

2015

Park Needs Survey Results



City of Mill Creek
15728 Main Street
Mill Creek, WA 98012

City of Mill Creek

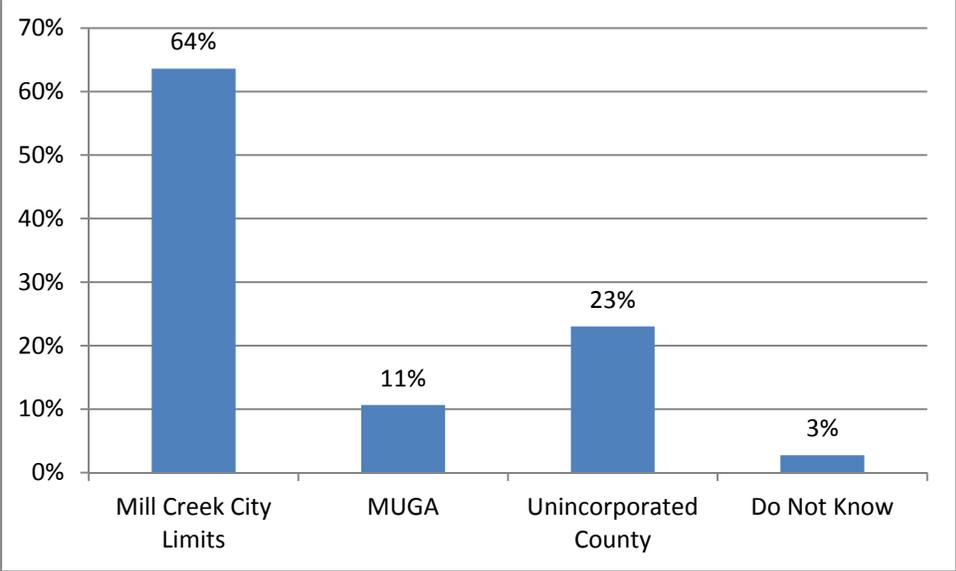
Summary of Online Park Needs Survey – March 13, 2015

As a part of the 2015 major update of the Comprehensive Plan, the Public Participation Plan calls for an extra effort to gain public input regarding the Parks and Open Space Element. This extra effort will help ensure that the City's plan can attain certification from the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO), which makes the City eligible to apply for grant funding. This certification must be renewed every six years. In an effort to gain public input, staff created an online survey, which was posted on the City's website from January 19, 2015 through March 13, 2015.

A concerted effort has been made to ensure that the Park Needs Survey was promoted to a wide and varied audience to ensure that opinions from all segments of the community were represented in the survey results. The survey was advertised in numerous ways including:

- Notify Me City's website 298 subscribers
- News Flash – City's website 127 subscribers
- City's Website - Main Calendar , Community Development Home Page, Parks and Recreation Home Page
- Press Release to standard list asking that they help promote the survey and letting them know it will run until the end of February and asking that they publish a reminder about half way through – 11 contacts
- Email to Parks and Recreation Participants – 8015 emails
- Email to representatives of organized sports group – 33 emails
- Email to Board and Commission Members – 48 emails
- Email to HOA Representatives asking that they share the information with their neighbors – 47 emails
- Posted on the School District Website
- Email to the Mill Creek Seniors Group asking that they share the information with their members
- Mailed flyers to Apartment Managers for eight apartment complexes in the City asking that they post the flyer where residents might see it.
- Flyers posted at City Hall (front door, lobby bulletin board, Council Chambers, Parks and Recreation Counter)
- Flyers posted at the Annex Building (front door, large community room)
- Flyers sent to the Library for posting
- Flyers, containing a QR Code with a direct link to the survey, were displayed at all City parks (Silver Crest, North Pointe Park, Cougar Park, Pine Meadow Park, Highlands Park, Nickel Creek Park, Heron Park, Hillside Park, Mill Creek Sports Park and Library Park) and along the North Creek Trail
- Digital signage in the City Hall lobby

A total of 438 people took the time to give the City Council input regarding their priorities and desires for parks and open space within the City of Mill Creek. Over 75% of the survey respondents live either within Mill Creek city limits (64%) or in the Municipal Urban Growth Area (11%). This summary represents the responses of all those who took the survey.



Mill Creek Park Facilities

Q1 Which Mill Creek parks have you or your family visited in the last year?

Most visited parks: Mill Creek Sports Park, Cougar, Heron and Library Park – all are on arterials, all have restrooms.

Next most visited: Highlands, Pine Meadow – both have restrooms and are in larger subdivisions.

Least visited: Hillside, Nickel Creek, and Silver Crest – no restrooms available and these parks are not as visible from major routes of travel or centrally located.

Q2 If the primary reason for your visit to a City park is for children's activities, what is the age range of the children?

The largest age group served by neighborhood parks is the 5 – 12 year olds with 58%. However, almost 29% say children's activities are not the primary reason for their visit to a City park, which underscores the importance of providing a variety of activities and experiences.

Q3 In the last year, about how frequently did someone from your household visit a Mill Creek City Park?

Almost 34% of the survey respondents *visit a City park at least once a week* and 23% *visit 2 or 3 times a month* for a total of 57% being frequent park users. Less than 5% say they *never use City parks*.

Q4 How do you get to City parks?

The two primary methods of getting to parks is *driving* (with 33% of the survey respondents saying that they **drive most of the time**) and *walking* (with 31% of the survey respondents saying that they **walk most of the time**). The relatively high percentage who drive may be because they are visiting various City parks and not just the park in their neighborhood. See Q8 where 39% of the survey respondents said that they primarily travel to various City parks to enjoy a variety of park amenities. A lower percentage (10%) regularly *bike* to City parks.

Q5 How would you rate Mill Creek City parks and trail facilities -- on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest?

When asked how they would rate Mill Creek Parks and Trail Facilities, the two highest ranked categories are *Maintenance of Facilities*, with over 90% giving it a 4 or 5 ranking, and *Quality* with a combined 4/5 ranking of over 81%. The lowest score was received by *Variety of*

Amenities, which still had 62% giving a 4/5 ranking. Approximately 43% gave *Maintenance of Trails* the highest possible ranking of 5. Overall, City of Mill Creek Parks and Trail Facilities were ranked very favorably.

Q8 Which of the following is the way your family satisfies their need for outdoor recreation most often?

Survey respondents said that they either *primarily use the City park closest to their home* (29%) or *travel to various City parks to enjoy a variety of park amenities* (39%)



Snohomish County Park Facilities

Q6 There are four Snohomish County parks near Mill Creek. Which County parks have you or your family visited in the last year?

The County park visited most often was *Willis Tucker Park* with 69%, followed by *McCollum Park* with 65% and *Tambark Park* with 61%. *North Creek Park* was visited by 39% of the survey respondents. Less than 7% of survey respondents said that they never visit County parks. City residents are using the County parks. Regional parks such as McCollum Park are serving at least some of the community's Regional and Community park needs.

Q7 How satisfied are you with the condition, maintenance, and amenities provided in the County parks?

Almost 94% of the survey respondents said that they were either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the condition, maintenance and amenities in County parks.



North Creek Boardwalk

Q9 What is your favorite park in the City and/or County and why is it your favorite?

Willis Tucker, a County Park, (26%) was the park mentioned the most often as a favorite park. The reasons for Willis Tucker Park being a favorite included spray park, off-leash dog park, variety of amenities, ball fields, trails and the farmers market. The next group of frequently mentioned parks were *Tambark* (12%), *Heron* (11%) and *Mill Creek Sports Park* (10%). The reasons for Tambark being mentioned included off-leash dog park, sport fields with artificial turf, variety of amenities, trails, enclosed play structure, and proxy mity. The reasons for Heron Park included the trails, tennis courts, location, appearance, and restrooms/picnic shelter. The reasons for Mill Creek Sports Park included the artificial turf fields, lights, and concession stand as well as the skate park.

Park Features

Q10 How would you rate the importance of each of the following park features?

The park features that rated the highest (**Very Important**) were:

- *Restroom Facilities* (77%)
- *Walking Trails* (72%)
- *Natural Areas and Open Space* (72%)
- *Children's Play Equipment* (63%)
- *Open Play Areas* (60%)
- *Parking* (58%)

Park features considered to be **Somewhat Important** included:

- *Athletic Fields*
- *Trails for Bicycles and Skaters*
- *Picnic Shelters*
- *Basketball Courts*

The park features that rated the lowest (**Not Important at All**) were:

- *Skateboard Facilities*
- *Off-Leash Dog Areas*
- *BBQs* (39%)
- *Tennis Courts* (39%)

When both the **Very Important** and **Somewhat Important** Ranking are combined, the top eight park features, in priority order, were:

- *Walking Trails* (98%)
- *Natural Areas and Open Space* (97%)
- *Restrooms* (96%)
- *Parking* (93%)
- *Children's Play Equipment* (93%)
- *Open Play Areas* (93%)
- *Picnic Shelters* (89%)

which is very similar to the **Very Important** rankings, just in a slightly different priority order.

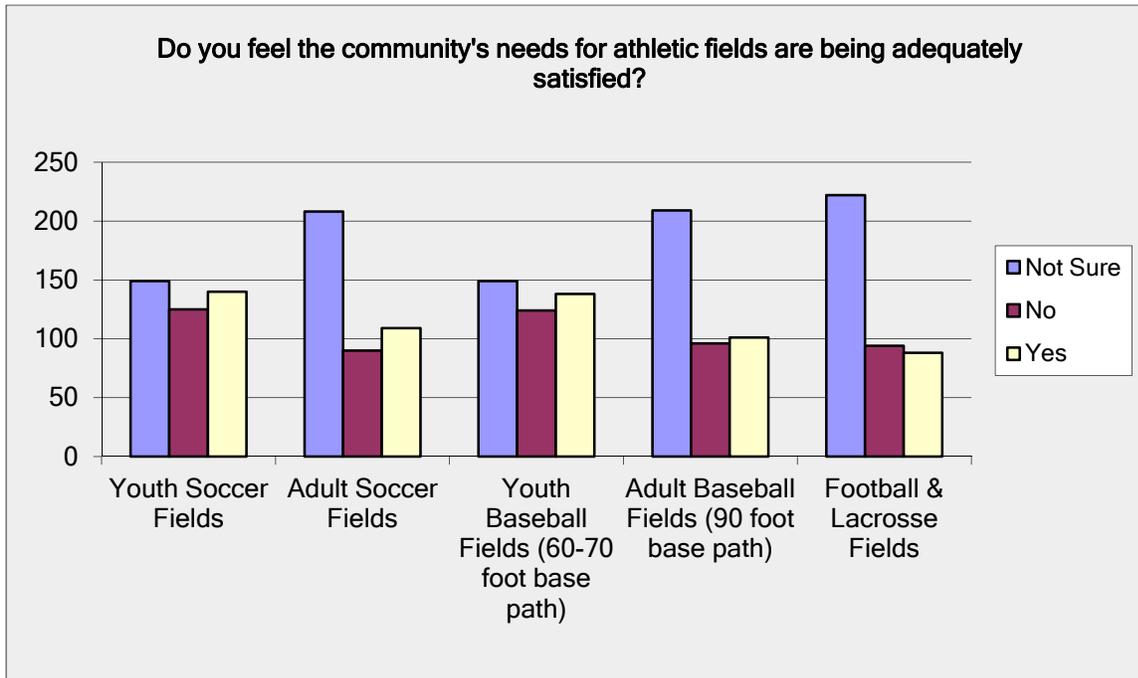
Q13 What kinds of outdoor sports courts would you or your family use if they were available in a City park?

Respondents expressed the most interest in the following outdoor sports courts: *Basketball* (46%) and *Tennis* (36%) courts.

Athletic Fields

Q11 Do you feel the community's needs for athletic fields are being adequately satisfied?

A majority of survey respondents were not sure if the community's needs for athletic fields are being adequately satisfied. The potential responses to this question were *Yes*, *No* and *Not Sure*. Not sure received the majority of the response for every type of field.

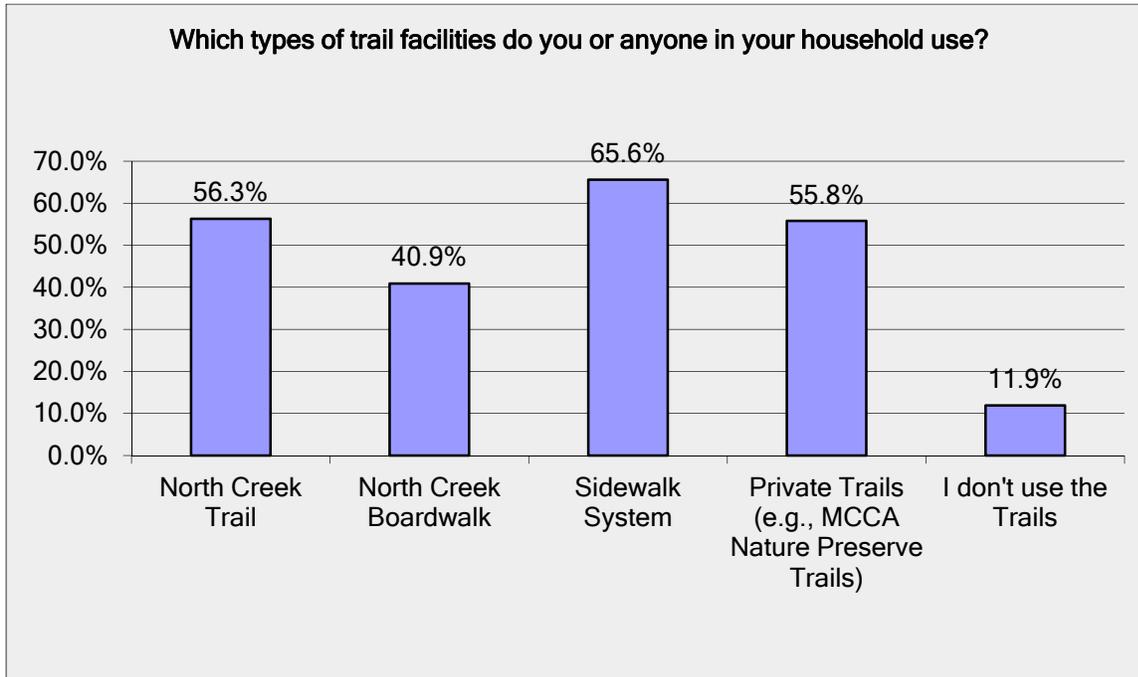


Q12 Do you or does anyone in your family participate in the following organized sports?

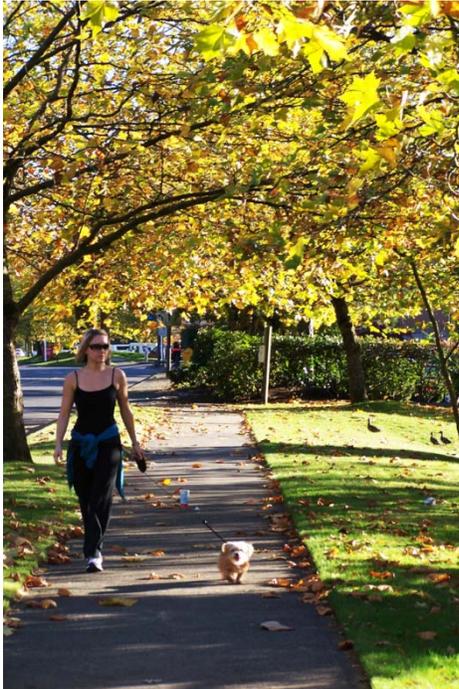
Forty-four percent (44%) of the respondents do not have anyone in their family that participates in organized sports, which may in-part explain the response to Question 11. However, 28% of survey respondents are involved in Youth Baseball and 17% are involved in Youth Soccer. The percentage involved in Adult Sports and other sports such as Lacrosse and Football was very low. Even though survey respondents were not sure if the City's need for athletic fields was being met or do not personally have family members involved in organized sports, when asked in Question 19 how they would rate the importance of certain programs and activities, *Youth Organized Sports* received the highest ranking with 71% ranking it as **Very Important**.

Trail Facilities

Q14 What types of trail facilities do you or anyone in your household use?



Q15 For what purpose do you use the trail facilities?



Walking/running for leisure was the primary purpose for using the trail facilities (87%), followed by *Bike Riding* (31%) and *Walking to Local Businesses* (25%). The trail facilities are not used often for commuting either to work (1%) or school (6%).

Recreation Programs and Community Events

Q16 In the last year, has anyone in your household attended a recreation class, arts program or presentation, or participated in a recreation activity or community event provided or sponsored by Mill Creek Parks and Recreation?

In the last year, approximately 31% of survey respondents attended a Recreation Class and 34% percent attended a Concert. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the survey respondents attended a Special Community Event.

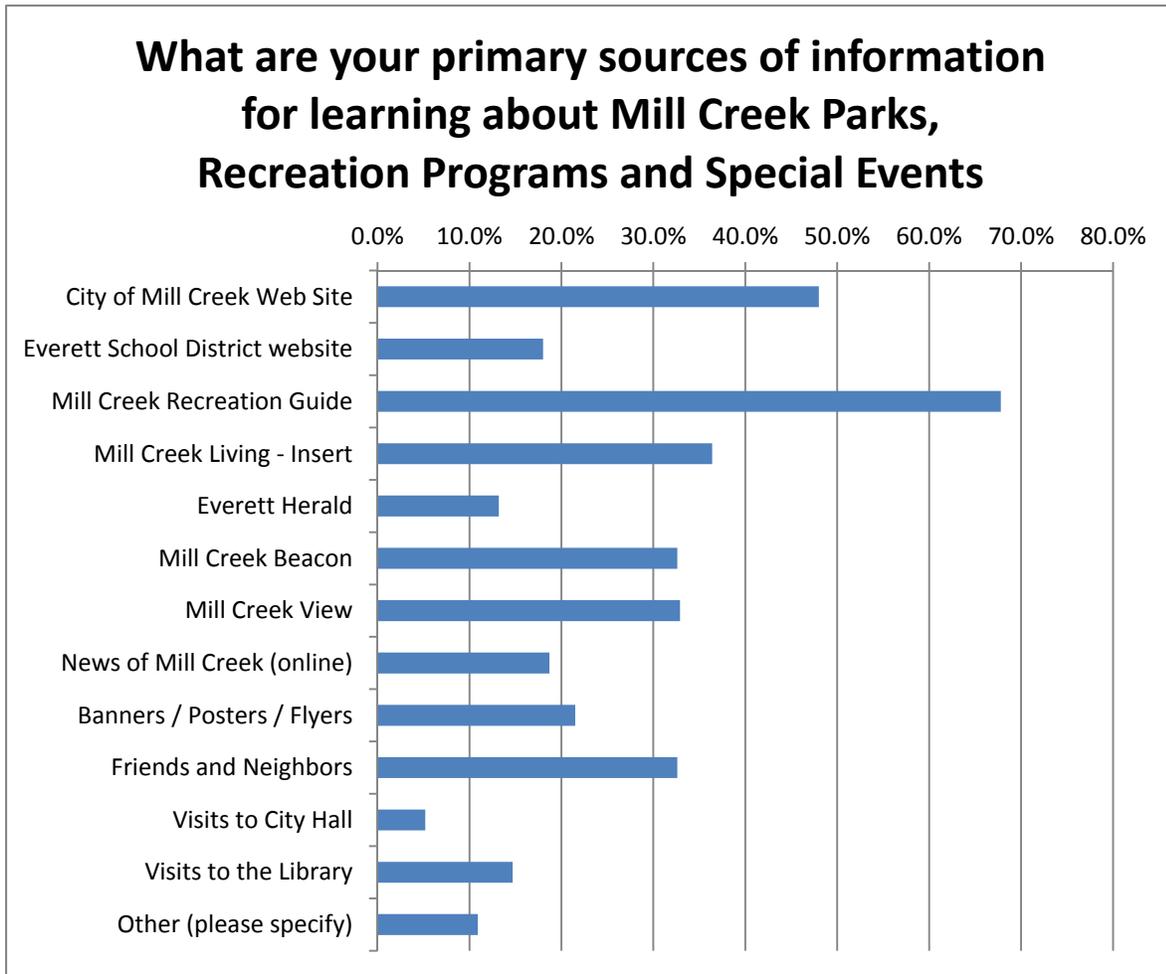
Q18 How would you rate the overall quality of the existing Mill Creek recreation programs?

Of the survey respondents who attended a Recreation Program or class, 70% ranked Mill Creek Recreation Programs a 5 or 4, 26% ranked Mill Creek Recreation Programs a 3, and 4% ranked Mill Creek Recreation Programs a 2 or 1. Overall, the survey respondents appear to be **very satisfied** or **satisfied** with the Mill Creek Recreation Programs.

Q19 How would you rate the importance of each of the following programs and activities?

When asked to rate the importance of programs and activities, the survey respondents rated *Youth Organized Sports* (71%) and *Youth Activities and Classes* (66%) the highest, followed closely by *Teen Programs* (61%), *Preschool Classes* (57%) and *Classes for Seniors* (52%), with all having over 50% of survey respondents ranking those activities as **Very Important**. The programs receiving the least support were *Adult Classes* (36%) and *Adult Organized Sports* (29%). Even though fewer residents ranked the adult categories as **Very Important**, they still received strong support with less than 18% of the residents ranking them as **Not Important at All**.

Q.20



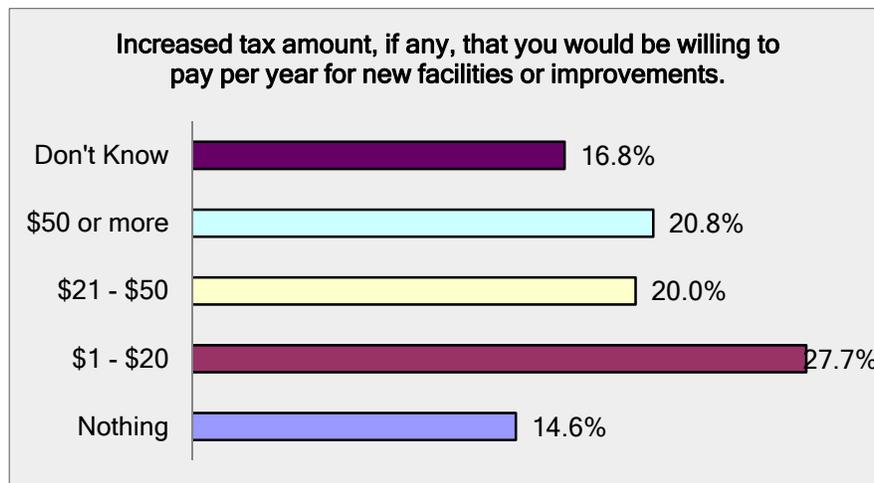
Budget Priorities

Q21 If you were in charge of the City's budget for Parks and Open Space, how would you prioritize funding?

When asked about prioritizing Parks and Open Space funding, the survey respondents ranked maintenance the highest. Over 91% ranked *Maintenance of Existing Parks* as either **Willing to Support A Tax Increase to Ensure this is Provided** or **High Priority** and only one respondent (out of 400 survey respondents) said they would not include this in the budget. *Maintenance of Existing Trails* received a similar combined ranking of 82% and only four respondents who would not include it in the budget. Other top priorities included *Supporting Programs for Seniors* (57%), *Upgrades to Older City Parks* (56%) and *Providing Parks & Recreation Programs and Classes* (54%). The programs that had the highest number of respondents saying they **Would Not Include in the Budget** included *Purchasing Land for New City Parks* (24%), *Construction of New Facilities* (i.e., community / senior center) (22%), *Purchasing Land to Expand Trail System* (21%), *Construction of Additional Athletic Fields* (20%). In summary, survey respondents support maintaining what the City currently owns but do not strongly support new purchases or developing new facilities.

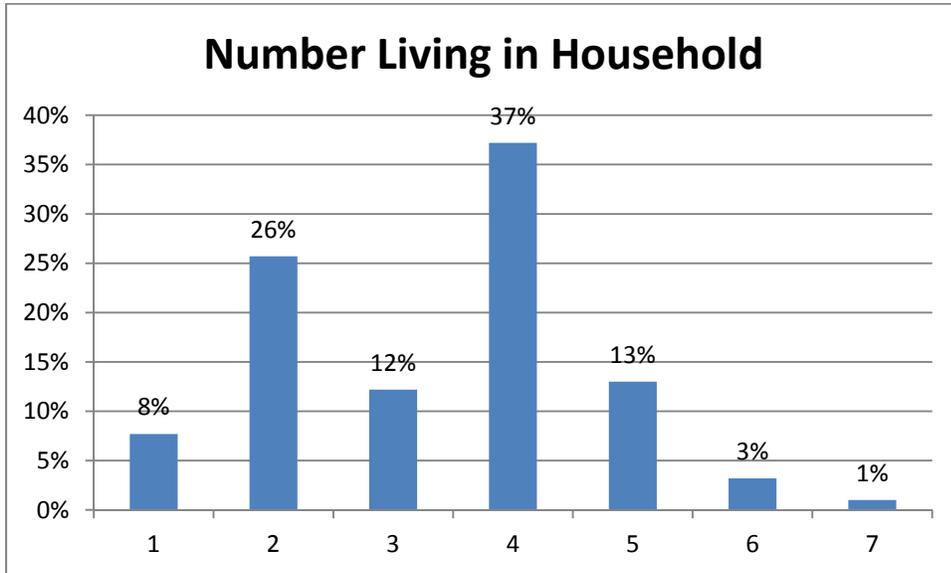
Q22 The City could consider creating new recreation amenities or additional improvements. Please indicate the increased tax amount, if any, that you would be willing to pay per year for such facilities.

Over 69% of survey respondents said they would support increased taxes, in varying amounts, for new recreation amenities or additional improvements. The proposed tax increase categories included *\$1-\$20* (28%), *\$21-\$50* (20%), *\$50 or more* (21%). Only 15% of the survey respondents indicated that they would not support a tax increase of any kind.

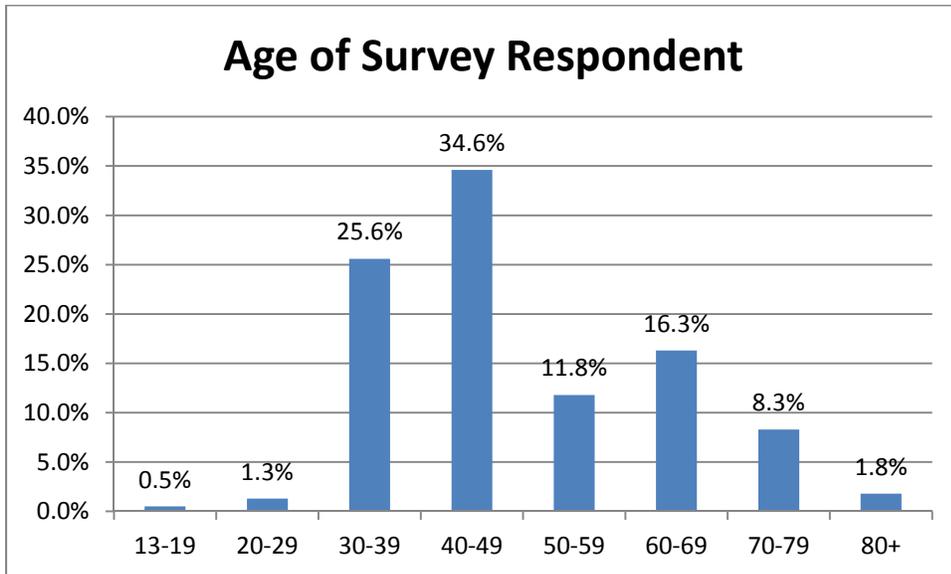


Demographic Information

Q23 Number of people living in household.



Q24 Age of Survey Respondent



Q26 Type of residence.

Over 92% of the survey respondents live in *single-family homes* with just over 8% in *multifamily* (apartments and condominiums without private yards).

Q27 Property ownership status.

Almost 92% of the survey respondents *own their home* and 8% are *renting*.

Q29 Are you a registered voter?

Almost 97% of survey respondents are registered voters and just over 3% are not registered voters.