

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL/PARKS COMMISSION JOINT STUDY SESSION
Thursday, December 9, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

NO PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED AT THIS MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Mayor Kit Kuhn

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Draft PROS Plan Review

ADJOURN



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor, Councilmembers, and Parks Commission Members

FROM: Jeff Langhelm, PE, Public Works Director

DATE: December 3, 2021

SUBJECT: December 9 Study Session on the Draft PROS Plan Review

As you know, on December 9 there will be a study session with City Councilmembers and Parks Commission Members to review the status of the PROS Plan, including the attached results from the November open house and the attached draft goals and policies.

The City's consultant, Conservation Technix, along with the Parks Commission's PROS Plan subcommittee will lead the review the PROS Plan status and the next steps in the process to have the Plan adopted by the March 2022 deadline.

To: Jeff Langhelm, Public Works Director
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: November 16, 2021
Re: **Gig Harbor PROS Plan**
Online Open House Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of an online open house that explored residents' recreational needs and priorities following the community survey conducted in November 2021.

METHODOLOGY

An online open house was prepared to provide residents an opportunity to respond to a series of questions about park and recreation programs, services, and facilities.

The City of Gig Harbor conducted outreach with the public between November 3 and November 12, 2021 to share information about the Gig Harbor PROS Plan and solicit input about which park and recreation programs, services and facilities are important to them.

The online open house was promoted via the city's website, social media and flyers posted throughout the city and in city parks. The online open house was closed on November 12th, and preliminary data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 205 responses were collected.

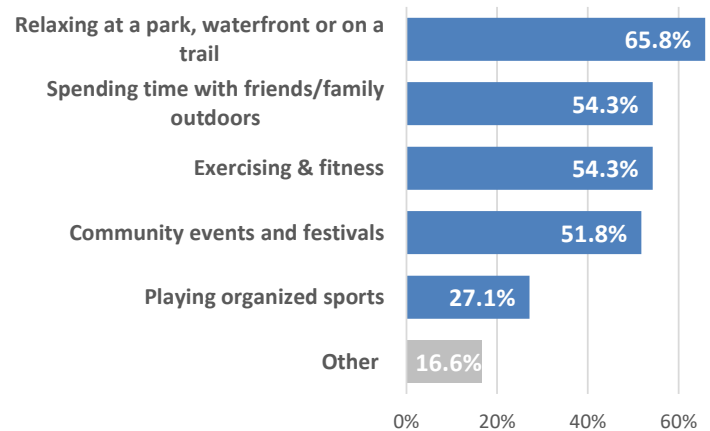
This report includes findings of community opinions. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

RESULTS

What are residents looking forward to doing post-COVID?

As an opening, warm-up question to the online open house, respondents were asked what activities they most look forward to once COVID restrictions are lifted. Strong majorities of respondents noted relaxing at a park, waterfront or trail (66%) as a top interest. Slight majorities also noted spending time with friends and family outdoors (54%), exercise and fitness (54%) and attending community events and festivals (52%).

1. What are you most looking forward to doing again in City parks and facilities as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted? (Select all that apply.)

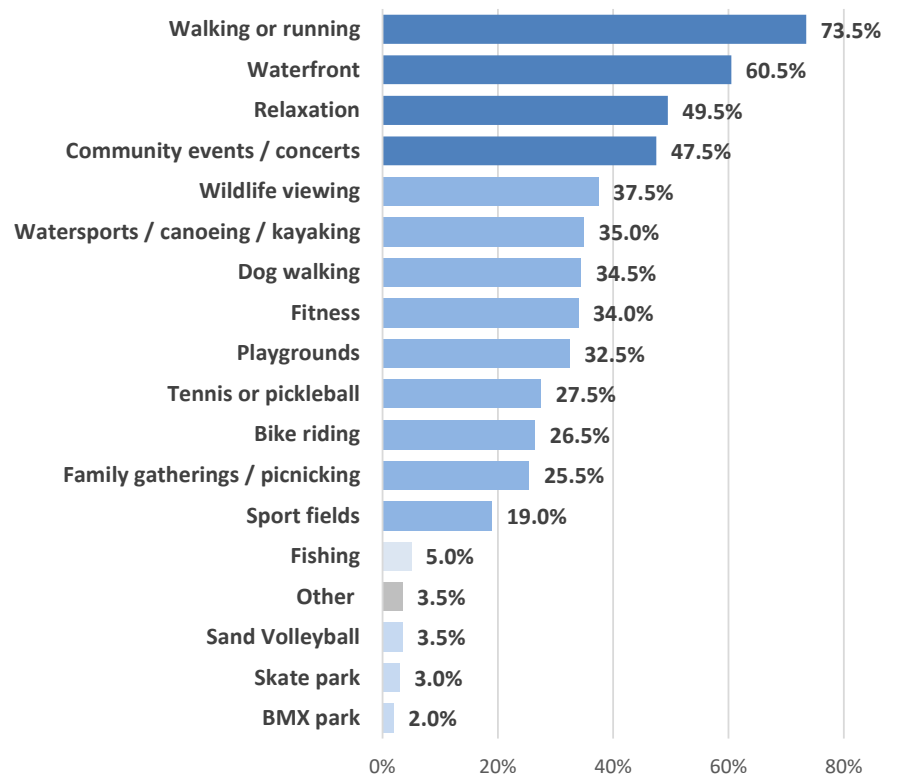


Why do residents visit parks?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (74%), visiting the waterfront (61%), followed by relaxation (50%) and community events/concerts (48%). Approximately one-in-three respondents visited for wildlife viewing (38%), watersports (35%), dog walking (35%), fitness (34%) or playgrounds (33%). Fewer than 4% of respondents visit for sand volleyball, the skatepark or the BMX park. Write-in responses included activities such as pickleball, photography, Plein air painting, dragon boating and splash pad.

In-city respondents indicated slightly higher responses for walking/running, community events and wildlife viewing.

2. What would you say are the main reasons your household visits Gig Harbor parks, recreation facilities or open spaces? Check all that apply.

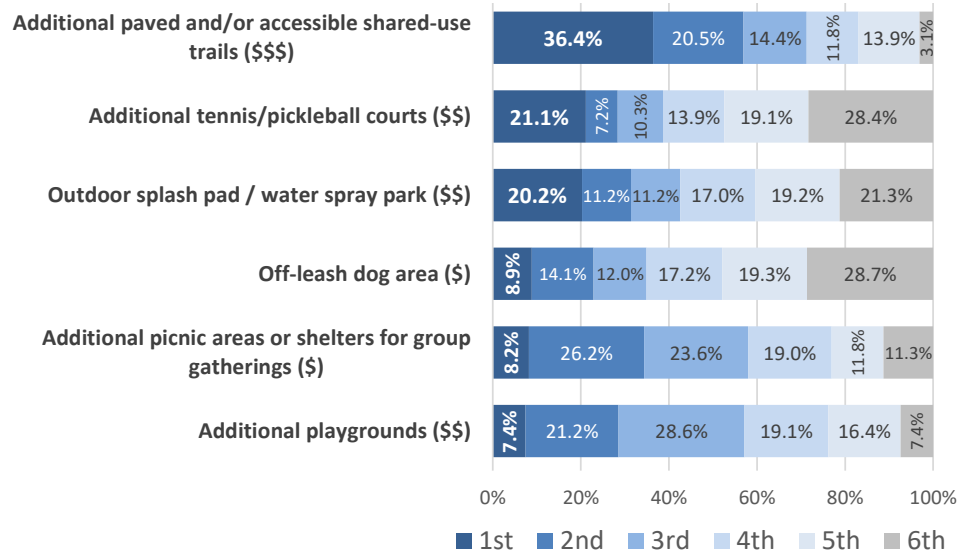


What recreation and park investments would residents prioritize?

As a way to explore some of the community priorities noted in the community survey from August, the online open house asked respondents to consider their priority for a sampling of project types that were favorably noted in the community survey. Also, hypothetical relative costs were indicated by the use of dollar symbols (\$) for each system investment.

Respondents indicated the top priority as building additional paved or shared-use trails (36%). Roughly equal support was noted for additional tennis or pickleball courts (21%) and an outdoor splash pad (20%). Providing for an off-leash dog area ranked as the lowest priority compared to the other items respondents selected from.

3. The August 2021 community survey identified several priorities for the park system. For the following list of park system priorities, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (first priority is highest and sixth priority is lowest). Cost estimates are shown as \$ (somewhat expensive), \$\$ (moderately expensive) or \$\$\$ (expensive).

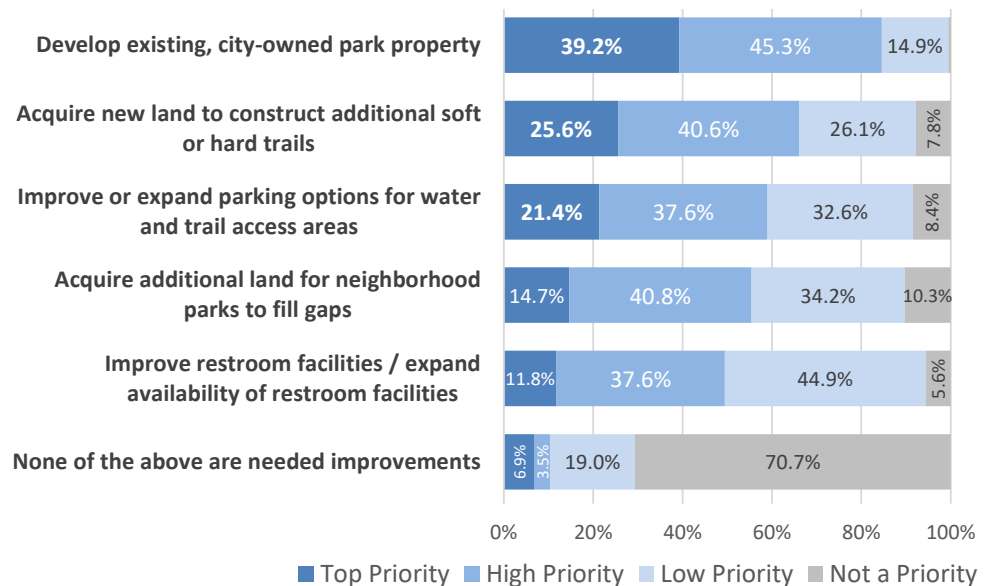


In a separate question, respondents indicated the top priority as building new parks on city-owned parklands, followed by acquiring land for additional soft or hard surface trails. The sentiment toward supporting park development aligns with community survey data where respondents indicated an unmet need for picnic areas, a splash pad and playgrounds.

Respondents were provided a write-in option to identify other facilities or amenities of interest. Thirty-seven write-in responses were provided, and the following represents frequently noted suggestions:

- Aquatic center (9)
- Pickleball courts (5)
- Trail or sidewalk improvements (4)
- Sport field improvements (4)

4. The following list of new facilities/amenities may be considered in the new PROS Plan. For each item, please tell us if it should be a top priority, a high priority, a low priority or not a priority at all.



Which trail corridors do residents support?

In an effort to explore trail corridors of interest, the online open house provided a map of existing and planned trail corridors for consideration and asked respondents an open-ended question to identify trail connections important to them. The write-in question asked, “Thinking about trails and paths, what trail improvements should the City focus on in the next 6 years? What destinations should be connected?” In all, 102 responses were provided, and the following summarizes frequently noted responses.

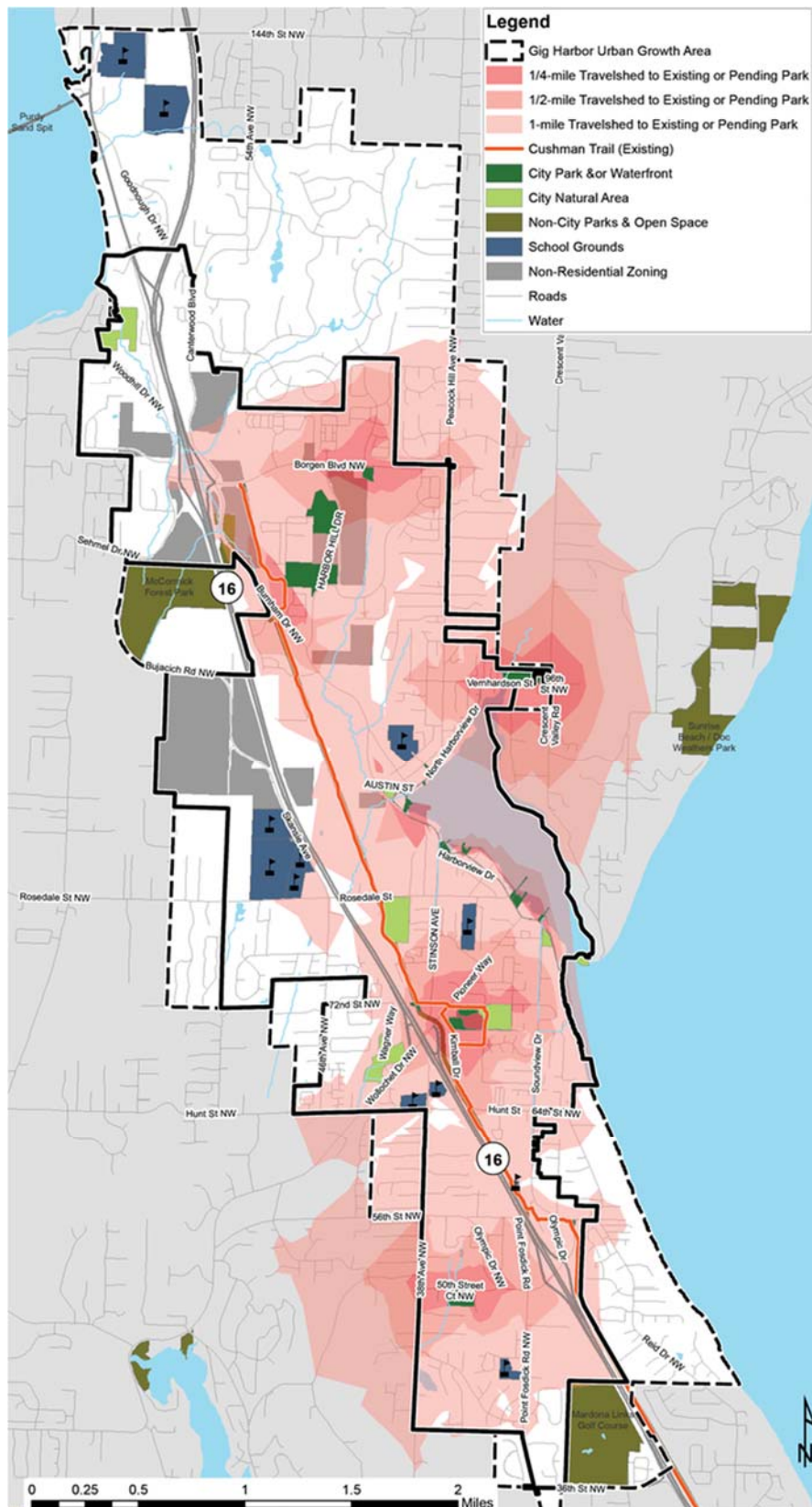
- Extend Cushman Trail to the north (28)
- Improve bike lanes and sidewalks (12)
- Connect Cushman Trail to downtown/waterfront/Harborview (10)
- Provide safe walking around the harbor (10)
- Connect Harbor Hill to downtown (6)

Less frequent responses included ideas to improve the connection from Rosedale to Harborview or provide more user conveniences along the trails (e.g., mileage markers, signs, restroom, parking). A few respondents indicated that no additional trails were needed.

What priorities exist for land acquisition?

The community survey results from August indicated moderate public interest in acquiring additional lands for parks and open space. The online open house targeted three questions to explore community sentiment and preferences toward land acquisitions. The online open house also included a map graphic illustrating ½-mile travelsheds for existing developed parks to highlight the extent of the city that is within a ½-mile of a park (see map on following page).

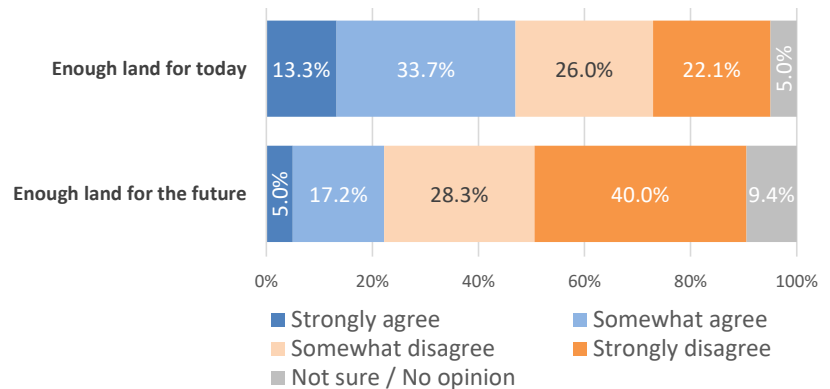
Map of Travel Distances to City Parks



The first question asked respondents about their level of agreement toward a statement whether Gig Harbor has enough land for parks, trails, and open space to meet community needs today and in the future.

Regarding parkland today, respondents were evenly split in the sentiment about there being enough (47%) or not enough (48%) parkland in Gig Harbor today. The difference in sentiment expanded when considering parklands for the future. A majority of respondents (68%) indicated that Gig Harbor does not have enough parkland for the future. In-city respondents indicated a slightly stronger response that enough parkland exists in Gig Harbor today.

6. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The City of Gig Harbor has enough land for parks, trails, and open space to meet community needs today and in the future.

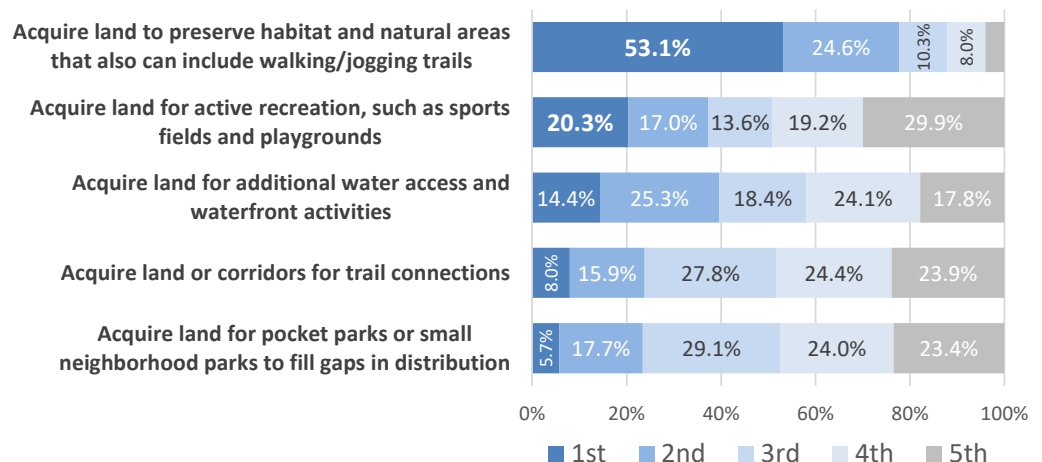


A second question focused on the types of land that might need to consider for acquisitions, if the city were to pursue additional purchases. Respondents were asked to rank in priority from a selection of five choices.

A majority of respondents (53%) supported as the top priority the acquisition of open space and habitat lands that also can include walking and jogging trails. The second highest ranked priority was for the acquisition of land for active recreation (20%) such as sport fields and playgrounds.

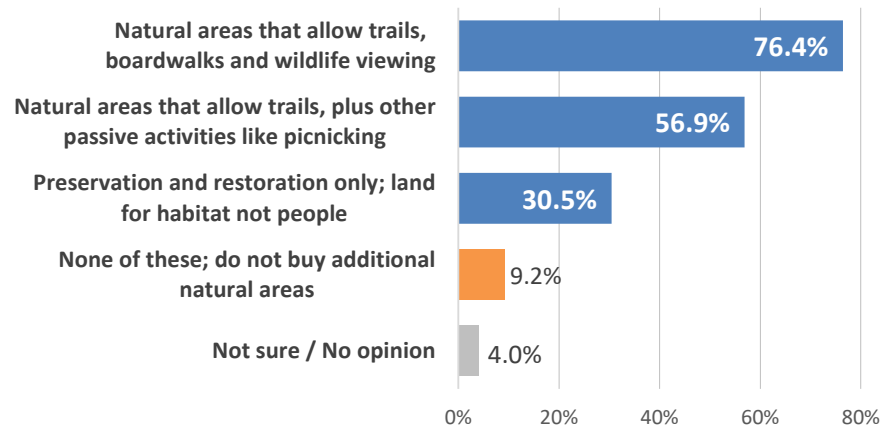
Community sentiment toward the support of land acquisition for additional water access or waterfront activities ranked as a third priority. In-city respondents indicated slightly higher priority for acquiring land for habitat and natural areas, as well as for waterfront access.

7. If the City of Gig Harbor were to acquire additional park land, please rank your land acquisition priorities from 1st (highest priority) to 5th (lowest priority). Reorder the list by dragging each line into your preferred order of preference.



The third question focused on community interests about additional open space conservation areas. A strong majority of respondents (76%) indicated interest in natural areas that allow trails, boardwalks and wildlife viewing. A slight majority (57%) also supported passive uses, such as picnicking. Fewer than one-third of respondents supported natural areas for preservation only, and 9% do not support additional open space acquisitions.

8. The survey indicated some community interest in additional open space conservation areas. Which of the following uses, if any, would you support?



Other Comments

The survey provided respondents with an opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions via an open-ended question. Nearly 150 respondents (73%) provided written comments to the question that asked, “If you wanted the City of Gig Harbor to do just one thing to improve parks, trails and/or open space areas, what would it be?” Common themes from these comments include:

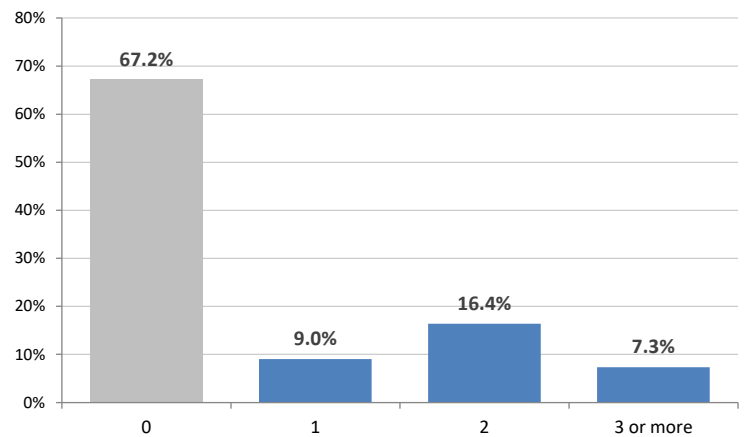
- Pickleball courts (22)
- Aquatic center / pool (12)
- Maintenance staffing, maintenance & security (9)
- Trails (8)
- Open space acquisitions (8)
- Additional waterfront access (6)
- Playground improvements (5)
- Sport fields, turf and lighting (5)
- Acquisitions for parks and trails (5)

The full list of write-in comments is provided at the end of this summary memo.

Demographics

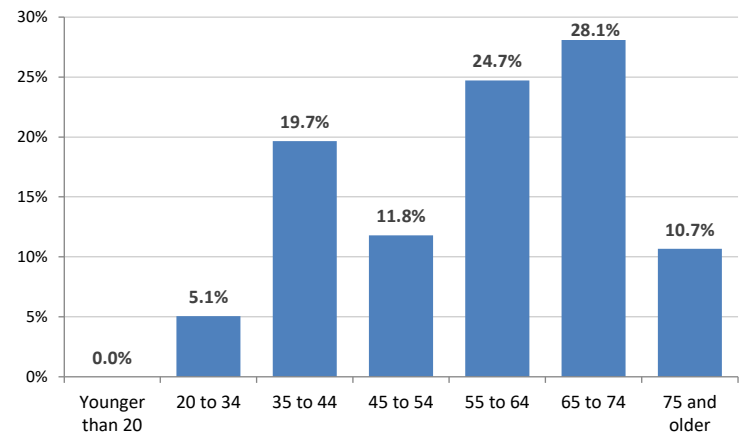
Number of children in household

A majority (67%) of respondents live in households with no children under 18, while about one in five live in a household with either one (9%) or two (16%) children. Less than eight percent of respondents live in a household with more than three children. This segmentation in households by number of children aligns closely with the responses from the August community survey.



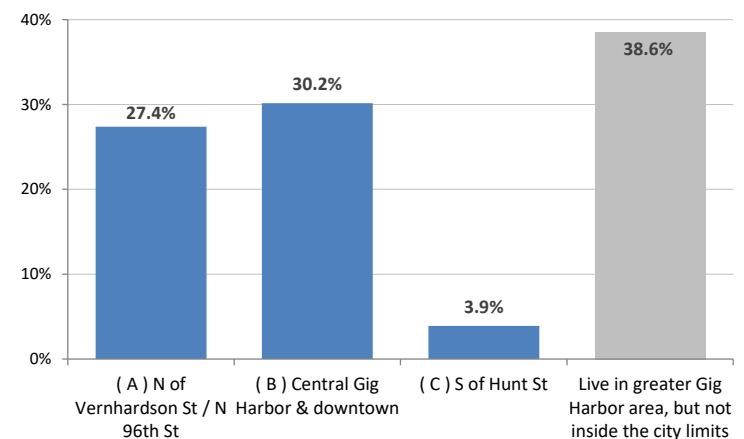
Age

Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the mail survey (64%) were 55 years of age or older. Approximately 31% of respondents were between 35 and 54 years old, and this online open house captured slightly fewer responses from the 35 to 44 age group than the community survey in August.

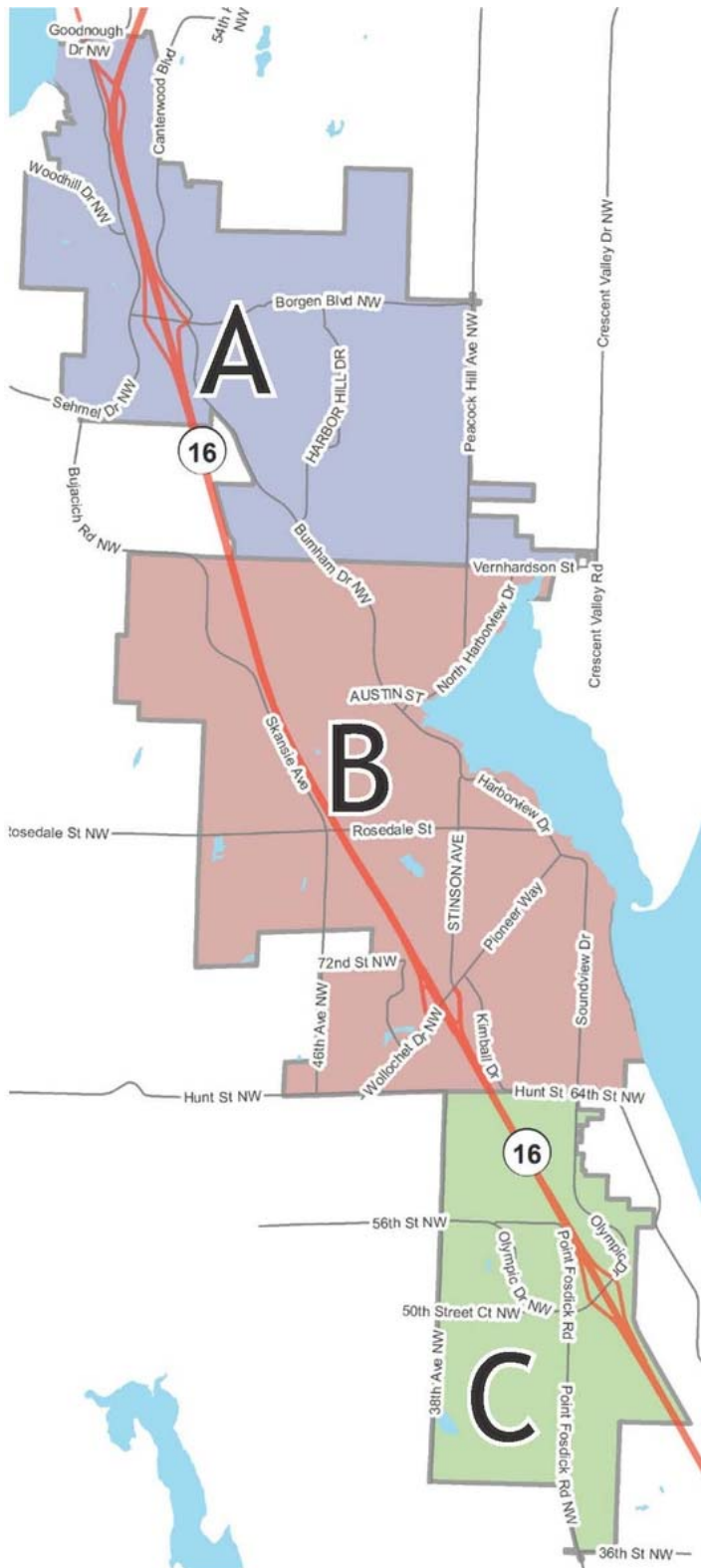


Location of residence

Approximately one-third of respondents live in downtown or central Gig Harbor (30%), while just over one-quarter live in areas north of Vernhardson St. (27%). A significant portion (39%) of respondents do not live in the city. The percentages between the different areas is fairly consistent with the response from the community survey from August, with a slightly lower response from Area C and a slightly higher response from outside city limits.



Location Map



ATTACHMENT 1. OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

Question 1. What are you most looking forward to doing again in City parks and facilities as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted?
(open-ended "other" responses)

- dog park
- Playing pickleball
- tennis and pickleball
- Pickleball
- Playing pickleball
- Pickleball !!!
- Mostly play Pickleball outdoors
- Pickleball
- Having good outdoor and indoor pickleball facilities or at least cover from the rain/ other weather conditions for outdoor pickleball courts
- Playing Pickleball
- All of the above
- hiking and biking
- Pickle ball courts are needed. It is the fastest growing sport in the WORLD!
- walking trails, -- we need walking trails on the waterfront
- Having an indoor space to do art, learn new things, have exhibits, hold meetings
- Having a bigger, open space dog park
- Pickleball courts at Crescent Creek park
- Walking in forested/park settings
- Being in and surrounded by nature
- Swing sets
- Watching wildlife
- Pickleball
- community garden
- Enjoying a quiet, safe place
- I am already doing all of these things outdoors - although some community events have not yet returned and I look forward to those...
- Taking the kids to indoor parks and recs classes
- Running my dogs off-leash
- Water access for my kayak
- Paddling
- A safe environment for kids and adults to swim, including swim lessons
- Visiting playgrounds and fields with kids. But we REALLY need a community pool/aquatic center. That would be #1 on my list.
- Playing disc golf (frisbee golf)
- Getting into the pool

Question 2. What would you say are the main reasons your household visits Gig Harbor parks, recreation facilities or open spaces?

- Pickleball
- need waterfront trails
- Plein air painting
- Photography
- Dragon boating
- Splash pad
- Would love to see better bike support!

Question 4. The following list of new facilities/amenities may be considered in the new PROS Plan. For each item, please tell us if it should be a top priority, a high priority, a low priority or not a priority at all.

- Covered lighted pickleball courts!
- Pickleball high priority
- Why develop a park? Leave it natural
- Dedicated pickleball courts are needed.
- Indoor pickleball
- We need lighted turf fields for sports
- Permanent pickleball courts are needed
- All city sidewalks along the water need to be wider.
- Improve safe walking access to parks with sidewalks and crosswalks (e.g. Adam Tallman is lovely but dangerous to walk to from downtown)
- Can we please have a space for the arts? Visual and performing!
- Recommend Swing sets in some parks for children and adults to enjoy
- Fix and add to the playground equipment up at city hall!
- Restore Masonic Lodge to it's historic look and create a multipurpose event space.
- Acquire more open space forests for land conservation - we are losing our trees!
- We need additional area for sports fields/youth recreation.
- Marketing, community outreach — To inform the public of all the parks available to them and promote usage.
- Community Garden
- development of a community garden
- Please don't increase dog parks.
- Creating trails connecting neighborhoods creating shortcuts for bikes would be a great way of taking bikes off main arterials and putting them on neighborhood streets
- Parking at Wollochet Bay Estuary Park
- More public water access
- Sports facilities

- Soccer fields. You have a huge population that plays soccer and no fields.
- Build a community pool!!!!
- Full aquatic facility
- Have more locations (with parking) to launch human powered water craft
- A community pool/aquatic center! PLEASE!!!
- N/A
- Community pool
- Disc golf (frisbee golf)
- An indoor pool facility and better sidewalks/biking lanes!
- Community Aquatic center. NOT A SPRAY PARK!
- We NEED a community pool
- community aquatics center
- Partnering with PenMet Parks and the Swim Safe Gig Harbor to build a public community aquatic center!
- Off leash dog parks should be a priority

Question 5. Thinking about trails and paths, what trail improvements should the City focus on in the next 6 years? What destinations should be connected? (Try to be specific)

- none
- Shaw park and downtown.
- Around the harbor
- Would like to see Cushman go all the way to 144th.
- Cushman trail bridge over Borgan blvd and trail continued north
- North Gig Harbor to downtown
- Incremental extension of Cushman Trail
- proposed trail looks excellent. How about a dirt trail instead of tar? Or something softer?
- Extending both ends of the Cushman Trail.
- Would love to see the Cushman trail extended to the north. And maybe a safer route from the south end of the trail to the Tacoma Narrows bridge. (Widen the road, add a bike lane?)
- Any one
- Cushman trail near Kimball Drive and Olympic Drive could be more cyclist friendly.
- Cushman trail -improve off road for bikes/pedestrians along Olympic Dr/Kimbal Drive/area & extend north from Borgen to Canterwood.
- Expand trail system at Harbor Hill. Expand Cushman trail as proposed.
- First of all, we need safe bike lines on our roads. We have beautiful parks and waterfront already, but it is very difficult to get to them on a bike.
- Not trail related but sidewalks!! There is a lot of pedestrian traffic along peacock hill from the waterfront all the way up to borgen blvd and the harbor hill area. This is a high traffic road and to have sidewalks for that area would be most beneficial, not to mention improved safety for those walking the on the road.
- don't spend money
- Connection to Harborview Dr./Austin St.

- "A safe bike lane along the Mud Bay road.
- Extend Cushman Trail."
- Any new trails should be away from power lines, noise and air pollution. It would be lovely to have nature trails(such as the ones at Sehmel park) but lengthier than just 1-2 miles.
- I'd like to see the trail extended north from Borgen Blvd along the proposed route.
- Pedestrian bike path on Burnham from Harbor Hill to Harborview Drive
- Connection between Cushman Trail and Austin Street and from Cushman down Pioneer to Waterfront
- "expand Cushman trail to Canterwood.
- Develop new trails around water areas."
- Safe walking access to Adam Tallman, connection between Wilkinson Farm Park and Stinson Ave, safe walking access from Cushman Trail to McCormick Forrest Park (Safe = Crosswalks & sidewalks/trails off roadways)
- Pedestrian Access to the waterfront
- Some "careful" trails in the new upland acquisition near Austin/Donkey Creek Park- connecting to Donkey Creek park &/or Cushman Trail (preferably both)
- "Bicycles on Cushman is problematic. There are courteous riders but too many are speeders with little regard for the safety of children and dogs. I would like to see a separate and physically divided lane for them.
- I look forward to the expansion of Cushman. Can a spur connecting to McCormack forest be added? The potty bags dispensers is much appreciated!!"
- Waterfront to Cushman trail and on to the schools and sports complex. Access by walking or biking directed onto limited access trails vs the difficulty of such travel on existing roads due to limited bike lane space and, at this time very high car traffic volume
- Don't know
- Agree with connection to Harborview Dr.
- Softer trail surfaces, so seniors can walk more without hurting afterward.
- Purchase the property near the Austin Estuary to connect it with Indigenous Program being developed.
- Borgen to the north
- Extend Cushman Trail to North.
- Acquiring land and access to complete as wide and long of a trail system as possible, while such an expansion is still possible, given the speed and density of current development in the area. If we don't make land and right of way acquisition a priority now, such expansion will rapidly become impossible, or at least prohibitably expensive.
- Complete the Cushman Trail extension.
- Trails are only as good as they are safe. Parking lot safety for trail access needs to be top priority. People do not feel safe parking at trail access points due to vehicle break-ins.
- Improve bike trails.
- "Restrooms every ten miles 😊"
- Borden Blvd to points North"
- "In favor of expanding Cushman Trail north. Would love pathways along the waterfront, don't think that's doable.
- Must say it's breaking my heart to lose all the paths in north Gig Harbor which people walk year around to the Sports Complex, much of which will go unused during winter months."
- Extend Cushman Trail. Provide more access points
- Cameras for security in parking lots. Too many cars are being vandalized.
- more waterfront access to walk and sit.

- Improve sidewalks and accessible walking down Rosedale and downtown. Sidewalks are either non-existent or too narrow for the foot traffic.
- I'm happy with what is being proposed.
- "Cushman Trail should be connected to the Purdy Spit.
- Trail connecting the Cushman Trail to Harborview Drive
- We need more trails through wooded areas, quiet beautiful conservation lands."
- Keeping what we have already in good shape. Maybe add some security to ride the path length on a regular basis
- Acquire the acreage, or the use thereof, between Crescent Valley and Drummond.
- Connect the Cushman trail between Olympic Dr and Borden.
- CONNECT THEM TO ALL WEATHER TURF LIGHTED FIELDS
- City natural areas need to connect to existing trail system.
- Continuing the Cushman Trail and more trail options that connect from Main Gig Harbor Roads to various points of Cushman trail.
- Expanding the Cushman Trail should be the top priority. Also, it would be nice if people could bike safely around the harbor.
- Definitely a continuation of Cushman Trail both north and south. A sidewalk along Burham Drive into the harbor for safe walking.
- "- Connect Cushman through town
- - Extend Cushman
- - Provide bike path around the Borgen Blvd traffic rotaries to get to shopping and the Y from the west side of town
- - Provide dedicated bike paths where ever possible"
- "Complete Cushman Trail"
- improvement of Shaw Park and continued maintenance of trail leading to wetlands. Also make this wetland trail a no bicycle trail - bicycle riding by teenagers on this trail is very dangerous to those walking.
- It would be really nice to have a bike trail that doesn't have all the hills and car traffic.
- Yes to the proposed extension of Cushman trail.
- None
- North GH trails need ongoing maintenance. Overgrown paths, debris, etc.
- East and west paths should be addressed. Creating shortcuts through neighborhoods keeping bikes off main arterials and on neighborhood streets it'd be much safer for families. Simply creating easements would allow quicker travel north and south and east and west.
- "Extension/improvement of Cushman trail, walking and cycling paths along or near harbor waterfront "
- "1) Connection to Hospital / Kitsap County
- 2) Connection to Downtown waterfront to trail (96th to burnham to Harborview/North Harborview) "
- Some trails and paths become impassible for long periods of time because of flooding, so better drainage or bridges would be good.
- I haven't walked the trails enough to know.
- Borden to 144
- I wish the Cushman trail connected to the Harbor somehow.
- Cushman trail
- Connect the recently purchased park property to existing parks, Cushman Trail.
- Build out the proposed trails.

- Extending the trail north would be great. Also, is there me a way to connect Sehmel Homestead Park, McCormick Forest and the Cushman trail? Would love to have a trail or at least a wider shoulder for biking and walking.
- I'd like more flat paved trails for walking and biking. Cushman Trail is suuuuper hilly for most of it and I am not in good enough shape to bike there so I take my bike to Ruston Way waterfront instead.
- Extend bike trails as far as possible in all directions.
- Improve mile markers with more detail.
- Cushman trail to Purdy Bridge
- Cushman linked to Harborview Drive. Salmon restoration and trail at Donkey Creek (2nd culvert removal), interpretive wildlife signage at new and existing trails
- Cushman trail north extension and road crossing improvements.
- "Rosedale to Austin St
- Borgen Blvd to 54th st nw"
- Trails in the Northeast area (up towards Olalla/Crescent Lake) and Southwest areas. Most of the trails are concentrated in the central/downtown area or along the highway. I think it would be highly beneficial to create some new trails in the northeast and southwest regions of Gig Harbor
- no need for more trails
- I really like the idea of connecting the Cushman to downtown as part of a trail and not just via Rosedale or Harborview. The addition of bike lanes would also be welcome, although if you add them on Olympic there needs to be better traffic enforcement against speeding.
- Would LOVE some sort of trail on Fox Island.
- Trails are a non starter for my family due to the difficulty of the terrain for my young kids and the insecurity of the parking lots.
- More sports fields, pool facility
- Connection from GH north and Cushman trail to downtown. Connections to walk to neighborhood parks.
- None. We have enough trails. We need parks and a community pool!
- East/west route down Rosedale St. More scenic spurs and loops, ability to tie in with various neighborhoods and schools/churches. Gig Harbor High School to Cushman Trail not via sidewalks, but via dedicated trail.
- "Indoor water facility
- Better biking lanes and sidewalks!!!"
- Connect Cushman to waterfront (dotted line by Austin St) and find a way to connect it to the Y and Harbor Hill Dr area
- Improve theft/crime at parking centers before you add more trails
- The parking for Cushman trail needs to be safer
- "There needs to be a trail that leads from Harbor Hill to the waterfront. Currently, the sidewalk on Peacock is not continuous and there is no unbroken route where we can easily walk to downtown."
- The more you connect the Cushman trail the more homeless come over from Tacoma and an increase in car breaking.
- Harbor view to Cushman
- Cushman trail northern expansion and connection to Harborview Dr.
- 54th connector path
- Connecting the Cushman trail with the harbor or to harbor hill.
- Not interested
- A public trail to the light house at the mouth of the harbor is greatly needed.
- Downtown trails so that walkers don't have to fight traffic. Also Rosedale to Harborview.

Question 9. If you wanted the City of Gig Harbor to do just one thing to improve parks, trails and/or open space areas, what would it be?

- don't spend any more money
- Add dog parks for both large and small dogs.
- "Fix Shaw park. "
- More pickleball courts.
- Obtain and preserve more land
- Better parking?
- Build pickleball courts
- Put in more designated pickleball courts.
- Build pickleball courts
- Line tennis courts for pickleball
- More Pickleball courts. Some should be indoor. All outdoor should have lights.
- Lights on tennis courts at Shemel
- Dedicated pickleball courts
- Add dedicated Pickleball courts to more parks
- Dog potty bag stations and trash cans
- Build up areas that are being used, like pickleball courts. And line existing tennis court with pickleball lines. Pickleball is the #1 growing sport in America.
- More Pickleball courts!
- neighborhood parks, sports, baseball, soccer, playgrounds
- Buy the lot at 7650 Stinson and preserve it and the wetland. Corridor to Wilkinson Farm from the east?
- don't build on open spaces - for example - Sehmel is awesome but structures seem to keep popping up. Leave it natural
- Build dedicated pickleball courts.
- Have cover for pickleball/ tennis courts so it can be played year-round rain or shine and in Washington's case 7+ months of rain
- More pickleball courts
- Add dedicated Pickleball courts.
- More sunny days and a little less rain. :). You are doing a pretty darn good job as it is. :).
- Add more Pickleball courts
- More pickleball courts
- More facilities for youth i.e.. pump park, basketball nets
- I would love to see a pump park for young cyclists.
- Indoor Pickleball courts
- Finish off the sports complex up by the YMCA. I don't understand why that has not been completed as it was voted on years ago.
- Build permanent pickleball courts
- designated pickle ball courts.

- build dedicated lighted pb courts.. and maybe even covered.
- Dedicated outdoor pickleball courts. We have a massive pickleball community that goes elsewhere for permanent courts like Bainbridge. If you build it they will come.
- Add an aquatic center. High demand for this area.
- maintain what we have and save money, why spend if you don't have to?
- Acquire land for wildlife/tree conservation. Not for people.
- Better playground area for children in Gig Harbor not north GH.
- Climbing walls/rocks playground improvement
- Keep an abundance of our nature "natural" while balancing the use of such areas with developed recreation opportunities. Emphasis on NATURE!!
- Extend the Cushman Trail from Borgen Boulevard.
- Pedestrian bike path down Burnham
- Enforce existing rules. Gig Harbor Ferry landing park was originally walk in only with parking by the intersection of Soundview/Harborview. Now that parking is taken by Tides and 7 Seas. Reserve some of it as Park parking. Enforce the limited parking areas on the street. Hours of the park are dawn to dusk. Enforce hours. Patrol the park! Discourage noise, vandalism, drug use. Respect the neighbors and neighborhood!
- purchase land to expand existing trails and creek access trails.
- Provide safe walking access to existing parks by constructing crosswalks, walking paths and/or sidewalks (e.g. Adam Tallman, McCormick Forrest Park)
- Build play structures and a splash park for kids.
- Make a place for the Arts- not everyone wants to do or can do sports
- More history centers. The walking history tour via signage around harbor is great. Also the new audio station near History Museum. Gig Harbor already has several "history lessons" in parks but It could be expanded especially native american settlements
- More trails in less developed parks.
- More pickleball courts
- Provide a big swing set in Borgan Park
- Create more / bigger dog park(s). Look at all the people, many over 55, who are walking along Harborview with their dogs.
- Commit staff to maintain and supervise the current parks, trails, open spaces
- Trails
- Acquire contiguous land for trails, bike paths, and other right of way.
- More bike paths.
- "Improved and connected sidewalks around Gig
- Harbor. Improved water viewing areas for recreation and/or relaxation such as beach or waterfront space. "
- Maintenance and more interesting plantings
- Add restrooms and dog stations.
- Rethink the location of the Sports Complex.
- More picnic area and concert venues.
- Keep trees and the natural surroundings. The highway noise, light pollution, and over development has made Gig Harbor less desirable for our family to live. We love the natural parks like McCormick and the Cushman Trail.
- Hold cleanup days, some of the new parks have a ton of weeds coming up in all the new plantings. And sucker trees that will block water viewing.

- Make sure preserving the environment is the key element with any improvement. Second would be park user's safety while on city streets getting to and from the park. Thirdly would be noise and traffic considerations for residents living near parks.
- Security from vandalism
- Make sure the city is able to adequately maintain existing and any additional park land. Playground equipment needs to be operable and safe.
- More water front access for walking and sitting.
- Improve walking access into and around downtown Gig Harbor. Wider sidewalks and access to the water.
- I would like the City to purchase more lands for open space for wildlife habitat. We are losing our trees which impact our wildlife and reduce the natural beauty of our community. We are known for our beautiful trees - purchasing these priority properties will ensure our community stays beautiful forever. This benefits wildlife and humans - we need more equitable opportunities for people to enjoy our beautiful environment.
- Keep existing tennis courts for tennis. Create more pickle ball courts if necessary. The Sehmel tennis courts have been ruined with added pickleball lines. There are now three different colors of lines (some of them slippery) painted on the courts. It's quite confusing.
- Improve parking at existing water access points. More points where we can park and put a sup and/or kayak in the Harbor. Dock access helps with this as the tide changes.
- More lighted fields
- More waterfront parks
- Consider climate change in any and all decisions you make. We NEED forests to remain intact! Purchase land so developers can't!
- Provide additional youth sports fields.
- Purchase more land for passive low impact trails.
- Add community garden to Shaw Park or expand park area. Do not put a dog park at Shaw Park. It will be noisy, smelly, a pollution source and detract from Shaw Park.
- Improved parking
- ALL WEATHER LIGHTED TURF FIELDS
- Enforce leash requirements so the rest of us can enjoy the parks.
- Acquire more land now before the cost is prohibitive.
- Acquire additional land to provide as much walkability and to provide as much access to water and natural areas as possible.
- Spend more resources on frequent marketing — Inform the public of all the parks we have and promote recreation which will hopefully inspire community pride and stewardship.
- Bulldoze Peninsula Gardens eyesore and get started on building that area for community use.
- Make the city and outlying areas more bikeable and walkable
- No opinion
- Expand passive natural areas
- Redo Shaw Park to accommodate a community garden.
- Improve the playground by the skatepark. It can hardly be considered a playground for the Pioneer Street neighborhood with the limited/broken equipment.
- Safety is the most important -- environmentally too.
- CLEAN UP THE AREA AROUND SHAW PARK
- Ensure they are well-maintained (safe and clean).
- Avoid spending land and maintenance on dog run/park facilities adjacent to residential facilities.

- More natural trails.
- Bathrooms
- Make Shaw Park a reality in North GH where we reside and use outdoor spaces. Develop the property with benches, tables, shade areas and play areas for people and families. ABSOLUTELY NO DOG PARK!
- Maintain what is already there keeping it world class
- Buy more land
- I would like to see a Community Pool to serve the Gig Harbor area with year round access to aquatic facility
- Don't skimp on maintenance - do the basics, empty the garbage cans, pull the weeds, cover up the graffiti, keep equipment in good working order, clean and stock the bathrooms. Police areas where there have been problems.
- Buy more land for hiking trails and conservation.
- Have at least one restroom at every public park area kids would go to.
- Handicapped accessibility
- Improve waterfront access
- I'm not sure if this is even a possibility, but I enjoy kayaking in the Harbor and would like a place to bring in my kayak and park, besides the boat launch.
- Do more of what has already been done. Gig Harbor has beautiful parks, keep it going.
- More public water access
- Sports facilities
- Soccer fields.
- Build out proposed trail connections
- Community pool
- More trails and connecting trails/parks
- Have more benches along the Cushman Trail because that is quite the work out for this out of shape lady and I need to take some rest breaks.
- Hire more maintenance staff to keep the parks and trails looking great!
- Obtain more waterfront access including parking.
- Improve parking safety!
- More access to launch human powered watercraft with parking reasonably available
- More bike lanes on city roads
- Improve access to water resources.
- Interpretive wildlife signage so people can educate themselves and their families while enjoying nature
- Bike parking.
- Better human powered watercraft launch facilities w/ parking and a community aquatic facility.
- Money should be spent on preservation. We definitely don't need any more sports fields. No more off leash dog parks. Ask any dog trainer and they will tell you dog parks are the absolute worse place to take your dog.
- Safety, safety, safety
- Please try to conserve as much land as possible for open space, parks, and habitats. We live within the city limits in a traditional neighborhood, so aren't opposed to some development. But I'm so tired of seeing Rush clear cut huge swaths of land to sandwich in as many overpriced houses as possible. There are better ways to develop and create actual affordable housing options. Anything the city can do to help counteract that kind of development and conserve the land that is the reason why so many of us live here would be appreciated.
- Build a community pool/aquatic center! Our community is in desperate need of this and will PAY!

- More playground and kid spaces!
- Provide sufficient staff to maintain high maintenance standards. Factor in additional staff if more park property is acquired.
- Sports fields with lights
- Spray park in North Gig Harbor
- Community Pool!!!!
- A public swimming pool for water aerobics and swimming lessons... not just a splash pad.
- Please connections, trail access pathways.
- City pool
- "Add bike lanes and sidewalks to access them as car congestion is out of hand!
- Include a water facility "
- add more trash bins and dog waste receptacles along the trails and maintain them
- Full community aquatic center. It's just not safe with all of the water around us and the current facilities are NOT cutting it. As well as not serving the low income portion of the community.
- Community pool. Our children need more easier access to learn safe swimming
- Offer another community garden. Wilkinson Farm has a lovely community garden, but is not easily accessed from Harbor Hill where I would like to see one offered.
- We need a community pool so all children have the opportunity to learn how to swim.
- Improve parking
- Perhaps not the exact answer to this question, but the one thing Gig Harbor needs is a community pool. Can we please have a park with a indoor Olympic size pool that can be used by all ages/abilities?
- build a community aquatics center
- Not sure
- Partner with PenMet Parks and the Swim Safe Gig Harbor campaign to build a public aquatic center! Gig Harbor families are desperate for more safe places where our kids can learn how to swim!!
- Add an off leash dog and human park area on the waterfront
- Create a public trail to the light house at the mouth of the harbor.
- "More habitat protection for animals and plants.
- Several species feel trapped in Gig Harbor...deer and coyotes. They need to be free to come and go."



The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park, recreation and open space services that Gig Harbor aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff, and the Parks Commission.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a new foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including Pierce County and the City of Gig Harbor. The GMA's purpose is to help communities deal efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- "Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks." RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- "Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water." RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- "Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance." RCW 36.70A.020(13)
- "Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act with regards to shorelines and critical areas." RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Furthermore, the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan, the previous parks and recreation system plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PROS Plan.

A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Policies are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Policies may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in Needs Assessment and Capital Planning chapters of the Plan.

The Plan's goals align with the National Recreation and Parks Association's *Three Pillars*, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating, and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving our communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting our open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.
- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Equity** – Universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.



The goals and policies that follow are organized by topic and are not provided in a particular hierarchy or order of significance.



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Goal 1: Develop a quality, diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups.

Policies

- 1.1. Pursue acquisition and development of sites for passive and active, formal and informal recreation opportunities that accommodate activities to appeal to various age groups, recreational interests and those with special needs.
- 1.2. Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity and revenue-generating potential.
- 1.3. Cooperate with a wide range of public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, recognizing the rights of property owners in the vicinity of such sites.
- 1.4. Develop and/or encourage a mixture of watercraft access opportunities including canoe, kayak, sailboard, and other human powered boating activities, especially on Gig Harbor and along the Puget Sound shoreline.
- 1.5. Facilitate development of field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball that provide for the largest number of participants.



OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Goal 2: Provide a diversified park system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and facilitates the protection of threatened species, preservation habitat, and retention of migration corridors that are unique and important to local wildlife.

Policies

- 2.1. Preserve and protect from development impacts open space and park land areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, riparian corridors, forests, steep slopes, plant and animal habitats that support threatened or endangered species.
- 2.2. Develop a system of open space corridors along natural riparian and wetlands corridors that link to each other and from the uplands to the shore.
- 2.3. Provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints, and wildlife viewing areas) within open space areas to support passive recreation, and parking, where appropriate and feasible.
- 2.4. Provide environmental education opportunities in open space areas with creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other engaging experiences.
- 2.5. Actively work to maintain and improve the condition of City-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas.
- 2.6. Anticipate global climate change and foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas.



TRAIL & CORRIDOR ACCESS SYSTEMS

Goal 3: Develop a high quality system of park trails and corridors that provide alternative transportation options and low impact recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities in coordination with the City's Active Transportation Plan.

Policies

Trail Systems

- 3.1. Create a comprehensive system of shared-use, off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system. Develop trails to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods and business districts to promote physical activity and a health-conscious community.
- 3.2. Leverage available resources from public and private agencies to construct pedestrian facilities that cross SR-16 and other highways to better connect our trail system.
- 3.3. Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities wherever feasible to facilitate the use of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation. Where sidewalks are an integrated component of a trail system, larger sidewalks may be needed.
- 3.4. Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process.
- 3.5. Work with public and private organizations to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.
- 3.6. Support the implementation of pedestrian and bicycle lane improvements in the City's Transportation Plan.

Trail Development and Amenities

- 3.7. Develop trails consistent with the park development goals and policies that reach a wide variety of users.
- 3.8. Furnish trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that may include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.
- 3.9. Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and reduce duplication of supporting improvements.
- 3.10. Design and develop trail systems that are easy to maintain and easily accessed by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.
- 3.11. Develop and implement a system of signs (e.g., trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that coordinates with the City's streetscape and furniture standards in accordance with the City's wayfinding plan.



PARK DESIGN STANDARDS

Goal 4: Design and develop facilities that are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain while providing a full range of facilities for all age groups both inside the present city limits and in the urban growth area. Parks facilities and equipment should have life cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

Policies

General

- 4.1. Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, design and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 4.2. Develop City-owned or maintained park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- 4.3. New parks and upgraded/renovated facilities should consider unique design traits that add to Gig Harbor's sense of place while still ensuring quality that limits maintenance and operations costs.
- 4.4. Identify and address recreation and service accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, mental health, geographic, transportation). Seek to reduce access barriers and expand inclusive opportunities. Implement diversity, equity and inclusion policies and a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known service gaps over time.
- 4.5. Continue to engage, coordinate and partner with user groups of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX/pump track, community gardens, etc.
- 4.6. Provide maps at the City's larger parks and online that identify park and trail opportunities in the vicinity of the park.
- 4.7. Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity at all parks and facilities.
- 4.8. Standardize park furniture (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) to reduce inventory costs and improve appearance of, and maintenance consistency within, parks.

Accessibility

- 4.9. Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages as appropriate and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- 4.10. Seek opportunities to eliminate barriers at existing facilities and address goals identified in the ongoing, city-wide ADA assessment to guide priorities to retrofit existing sites.



Maintenance

- 4.11. Design and develop facilities that are of low maintenance design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation costs, while providing for adequate facilities, amenities and attractive landscaping.
- 4.12. Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities; consider the use of native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve the integrity of native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.

Security and Safety

- 4.13. Maintain parks, trails and open space according to best practices that protect public property, preserve its value, and ensure its intended function or use, life expectancy, safety, security and appearance.
- 4.14. As appropriate, implement adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, police patrols, and other programs that will increase safety, security, awareness and visibility.

IDENTIFY URBAN GROWTH PRESERVES & SET-ASIDES

Goal 5: Coordinate with other public and private agencies, and with private landowners, to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high-quality, convenient park and recreation facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.

Policies

- 5.1. Prior to annexation of urban growth areas, review park, recreation and open space needs to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service.
- 5.2. Identify and set-aside lands needed to meet long-term demand for parks, recreation and open space in developing areas such as wooded, undeveloped, and sensitive lands.
- 5.3. Coordinate on a regular basis with Pierce County, PenMet Parks and the Peninsula School District regarding the planning, acquisition, design and operation of recreational resources in the UGA and unincorporated service area.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

Goal 6: Coordinate with and encourage the efforts of other agencies and non-profit recreational providers to assure that the recreational needs of the Gig Harbor residents are met.

Policies

- 6.1. Leverage City resources by maintaining partnerships with public and private agencies to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 6.2. Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations to provide support for indoor recreational facilities.
- 6.3. Endorse the efforts of local non-profit organizations to provide soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, and other instruction and participatory programs for all age, skill level, and income groups in the community.
- 6.4. Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields.



HISTORIC RESOURCES

Goal 7: Develop a high quality, diversified park system that preserves significant historic opportunity areas and features.

Policies

- 7.1. Identify, enhance and incorporate Gig Harbor's heritage, indigenous history and cultural features into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a balanced social experience.
- 7.2. Identify parks, structures and spaces eligible for historic place designation to insure they are preserved for the future.
- 7.3. Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Gig Harbor's heritage.
- 7.4. Encourage the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fishermen's Civic Club and others to make cultural programs and activities more accessible to the public.
- 7.5. Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide increased public access.
- 7.6. Consider adopting incentives for properties listed on the City's Historic Register to encourage retention of and remove obstacles to maintaining such structures as properties are re-developed, including adaptive re-use provisions.

CULTURAL ART PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Goal 8: Encourage fine and performing arts partnerships and programs that reflect the community's vision and culture.

Policies

- 8.1. Coordinate with and support the goals and initiatives of the Gig Harbor City Arts Commission, including the implementation of the goals noted in the Arts & Culture Element of the Comprehensive Plan
- 8.2. Reflect the city's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system, and identify appropriate locations within City parks and public spaces for the installation of public art, interpretive signs, or cultural displays.
- 8.3. Acquire and use public art to create visible landmarks and artistic points of reference to reinforce Gig Harbor's identity, unique culture and character in City parks, recreation and open spaces.



FINANCIAL RESOURCES & COORDINATION

Goal 9: Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to the general public and private development.

Policies

- 9.1. Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to high standards.
- 9.2. Investigate available methods, such as park impact fees, land set-aside or fee in-lieu donation ordinances, and interlocal agreements, for the financing of facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.
- 9.3. Pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities and programs to include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.
- 9.4. Proactively apply for recreational system grants individually and with partner agencies.
- 9.5. Consider joint ventures with other public agencies, such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, and federal agencies, local tribes, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaires, where feasible and desirable.
- 9.6. Review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies immediately following each update to the PROS Plan and use impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the parks system.