



*Our Mission is to Provide Quality Public
Services in a Fiscally Responsible Manner
While Preserving the City's Open Space
Character*

NOTICE OF MEETING

**Joint City Council – Park Commission Workshop
3800 Laverne Avenue North
July 28, 2015
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

AGENDA

- I. ✓ Call to Order - Mayor Pearson / Chairman Shane Weis 6:30 PM**
- II. ✓ Presentations 6:30 PM**
 - ✓ A. Park Survey Results**
 - ✓ B. Lake Elmo Regional Park**
 - ✓ C. Sunfish Lake Task Force Results**
- III. ✓ 2015 Park Commission Plan of Work 7:00 PM**
 - A. Community Park Re-Models**
 - ✓ 1. Tablyn Park**
 - ✓ 2. Reid Park Planning**
 - ✓ B. Lake Elmo Regional Trail Master Planning**
 - ✓ C. Sunfish Lake Park Master Plan**
- III. ✓ Policy Discussion 8:15 PM**
 - ✓ A. Land Dedication vs. Cash Contribution from Developers**
 - ✓ B. Park Size**
- IV. ✓ Village Green Ball Field Discussion 8:45 PM**
- IV. ✓ Adjourn 9:00 PM**

****Note: The Public is advised that there may be a quorum of City Council Members in attendance as observers. No official action can or will be taken by the City Council at this meeting.*

****Note: Every effort will be made to accommodate person or persons that need special considerations to attend this meeting due to a health condition or disability. Please contact the Lake Elmo City Clerk if you are in need of special accommodations.*

****Note: This meeting will be video recorded, but not broadcasted, for record-keeping purposes.*



2013 Park Survey Results/Trends

August 2013

Introduction

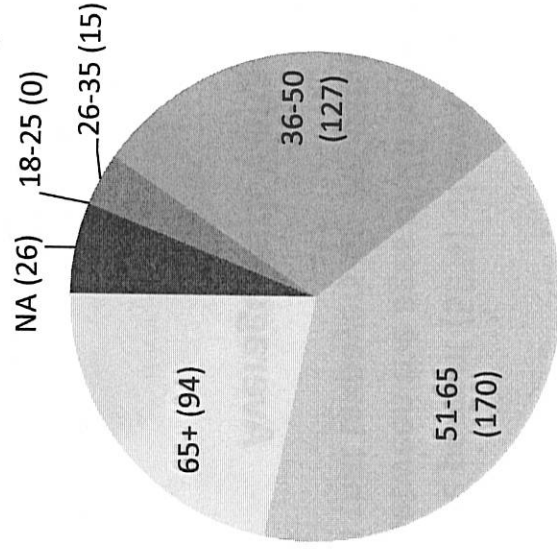
A park survey was mailed to 3,203 homes in Lake Elmo on June 14, 2013.

432 surveys were completed and returned.

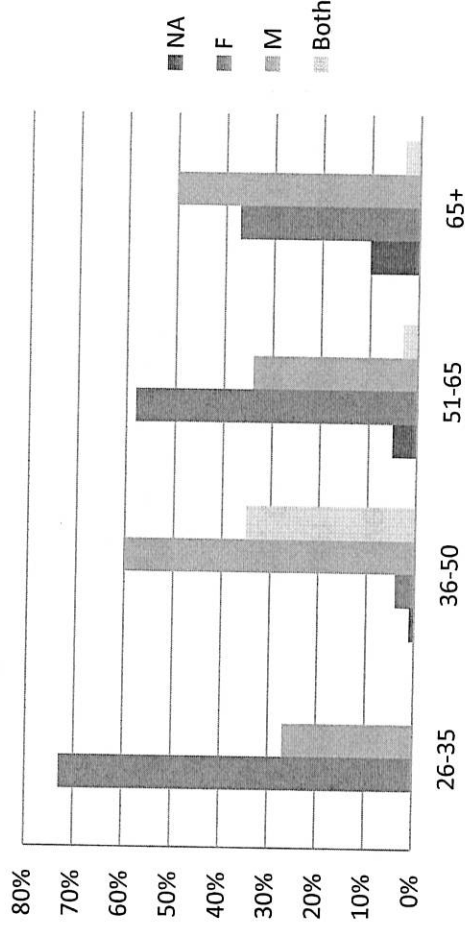
Demographics

- The most common (39%, 170 responses) age group was 51-65.
 - 60 % of those responses were female.

No. of Responses by Age



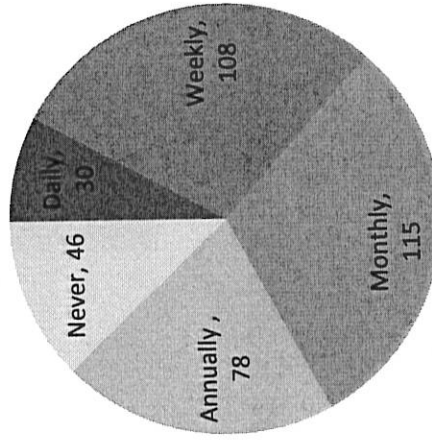
Gender by Age Group



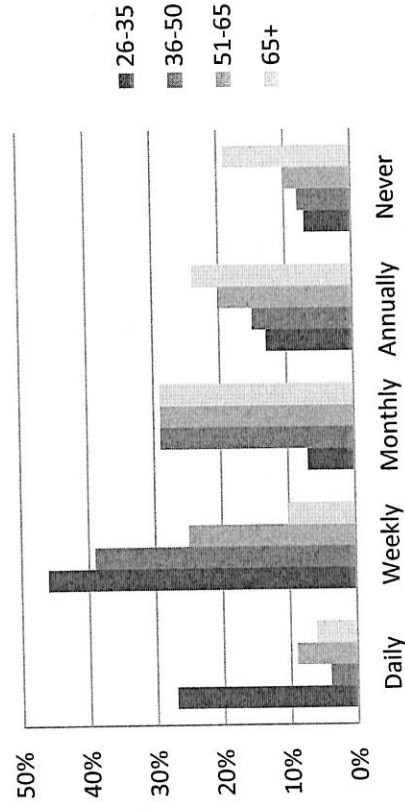
Current Park Use

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of overall park users visit city parks on a weekly or monthly basis. Park users between the ages of 26 to 50 use parks more frequently than users aged 51+. The primary reason that taxpayers do not use city parks lack of interest or time. Other reasons are cited below.

Average Park Visits



Avg. Park Visits by Age Group

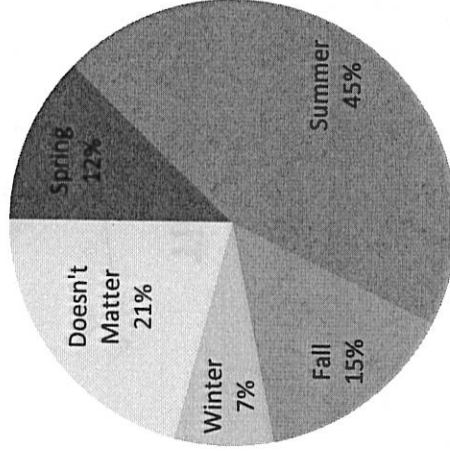


Reasons for Not Using City Parks	No. of Responses	Reasons for Not Using City Parks	No. of Responses
No Interest/Time	10	Don't know where they are	5
Only use Park Reserve	8	Other	5
Kids Outgrew	6		

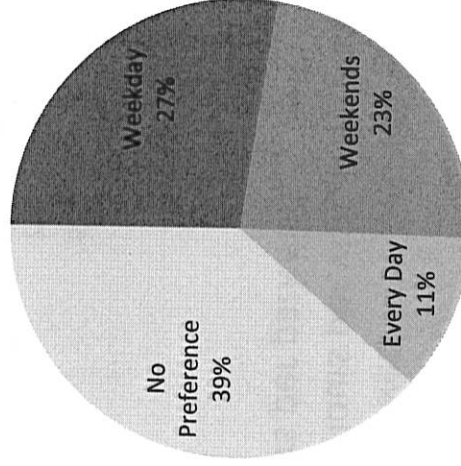
Current Park Use

Summer is the most popular season to visit parks. The majority of park users have no preference when they visit the parks, and users frequent the parks most in the afternoon.

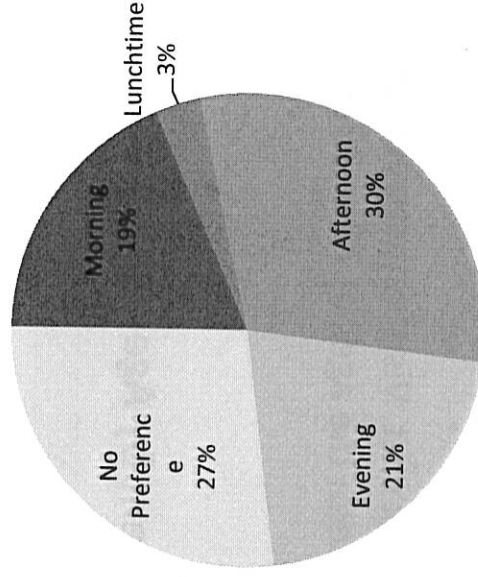
Visits by Season



Visits by Day



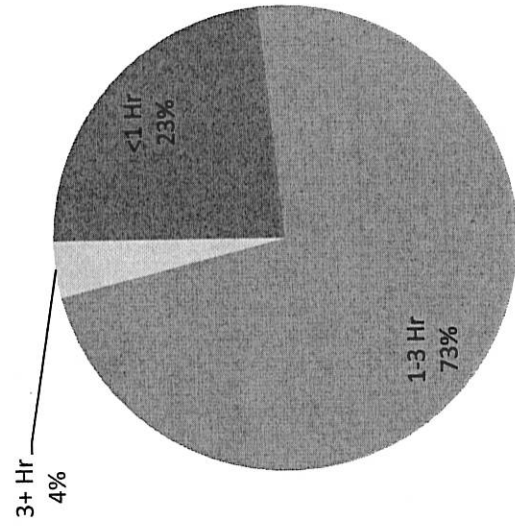
Visits by Time



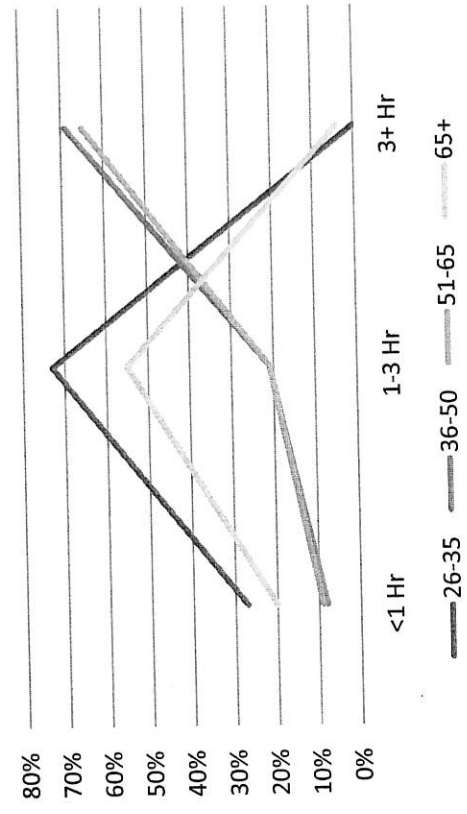
Current Park Use

Overall, 73% of park users spend between one to three hours per park visit. Visitors between age 36 to 65 typically spend 3 or more hours per visit, where users between the ages of 26 to 35 and age 65+ typically spend 1 to 3 hours per park visit.

Time per Park Visit



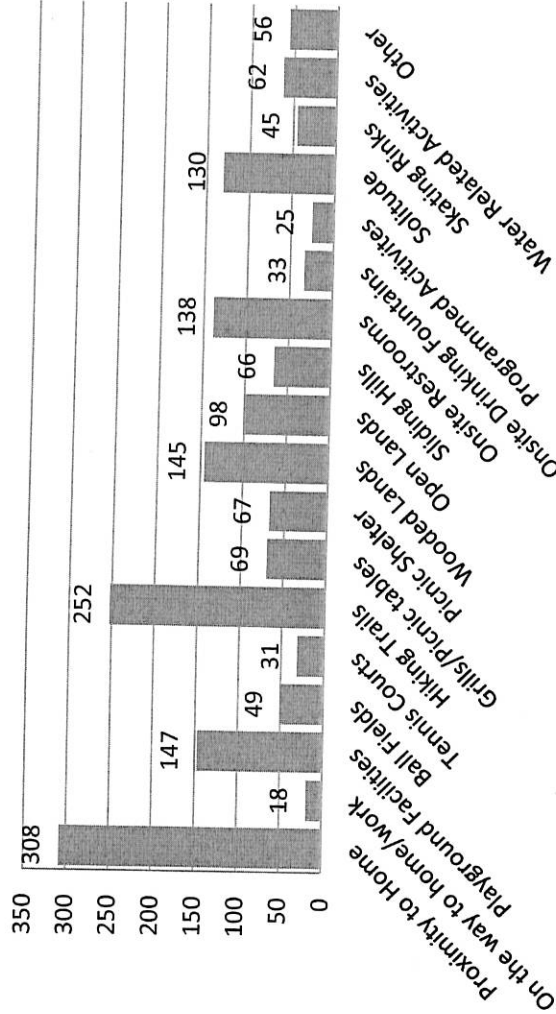
Time Spent by Age



Current Park Use

Proximity to home is the most important factor for taxpayers choosing which park to visit. Trails, playground facilities, trails, and wooded lands are also important factors. The ranking of importance varies by age group, as noted in the chart to the lower right.

Important Park Factors

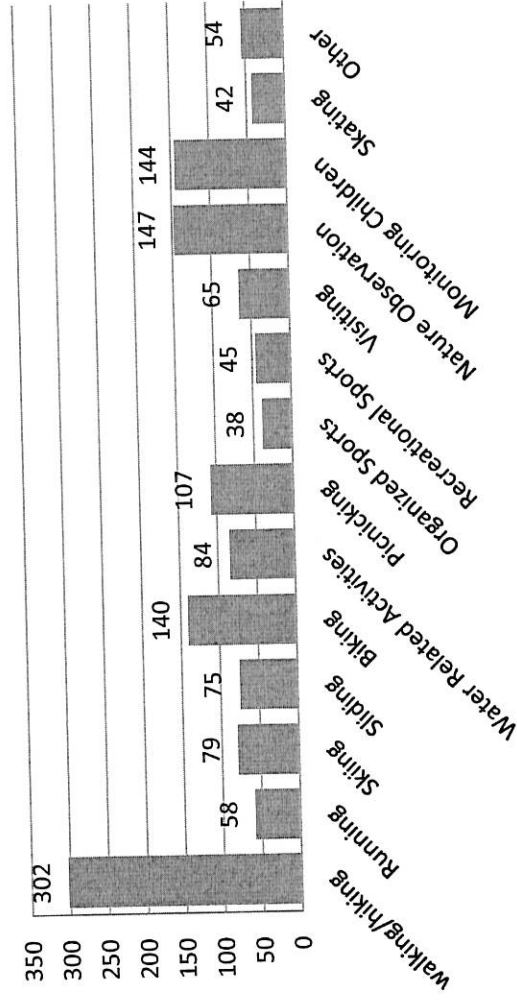


26-35	
Proximity to home	16%
Playground Facilities	15%
Hiking Trails/Restroom	8%
36-50	
Proximity to Home	18%
Hiking Trails	12%
Playground Facilities	10%
51-65	
Proximity to Home	18%
Hiking Trails	16%
Wooded Lands	10%
65+	
Proximity to Home	18%
Hiking Trails	16%
Wooded Lands	11%

Current Park Use

Overall, walking and hiking is the most popular park activity engaged in by taxpayers. Biking, nature observation, and monitoring children are also frequent activities, which vary in priority slightly among age groups.

Park Activities

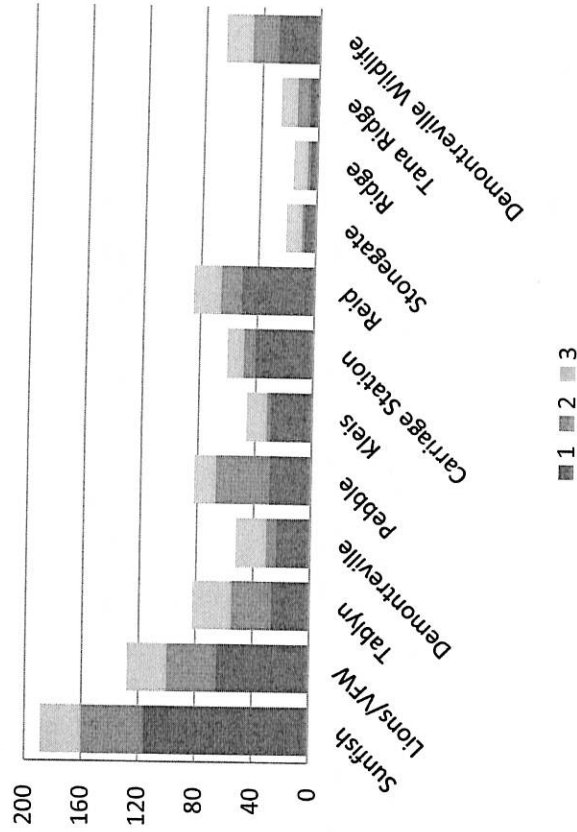


26-35	
Monitoring Children	16%
Walking/Hiking	15%
Biking	13%
36-50	
Walking/Hiking	18%
Biking	10%
Monitoring Children	9%
51-65	
Walking/Hiking	25%
Nature Observation	12%
Biking	10%
65+	
Walking/Hiking	24%
Nature Observation	17%
Monitoring Children	13%

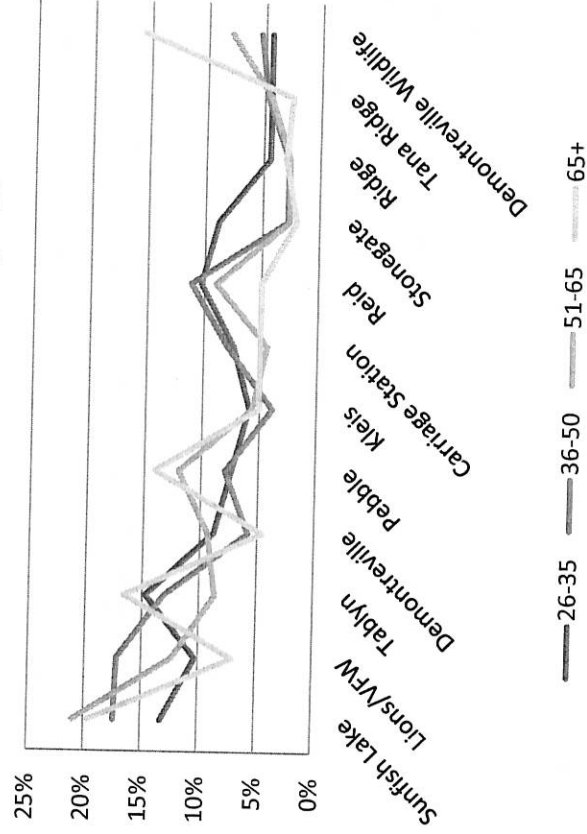
Current Park Use

Residents were asked to rank their preferred/most commonly used city parks from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most frequently visited. Sunfish Lake Park is the most popular park overall, followed by Lions Park. When broken down by age, Tablyn Park ranks in popularity for 26 to 36 year olds.

Primary Park Use



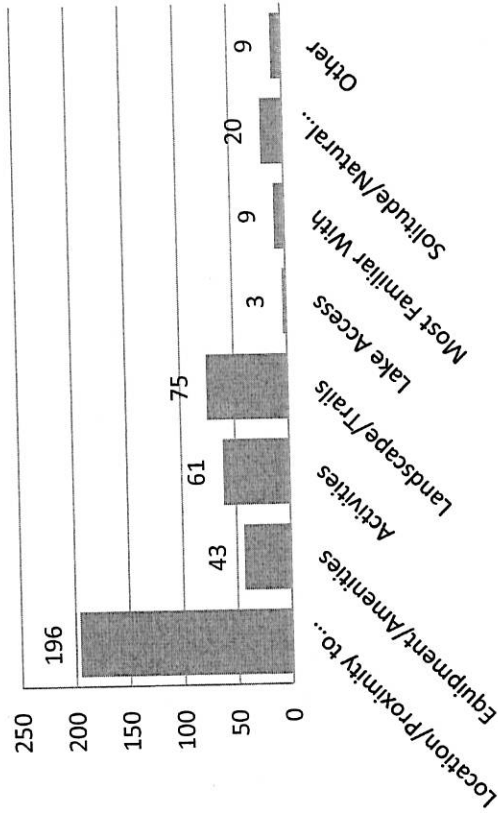
Primary Park Use by Age



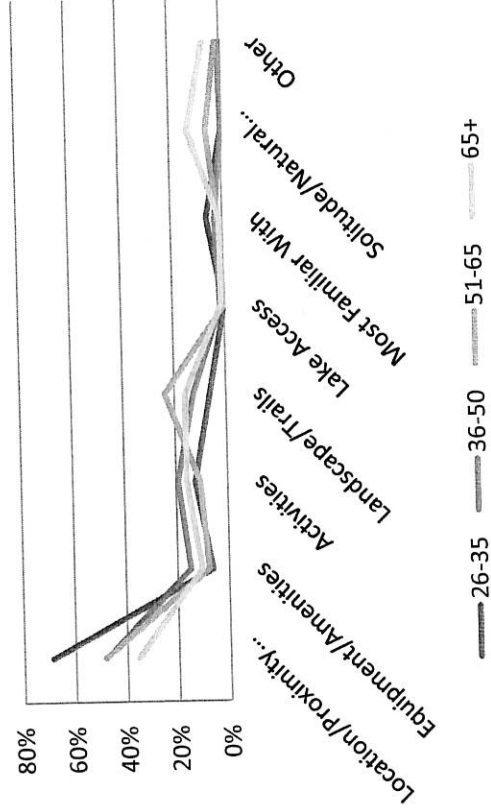
Current Park Use

The leading factor for park choice is location and proximity to home. The importance of location decreases slightly as the age of park user increases.

Factors in Favor of Parks



Factors in Favor of Parks by Age

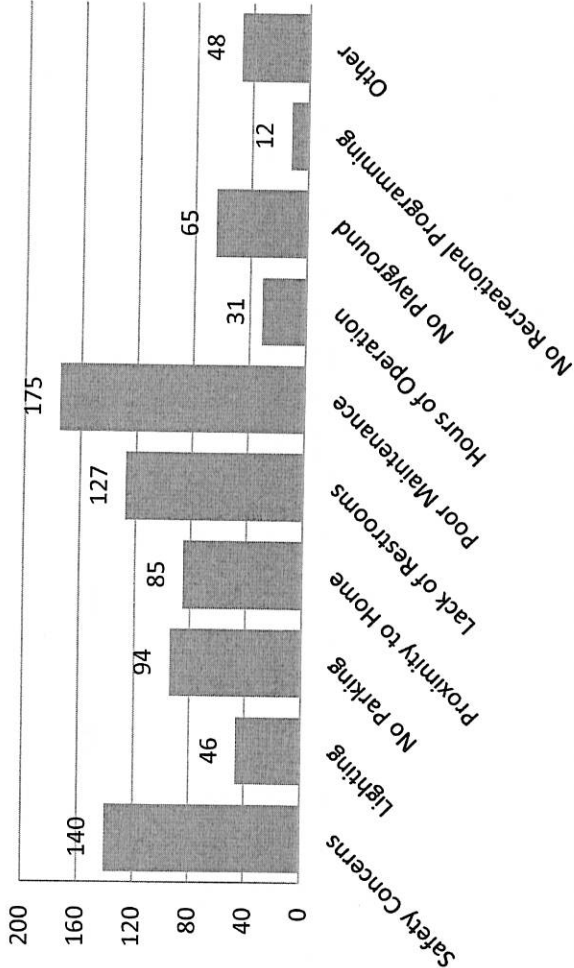


Current Park Use

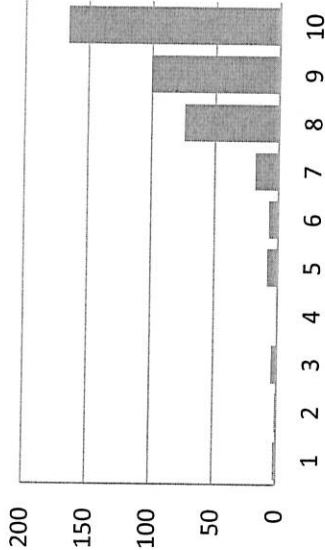
Poor maintenance ranked as the primary reason discouraging taxpayers from using city parks. Safety concerns and lack of restrooms were also leading factors. Other factors include unleashed dogs, and lack of time.

Overall, taxpayers consider the safety of city parks to be high, and signage and maintenance mediocre.

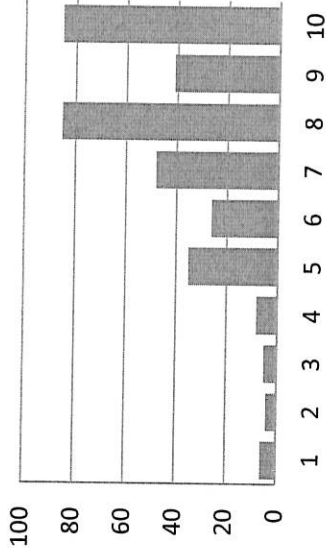
Factors Discouraging Use of City Parks



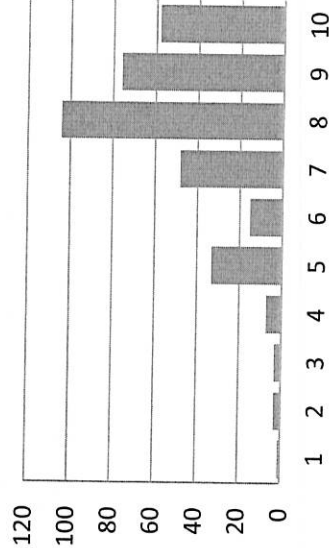
Park Safety



Park Signage



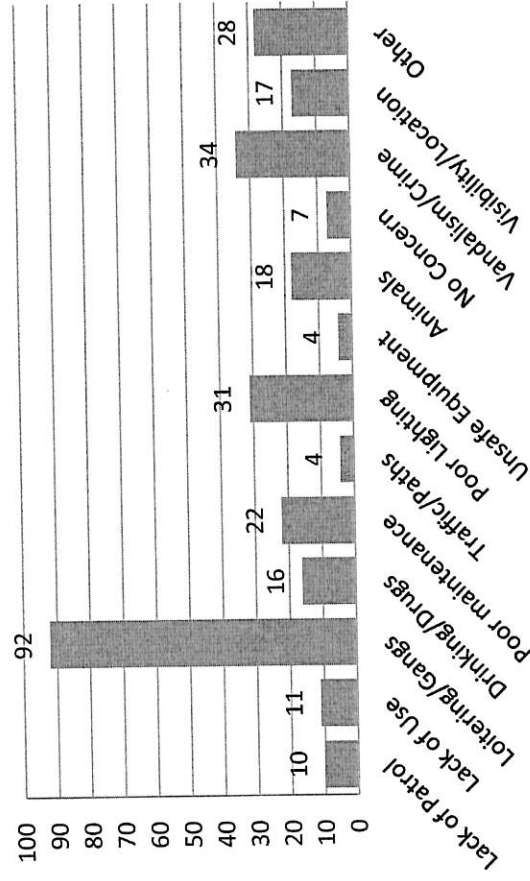
Park Maintenance



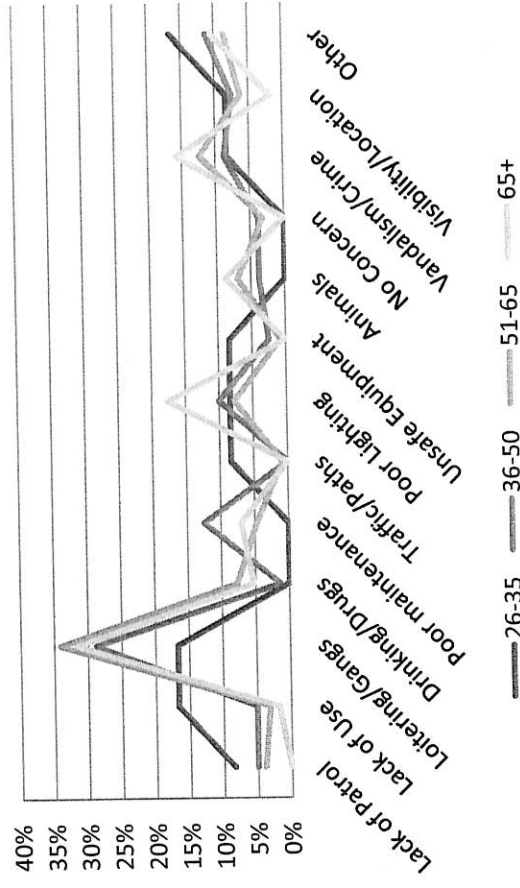
Park Conditions

Loitering or gang activity is the primary factor that would make taxpayers feel unsafe using city parks. Factors in the other category include after hours activities, high-speed vehicles, and use of parks by non-residents.

Park Safety Concerns



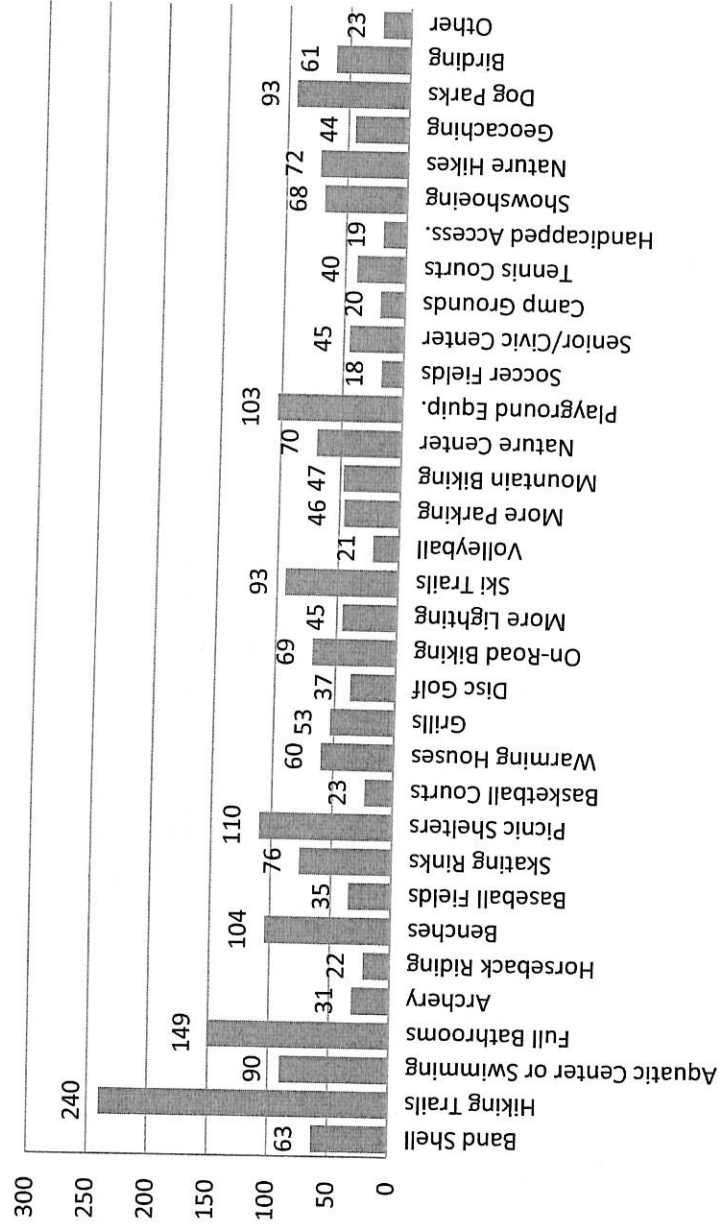
Park Safety Concerns by Age



Future Park Needs

Hiking trails are high priority for all age groups, when considering future addition of park amenities. The top three amenity needs per age group are listed at right.

Future Needs



26-35	
Playground Equipment	11%
Hiking Trails	10%
Aquatic Center/Swimming	9%
36-50	
Hiking Trails	9%
Aquatic Center/Swimming	8%
Full Bathrooms	8%
51-65	
Hiking Trails	13%
Full Bathrooms	6%
Benches/Shelters	6%
65+	
Hiking Trails	13%
Full Bathrooms	7%
Birding	7%

Future Park Needs

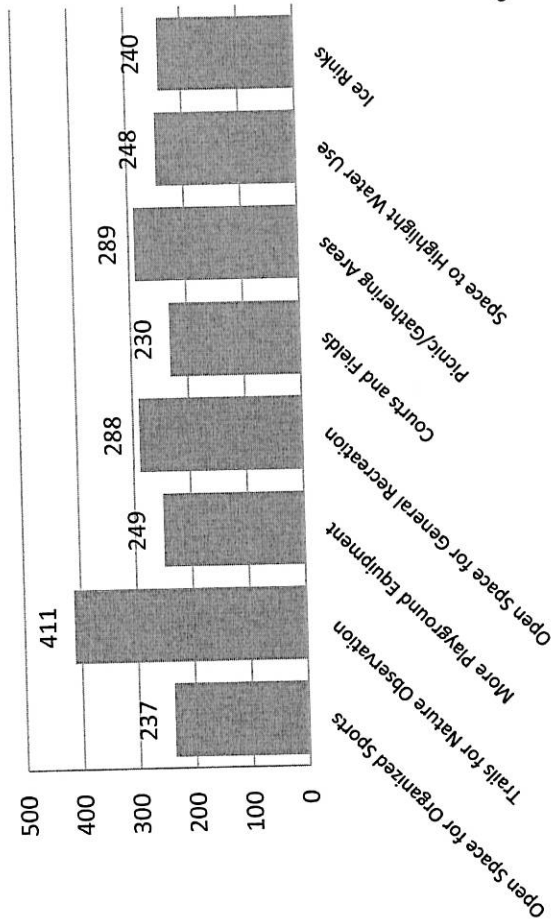
When asked about desired park improvements, maintenance was the number one request. This was followed by restrooms and additional amenities (ie. Picnic tables, and shelters).

When discussing the future development of parks, there is a strong taxpayer desire to develop trails for nature observation. Picnic areas and open space also rank high as desired park land use.

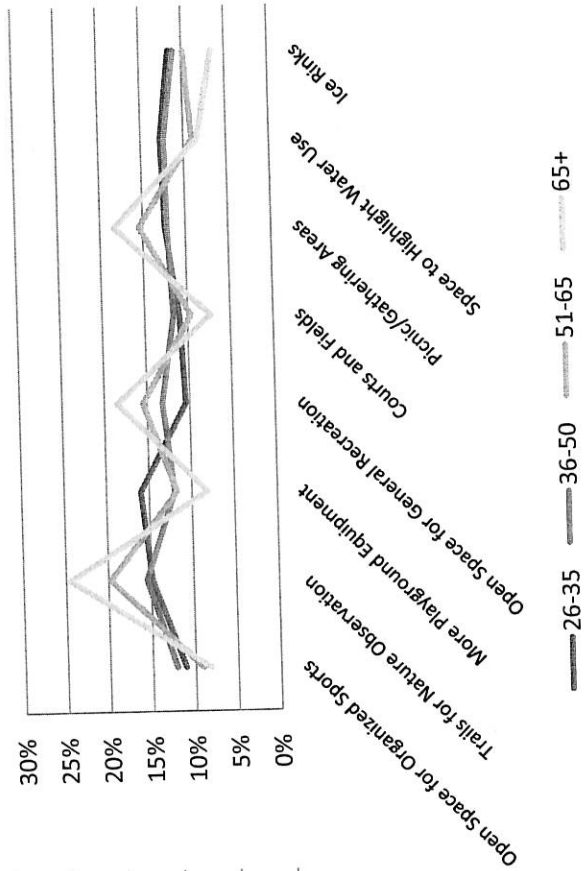
Desired Park Improvements



Future Park Land Development



Park Land Development by Age

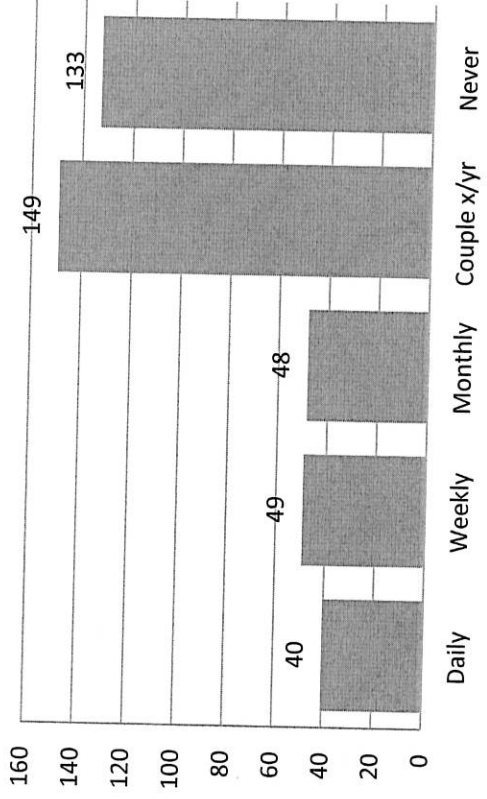


City Lake Use

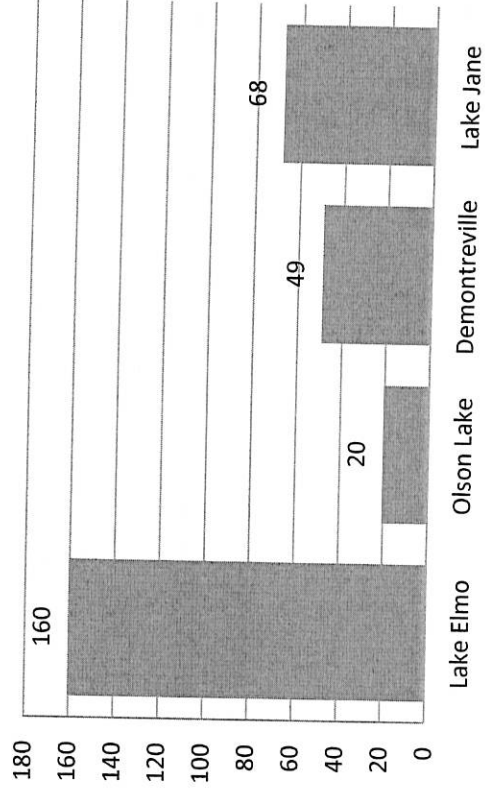
Out of the taxpayers who responded to the lake use question, most use city lakes a couple times per year, if at all. Taxpayers between the ages 26 to 35 are more likely to use the lakes more frequently.

Lake Elmo is the most heavily used lakes, as indicated by a 54% response rate.

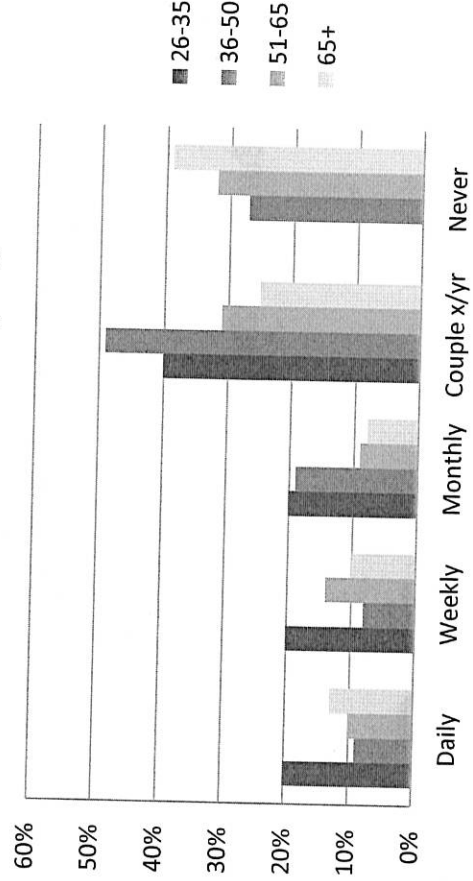
City Lake Use



Lake Preference



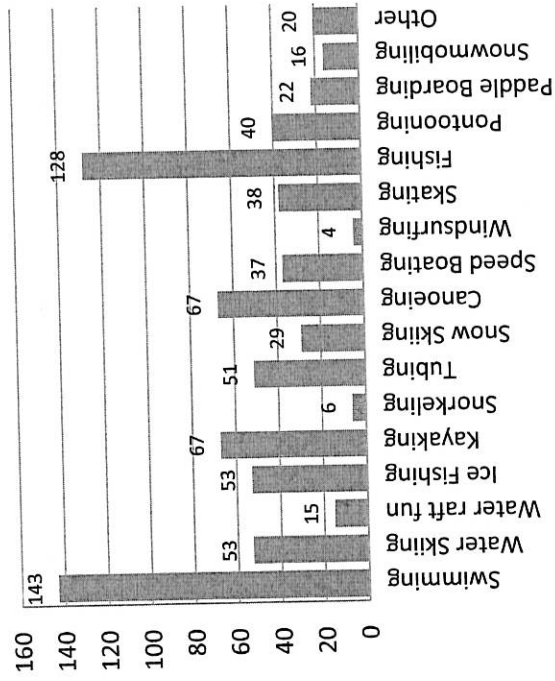
City Lake Use by Age



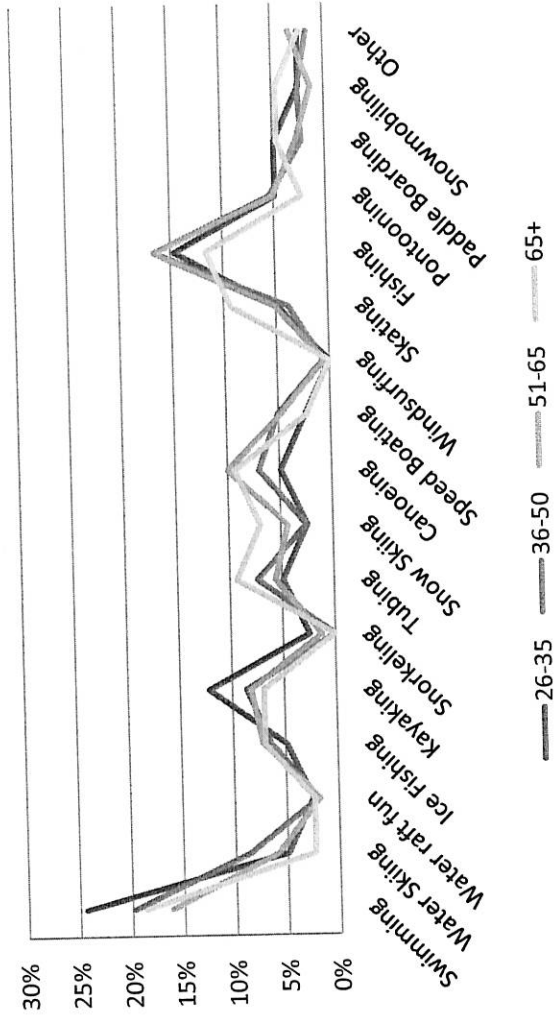
City Lake Use

The primary activities enjoyed by taxpayers on city lakes are swimming and fishing. Kayaking and canoeing follow as other popular lake activities.

Lake Activities



Lake Activities by Age



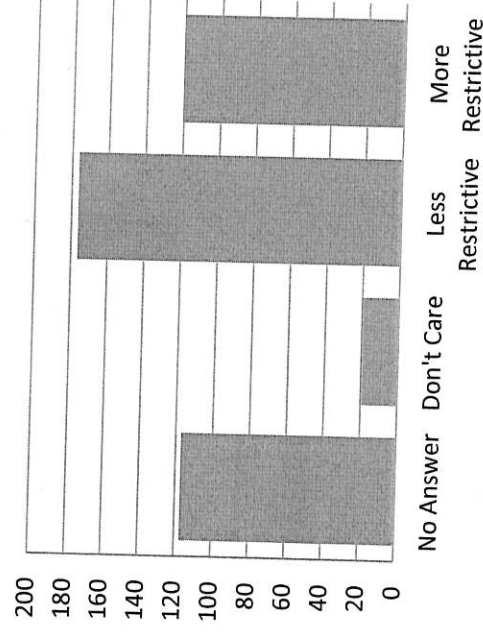
City Lake Use

Out of 432 Surveys received, the breakdown for answers to “When do you think that users should be allowed to use watercraft on the lakes on weekdays?” is:

- No answer given: 117 (27%)
- Don’t care: 19 (4%)
- Before Noon (less restrictive): 176 (41%)
- After Noon (more restrictive): 120 (28%)

This includes ‘yes’ answers as less restrictive (before noon) and ‘no’ answers as more restrictive (after noon)

Wake Restrictions

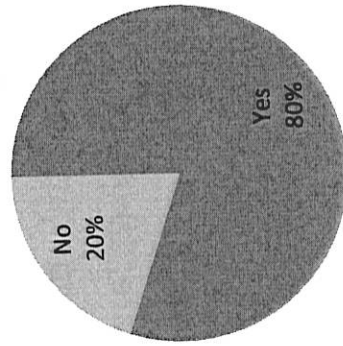


- Of the 176 that answered wake before noon:
- 144 (82%) cited wake hours beginning at 9 am or earlier
- 32 (18%) cited wake hours beginning between 9 am to noon

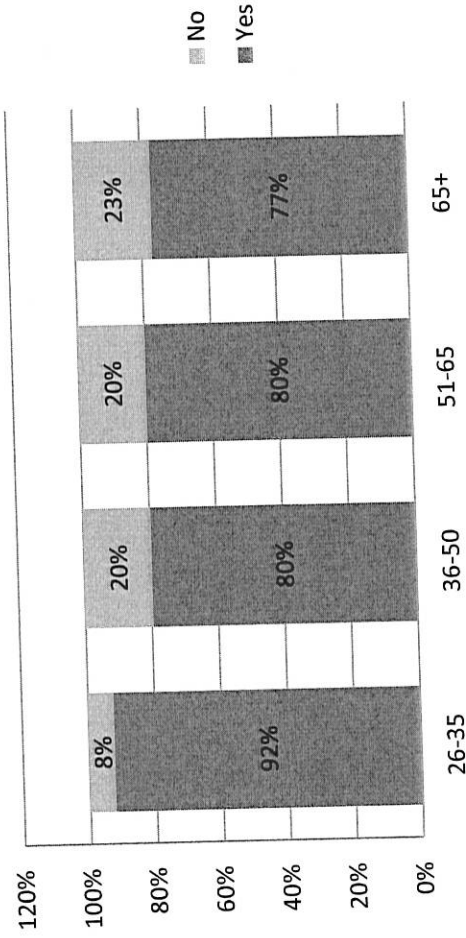
Trails & Connectivity

Eighty percent (80%) of taxpayers are in favor of the city developing a trail system that connects neighborhoods, parks, downtown and schools. This desire is shared evenly among age groups, with slightly more interest among 26 to 35 year olds.

Favor of Trail System



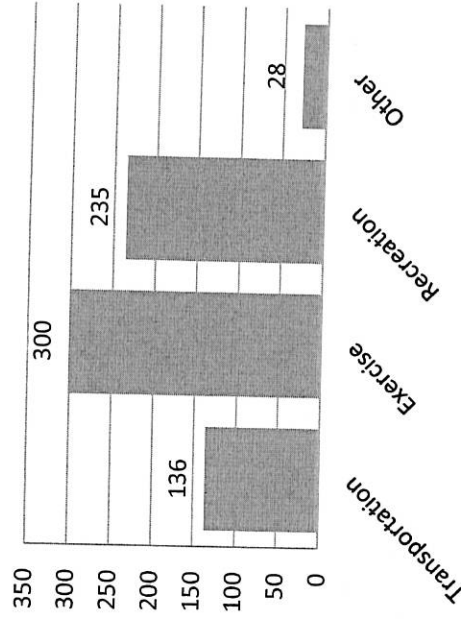
Favor of Trail System by Age



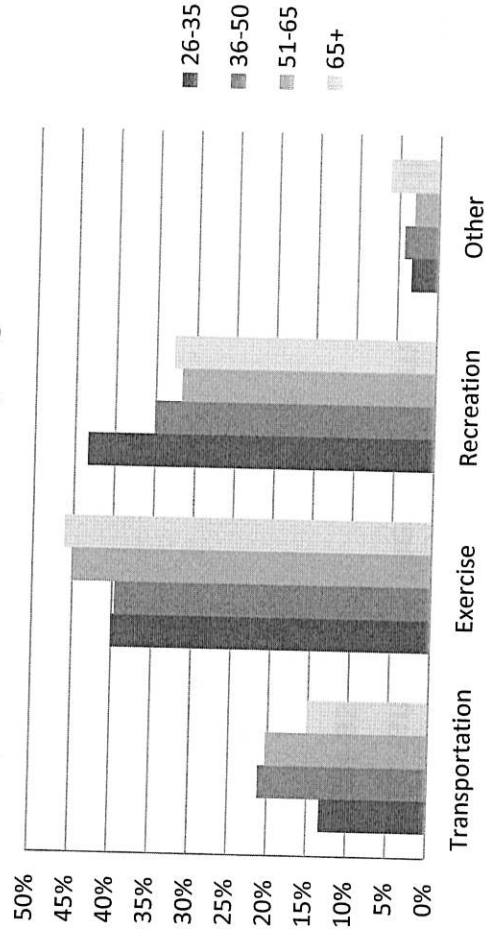
Trails & Connectivity

The majority of respondents are interested in a trail system for exercise and recreation purposes. Taxpayers between ages 26 to 35 are more likely to use trails for recreation, while residents age 65+ are more likely to use trails to get exercise.

Trail Use



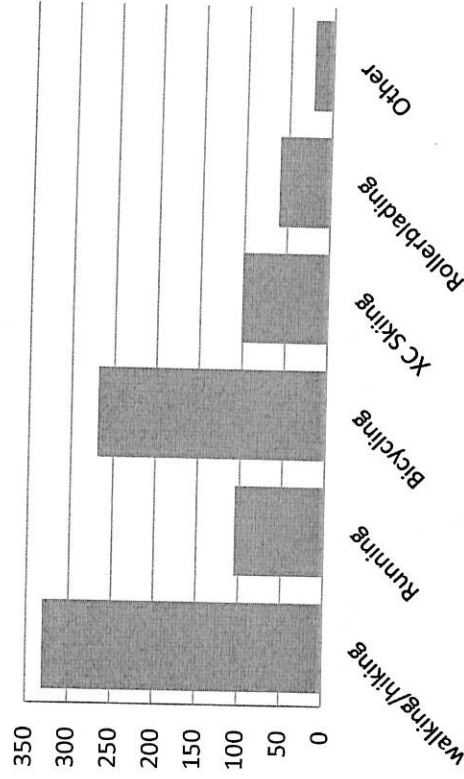
Trail Use by Age



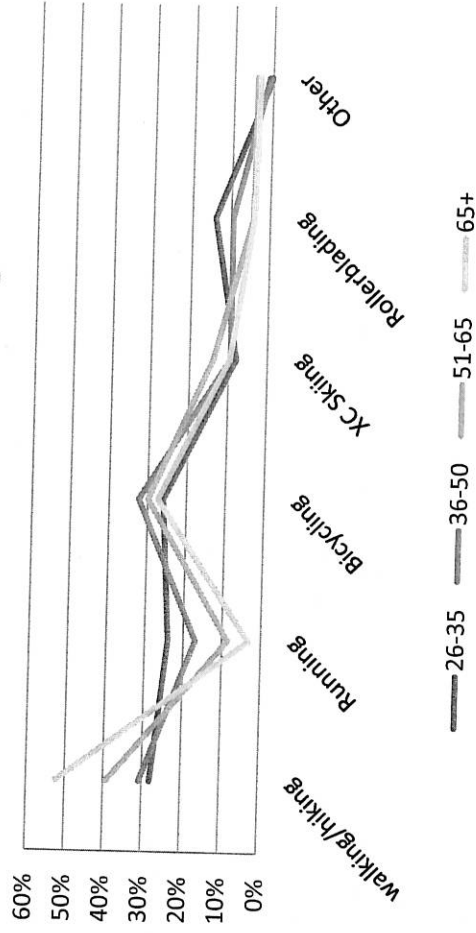
Trails & Connectivity

The most popular uses for city trails are walking/hiking, and biking. Trail users between the ages of 26 to 35 are more likely to engage in more vigorous activity like running and rollerblading, whereas the primary activity choice for users age 65+ is walking and hiking.

Trail Activities



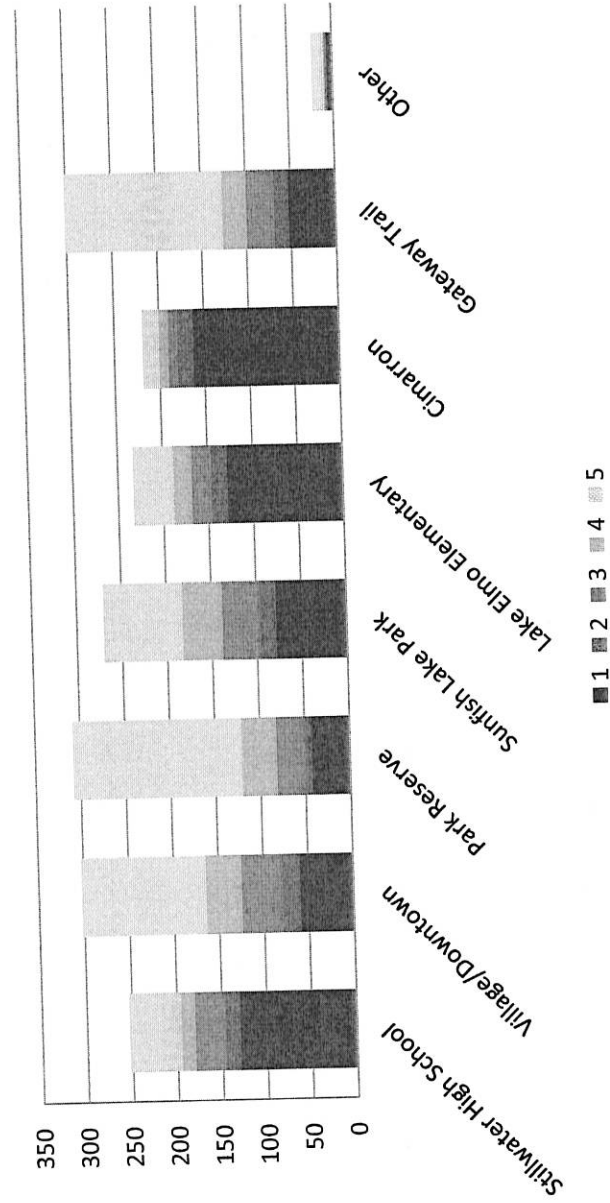
Trail Activities by Age



Trails & Connectivity

Respondents were asked to rate destinations for trail connections from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important. As indicated by the results below, the Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Gateway Trail, and the Old Village/Downtown area were most frequently indicated. The Park Reserve and Gateway Trail received the highest rankings in terms of importance.

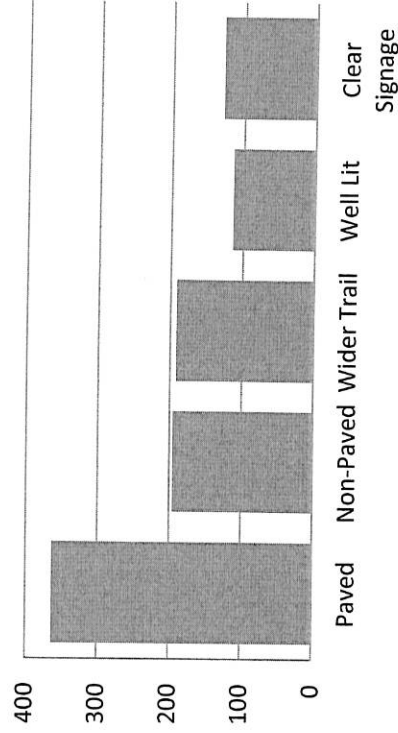
Trail Connections



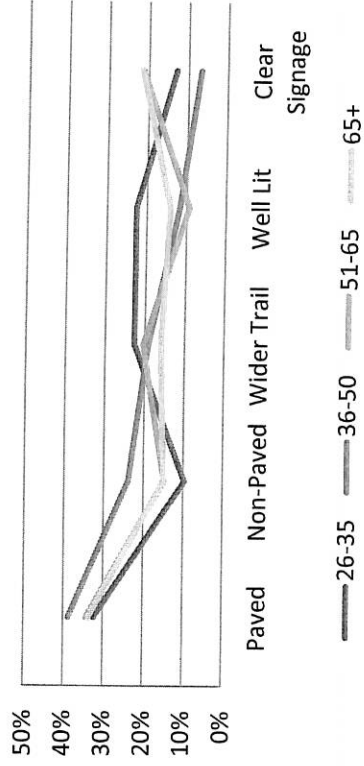
Trails & Connectivity

Survey respondents indicated that they would like to see more paved trails. The most common factors discouraging the use of trails include safety and poor maintenance.

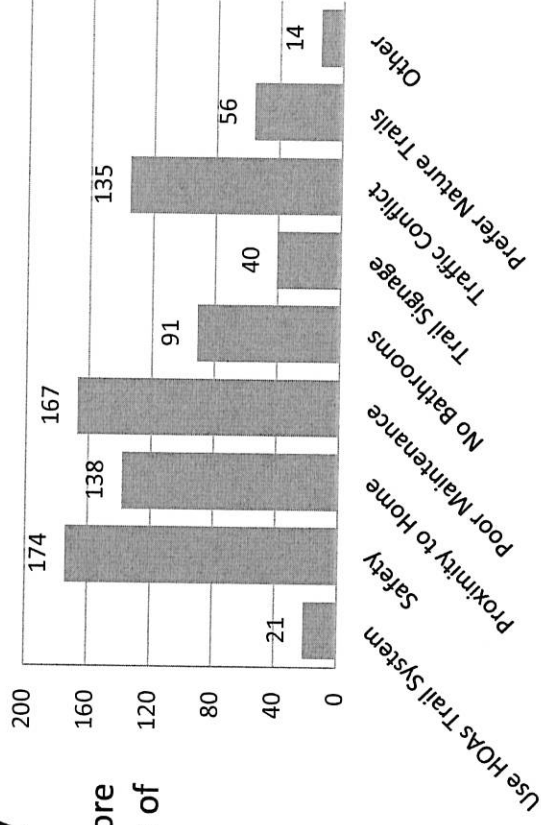
Trail Feature Preference



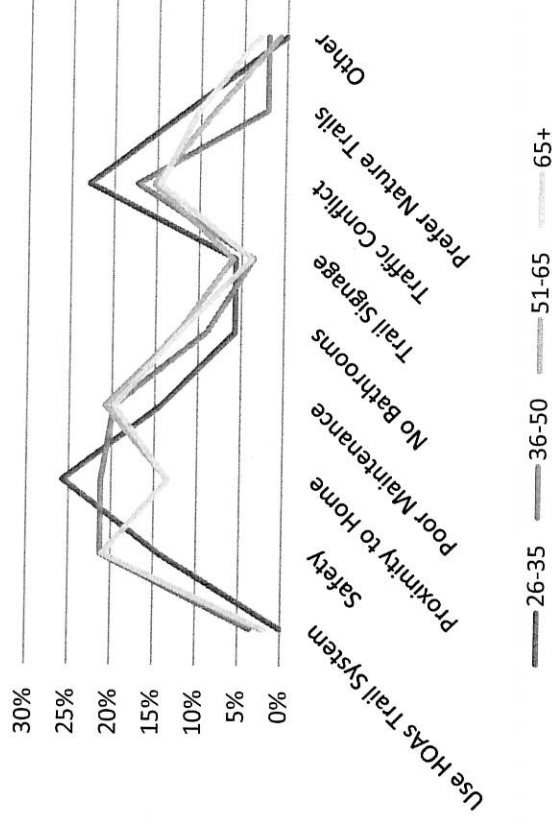
Trail Feature Preference by Age



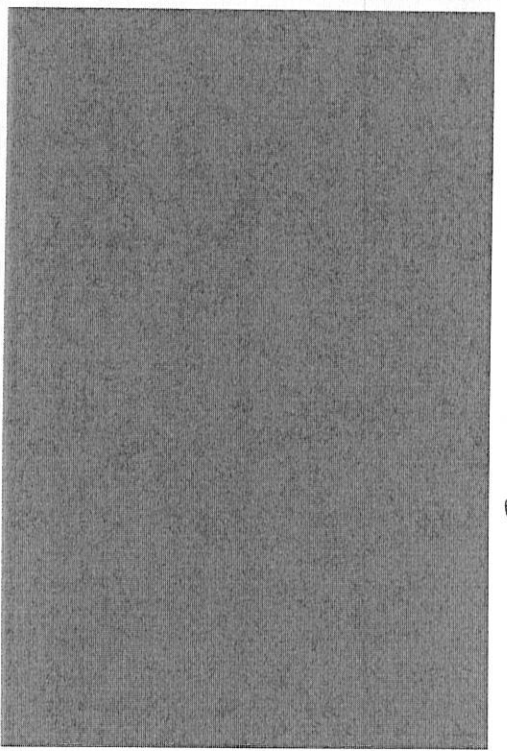
Factors Discouraging Trail Use



Factors Discouraging Trail Use by Age



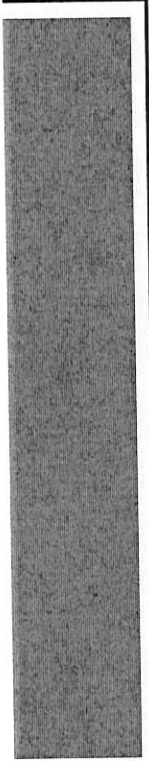
7-28-15 Jt. Mtg.



Lake Elmo Regional Trail

Trail Introduction Presentation





Introductions

- Trail Subcommittee
 - Jennifer Pelletier – Passer By
 - Mike Zeno – Lake Elmo Parks Commission
 - Pam Hartley – Lake Elmo Parks Commission
 - Shane Weis – Lake Elmo Parks Commission

Trail Selection Criteria

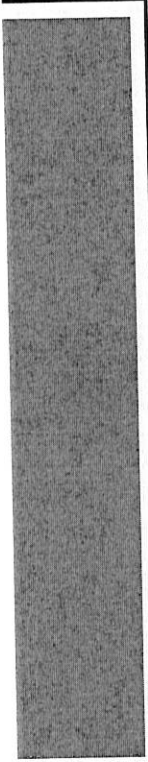
- Address Community Need
- Deliver students safely to school
- Bring people to our downtown
- Bring people to our parks
- Provide safe recreation
- Trail Diversity- Provide feel of LE
- Omit need to bike down highway 5

Trail Selection Criteria Cont.

- Compatibility with public grant opportunities
- Compatibility with private funding opportunities
- Feasibility of land acquisition

Lake Elmo Regional Trail – Phase One

- Proposed Trail – Map
- Connect to existing Oakdale trail at Stillwater Blvd and Helmo/Ideal Ave
- Travel through Tablyn to Lake Elmo Park Reserve
- Pass through LEPR – Provide exit point to Sunfish
- Continue down Highway 5 right of way to Gorman's- connect to existing trail



Lake Elmo Regional Trail – Phase Two

- Lake Elmo to Stillwater Senior High

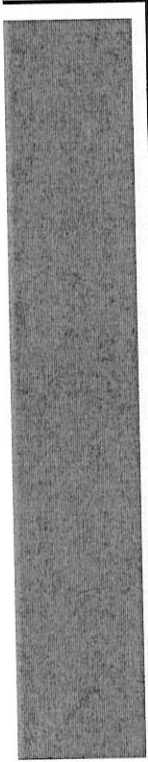
Costs

- Estimated cost without land acquisition
 - Phase One - \$827,316 (approx. 3.2 Miles)
 - Phase Two - \$765,600 (approx. 2.9 Miles)

[illegible]

Other trails

- Trails considered, but not selected
 - 94 to Lake Elmo via Lake Elmo Blvd
 - 94 Corridor to highway 5 via Inwood Ave



Public Grant Eligibility

- **Local Trail Connection (DNR)**
 - Connect to public space or complete existing connections
 - Max Grant \$150,000 – 25% Match
- **Federal Recreational Trail Program (DNR)**
 - Development of recreational trail linkage including trail side facilities
 - Max Grant \$150,000 – 25% Match

Public Grant Eligibility Cont.

- **Outdoor Recreation Grant (DNR)**

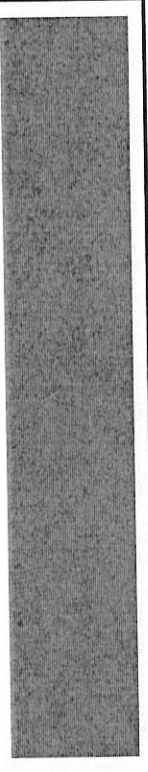
- Internal park trails or support facilities
- Total average distribution - \$335,000

Public Grant Eligibility Cont.

- **Safe Route to Schools (SRTS) (MDOT)**
 - K-8 Schools
 - Trail study required (already completed by Lake Elmo)
- **Washington County Legacy Funds (MET)**
 - Parks of regional significance and trails that connect regional parks
 - John Elhom to present

Public Grant Eligibility Cont.

- Washington County Public Health
 - SHIP funds
- MN Department of Health Funds

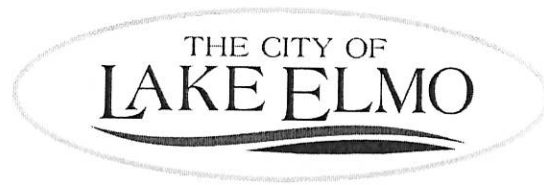


Private & Other Sources of Funding

- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- McKnight Foundation
- Cargill
- Parks and trails council of MN

Lake Elmo Regional Trail

- Let The Fun Begin
- Questions?
- “Informal Discussion” - Next Steps
 - Identify possible stumbling blocks



7/28/15 Jt. Mtg.

2015 Park Commission Strategic Plan of Work

The City of Lake Elmo Park Commission has affirmed their priorities to be: 1) Trails - Develop a comprehensive trail plan, and continue efforts on the Lake Elmo Regional Trail system; 2) Create an updated comprehensive park plan; 3) Create and implement a forestry and park plan for Sunfish Lake Park ; 4) Make improvements to existing parks to encourage increased utilization and enhanced taxpayer experience

With the broader priorities defined, the 2015 Park Commission Strategic Plan of Work has been broken down into (6) segments; Planning & Audit; Park Development & Equipping ; Maintenance & Refurbishing; Nature & Conservation; Park Awareness; and Finance.

Planning & Audit	Complete	60% Complete	40% Complete	0% Complete	Failed
Mission Statement: <i>Through the use of diagnostics / surveys / audits, carefully plan for the proper equipping of parks and available park funding to maximize taxpayer utilization.</i>					
Develop Updated Comprehensive Park Plan					
Continue planning & fund development of the Lake Elmo Regional Trail. Complete trail plan feasibility study, and comprehensive trail plan.					
Create Sunfish Lake Park plan to address utilization, safety, forest management, nature center & education, structures and parking issues. (Task Force)					

Development & Equipping	Complete	60% Complete	40% Complete	0% Complete	Failed
Mission Statement: <i>To construct / develop / equip appropriate park facilities to serve the community generally and neighborhoods specifically in accordance with the open space philosophy of the City.</i>					
Develop master plan for Reid Park including ADA equipment, and permanent restroom					
Work with HOAs to create / maintain community connection trail access.					
Determine location for community ice rink					

Maintenance & Refurbishing	Complete	60% Complete	40% Complete	0% Complete	Failed
Mission Statement: <i>To maintain and upgrade all park facilities in a manner that increases park use for a relevant experience.</i>					

Focus on downtown park space; transforming into hometown ball field destination park					
Update park recreational amenities based on park audit, current trends, conditions & typical use.					
Complete 2014 updates/improvements to Tablyn, Pebble Park, and Sanctuary Park					

Nature & Conservation					
Mission Statement: <i>To promote the open space character and commitment to the environment via nature observation amenities and targeted conservation programs.</i>					Complete
					60% Complete
					40% Complete
					0% Complete
					Failed
Implement forest management plan in Sunfish Lake Park per approved stewardship plan					
Research the replacement of park land due to landfill remediation in Sunfish Area 3					

Park Awareness					
Mission Statement: <i>To promote through public relations & signage the utilization of City Parks.</i>					Complete
					60% Complete
					40% Complete
					0% Complete
					Failed
Establish through special events, publications, website, e-blasts and other promotion a park awareness plan					
Maintain consistency in theming/branding to increase park awareness					

Finance					
Mission Statement: <i>To effectively spend parkland dedication funds to meet the objectives of each year's Strategic Plan of Work while maintaining a minimum fund balance of \$100,000.</i>					
Funding Priorities = 1. Trails & Pathways 2. Revitalization of Current Parks 3. Destination Features 4. Establish New Parks 5. Parking & Safety 6. Nature & Conservation					Complete
					60% Complete
					40% Complete
					0% Complete
					Failed
Purchase new mower, skidsteer for park maintenance					
Expend up to \$400,000 in the refurbishing and updating of the current park system					
Expend up to \$50,000 for LERT feasibility study					