



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
AGENDA
Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Bremerton Parks & Recreation Commission will be a hybrid meeting held in person with options to participate remotely via Zoom.

IN-PERSON: Sheridan Park Community Center, 680 Lebo Blvd., Bremerton

REMOTE OPTION VIA ZOOM: *follow the link below:*

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

[https://bremertonwa-
gov.zoom.us/j/87406523514?pwd=H30zbiQebqMYUphpsTJFK2cwZwJAdq.1](https://bremertonwa.gov.zoom.us/j/87406523514?pwd=H30zbiQebqMYUphpsTJFK2cwZwJAdq.1)
Passcode:061514

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,87406523514# US

+12532158782,,87406523514# US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87406523514?pwd=H30zbiQebqMYUphpsTJFK2cwZwJAdq.1>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from the June 24th, 2025 Meeting
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Staff Reports & Updates
 - 1. NAD Restoration Project
 - 2. Haddon Park Ribbon Cutting – July 25th @ 1PM
 - 3. Ivy Green Cemetery Fence Replacement Project
- VI. New Business
 - 1. PROS Plan Chapter 1. Introduction – Tim Barker
 - 2. PROS Plan Chapter 4. Needs Analysis – Tim Barker
- VII. Commissioners' Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of June 24th, 2025

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Sheridan Park Community Center with the option to “zoom in.”

Commissioner’s Present: Ben Burnette, Katherine Weigel, Amy Waterman (remote), Jim McDonald (remote), Greg Dawson

Staff Present: Tim Barker, Director of Parks & Recreation
Brian Hauschel, Parks Operation Manager
Colette Berna, Parks Preservation & Development Manager

- I. Meeting Called to Order** at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Burnette.
- II. Approval of the May 27th, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Burnette/Weigel (M/S/U).**
- III. Approval of Agenda. Weigel/Burnette (M/S/U).**
- IV. Public Comment:**

Resident Kenny Vilarvong, president of the local bike polo club, is searching for an approved place to play. The group has about 30 members, with 10 who regularly attend. Since starting last year, they have been kicked out of most parking lots and now play at the OC overflow parking lot. It’s fun to watch, and they meet on Thursdays at the Farmer’s Market at 5 pm, then bike to the OC parking lot at 6 pm. The surface should be flat and paved; concrete is more durable than asphalt. Access to a public restroom would be ideal.

Resident Pat Kerber has lived next to Forest Ridge Park for the past year and a half, and several issues need attention; the park has become a dumping ground, mostly at night. There is also a lot of drug activity, and he collects trash, beer cans, and drug paraphernalia each time he walks the trails. Something must be done to prevent people from accessing the park after hours. The best solution is to install a gate to close the park at night. Additionally, cigarette butt containers are recommended, along with more “No Camping” signs at strategic points, and large holly trees need removal.

V. Staff Reports & Updates:

- 1. **Highlights & Hurdle Video - Tim Barker** shared a video showing “Highlights & Hurdles” from last month.
- 2. **Haddon Park Renovation – Staff** shared updates on Haddon Park. The playground safety surfacing has been installed, and the park opened on June 19th. Staff continue to work with PSE to finish the drop-down service. Shade trees have been delivered and will be planted next week, and an interpretive sign showcasing the site's history has been ordered. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for July.
- 3. **Kitsap Lake Park Renovation – Staff** shared an update on the progress of Kitsap Lake Park, which is now open for boating and fishing. The Parks crew will soon install new signage and site furniture. The lawn areas still require irrigation, and the playground selection will take place later this year. The playground will be funded by a \$321,000 Department of Commerce grant that has been approved, and we expect to receive it this summer.

4. **Ivy Green Cemetery Fencing Replacement Project** – **Brian Hauschel** shared that the fencing along 15th Street is being installed, and so far, half to two-thirds of the posts are up, which should be finished soon.

VI. New Business:

1. **PROS Plan Inventory Review - Streetscapes Video/Special Facilities Inventory** – **Tim Barker** shared the Streetscapes video from last month, along with the edits to the Inventory pages for the remaining Special Use Facilities (Ivy Green Cemetery, Gold Mountain Golf Course, and Jarstad Park), for Commissioners to review and comment.
2. **PROS Plan Survey Results** – **Director Barker** summarized survey results showing 97% of residents believe parks and recreation are vital to Bremerton's quality of life. The top improvements residents want include enhanced safety, cleaner facilities, more programs and events, better trails and pathways, and reductions in homelessness.
3. **PROS Plan Goals & Objectives Review** – **Director Barker** led a review of the 2020 data as well as staff recommended updates to the Goals and Objectives for the 2026 plan. Staff do not recommend adding any new goals but made recommendations to amend some of the objectives and add bullets to what was approved in 2020.

VII. Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner McDonald booked a cruise and won't be available to attend the next meeting.

Commissioner Waterman's friends from across the country visited, checking out Evergreen Rotary Park, pocket parks in Manette, and NAD Marine. They were thoroughly impressed by the facilities for a city the size of Bremerton.

Commissioner Dawson was impressed by the staff's continued hard work and was excited about Tim's new tenure. **Commissioner Weigel** agreed.

Commissioner Burnette had training at the Conference Center and spent time outside and was impressed by the maintenance staff's protocol (PPE and signage) to inform the public they were working safely.

IX. Adjournment: Chair Burnette adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



NAD Restoration Project Update — July 2025

Dear Members of the Bremerton City Parks Commission,

Thank you for your continued support of the NAD Restoration Project. Since we last met in January, we've made tremendous progress toward our shared goal of restoring NAD Park's disc golf course into a safe, sustainable, and community-driven asset. What began as a vision is steadily transforming the landscape—thanks to the ongoing collaboration between the City of Bremerton, local volunteers, and regional partners.

We're proud to share the progress made since our April update, including ecological improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and expanded partnerships. Here's a summary of recent accomplishments and upcoming plans:

Progress Since April 2025

- **Three Spring Work Parties (March, April, May)**
Held three successful work parties focused on invasive brush removal, safety improvements, and mulching.
- **Restored and Improved Priority Fairways**
Cleared overgrown vegetation, improved tee and trail safety, and spread mulch on holes 1, 2, 4, and 18—additional fairways are currently in progress.
- **Tee Pad Restoration for Erosion Control**
Rebuilt three tee pads using gravel and retaining blocks to improve drainage and reduce erosion around high-traffic zones.
- **Native Planting on Hole 2**
Planted over 100 native and pollinator-supporting species—including red osier dogwood, ninebark, pea rose, and crabapple—to stabilize soil and support biodiversity.
- **Fundraising Tournament Success**
Hosted the **Trash Panda Challenge** in April 2025, raising \$1,000 to support ongoing

restoration. An additional \$4,000 was gifted by a community supporter to further our efforts.

- **Expanded Regional Partnerships**

Continued collaboration with Bremerton Parks, West Sound Disc Golf Association, and Kitsap Disc Golfers, and formed a new partnership with the **Washington Youth Challenge Academy (WYCA)**.

Upcoming Work with Washington Youth Challenge Academy

We're excited to deepen our partnership with the WYCA, which has scheduled **three full-day work parties** for **August 23rd, 29th, and 30th**. Each day will include **50 cadets**, providing approximately **350 hours of labor per event**—an incredible resource that will allow us to maintain mulch coverage across all fairways **twice annually**, easing the load on community volunteers and protecting soil health long-term.

To support this effort:

- We are coordinating with the **Illahee Forest Preserve Board** (an experienced WYCA partner) to secure up to **30 wheelbarrows**.
- Funds raised and donated will be used to fill equipment gaps and ensure the cadets remain engaged, productive, and safe.

Thank you again for your trust and support in helping bring this restoration project to life. The momentum we've built together is a testament to what's possible when a city and its community work hand in hand. I look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday, July 22nd**, and to sharing more about the exciting progress still ahead for NAD Park.

Kris Pendleton
Project Lead
NAD Restoration Project

Lulu D. Haddon Park

1525 N Lafayette Ave, Bremerton, WA 98312

Join Mayor Wheeler as we cut the big ribbon and celebrate the grand reopening of Lulu D. Haddon Park! After the ceremony, stick around for fun games and activities with our awesome "Fun at the Playgrounds" staff!

PARK

GRAND OPENING

Friday July 25, 2025 @ 1PM



Brought to you by the City of Bremerton Parks & Recreation Department
Questions? Call 360-473-5305 or visit
bremertonwa.gov/parks

City of Bremerton

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan



Adopted by February 19, 2026



Mission Statement

Bremerton Parks and Recreation is committed to enriching the lives of Bremerton citizens by providing an array of parks, open spaces, trails, recreation and enrichment opportunities that are responsive to citizen needs and build community through celebration and inclusion.

Acknowledgements

Bremerton City Council

Eric Younger, Council President, District 7
Jane Rebelowski, Council Vice-President, District 4
Jennifer Chamberlin, District 1 • Denise Frey, District 2
Jeff Coughlin, District 3 • Michael Goodnow, District 5
Anna Mockler, District 6

City of Bremerton

Greg Wheeler, Mayor

Bremerton Parks & Recreation Commission

Benjamin Burnette • Gregory Dawson
Jim McDonald • Ken Riley
Amy Waterman • Katherine Weigel

Prepared by:



Tim Barker, Director of Parks and Recreation
Colette Berna, Parks Pres. & Dev. Manager
Brian Hauschel, Parks Operation Manager
Juan Carlos Serrato, Park Service Specialist Lead

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INTRODUCTION

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Bremerton is located on the beautiful Kitsap Peninsula, with 22 miles of saltwater shoreline and sterling views of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges. The city's 23 square miles contain rolling hills sloping down to the shores of Puget Sound. While the city has fairly dense residential development, there is a remarkable amount of greenery, highlighted by the city's 178 acres of forested parkland and the 8,400-acre watershed property.



The Bremerton Parks & Recreation Department manages a total of 40 park and non-park (e.g., plazas, greenways, special use facilities) sites totaling 324 acres. Within this system there are 28 parks totaling 292 acres. In the last 10 years the city has significantly renovated eight of its parks, and each of these facilities has experienced a renaissance of usage.

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is to identify service needs within Bremerton's park and recreation system and to establish policies to meet those needs. This plan replaces the 2020 Plan, adopted by the City Council on February 19, 2020.

This document provides a road map to develop a quality system of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities that is community-driven and balanced. The plan was submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), to maintain Bremerton's eligibility for federal and state grants that will help realize these opportunities.

The PROS Plan is organized as follows:

Chapter 1 – Introduction: Identifies purpose, community context, community outreach, and key findings

Chapter 2 – Inventory: Defines park and recreation categories and provides inventory with site-specific needs and recommendations

Chapter 3 – Goals & Objectives: Defines goals, objectives, and recommendations derived from analysis and community feedback

Chapter 4 – Needs Analysis: Defines level of service standard and analyzes parks and recreation facility needs

Chapter 5 – Action Plan: Prioritizes park facility upgrades and identifies various methods for funding

Chapter 6 – Appendices: Supplemental information



Economics and Demographics

Centrally located and well-connected to the region and to downtown Seattle by two ferries (60- and 28-minute), Bremerton is the largest city on the Kitsap Peninsula and has a well-established urban character and distinctive neighborhoods. The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) has provided Bremerton's primary economic base for over a century. Along with the many benefits of PSNS comes the tax exemption on the Federal holdings that affect the city's ability to pay for public services including parks, recreation, and open space. Diversification of the industrial base is key to the city's success going forward. The growth of the Puget Sound Industrial Center and potential annexation of unincorporated areas with a comparatively higher property and sales tax base will also contribute to allowing Bremerton's park system to attain its future vision.

Bremerton's most pronounced growth period took place during World War II, when the PSNS workforce reached 30,000 people. The city's population attained an all-time high of 72,500 but dropped sharply to less than 28,500 by 1950, leaving a legacy of underutilized, quickly-built housing. In recent years these older, small units, originally designed as temporary shipyard and naval housing, started to give way to master-planned residential development, such as the East Park

and Bay Vista projects.

The construction of the submarine base at Bangor in the 1980s helped spur an exodus of commercial and retail business from downtown Bremerton north to the Silverdale area. The city has been working to re-establish its downtown retail core and has made significant progress since the year 2000, with an influx of restaurants, apartment and condominium developments, and hotels and tourism-related facilities. Plans for additional apartment and condominium developments will continue to increase the downtown population, helping support new retail business.

The addition of the 28-minute fast ferry in 2017 also made Bremerton more attractive to homebuyers that work in Seattle, contributing to a 19% increase in median home listing prices (according to Zillow) from \$260 thousand in June 2017 to \$310 thousand in July 2019. This increase has impacted housing costs for Bremerton citizens who now spend a greater percentage of their income to continue to afford to buy or rent housing as prices climb.

Population and Employment

Since 1970, Bremerton's population has remained relatively stable, despite significant regional growth in Kitsap County, which experienced a 60% increase between 1980 and 2000. Bremerton's population grew from 37,259 in 2000 to 37,729 in 2010, and rose to 43,505 by the 2020 Census. As of 2023, the estimated population is approximately 44,531. According to the city's 2024 Comprehensive Plan, Bremerton is projected to reach 64,000 residents by 2044 (an increase of around 46%) with more than half of this growth anticipated in the city's urban centers, including the downtown core. Employment is also expected to increase significantly, with 18,782 new jobs projected, largely due to continued expansion within the Puget Sound Industrial Center.

Age Groups

According to the latest U.S. Census and 2019–2023 American Community Survey estimates, Bremerton continues to have a younger population compared to the rest of Kitsap County. The city's median age is 33.0, while Kitsap County's is significantly higher at 39.1. The largest age group in Bremerton is 20–24-year-olds, making up 11.9% of the population, followed closely by 25–29-year-olds at 11.5% and 30–34-year-olds at 10.0%.

In contrast, Kitsap County has a greater proportion of older adults, particularly those aged 35–64, who account for over 40% of the county's population.

Household Size

According to the 2019–2023 American Community Survey, Bremerton has approximately 17,784 households, with an average household size of 2.26 persons. This remains lower than both the Kitsap County average of 2.44 and the Washington State Office of Financial Management's planning assumption of 2.5 persons per household. Residential areas in Bremerton occupy slightly less land than the national average, resulting in higher residential density despite the smaller average household size.

Median Income and Poverty Level

According to the 2019–2023 American Community Survey, Bremerton's median household income is \$64,049, which remains significantly lower than that of Kitsap County (\$91,144) and Washington State overall (\$89,674). The city's poverty rate is 13.9%, higher than the state average of 9.8% and the national average of 12.6%. These figures

highlight the continued need for robust public recreation services, particularly in communities like Bremerton where lower household incomes may limit access to private recreation opportunities.

Ethnic Diversity

Bremerton is home to a more diverse population than regional and statewide averages. According to the 2020 census, approximately 33% of Bremerton's population identifies as non-white, an increase from 26% in 2010 and reflecting continued demographic diversification. This is higher than the proportions in Kitsap County (25%) and Washington State overall (32%). The city's diversity includes significant African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Latino communities, with individuals of two or more races making up an increasing share of residents. Additionally, about 14% of Bremerton residents speak a language other than English at home, indicating growing linguistic and cultural diversity across the community.



"We have an aging population that needs accommodations such as level surfaces and an updated Senior Center. We also have lots of temporary resident families with the Navy who need free or inexpensive opportunities to be involved in their community. And we have people who would like to see property values increase by being located near a well-maintained greenspace or park. It's a lot to accommodate and maintain, but it is a foundation of every desirable community and should be a priority for our City too."

— Park Survey Comment, 2013

Chapter 1: Community Involvement

Persons with Disabilities

According to the 2020 Census and recent American Community Survey estimates, approximately 15.5% of Bremerton's population (about 6,600 individuals) live with a disability that affects daily life activities—higher than the state (13.0%) and national (13.4%) averages. Among residents aged 65 and older, the percentage increases significantly, with nearly 43% experiencing one or more disabilities, underscoring the growing needs of an aging population.

As of 2018, the Bremerton School District and local nonprofit Holly Ridge Center served more than 1,700 children and youth (ages 1–21) with special needs. This figure remains notable in part because Bremerton is one of five designated Exceptional Family Member (EFM) Program communities. This Navy initiative ensures that military families with children requiring specialized medical or educational services are stationed in areas—like Bremerton—where such resources are accessible. These factors highlight the ongoing need to expand and adapt inclusive recreational opportunities that serve residents with disabilities across all age groups.

Community Involvement

A variety of outreach methods were used for updating this PROS Plan. To kick off the update a community survey was developed to gain public input that would help guide ongoing and future decisions regarding the management, maintenance, improvements, and future investments in Bremerton parks, open space, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and events. The survey was advertised multiple times over a 3-month period through the city's website, email "blasts" to the city's local government interest list, Facebook posts to 4.6K followers, and laminated flyers placed in parks at kiosks and strategic locations along popular walking paths. The 900 responses represent a high level of engagement. Answers to 33 multiple-choice questions were supplemented by 662 written comments. A typical survey respondent spent 11–12 minutes on the survey, with a grand total of about 172 hours of community effort.

Open public meetings hosted by the Bremerton Parks & Recreation Commission represent the backbone of the PROS Plan public outreach process. A public meeting was held each month to review and comment on newly drafted chapters of the PROS Plan, and commissioners' comments were incorporated as each chapter was drafted. Members of the public were invited to attend the Commissioners' meetings to be involved in the PROS Plan development.



TO BE UPDATED: In September 2025, a complete PROS Plan draft was posted on the city's web page, with hard copies available at the Sheridan Park Community Center. The availability of the draft PROS Plan was advertised using the same methods described for the survey. During a four week comment period, citizens were invited to comment on the draft PROS Plan by filling out a comment form online, sending an email, or by voicing their opinion at an October 28th public meeting hosted by the Parks and Recreation Commission. A second draft incorporating salient review comments will be released and made available for public comment prior to endorsement by the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council adoption process.

The SEPA environmental review process will also allow the public and relevant local and state agencies time to review and comment on the draft plan. Additionally, public testimony

will be taken prior to adoption by the Bremerton City Council.



"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

*— Jane Jacobs,
The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

The next 10 pages illustrate key findings of the survey which was conducted from the middle of February to the middle of April 2025 and received 900 responses. The entire survey results are included in Appendix C.

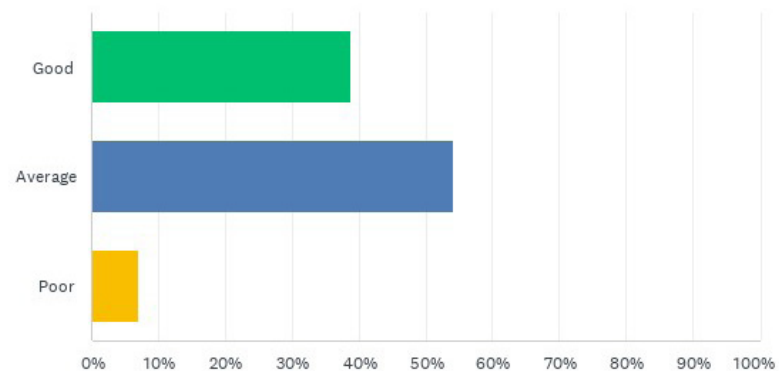


Chapter 1: Community Involvement

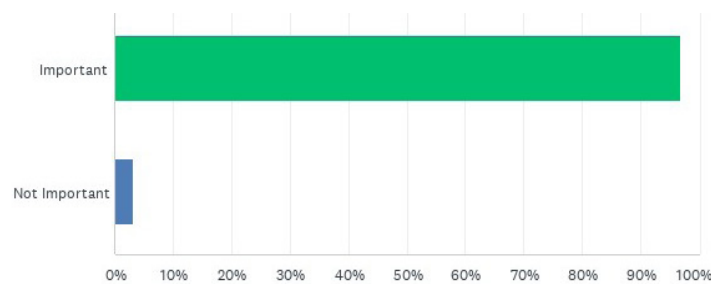
Key Findings: Importance of Parks to Quality of Life & Main Reasons for Visting Parks

Most respondents rated the overall quality of life in Bremerton as good or average. Nearly all respondents consider Bremerton's Parks and Recreation system important to their quality of life. Residents visit Bremerton parks and recreation facilities primarily for outdoor enjoyment, exercise, and social activities.

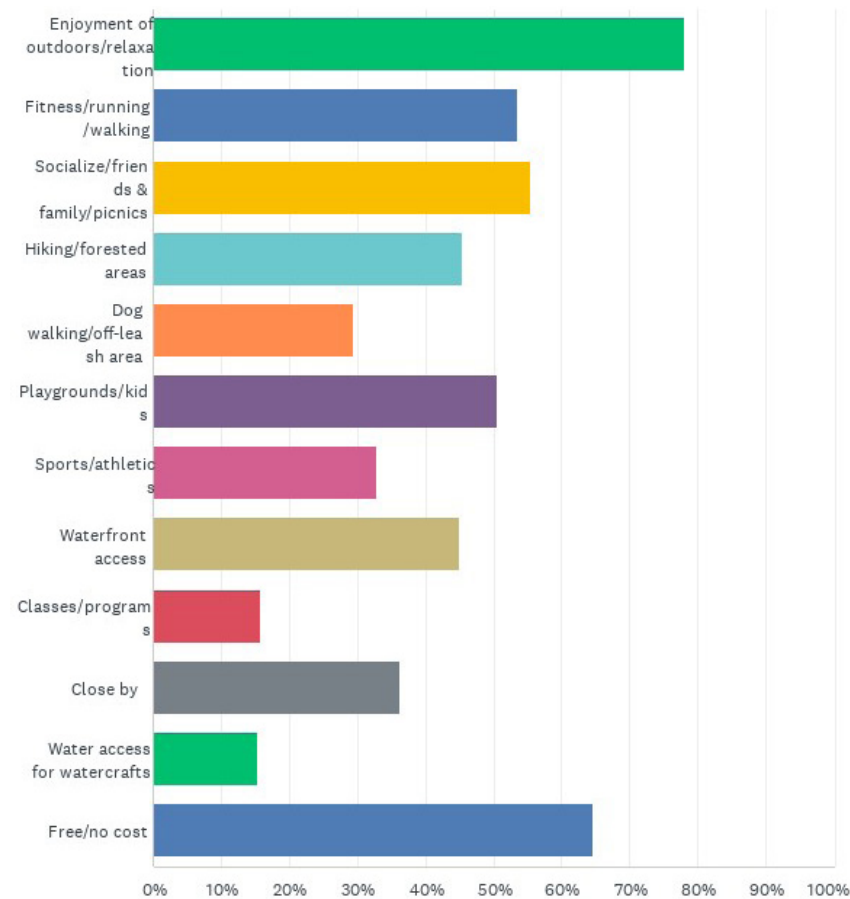
Q1 How would you rate the overall quality of life in Bremerton?



Q2 How important do you think Bremeton's Parks and Recreation system is to life in Bremerton?



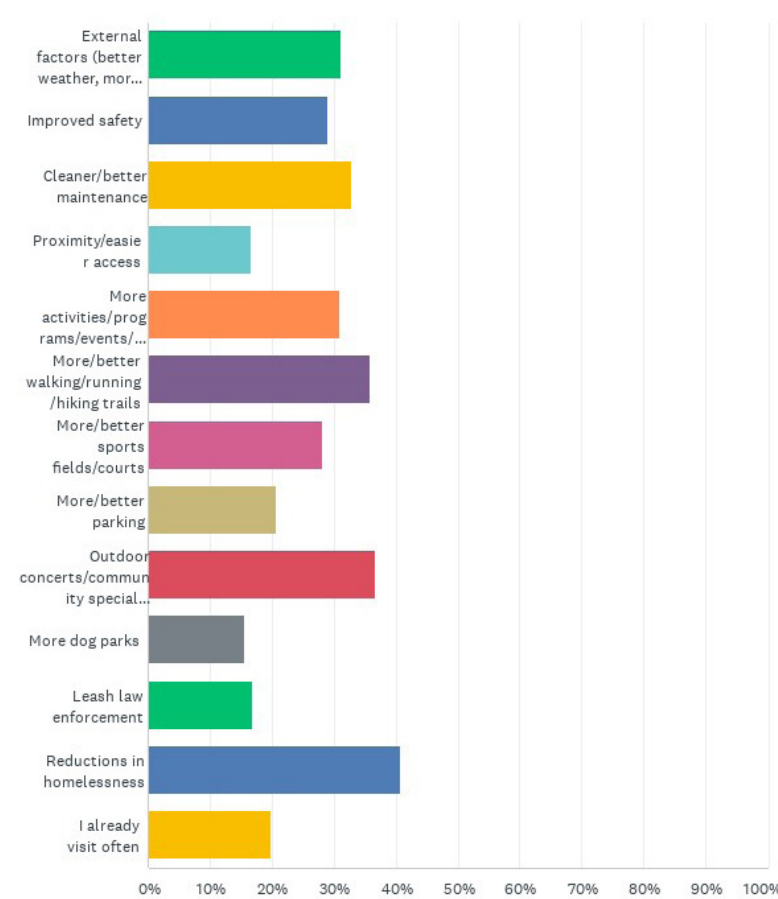
Q3 What are the main reasons you or your family visit Bremerton Parks and Recreation facilities? (Select all that apply)



Suggestions to Increase Visitation

Respondents said improved safety, cleanliness, and more events would encourage more frequent park use.

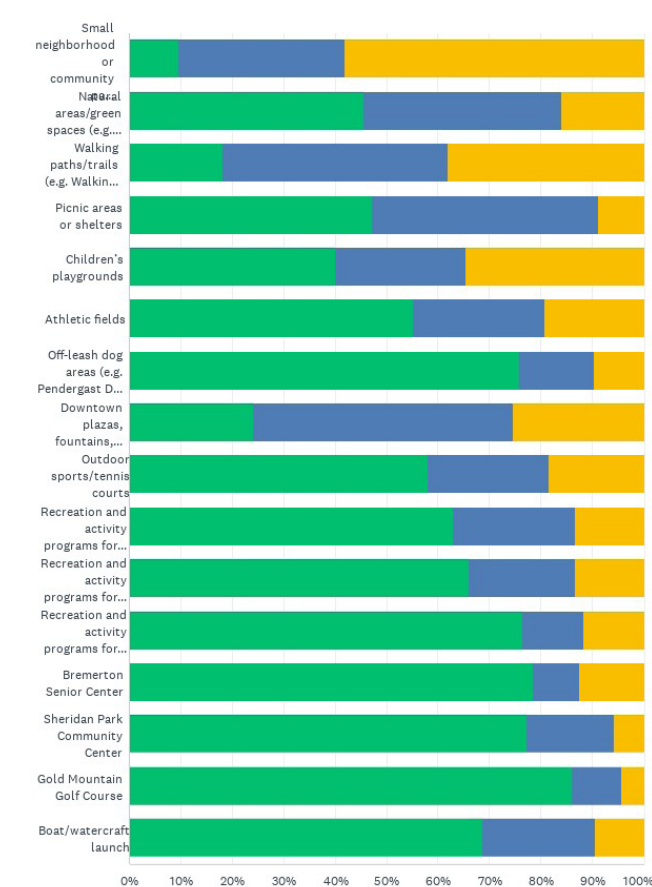
Q4 What, if anything, would make you visit more often? (Select all that apply)



Most Frequently Visited Facilities

Small neighborhood parks, green spaces, and trails are the most frequently visited facilities.

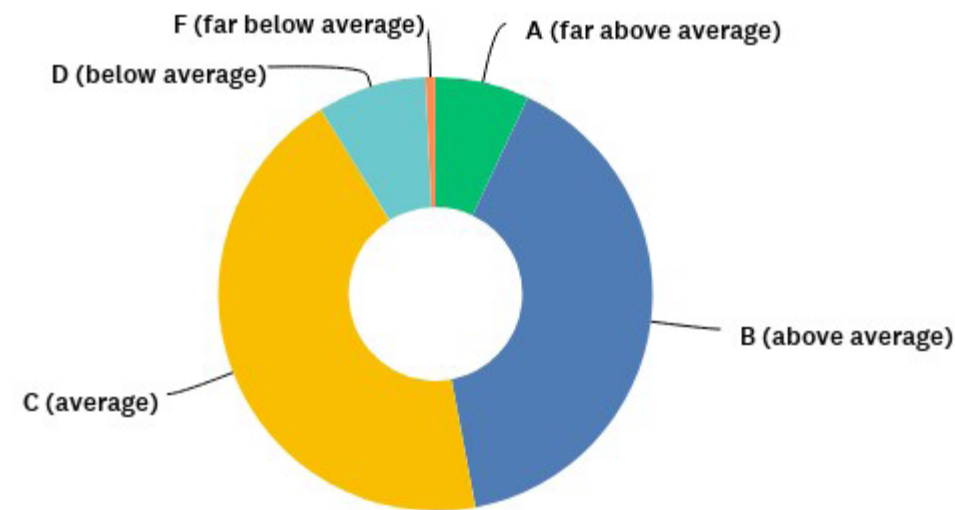
Q5 For each of the following types of parks and recreation facilities, please indicate how often you or your family visit that type of park or facility.



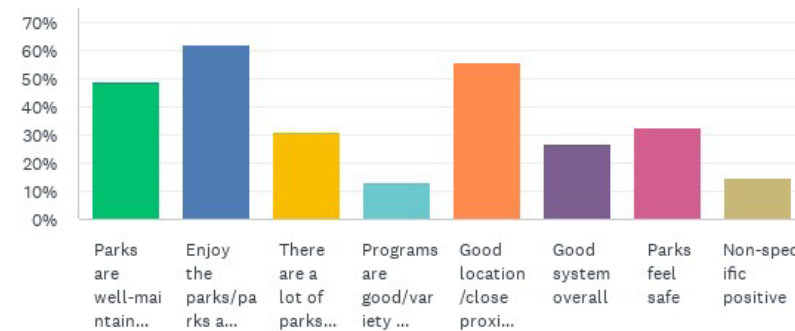
Grade and Reasons for Grade of Bremerton Parks & Recreation System Overall

Most respondents gave Bremerton's park system a grade of B or C. Positive ratings were driven by cleanliness, accessibility, and the number and quality of parks. Negative ratings were influenced by bathroom conditions, safety, encampments, and maintenance concerns.

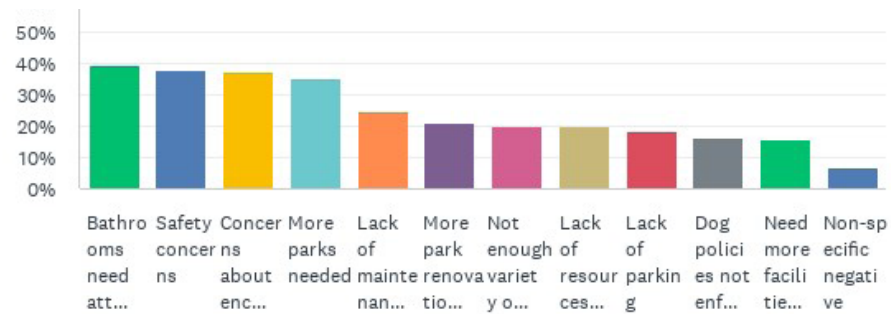
Q6 How would you grade the Bremerton Parks and Recreation system overall?



Q7 What are the positive reasons for the grade you gave for Bremerton's Parks and Recreation system overall? (Select all that apply)



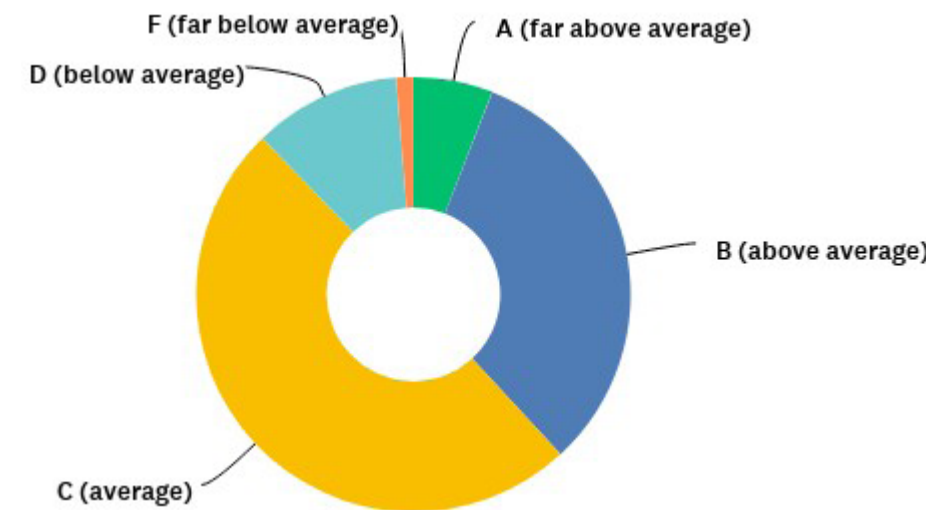
Q8 What are the negative reasons for the grade you gave for Bremerton's Parks and Recreation system overall? (Select all that apply)



Grade and Reasons for Grade of Safety

Most respondents rated park safety as average or above average. Those who felt safe cited clean parks and good visibility as reasons. Safety concerns were linked to illegal activities, cleanliness issues, and encampments. Restrooms, trails, and parking lots were most commonly identified as areas with safety concerns.

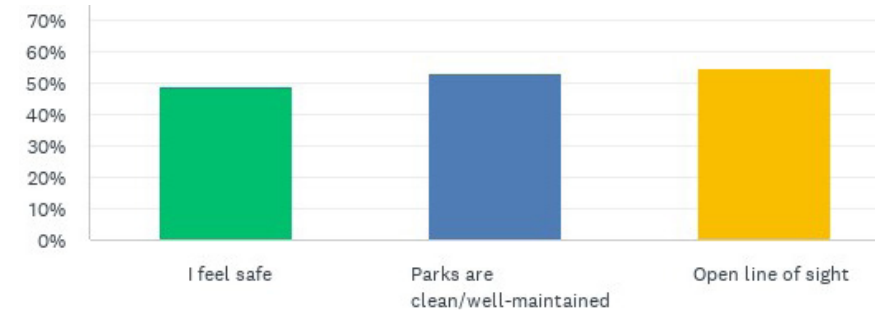
Q9 How would you grade the safety of Bremerton Parks and Recreation facilities?



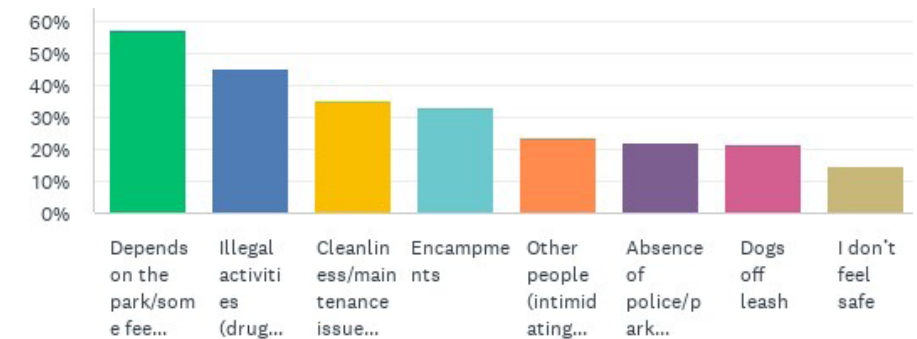
Q12 What are specific places where you think safety is an issue? (multi-response)



Q10 What are the positive reasons for the grade you gave for the safety of Bremerton Parks and Recreation facilities? (Select all that apply)



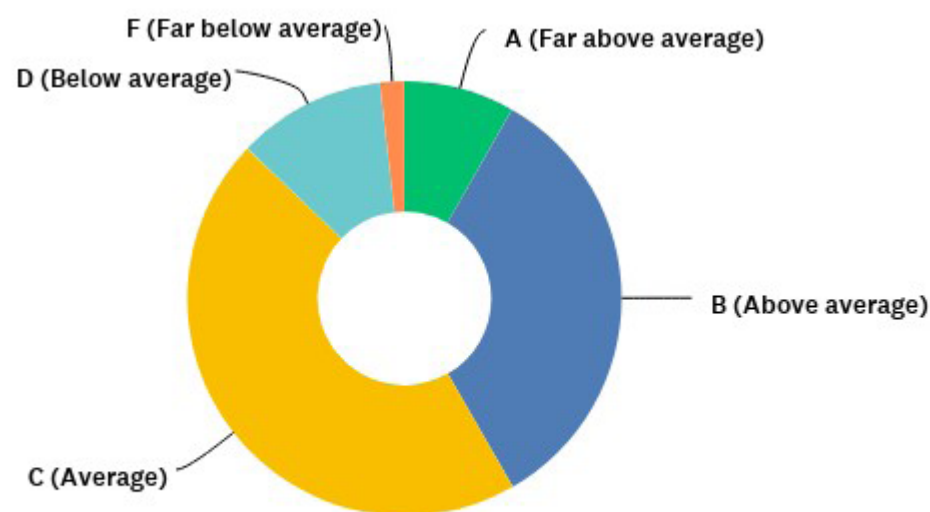
Q11 What are the negative reasons for the grade you gave for the safety of Bremerton Parks and Recreation facilities? (Select all that apply)



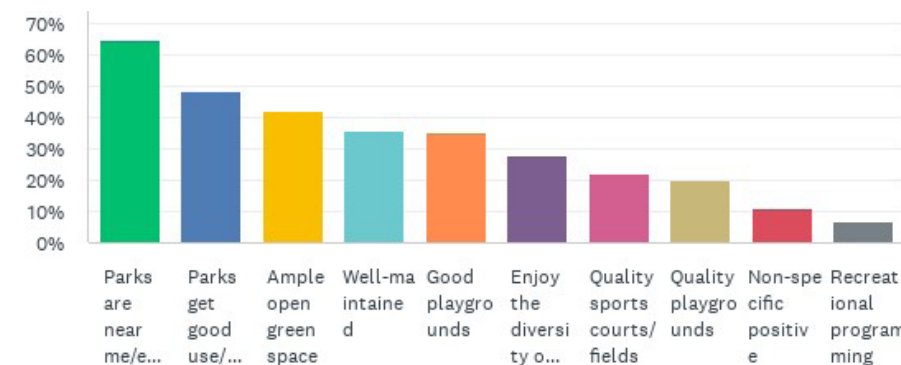
Grade and Reasons for Grade of Meeting Neighborhood Needs

Most respondents said parks meet their neighborhood needs at an average or above-average level. Location, popularity, green space, and playground quality were top reasons for satisfaction. Dissatisfaction came from a need for more parks, safety issues, and cleanliness problems.

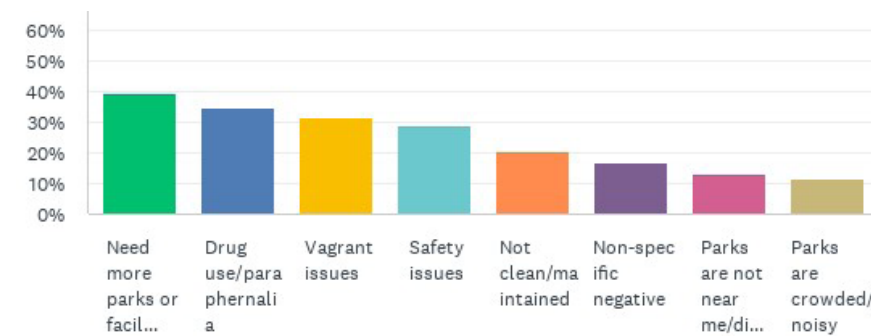
Q13 How well do local Bremerton Parks and Recreation facilities meet the needs of your neighborhood?



Q14 What are the positive reasons for the grade you gave for meeting the needs of your neighborhood? (Select all that apply)



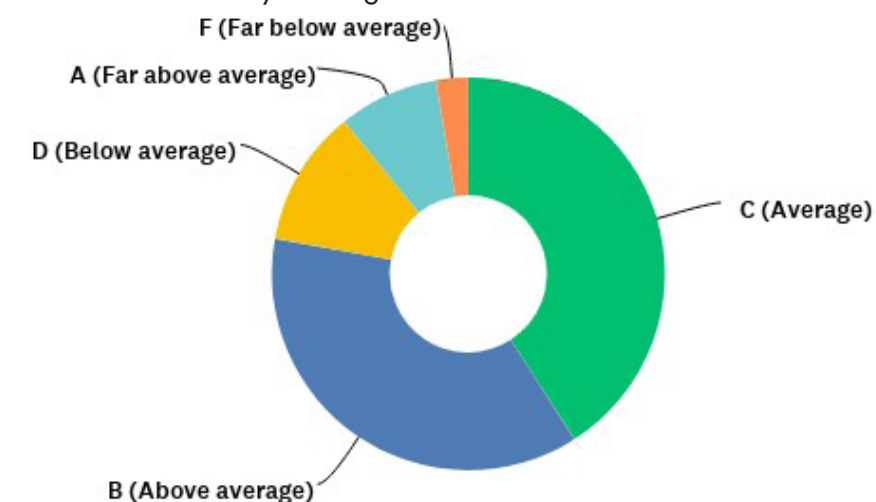
Q15 What are the negative reasons for the grade you gave for Bremerton's Parks and Recreation system overall? (Select all that apply)



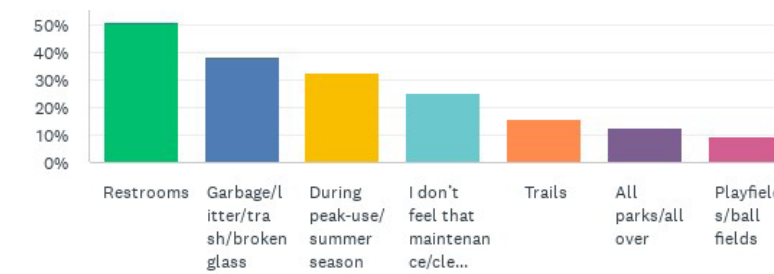
Grade and Reasons for Grade of Maintenance and Cleanliness

Maintenance and cleanliness were rated average or above by most participants. Positive maintenance ratings were based on trash collection, upkeep, and clean facilities. Negative maintenance ratings were due to restroom issues, drug use, and dog waste. Restrooms, litter, and peak-season conditions were cited as top cleanliness concerns.

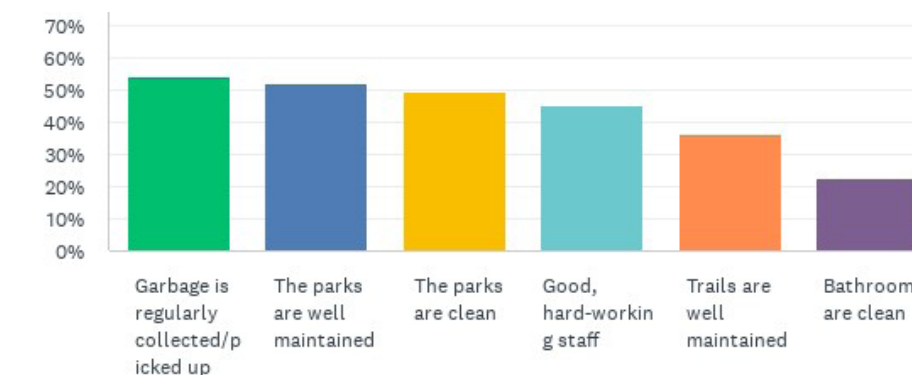
Q16 How well do local Bremerton Parks and Recreation facilities meet the needs of your neighborhood?



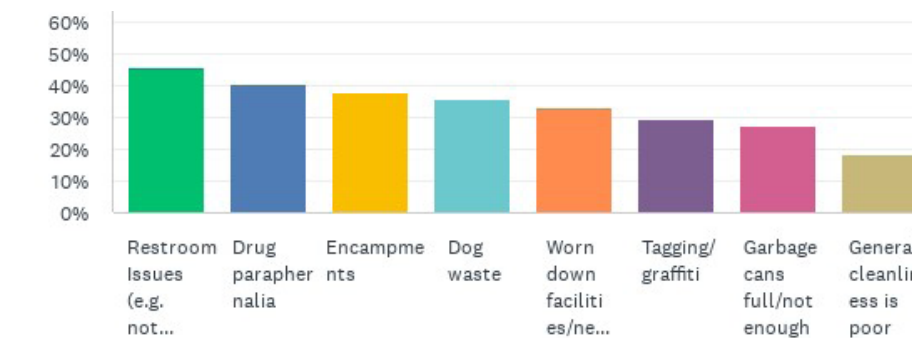
Q19 Where are some places/instances where you think maintenance and cleanliness is an issue? (Select all that apply)



Q17 What are the positive reasons for the grade you gave for meeting the needs of your neighborhood? (Select all that apply)



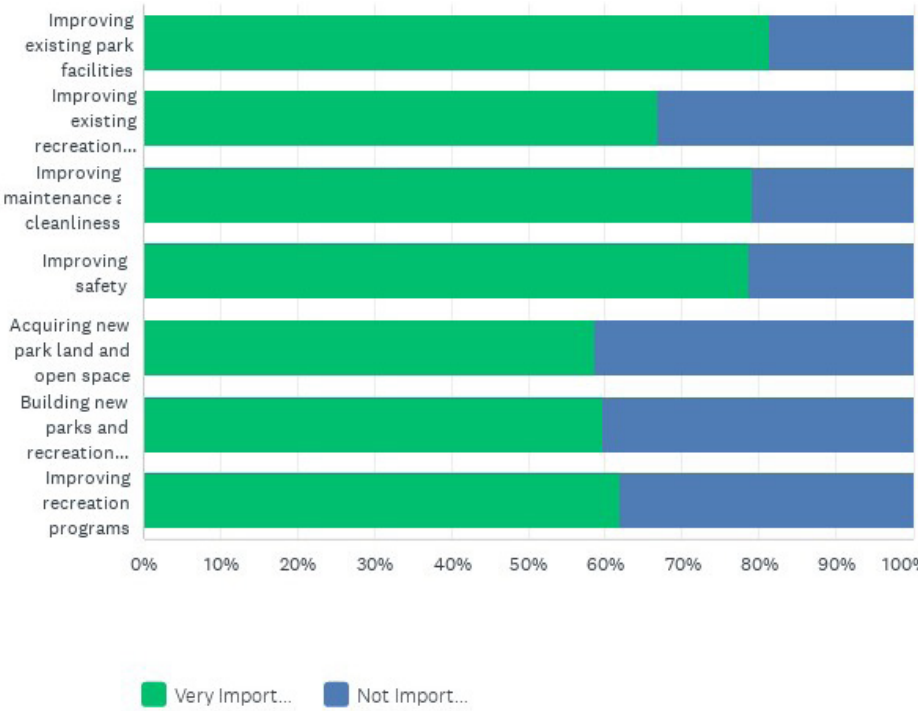
Q18 What are the negative reasons for the grade you gave for Bremerton's Parks and Recreation system overall? (Select all that apply)



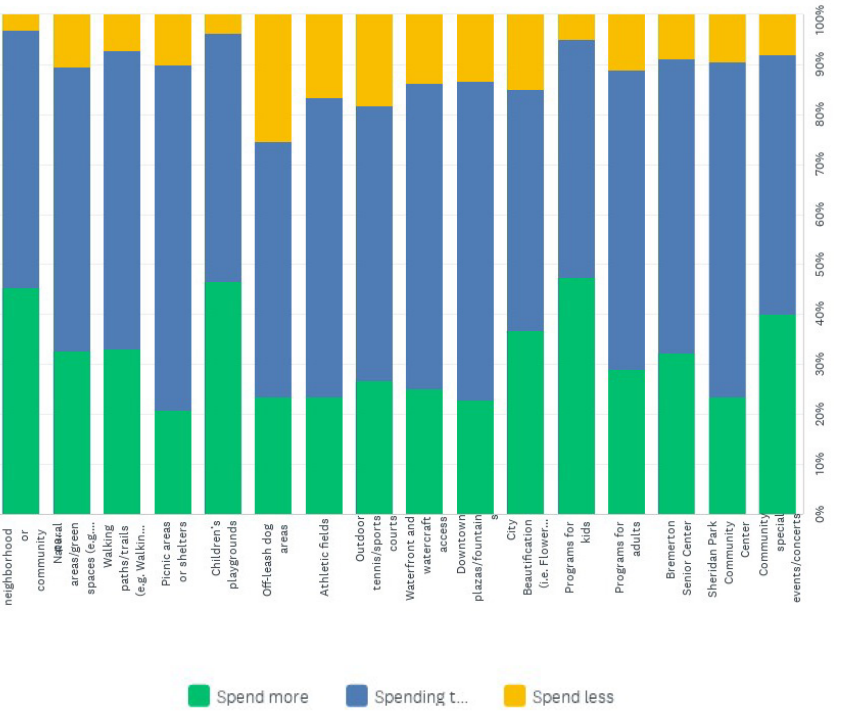
General Funding Priorities

The highest priorities for funding were improving existing parks, maintenance, and safety. Respondents generally supported spending more on trails, community parks, and recreation programs.

Q20 Bremerton Parks and Recreation must prioritize limited funding to address system needs over the next 6 to 10 years. For each of the following, please indicate whether you feel it is important to fund that project or issue.



Q21 For each of the following types of parks and recreation facilities/programs, please indicate whether you think Bremerton Parks and Recreation should spend more, spend less, or is spending



Desire for More Park and Recreational Facilities & Recreational Program Participation

There was interest in more trails, natural areas, splash pads, and dog parks. Many respondents either don't know about programs or participate in indoor play, senior, or art programs. There is strong interest in exercise, art, aquatic activities, and adult recreational sports. Most people get parks information from visiting in person, the activity guide, or word of mouth.

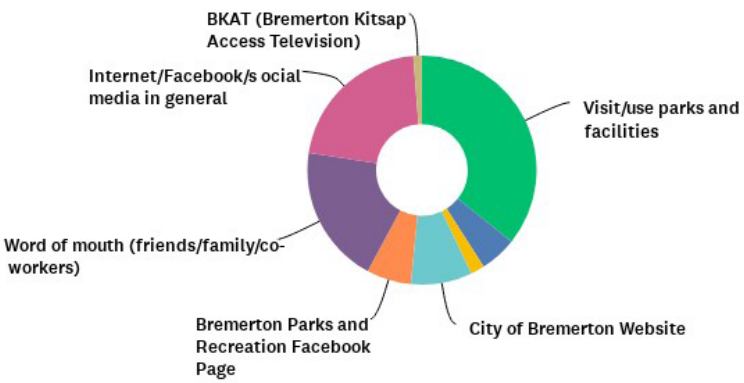
Q22 Is there any type of park or recreational facility you would like to see more of in Bremerton? (Select all that apply)



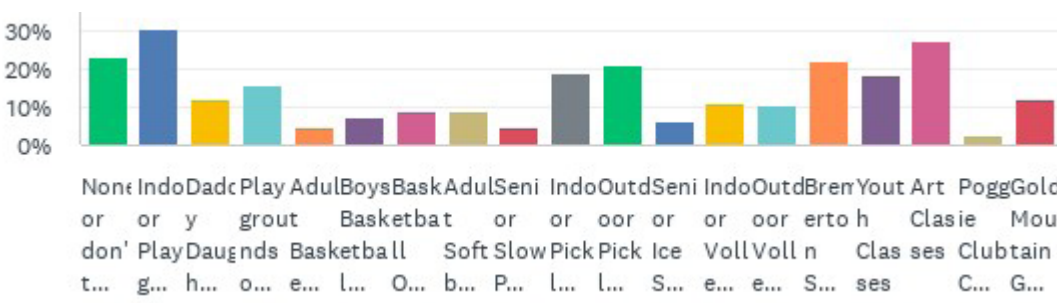
Q24 If offered, which of these recreational programs would you or your family be interested in participating in? (Select all that apply)



Q25 What is your primary source of information about Bremerton Parks and Recreation programs, activities and facilities?



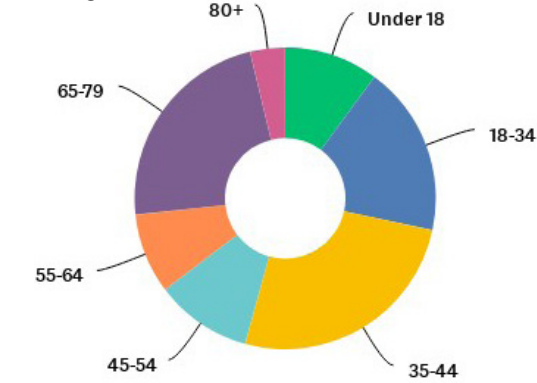
Q23 Do you participate in (or are interested in participating in) the following Parks and Recreation programs? (Select all that apply)



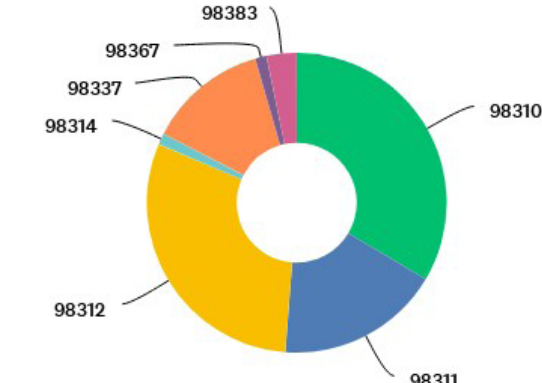
Demographics of Survey Respondents

The most common age group represented was 35–44 years. Most respondents were from ZIP codes 98310, 98311, and 98312. A majority of respondents own their homes in Bremerton. Most residents have lived in Bremerton for more than 10 years. About half of households surveyed had children under 18. Slightly more than half of respondents reported having dogs in their households. Most households reported annual incomes over \$75,000. Respondents expressed the most interest in receiving updates on programs, events, and planning. Over 300 respondents provided their email for future communications.

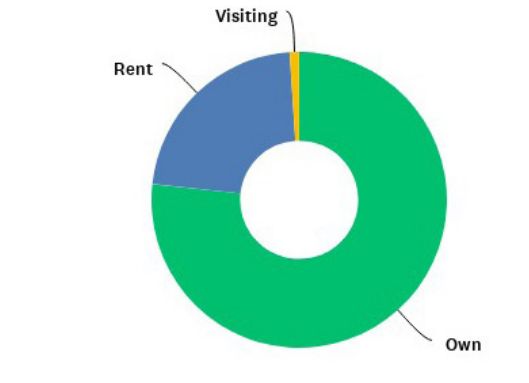
Q27 Age?



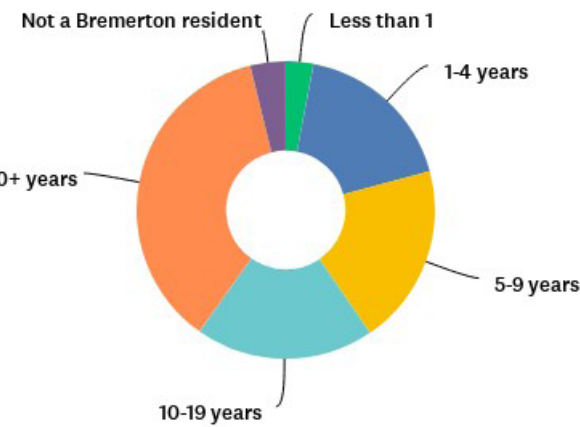
Q28 Zip code?



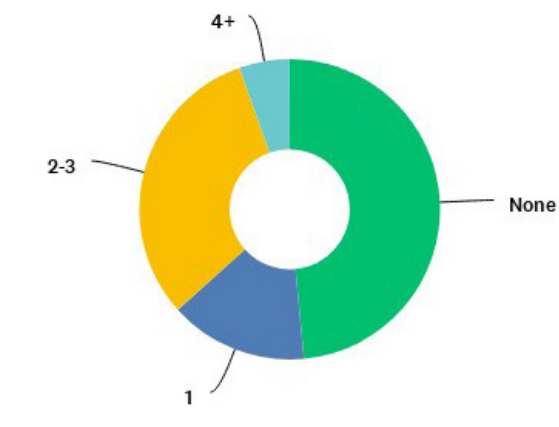
Q29 Residence?



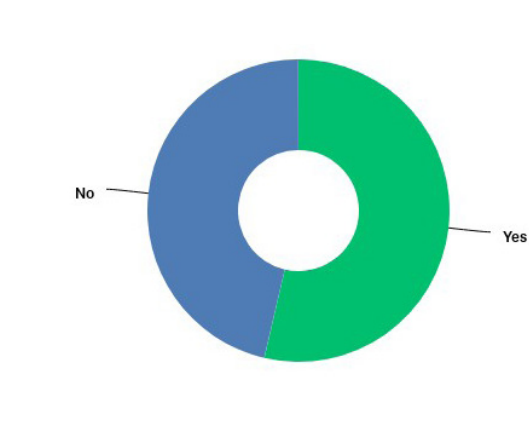
Q30 Years lived in Bremerton?



Q31 Children under 18?



Q32 Dog?



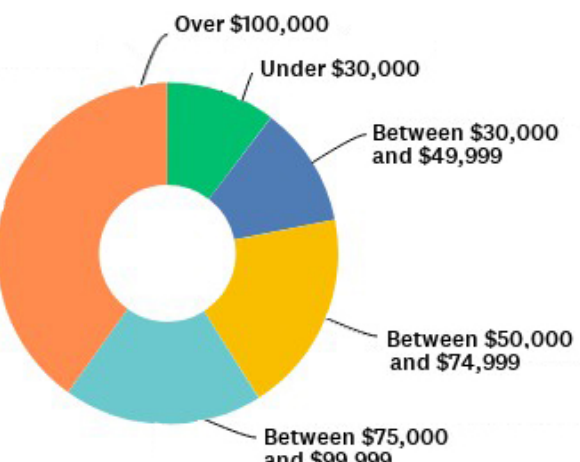
Themes from Individual Comments

Q26 What more can you tell us that will help us create a Parks & Recreation system that best satisfies the needs of our population?

Most Frequently Mentioned Themes

Rank	Theme	Approx. Mentions	Summary of Key Comments
1	Roller Skating Facilities	35+	Requests for indoor/outdoor rink, flat lighted skating space; highly requested since rink closure in 2017.
2	Pickleball Courts	30+	High demand for more indoor/outdoor, covered, regulation-quality courts and youth programs.
3	Park Safety & Cleanliness	25+	Concerns around encampments, drug activity, litter, dogs, lighting, and bathroom safety.
4	Inclusive Design & Accessibility	20+	Requests for beyond-accessible play areas, autism-friendly spaces, inclusive surfaces/swings.
5	Trails & Bike Connectivity	20+	Desire for safe biking routes, trail connections between parks, and pump tracks.
6	Dog Parks	10–12	Calls for more off-leash dog areas, especially in East Bremerton; better upkeep.
7	Playground Upgrades	10–12	Upgrade old equipment, add splash pads, more fenced areas, and nature play features.
8	Senior Center Improvements	10–12	Requests for HVAC upgrades, expanded hours, and improved programs for seniors.
9	Community Events & Programs	10–11	Interest in concerts, farmers markets, fitness, and other community-building events.
10	Improved Communication	8–10	Need for better websites, flyers, calendars, and event visibility.
11	Restroom & Facility Maintenance	8–10	Frequent comments about bathroom conditions, cleanliness, and maintenance.

Q33 Income?



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4

NEEDS ANALYSIS

This section of the PROS Plan analyzes Bremerton's park and recreation facility needs based on existing level of service, comparisons with other cities, citizen comment via requests, surveys and public meetings, and current trends in parks and recreation systems. The recommendations contained in this section will be reflected in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 5) that outlines critical upgrades, improvements, and expansions.

Level of Service

Level of service (LOS) is a term that describes the amount and quality of park and recreation facilities that are needed to serve the community at a desired and measurable standard. Determining LOS is a way to quantify local

needs and desires for parks and recreation facilities while also providing a benchmark for monitoring progress and comparing with other cities. A community can decide to lower, raise, or maintain existing LOS for each type of capital facility.

Formerly, the accepted National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) practice was to adopt a uniform national standard expressed in total parkland acreage per 1,000 of the population. Over the years agencies in urban settings have struggled with this approach, in large part due to the high density of US cities and corresponding amount of acreage needed over time to achieve the recommended standard in areas where cost of land is high. For example, Bremerton's 2007 PROS Plan proposed a development standard of 5.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000

residents. Applying this standard today would equate to a deficit of 112 acres of developed parkland; "developed" meaning parkland that is developed beyond a forested trail. In addition to being unattainable, this approach was lacking in that it did not take into consideration where parkland is needed or why an increase would be good for the community.



Level of Service Standards - Comparable Cities Analysis

With NRPA backing away from the acreage per 1,000 of population standard, the 2020 PROS Plan used a comparable cities analysis (see table below) that generated distance-based standards to define a LOS for community parks and neighborhood parks. While most communities in the Northwest have developed a LOS for these two park categories, it is difficult to compare and generate a standard for regional parks, pocket parks, trails, and open space given the unique resources and needs of different communities. More discussion of these park categories will follow on pages 112-115.

Entity (Year)	Population	Neighborhood Park: Standard Size	Neighborhood Park: Service Area	Community Park: Standard Size	Community Park: Service Area Standard
NRPA* [1995]	N/A	5 - 10 acres	1/4 - 1/2 mile	30 - 50 acres	1/2 - 3 mile radius
Bremerton [2007]	35,810	1.5 - 10 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	1 mile radius
Edmonds [2008]	39,709	Recommended 4 - 7 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	2 - 5 mile radius
Kirkland [2010]	48,767	10 - 20 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	not specified
Lacey [2010]		10 - 20 acres	1/2 mile	20 - 100 acres	2 - 3 mile radius
Longview [2009]		10 - 20 acres	1/4 - 1/2 mile	min. 16 acres; Recommended 25+ acres	1 - 2 mile radius
Richland [2004]		3 - 5 acres	1/2 - 1 mile	20 - 50 acres	1 - 2 mile radius
Shoreline [2011]	53,007	less than 10 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	1.5 mile radius
Bremerton (2014)	39,251	1.5 - 10 acres	1/2 mile	10 - 50 acres	2 - 5 mile radius

*National Parks & Recreation Association - Published in Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines

As seen in the previous table, the 2014 Plan established a service standard of having a community park at least 10 acres in size within 2–5 miles driving distance and a neighborhood park of at least 1.5 acres in size within a half-mile walking distance, which equates to a 10-minute walk. This method involved defining the type of facility (e.g., neighborhood or community park) and developing a geographic radii service area around each type of facility. Analyzing walkable access to parks and open space has gained favor across the country with NRPA's 10-Minute Walk Campaign which will be discussed in more detail on page 106.

In prior plans, service areas were shown by circles of appropriate radius. But this as-the-crow-flies approximation does not reflect the realities of distances experienced while pushing a stroller or driving a car. Direct routes are often truncated by waterways, ravines, steep slopes, high-traffic arterials, and irregular street grids. The service areas shown in the following maps are intended to be more realistic and were constructed by tracing feasible routes out from appropriate areas of each park (e.g., playground for pedestrian routes, parking area for auto routes) using the application Google Earth™. Pedestrian routes could cross arterials only at traffic lights or at marked crossings in low-traffic intersections; informal shortcuts across private or school

properties were not used. To emphasize the true residential service area of each park, the feasible routes end near a residence. This constraint leads to interior gaps caused by commercial zones, schools, undeveloped land, and cemeteries, as well as odd exterior shapes resulting from the irregular street grid.

With regard to service standards of parkland distribution, school grounds in the Bremerton urban area do not play a formal role in its overall park system. While school sites may offer open fields or play equipment, daytime access is restricted by school use and limited for security concerns. Furthermore, after school scheduling places a priority on school-based athletics.

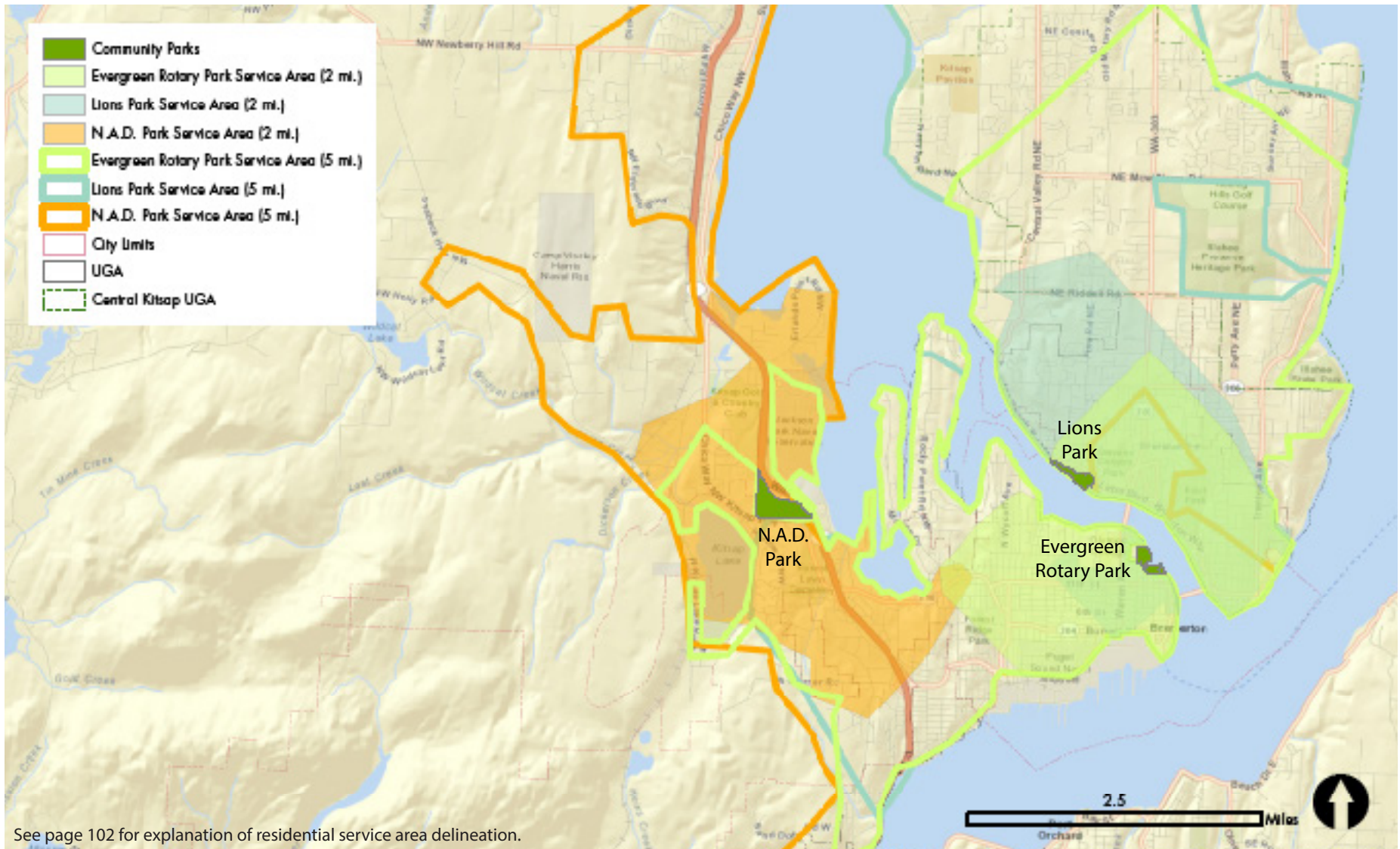
The maps on the following pages illustrate the service areas for community and neighborhood parks.

"Parks are one of the quickest & most effective ways to build a sense of community & improve quality of life."

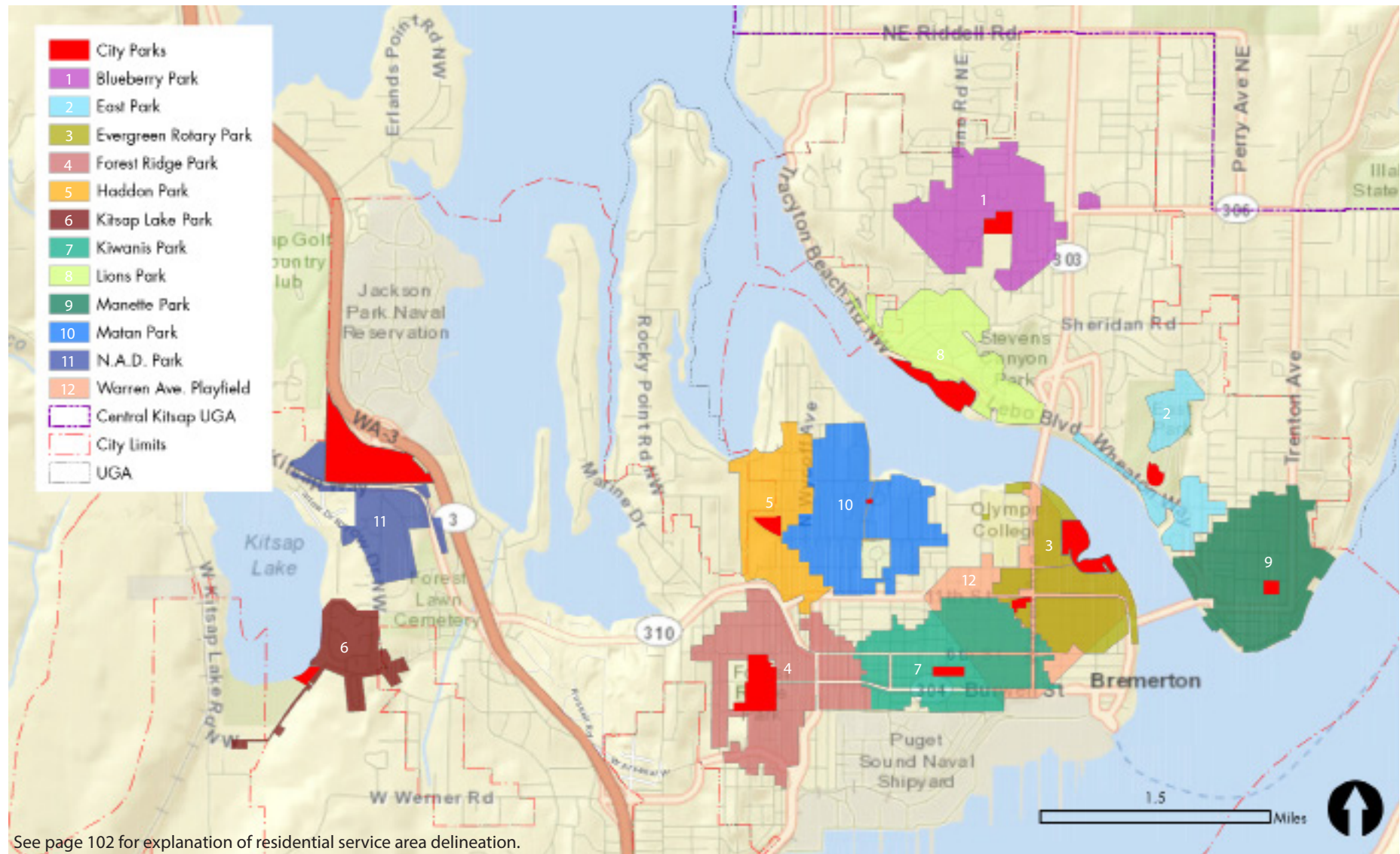
--- American Planning Association, 2002
"Community Engagement"



Service Areas for Community Parks: 2–5 Mile Driving Distance



Service Areas for Neighborhood Parks: 1/2 Mile Walking Distance = 10 Min. Walk



10-Minute Walk Campaign

In 2017, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), The Trust for Public Land, and the Urban Land Institute launched the 10-Minute Walk Campaign, aiming to ensure that every American lives within a half-mile of a quality park. Supported by research showing parks' benefits—from health and safety to economic and environmental resilience—the campaign has since:

- Gained support from over 300 mayors, including Bremerton's Mayor Wheeler.
- Mapped park access across more than 14,000 U.S. cities, highlighting over 100 million people who still lack nearby parks.

- Demonstrated that 276 million Americans visit local parks each year, with 74–81% living within walking distance.

- Achieved strong public support—around 90% positive sentiment—with key policy and infrastructure investments continuing at the municipal level.

- Provided \$5 million annually in aid to more than 320 communities to promote equitable access.

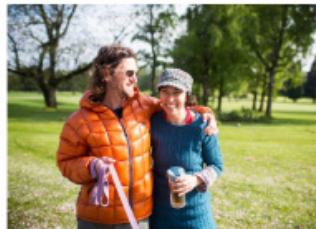
In 2017, the NRPA—alongside The Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute—

launched the 10-Minute Walk Campaign, aiming to ensure every American lives within a 10-minute (half-mile) walk of a high-quality park or green space. Extensive research shows these parks enhance safety, physical and mental health, economic vitality, and resilience to climate impacts like flooding and heat.

DID YOU KNOW: Across all age groups, greater access to parks is associated with lower body mass index and reduced risk of obesity.



DID YOU KNOW: Across all age groups, greater access to parks is associated with reduced stress, reduced risk of depression, and greater mental health and well-being.



DID YOU KNOW: Children's use of neighborhood parks increases by 400% when parks are closer to home.



DID YOU KNOW: A city of well-connected green spaces is more resilient to extreme environmental events, such as heat waves and extreme rainfall.



DID YOU KNOW: City parks and other urban natural areas produce benefits with estimated values of up to \$6.8 billion USD annually.



DID YOU KNOW: Nearly ¾ of citizens say that parks, trails, and open space are an essential component of American health care.



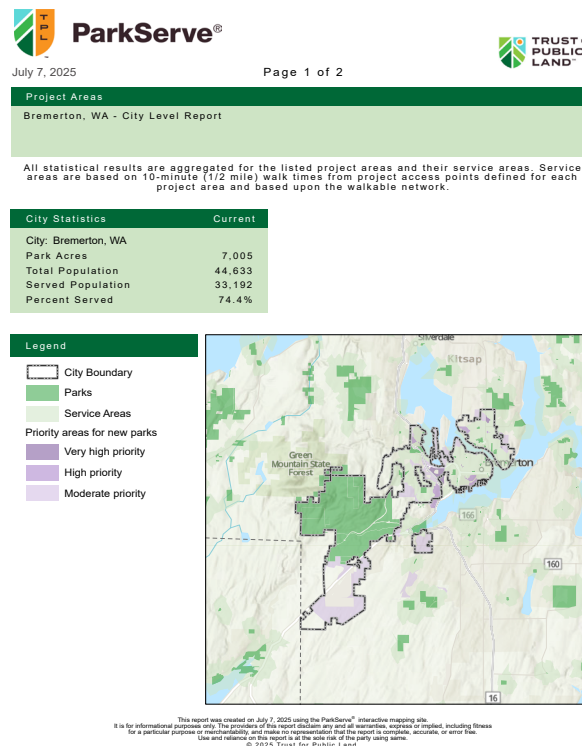
Graphics from <https://www.10minutewalk.org/>

ParkServe®

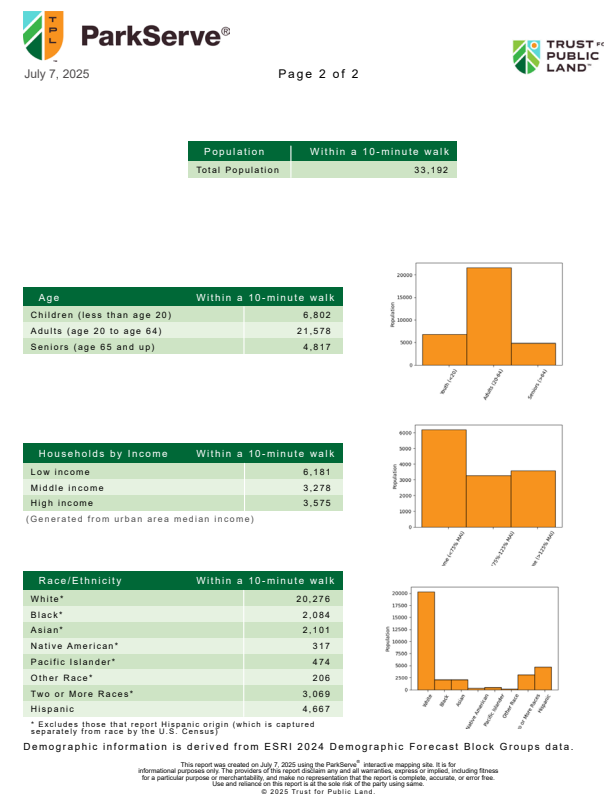
To further advance the 10-Minute Walk Campaign, The Trust for Public Land launched ParkServe® in 2018—an online database that measures park access within a 10-minute walk for over 80% of the U.S. population. Phase 1 of the project includes a standardized inventory of publicly owned parkland across 13,913 cities, towns, and communities. The database excludes golf courses, homeowners association parks, cemeteries, and schoolyards without a formal joint-use agreement with local governments.

The ParkServe® platform maps the 10-minute walk service areas for each park and calculates the percentage of residents who live within that distance. Nationally, this percentage ranges from 28% to 100%, with a national average of 54%.

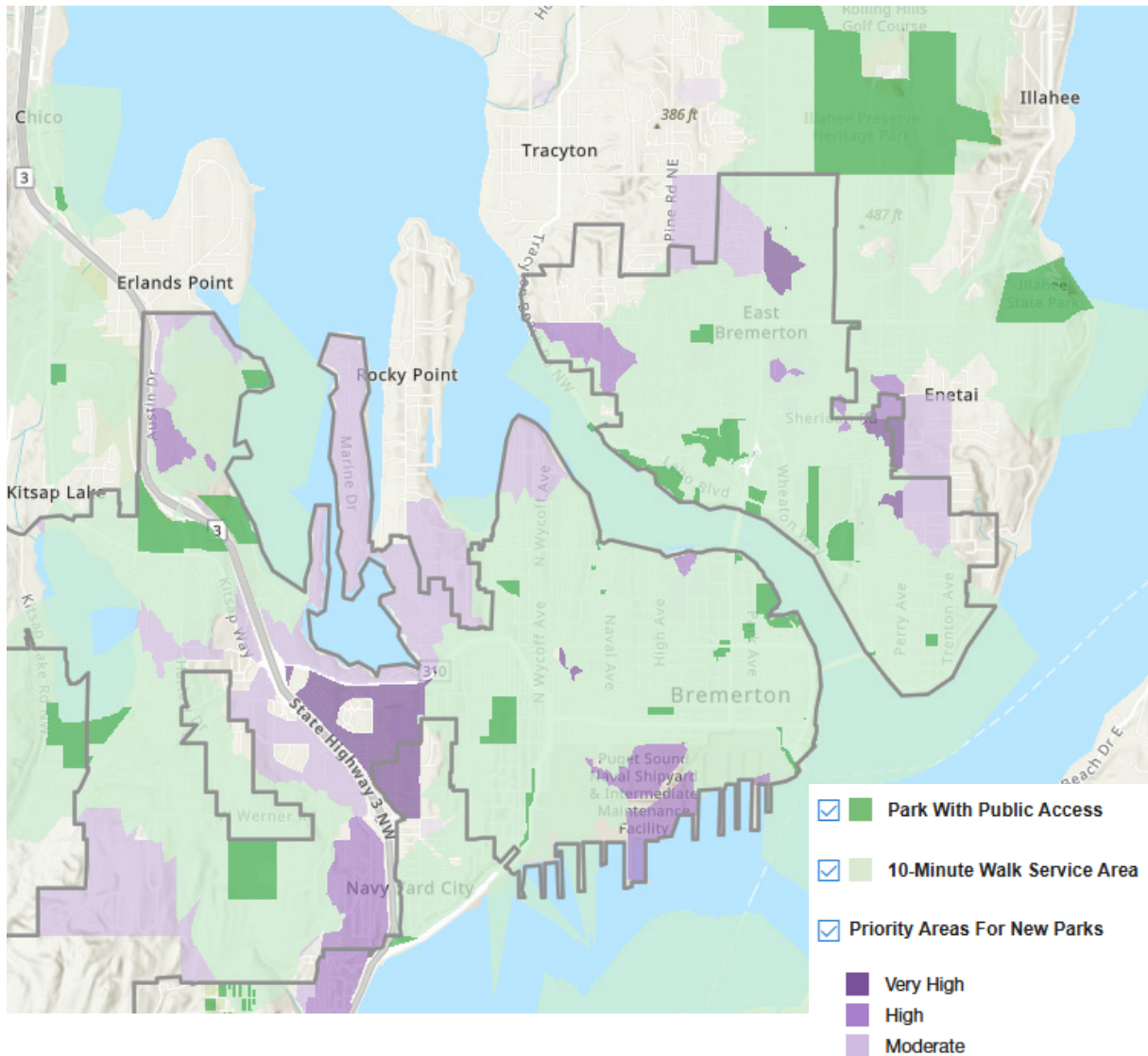
Bremerton is making strong progress in park access, with 74% of residents—or approximately 31,600 people—living within a 10-minute walk of a park, according to the latest ParkServe® data. This places the city well above the national urban median of 55% and on par with the 100 most populous U.S. cities. Still, around 11,000 residents remain without nearby green space, underscoring the need for continued investment and equitable expansion.



City Statistics	Current
City: Bremerton, WA	
Park Acres	7,005
Total Population	44,633
Served Population	33,192
Percent Served	74.4%



Gap Analysis



This map was generated by ParkServe® to visualize park access across Bremerton and identify areas with the greatest need for new parks. Neighborhoods shaded in purple represent underserved areas where residents lack access to a park within a 10-minute walk. These areas are primarily concentrated in central Bremerton, parts of West Hills, and near East Park, indicating opportunities for improving equitable park access.

Some zones, such as those over the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Jackson Park Navy Housing, likely reflect gaps in the standardized dataset. These locations may contain green space that is either restricted or not counted due to a lack of verified public access, highlighting the importance of incorporating local knowledge to refine the data and planning decisions.

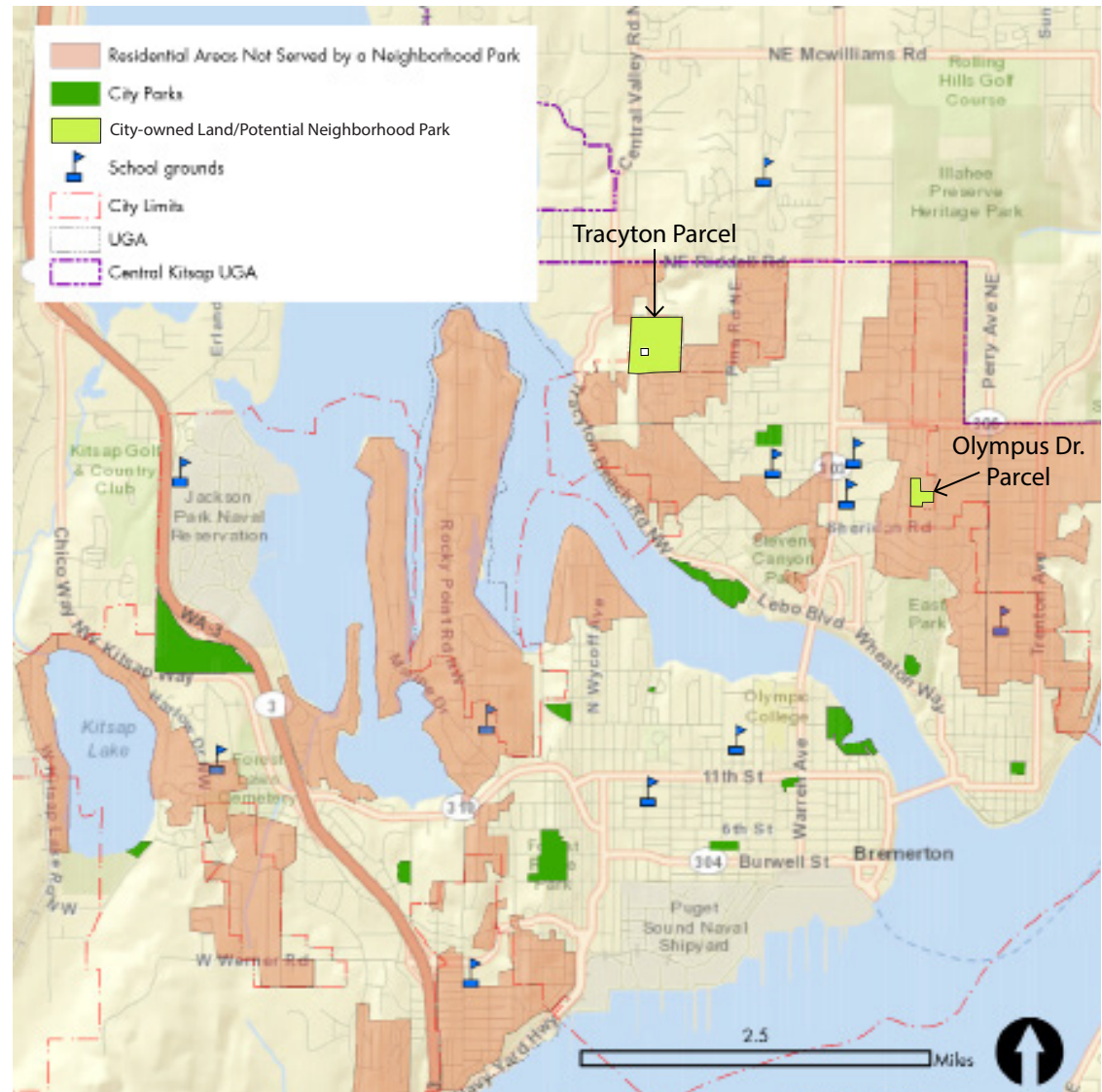
Looking ahead, Phase 2 of ParkServe® will expand the tool to include detailed information on park amenities, quality, and usage, as well as how well each park contributes to green infrastructure and public health. This enhanced data will support more strategic investment and equitable distribution of parks in communities like Bremerton.

Gap Analysis

The adjacent map identifies the residential areas (shaded) that are not served within a half-mile walking distance by either a neighborhood or community park. (Community parks serve dual-purpose as neighborhood parks for nearby residences.) This analysis illustrates where the service standard is not being met due to lack of parkland within a half-mile, or 10-minute walk.

A side-by-side analysis with the ParkServe® map on the previous page illustrates similar service need gaps in East Bremerton. The expansion of multi-family residential development along the Wheaton Way corridor will increase the need for parkland in this area of the city.

Two new neighborhood park opportunities, which are illustrated on the map in lime green, currently exist on city-owned land. These include the Olympus Drive Parcel (approximately 4.5 acres) and the Tracyton Parcel (41 acres). The Tracyton Parcel is a heavily forested property with steep ravines, appropriate as a nature area with hiking trails and neighborhood park amenities (e.g. restroom, play area) concentrated at the entrance similar to Forest Ridge Park. If developed with neighborhood park amenities (e.g. restroom, shelter, playground, walking paths, etc.), these city-owned properties would help fill the need for neighborhood parks in the underserved residential areas of East Bremerton.



NRPA's Park Metrics Comparisons

NRPA's Park Metrics allow agencies to enter data about their agencies for the current year and compare their figures to industry norms. The extensive Agency Performance Survey includes questions covering jurisdiction, agency operation, capital budget, personnel, workload, agency responsibilities, facilities, activities, and agency policies. Once the survey is complete a Performance Report can be generated with options to select various filters, including jurisdictions nearby and/or other jurisdictions of similar size. The following Performance Reports were generated comparing the Bremerton Parks & Recreation Department (BP&RD) to other jurisdictions of similar size in the country and in the Pacific Northwest region. This side-by-side comparison illustrates the following:

- BP&RD relies heavily on grants (16.3% vs. the median of 0.5–0.9%) and sponsorships (3.3% vs. the median of 1.0–2.0%).
- BP&RD ranks 5–6% below the median on general fund tax support.
- BP&RD ranks 36–59% below the median on agency's total annual non-tax revenues.
- BP&RD has a high number of parks (28 vs. the median of 20–25.5) but the average park size in acres is low (10.43 vs. the median of 19.5–21.9).
- BP&RD ranks low for its number of non-full-time employees but ranks above the median nationally for its high number of volunteers and volunteer hours.

		Bremerton P&R Department	34 jurisdictions in US with populations between 30k-60k			Bremerton P&R Department	8 jurisdictions in WA/OR with populations between 30-50k		
Agency Operations			Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile		Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
1	Agency's total annual operating expenditures	\$4,168,273	\$2,082,724	\$3,490,000	\$6,323,914	\$4,168,273	\$2,225,491	\$4,168,273	\$6,539,914
2	Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:								
	a. Parks	66.56	29.5	40.0	81.1		31.5	49.8	81.1
	b. Recreation	31.08	25.0	30.0	60.5		17.5	36.0	60.5
	c. Other	3.33	1.0	2.0	13.0		1.0	2.4	13.0
3	Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:								
	a. Personnel services	46.6%	46.6%	51.0%	71.2%		46.6%	51.0%	71.2%
	b. Operating expenses	25.0%	25.0%	28.2%	44.0%		25.0%	28.2%	44.0%
	c. Capital expense net in CRP	28.4%	0.3%	1.7%	15.8%		28.4%	0.3%	15.8%
4	Percentage of agency's total operating								
	a. General fund tax support	57.0%	57.0%	65.0%	72.4%		57.0%	65.0%	72.4%
	b. Dedicated levies	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.3%		0.0%	0.0%	22.3%
	c. Earned/generated revenue	8.8%	12.4%	17.3%	29.0%		8.8%	12.4%	29.0%
	d. Other dedicated taxes	14.6%	0.0%	3.0%	8.2%		14.6%	0.0%	8.2%
	e. Sponsorships	3.3%	0.3%	2.0%	3.3%		3.3%	0.3%	3.3%
	f. Grants	16.3%	0.0%	0.9%	4.8%		16.3%	0.0%	4.8%
5	Agency's total annual non-tax revenues	\$366,122	\$323,170	\$908,043	\$2,236,862	\$366,122	\$335,446	\$571,143	\$2,368,164

		Bremerton P&R Department	94 Jurisdictions in US with populations between 30k-50k			Bremerton P&R Department	8 Jurisdictions in WA/OR with populations between 30-50k		
			Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile		Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Effectiveness									
6	Operating expenditures per capita	\$102	\$55	\$89	\$157	\$102	\$58	\$302	\$382
7	Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	\$14,268	\$4,833	\$11,000	\$21,253	\$14,268	\$4,408	\$9,804	\$20,247
8	Operating expenditures per acres of parks and non-park sites	\$12,844	\$4,781	\$9,481	\$16,448	\$12,844	\$3,898	\$8,879	\$13,780
9	Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	7.12	6.1	30.3	18.1	7.12	7.5	9.6	13.4
10	Number of acres per park	10.43	13.5	21.9	32.9	10.43	11.7	39.5	30.9

Workload

11	Number of individual parks or non-park sites the department/agency maintains and/or has management responsibility over:								
	a. Total number of parks	28	12	20	36		19	23.5	36
	b. Total park acres	292.14	240	400	840		319.1	400	538.9
	c. Total number of non-park sites	12	2.8	5			5.5	7.5	6.9
	d. Total acres of non-park sites	32.4	20				19.4	58.9	63.9
	Total number of parks + non-park sites (a+c)	40					26.5	28.5	39
	Total acres of parks + non-park sites (b+d)						343.9	536.8	661
12	Number of acres of developed & undeveloped open space for which the department/agency has management responsibility over or maintains:								
	a. Developed						157.6	391.3	197
	b. Undeveloped					131.38	131.4	209	231.3
13	Number of buildings and the square footage of operated buildings:								
	a. Number of operated buildings		4	7.8		2	2.8	5	5.8
	b. Square footage of operated buildings		27,400	50,000	120,000	40,500	34,534	37,796	40,900

NEED TO REPLACE/UPDATE
GRAPHIC

Personnel

14	Number of funded employees at your agency:								
	a. Number of full-time employees	19	14	19	33.3	19	14.5	15	29.9
	b. Number of non-full-time employees	20	21.5	75	190	20	12.5	20	107.5
	c. Total annual hours worked by non-full-time employees	11,378	10,534	34,045	66,805	11,378	9,859	11,889	28,392.9
	d. Total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)	24.47	20.1	35	62.4	24.47	17.1	24.5	41.3
15	Percentage of total FTEs involved in the following operational areas:								
	a. Administration	5.5%	8.0%	13.0%	20.0%	5.5%	11.0%	36.0%	25.3%
	b. Operations/maintenance	66.7%	39.2%	46.0%	61.3%	66.7%	27.5%	38.5%	67.8%
	c. Programmers	16.7%	16.9%	30.0%	49.0%	16.7%	12.9%	36.7%	31.9%
	d. Capital development	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	5.5%	0.9%	3.5%	4.8%
	e. Other	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.8%	5.6%	0.0%	5.8%	6.0%
16	Number of volunteers and annual hours worked by the volunteers at the agency:								
	a. Number of volunteers	325	763	150	325	325	290	325	532
	b. Total hours worked by volunteers	9,300	732.5	3,437.5	10,000	9,300	3,151.9	9,769	13,705.3



In addition to the challenges we face within the park system in general, is the increase in use of our parks by the houseless population and the need to manage/address the effect that has on staff time and accessibility to amenities by the public. Local houseless population concerns related to vandalism, cleanliness, and safety of parks were consistently among the top 3 issues identified within the most recent survey.

--- Park Survey Results, 2025

Park System Discussion

The following pages discuss the challenges and needs in more detail for each park category as well as recreation programs and facilities.

Regional and Community Parks

Regional and community parks typically are larger than 10 acres and contain a mixture of active and passive recreation opportunities including athletic facilities and walking trails.

Bremerton has one regional park (Pendergast) and three community parks (Evergreen Rotary, Lions, and N.A.D). These four parks make up 65% of the city's park systems acreage. Evergreen Rotary, Lions, and Pendergast, along with the downtown Memorial Plaza and Harborside Fountain Park, are the most heavily visited pieces of recreational real estate within Bremerton.

In recent years two community parks have been upgraded to better meet the needs of the greatest number of people. The 2011 renovation of Lions Park and 2014 inclusive playground at Evergreen Rotary Park are examples of how the addition of a waterfront loop trail and high quality playground can increase the draw of a community park to serve a large swath of the city's population.

Planned improvements to Pendergast Regional Park (turfing the soccer fields, installing a new restroom near the soccer fields, and overlaying the 470-stall parking lot) are the most immediate needs at the park, however, we can not forget that the rest of the park will need attention sooner. A separate master plan for the rest of the facility will need to become a priority as competition within the region from new and improved outdoor athletic venues/amenities is continuing to take away revenues and an economic impact to our community from sports tourism. Redesigning the concession/restroom building and play equipment area as well as turfing the softball infields) will drive increased use and satisfaction with these facilities as well as contribute to the support of our local businesses.

Distribution of regional and community parks within Bremerton is an issue that should be addressed in the long term. West Bremerton holds the city's only dog park and demand for a second dog park facility on the East side is strong. Community parks typically contain youth and adult athletic facilities. Bremerton has reduced the number of youth ballfields in its inventory with the redesign of Lions and Kiwanis parks. The loss of three youth ballfields has been absorbed to some extent by the increased use and scheduling of school ballfields for youth games and practice.

Neighborhood Parks

Bremerton has eight neighborhood parks that, combined with eleven pocket parks, create the backbone of the city's park system, as they are located close to where people live. Neighborhood parks should be accessible within a half-mile walk, avoiding the need for motorized transportation. Quality neighborhood parks are essential to attracting young families to the city and to fostering investment in nearby housing stock. In recent years, Manette, Kiwanis, Kitsap Lake, Warren Ave. and Lulu D. Haddon parks have all been renovated. The acreage standard for neighborhood parks in Bremerton is a minimum of 1.5 acres in size. (In many jurisdictions the minimum is 3.0 acres.) This amount of acreage allows for a mix of close-to-home activities typically including a small shelter for gatherings, playground, smaller sports court, and a lawn that often doubles as a youth athletic field.

Challenges for Bremerton's neighborhood parks include being undersized or that available space is heavily weighted toward open space athletic fields. Warren Avenue Park is a 1.89-acre neighborhood park; however, the bulk of its space is occupied by a crucial youth football field, leaving little space for neighborhood gatherings or unorganized child/family play. Even with recent additions of a playground and shelter, the usable space outside of the playfield is limited. Manette Park is another neighborhood park

with limited green space due to an athletic field. Sports fields are more typically found clustered in larger community parks and Manette's dominates much of the available green space and parking as users are typically from outside the neighborhood. Expansion of undersized neighborhood parks is recommended to better meet close-to-home recreation needs. While school grounds help to fulfill some of the needs for neighborhood outdoor recreation, aesthetic values are lower and access more restricted than in a neighborhood park setting.

"I believe that the city should focus on creating/acquiring open spaces for each neighborhood. Creating walking and bike trails by partitioning off neighborhoods and creating family friendly common areas for play, exercise and community activities."

--- Park Survey Comment, 2013





“Urban trails that are clearly marked and include maps for pedestrians/bicyclists should be a priority...”

“Find a way to connect parks with bike lanes.”

“We really need to look at linking our existing parks with safe and attractive bikeways and pedestrian paths. That would increase the usage of all parks.”

“I think linking the parks with attractive, safe byways along the streets, and installing appropriate way-finding signage would create a true park system and maximize what we have. Right now, when I want a pleasant experience for a long bike ride, jog, or walk; I go to other parts of Kitsap County.”

--- Park Survey Comments, 2013

Pocket Parks

Bremerton has eleven pocket parks, defined generally as parks that are smaller than 0.5 acres and provide a specific need such as a viewpoint, plaza, or small playground. They typically serve a localized area and may provide a special feature such as beach access or a memorial. Pocket parks are too small to serve as neighborhood parks owing to lack of green space and limited space for amenities. In some areas they serve as surrogate neighborhood parks where a larger park is not available within easy walking distance. In recent years Smith Nature Play Park has been renovated, and Lillian & James Walker Park has been developed as a multi-purpose stormwater management and beach access site. Pocket parks have low economy of scale for maintenance, and the city should use caution prior to acquiring additional pocket parks. Existing pocket park inventory should be reviewed to ensure each property is making a contribution to the overall park system in line with its costs.

Trails

Sidewalks and bike lanes are addressed in the city's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan at <http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/840/Non-Motorized-Transportation-Plan-PDF>. Key elements include the Port Washington Narrows (Bridge to Bridge) trail connecting East

and West Bremerton and widened sidewalks on Pacific Avenue to create a connection between downtown and Evergreen Rotary Park.

Loop trails and pathways providing exercise, walking, and beach viewing opportunities within city parks are a priority for citizens responding to the last four PROS update surveys. Incorporation of improved interior trails in Lions, Kiwanis, Blueberry, Lulu D. Haddon, Madrona, and Stephenson Canyon parks have increased the usage of these facilities. Walking the loop trail at Haddon Park may be the most popular activity at this 3-acre site. Heavy usage of newly developed interior trails in city parks and natural areas calls out the need to create additional trail improvements within N.A.D Park and Forest Ridge Park. Creating clearly marked loop trails with attractive interpretive and directional signage will help Bremerton citizens make better and more frequent use of the city's undeveloped parks and natural areas. This plan supports the citizen-driven effort to create a connecting trail between Kitsap Lake and Jarstad Park. This proposed trail system contains excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in addition to a forested setting with mild elevation gains that can help walkers increase fitness levels. The city and county jointly funded and completed a feasibility study in 2018.

Natural Areas

There are no typical acreage standards for natural areas, as each community has its unique geography containing lands worthy of protection for preservation of wildlife corridors, separators between development, water quality, and enjoyment of nature. Bremerton has designated Madrona Trails, Kitsap Lake Wetlands, N.A.D. Marine Park, and Stephenson Canyon as natural areas. While N.A.D. and Forest Ridge parks contain tracts of undeveloped natural lands, their designation as “parks” opens future use of these lands to development with active facilities. Currently Bremerton has 111 acres of natural land area and 153 acres of natural land holding a park

designation. This figure does not include the 8,400 acre Bremerton Watershed, which is protected from development; in addition, selective logging and lack of authorized public access place it in a different category than Parks & Recreation Department natural lands. Bremerton should use GIS mapping, combined with voluntary negotiations with developers, to identify future natural areas that have the potential for ecological preservation and public use for nature trails. Parks staff should continue to work with Public Works and interested citizens to make portions of the Watershed from Jarstad Park to the Kitsap Lake area available for appropriate use.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.”

--- John Muir, Founder of the Sierra Club



Recreation Facilities & Programs

Distribution of recreational facilities within Bremerton is an issue that should be addressed in long term planning. Facilities like the Sheridan Park Community Center, Senior Center, and Glenn Jarstad Aquatic Center are concentrated in East Bremerton.

Residents appreciate the Sheridan Park Community Center and Senior Center, while recognizing that both facilities have structural limitations and are in need of extensive renovation or eventual replacement. The non-profit sector has stepped in to meet some of the demand with construction of the Youth Wellness Center in East Bremerton, the development of the Marvin Williams Recreation Center downtown, and the expansion/remodel of the YMCA to include the Jarstad Aquatic complex. The immediate path forward is likely to include cooperative agreements with management of the non-profit facilities and the Bremerton School District to maximize recreational opportunities for citizens. Simultaneously, capital funding should be aggressively pursued to address ADA and structural issues at the Sheridan Park Community Center and Senior Center or to evaluate the potential combination of the two at a separate location.

For discussion on Recreation Programs see page 80.



Level of Service Summary

Level of Service (LOS) standards will become even more challenging to obtain in the future due to projected increases in population and demand for housing resulting in lack of available land for parks and recreation. Based on the City's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, the population for Bremerton and its associated Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) in 2044 is projected to increase by over 23,000 additional residents for a total of 76,624 residents.

While Bremerton has a solid land base of 292 acres of park property, not all residents are currently covered within the desired LOS distance and many of the parks do not meet the minimum size standard of 1.5 acres for neighborhood parks and 10 acres for community parks. While progress has been made since 2007 to maximize the recreational utility of older parks through extensive grant-funded renovations, there are still compelling needs to expand existing neighborhood parks that have a footprint smaller than 1.5 acres and to identify potential neighborhood park sites illustrated in the gap analysis.

This Plan identifies service gaps for improving parkland distribution throughout Bremerton and considers two city-owned properties in East Bremerton to help fill this gap as identified

on page 109. To further address the need for future parkland, grants, land donations, trades, bequests, life estates, and other non-traditional acquisition methods should continue to be pursued. Lands received through donations should be appropriate in size and location to fill identified service gaps.



"Well maintained parks are a reflection of civic pride."

"Urban parks are essential to healthy communities. Research establishes a link between presence/absence of parks, trees and open space to economic vitality and community safety. Bremerton's comprehensive plan provides a blueprint for expanded pedestrian and non-motorized use presence. Diminish our parks and you diminish the quality of life in the community. Parks and open spaces are one of the engines that drive community stability and improvement. Speak out for these!"

--- Park Survey Comments, 2013

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Position 2:

VACANT

Position 3:

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Position 4:

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