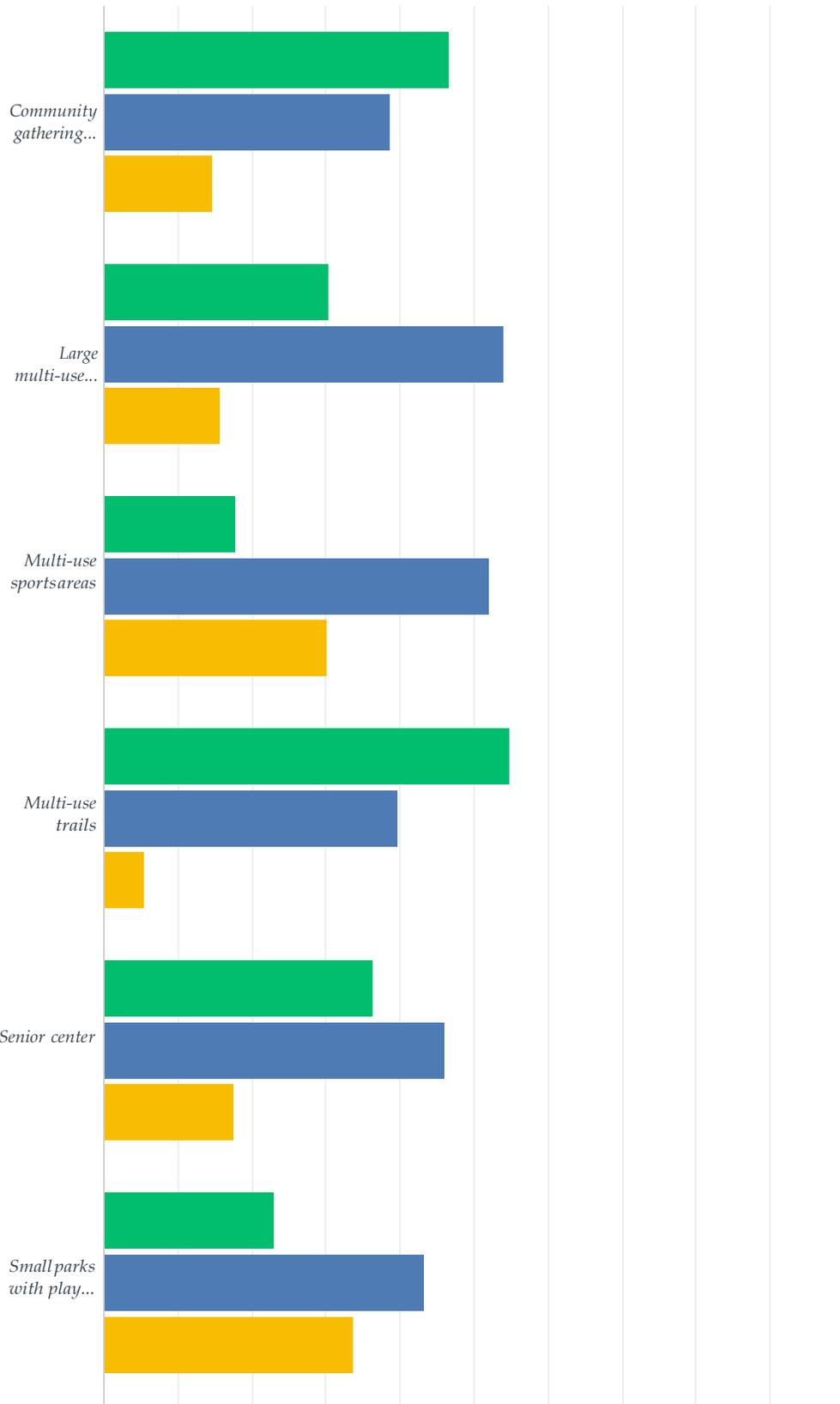


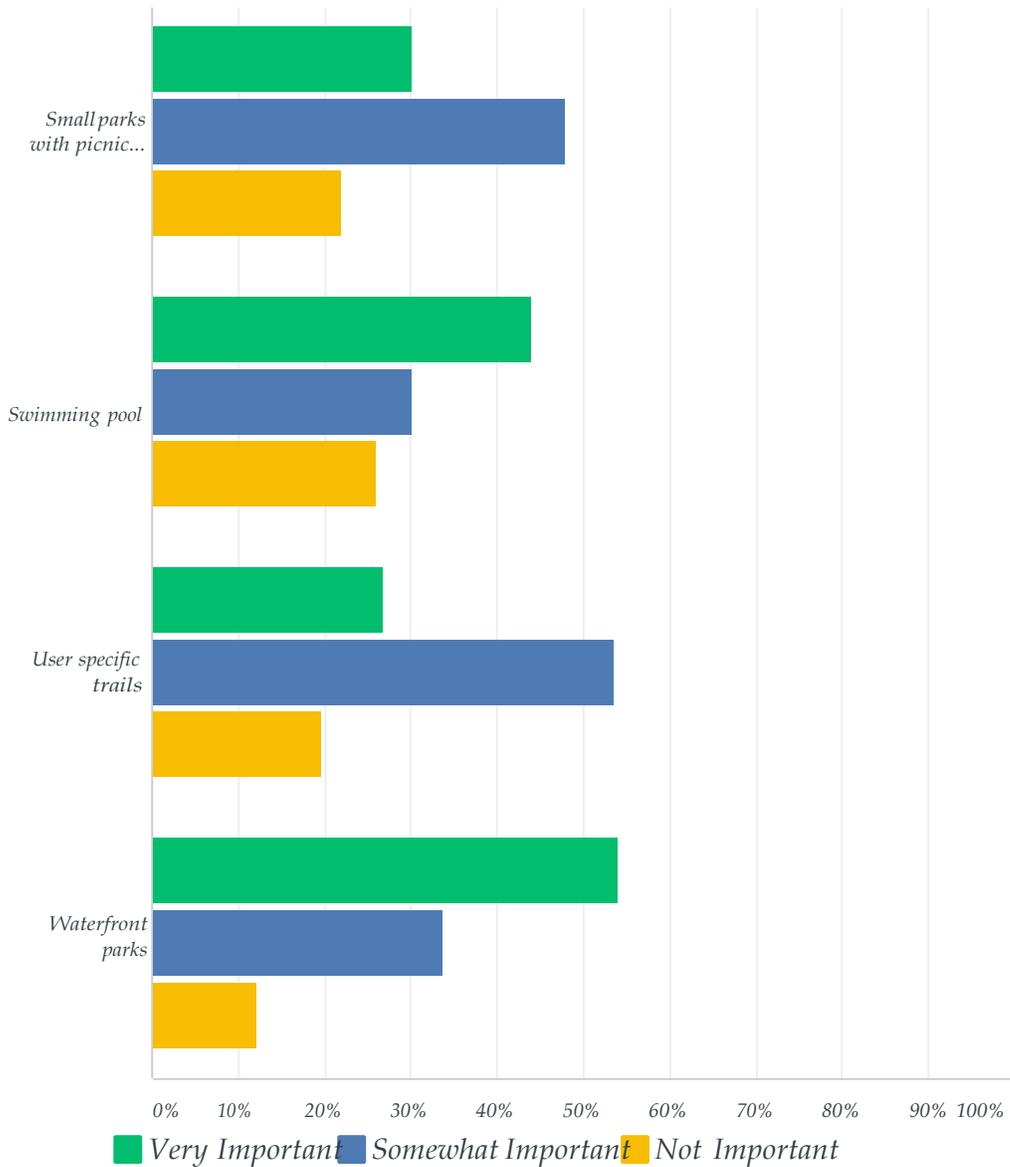
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Bicycle	23.94% 17	19.72% 14	15.49% 11	7.04% 5	15.49% 11	11.27% 8	5.63% 4	1.41% 1	71	5.66
Environmental and educational trails	11.43% 8	17.14% 12	24.29% 17	15.71% 11	11.43% 8	8.57% 6	8.57% 6	2.86% 2	70	5.27
Equestrian Trails	4.69% 3	7.81% 5	1.56% 1	6.25% 4	10.94% 7	14.06% 9	34.38% 22	20.31% 13	64	3.08
Handicap accessible trails	14.49%	13.04%	8.70%	18.84%	11.59%	24.64%	5.80%	2.90%		

	10	9	6	13	8	17	4	2	69	4.88
Historical trails with markers regarding Indian heritage and early settlers	13.89% 10	20.83% 15	19.44% 14	15.28% 11	20.83% 15	5.56% 4	4.17% 3	0.00% 0	72	5.58
On water routes (kayak/canoe river trails)	7.58% 5	9.09% 6	12.12% 8	22.73% 15	15.15% 10	18.18% 12	10.61% 7	4.55% 3	66	4.52
Pack animal trails	1.59% 1	3.17% 2	1.59% 1	4.76% 3	3.17% 2	7.94% 5	17.46% 11	60.32% 38	63	2.00
Walking/Hiking including riparian corridors	30.00% 21	15.71% 11	20.00% 14	8.57% 6	8.57% 6	4.29% 3	7.14% 5	5.71% 4	70	5.80

Q6 How important are the following types of parks and recreation areas/facilities to your household?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 2





	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Community gathering place, multi-use community center	46.67% 35	38.67% 29	14.67% 11	75	1.68
Large multi-use community parks located within 5 miles of most residents	30.26% 23	53.95% 41	15.79% 12	76	1.86
Multi-use sports areas	17.81% 13	52.05% 38	30.14% 22	73	2.12
Multi-use trails	54.79% 40	39.73% 29	5.48% 4	73	1.51
Senior center	36.49% 27	45.95% 34	17.57% 13	74	1.81
Small parks with play equipment	22.97% 17	43.24% 32	33.78% 25	74	2.11
Small parks with picnic areas	30.14% 22	47.95% 35	21.92% 16	73	1.92

Swimming pool	43.84% 32	30.14% 22	26.03% 19	73	1.82
User specific trails	26.76% 19	53.52% 38	19.72% 14	71	1.93
Waterfront parks	54.05% 40	33.78% 25	12.16% 9	74	1.58

## Q7 What did we miss that is important to you and your family?

*Answered: 51 Skipped: 27*

### # RESPONSES DATE

- 1 A good hiking/running trail 10/7/2019 4:00 PM
- 2 Running/hiking trails to take my dogs 10/7/2019 2:47 PM
- 3 There are some areas that are restricted from drone use 10/7/2019 2:41 PM
- 4 Improving the parks we have 9/17/2019 1:35 PM
- 5 Parking 9/17/2019 1:27 PM
- 6 The waterfront is a gem and the county should invest in making it a desirable, family friendly area for recreation.  
9/17/2019 12:53 PM
- 7 All these things cost money, how can we afford them? 9/17/2019 12:39 PM
- 8 Small amphitheater for the arts 9/17/2019 10:26 AM
- 9 Great survey! 9/10/2019 12:45 PM
- 10 Make all Disabled Accessible. ADA 9/6/2019 10:21 AM
- 11 The city needs to abandon the idea of a pocket park and develop their primary assets at the waterfront.  
8/30/2019 9:18 AM
- 12 Just getting the skateboard park and trails in the Cathlamet City Park complete 8/28/2019 8:19 AM
- 13 ensure funds to maintain the parks ... for example, at the proposed waterfront park in Cathlamet, have a fee-based system to use the proposed amphitheater high enough to maintain the entire park.  
8/28/2019 7:16 AM
- 14 nothing 8/26/2019 11:35 AM
- 15 More detail regarding Wahkiakum settlers, building and living network of cultures, and history detail of building development growth for settlers.  
8/23/2019 11:56 PM
- 16 Who will pay for any/all of these facilities? County? Town? 8/23/2019 7:45 AM
- 17 Beating the drum here for the fairgrounds - an existing multi use facility within 9 miles of most county residents. Picture an elevated above flood level (as the T building is) expanded youth building, with licensed kitchen and classrooms available for rent. Year-round income possibility. Did I mention plentiful parking? Picture a horse barn capable of providing paid horse boarding. There is a horse facility vacuum in this area. It has only taken 12 years to get a full complement of bleachers in the arena. Picture a portable stage, basic lighting and sound. Modern sound and lighting not as costly as the recent past. This is an existing gated facility with ticket booths. Showers and restrooms are already on site. Basic bunkhouses would mean youth and adult camps. Think SCA, foraging clubs, music camps (folklore societies). Wahkiakum is 3 hours from Seattle, 2 hours from Portland. The county already owns this diamond in the rough. Skamokawa is the county's midway point. Ample parking. Footbridge to Vista Park. Walking distance to the refuge, country store and full-service restaurant. Let's start with what we already have!  
8/22/2019 6:10 PM
- 18 Water skills lifesaving classes 8/22/2019 5:07 PM
- 19 My family resides in the county and use the parks we pay taxes for. I have seen a total lack of care and staffing at Elochoman Marina. When you call for help, they help but there is never an employee presence at park on weekends. People come and go all hours and raid campsites at night. There is no security there.  
8/22/2019 4:10 PM

20 It should be a county park, not a city park - they can't afford it and they don't maintain the facilities of what they already have. 8/22/2019 2:36 PM

21 Town Parking 8/22/2019 8:25 AM

22 Nothing 8/22/2019 7:12 AM

23 I like donuts. 8/22/2019 6:07 AM

24 N/A 8/21/2019 5:48 PM

25 Hiking/walking trails are super important. With edible plants & trees & berries! 8/21/2019 4:39 PM

26 The county needs a parks department to maintain trails etc. that will attract tourists. We need to spend money that will bring in money.  
8/21/2019 3:08 PM

27 N/A 8/21/2019 3:07 PM

28 N/A 8/21/2019 3:04 PM

29 N/A` 8/21/2019 2:59 PM

30 Queen Sally Park 8/21/2019 2:56 PM

31 N/A 8/21/2019 2:37 PM

32 Moorage on the west end 8/21/2019 2:33 PM

33 N/A 8/21/2019 2:22 PM

34 N/A 8/21/2019 2:19 PM

35 Exercise machine stations on walking trail through marina and town area 8/21/2019 2:11 PM

36 More tribal history markers 8/21/2019 2:05 PM

37 Picnic area at marina 8/21/2019 1:52 PM

38 Broadband internet access 8/21/2019 1:47 PM

39 Fishing Spots 8/21/2019 1:42 PM

40 We live here because of the simple living and slow pace, why do we need WiFi at a park? Enjoy the surrounding's.  
8/21/2019 1:41 PM

41 Upkeep of current parks 8/21/2019 1:40 PM

42 N/A 8/21/2019 1:40 PM

43 Finish Skate Park @ Erickson Park 8/21/2019 1:39 PM

44 Wahkiakum County, and all of Southwest Washington, is sorely lacking in walking/hiking TRAILS.  
8/21/2019 1:17 PM

45 N/A 8/21/2019 1:13 PM

46 N/A 8/21/2019 12:58 PM

47 N/A 8/21/2019 12:22 PM

48 All parks need to make money so they can be maintained. 8/21/2019 9:43 AM

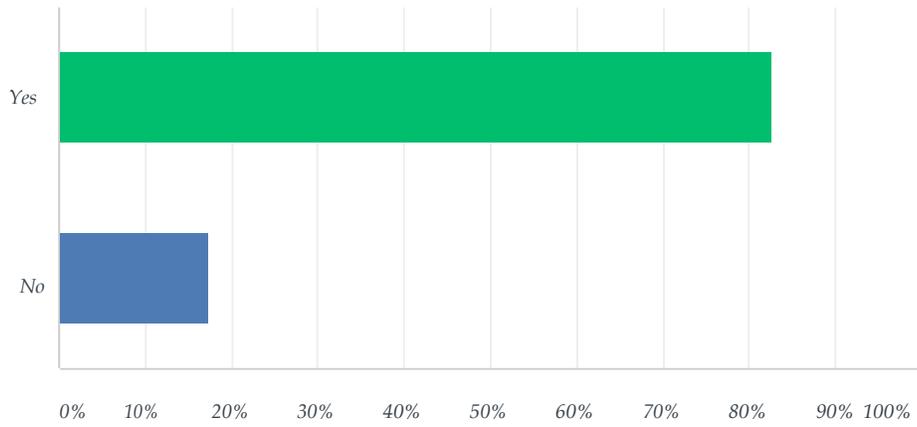
49 nothing 8/21/2019 9:27 AM

50 Cleanliness 8/21/2019 9:27 AM

51 Nothing 8/21/2019 9:18 AM

Q8 I would support efforts to connect to a regional trail system with adjacent counties for bicycling.

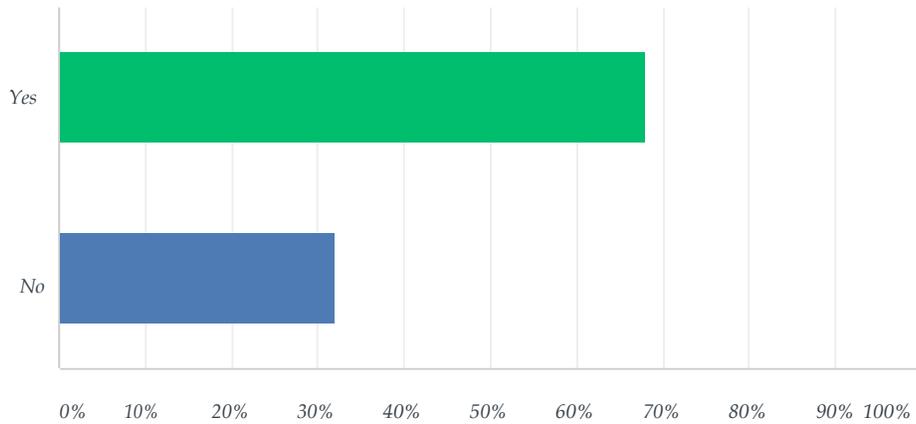
Answered: 75 Skipped: 3



<i>ANSWER CHOICES</i>	<b>RESPONSES</b>	
Yes	82.67%	62
No	17.33%	13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>75</b>

Q9 I would encourage efforts to make free public WIFI access available at area parks and facilities.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.00%	51
No	32.00%	24
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>75</b>

Q10 What other ideas can you share to improve the overall park system in Wahkiakum County?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 33

### Attachment E - Tabulations from Public Input at the Wahkiakum County Fair

Park/Facility	Support	Interested but need info	Opposes
Campground (fully served) at the fairgrounds	16	1	1
Cathlamet waterfront park	30	2	1
Columbia River frontage park-locations TBD	16	0	0
Day use facility in Brookfield area	24	2	1
Day-use facility on Coffee Pot Islands	5	0	0
Educational trail system in the 80+ acre site the school district owns off of SR4	30	2	1
Electron games pavilion, location to be determined	5	0	14
Handicapped fishing docks, location(s) TBD	23	1	0
Non-motorized boat launch sites	28	1	0
Playground equipment at Johnson Park	15	1	1
Picnic Tables (covered) at Johnson Park	10	0	0
Pet area at Vista Park	7	1	0
Paint ball park, location TBD	7	0	9
Public Restrooms / Johnson Park	19	0	0
Public Restrooms / Julia Butler Hansen Refuge	23	0	1
Skateboard/bike park upgrade in Cathlamet area	18	0	1

### Idea Board Results

Park/Facility	Support	Interested but need info	Opposes
Historical Trail with Markets regarding Indian heritage and early settlers	14		
Laundromat at Vista Park	5		
Laundromat	10		
Port 2 does not take over Fair grounds park	3		
Dredge Skamokawa Creek	3		
Historical Status for Johnson Park Building	5		
Grays River Boat Launch Improve ramp under bridge and Rosberg community building	2		
Take care of the parks we have	4		

Why not be allowed to fly photography drone over our national parks	2		
More hours for the Johnson Park Library	6		
Soccer and baseball at Johnson Park	5		
Directional facility maps available at key public sites to direct visitors to county facilities and parks	1		
Prep Sink at Fairgrounds Concession stand	2		
CISPUS like retreat center - All Year (School Groups, Retreats of all kinds summer camps, environmental camps with forestry and ag farming) at WSD 80-acre site	7	1	
Cover the pool	2		
Better water system at Countyline Park (water rusty and smells bad)	6		



2020 Wahkiakum County Park and Recreation Plan