

Public Outreach Workbook

June 17, 2015

Greetings!

The Japanese Gulch Master Plan process thus far has been primarily focused on understanding the public opinion regarding potential design concepts. The public outreach focus has included online surveys, dot exercises, special interest group meetings, open houses, and design game exercises.

As a subcommittee member you have had an opportunity to hear various views from the public on how Japanese Gulch should be master planned. Please use the information in this workbook along with what you have learned from the public meetings to help the city develop a master plan that best reflects the public's values. Within this workbook there are notes and highlights from all the different public outreach events. In order to better grasp the depth of the varying opinions, there are also specific spaces in this workbook to make notes about the public's priorities. While it may be tempting to start comparing different survey results against other survey results, we strongly recommend to look at each survey as snap shots. At our next subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, June 24, we will have the opportunity to discuss your findings to better shape each subarea.

Please keep in mind that this workbook is designed to take you through a tour of information and identify the many voices and complex viewpoints that exist. In order to clarify as much of the information as possible, the information shown has been simplified. Please feel free to read through the original information in the appendix from the surveys. This information was edited by City Staff to remove private information and abusive language.

On pages 4 & 5, you will see the 'Goals to Achieve a Livable Mukilteo'. These goals have been identified within the draft 2035 Mukilteo Comprehensive Plan, and provide guidance to the City on how decisions should be made. As we sit down to prepare the priorities of Japanese Gulch Master Plan, we must recognize how the priorities of Japanese Gulch Master Plan reflect the values of the 'Goals to Achieve a Livable Mukilteo'.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Berner

Recreation & Cultural Services Director

425-263-8181

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GOALS TO ACHIEVE A LIVABLE MUKILTEO

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: The natural environment is the undeveloped open space areas within and around Mukilteo and includes recreation areas with parks and trails. Humans should be recognized as being part of nature and thus play a role in protecting it. To ensure the natural environment flourishes and thrives means:

Protecting Environmental Resources & Habitats | Fostering Green Parks & Preserving Open Space | Minimizing the Use of Toxic Products | Modeling Environmentally-friendly Practices | Reducing Greenhouse Gases



HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT: The built environment addresses the physical and structural parts of the city, including what the city looks like, where residents live, how they get around, and how they live. Examples of how to achieve and maintain a quality built environment include:

Providing a Variety of Housing Options Serving All Populations | Sustaining a Vibrant Old Town | Maintaining Neighborhoods | Balanced Growth | A Complete Transportation System | Fostering Efficient Use of Resources

VIBRANT ECONOMY: A vibrant economy addresses the issues of opportunity, prosperity, livability, and availability of meaningful work for residents. Economic activity should serve a common good, be self-renewing and build on local assets. A vibrant economy is achieved by:

A Budget that Manages Long Term Revenues & Expenditures | Supporting and Promoting Innovative Industries | Employment Opportunities for Family Wages | Maintaining AAA Financial Rating

GOALS TO ACHIEVE A LIVABLE MUKILTEO

AUTHENTIC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: To have authentic participation the city's leadership must prioritize engaging community members and proactively focus on providing a wide variety of meaningful opportunities to participate in city governance. The leadership must not exclude any voices and shall strive to remove barriers that inhibit or discourage involvement. Examples of authentic public participation include:

Transparent and Responsive Leadership | Collaborative Community Planning
Publicly Acknowledging the Value of Volunteerism | An Engaged Public with
Equitable Opportunities to Participate

ARTS & CULTURAL AWARENESS: Arts and cultural awareness promotes a creative, learning environment that values good individual and community mental health and well-being, education, and interpersonal relationships. Ways to achieve arts and cultural awareness include:

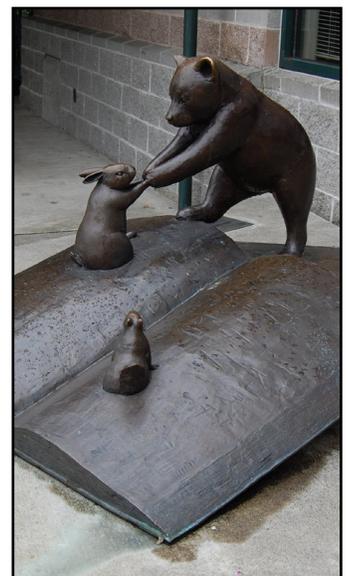
Honoring Our History | Thriving Arts and Cultural Events with Widespread
Participation | Educational Opportunities for All | Acceptance of Diversity

HEALTHY COMMUNITY: A healthy and safe community addresses how the community impacts individual health and well-being. Characteristics that a healthy community should have include:

Pedestrian & Bike Friendly | Clean Water & Air | Recreation Opportunities for All
Ages | Access to Healthy Foods | Ability to Age in Place | Access to Healthcare

INNOVATION: As symbolized by the city's iconic lighthouse, Mukilteo should strive to be a beacon of creative and innovative problem solving, and serve as a model for other cities, private enterprises, and residents to emulate. Ways the city can set an example for others to copy include:

Create Problem-solving Partnerships | Attract High Tech Industries |
Promote Alternate Modes of Transportation



Priorities Sheet

Now that you have read the 'Goals to Achieve a Livable Mukilteo', you can now use the subgoals as a starting list to assist in shaping the priorities. Please check which subgoals you feel are most applicable to the Japanese Gulch Master Plan:

Natural Environment:

- Protecting Environmental Resources & Habits
- Fostering Green Parks & Preserving Open Space
- Minimizing the Use of Toxic Products
- Modeling Environmentally-Friendly Practices
- Reducing Greenhouse Gases

Healthy Built Environment:

- Providing a Variety of Housing Options Serving All Populations
- Sustaining a Vibrant Old Town
- Maintaining Neighborhoods
- Balanced Growth
- A Complete Transportation System
- Fostering Efficient Use of Resources

Vibrant Economy

- A Budget that Manages Long Term Revenues & Expenditures
- Supporting and Promoting Innovative Industries
- Employment Opportunities for Family Wages
- Maintaining AAA Financial Rating

Authentic Public Participation

- Transparent and Responsive Leadership
- Collaborative Community Planning Publicly Acknowledging the Value of Volunteerism
- An Engaged Public with Equitable Opportunities to Participate

Arts & Cultural Awareness

- Honoring Our History
- Thriving Arts and Cultural Events with Widespread Participation
- Educational Opportunities for All
- Acceptance of Diversity

Priorities Sheet Cont.

Healthy Community

- Pedestrian & Bike Friendly
- Clean Water & Air
- Recreational Opportunities for All Ages
- Access to Healthy Foods
- Ability to Age in Place
- Access to Healthcare

Innovation

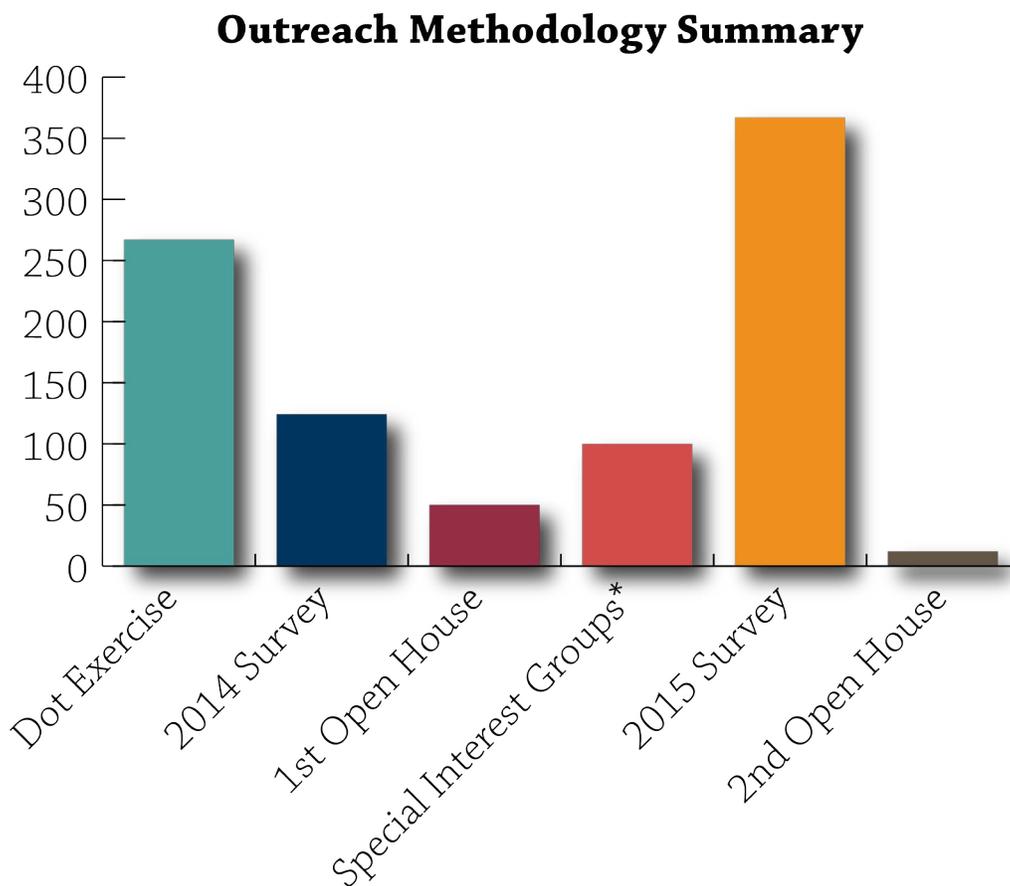
- Create Problem-solving Partnerships
- Attract High Tech Industries
- Promote Alternative Modes of Transportation

Which subgoals align best with what is important in the planning of the Japanese Gulch Master Plan?

Public Outreach

Starting in May, 2014, the City of Mukilteo initiated public outreach through several different outreach methods including dot exercises, online surveys, design charrette based open houses, special interest groups, and several more non-quantifiable methods. These different outreach methodologies were created to provide an engaging opportunity for the public to learn about Japanese Gulch and identify their ideas and concepts. Every outreach method was inclusive to both non-residents, and residents to encourage collaboration and information from all potential Japanese Gulch Users.

Below is a summary chart of the number of respondents per each outreach methodology. Each outreach methodology is explored further on the following pages.

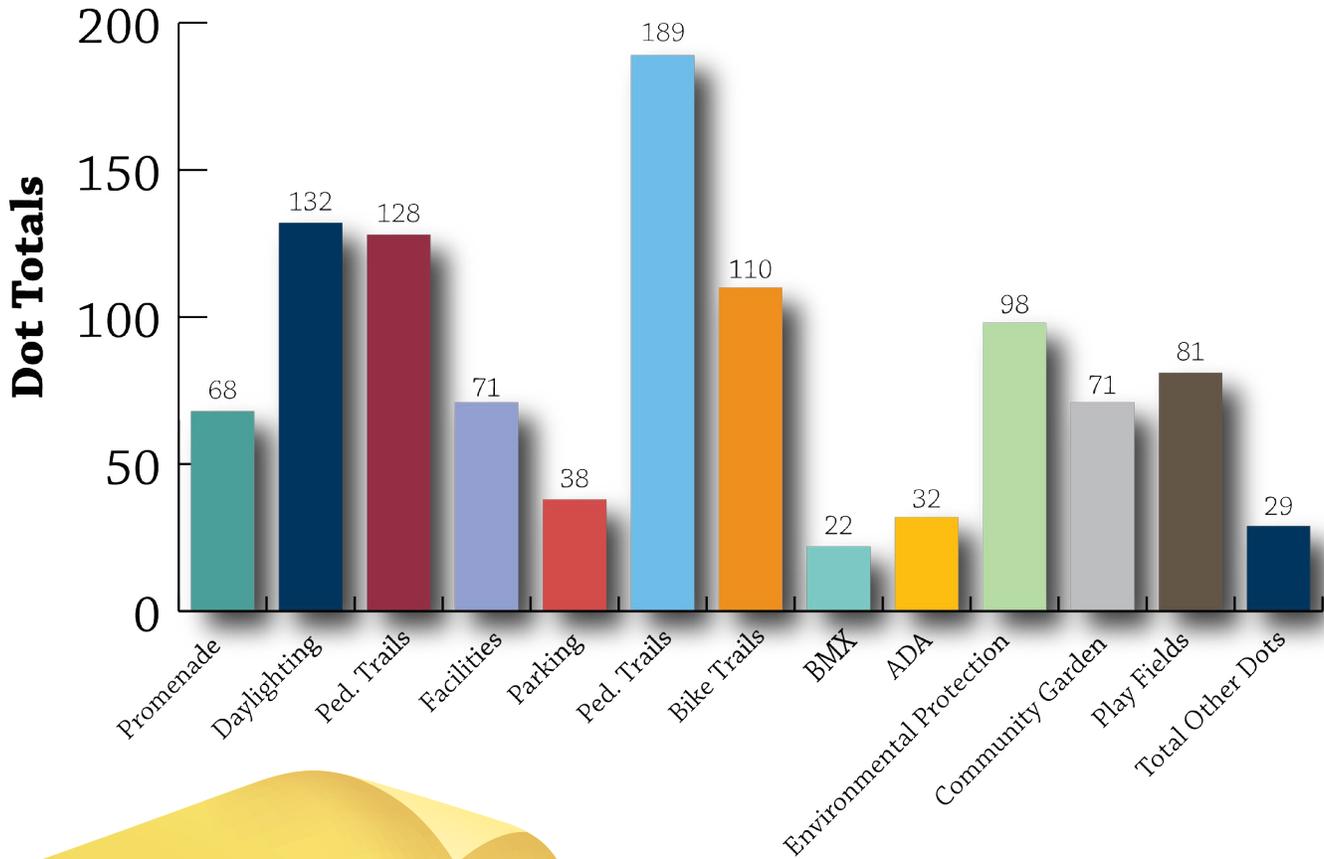


*Special Interest Groups included meetings with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, City of Mukilteo Public Works Crew, Mukilteo Police Department, City Council, BMX Bike Group, Community Garden and Friends of Mukilteo Seniors, and Concerned Neighbors.

Dot Exercise

Basics: The Dot Exercise was based on providing respondents four dots to identify what they like, or what they would like to see in Japanese Gulch. Each respondent was allowed to place all four dots on single categories or spread the dots around to multiple categories. Respondents included non-residents, residents, and children. Below are the results:

Dot Exercise Summary



OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

1. Playground - 9 Dots
2. BBQ Area - 2 Dots
3. Bathrooms - 1 Dot
4. Parking - 1 Dot
5. Tea House - 1 Dot
6. Wayfinding - 5 Dots
7. Beach Access - 1 Dot
8. Transportation System - 4 Dots
9. Use Money Elsewhere - 4 Dots

LOCATIONS OF OUTREACH:

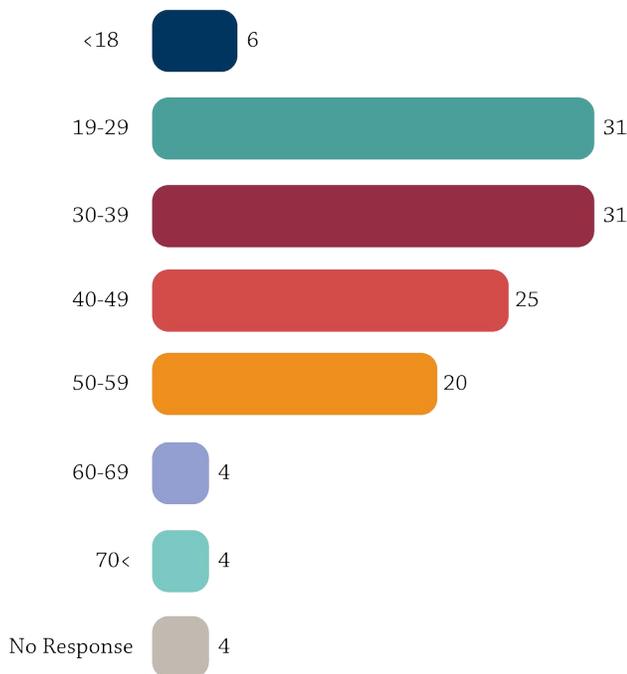
1. Touch-a-Truck
2. Mukilteo Library
3. YMCA
4. Farmers' Market
5. Harbour Pointe Retirement Center
6. Red Cup Cafe
7. National Night Out
8. Lighthouse Festival

December, 2014 Survey

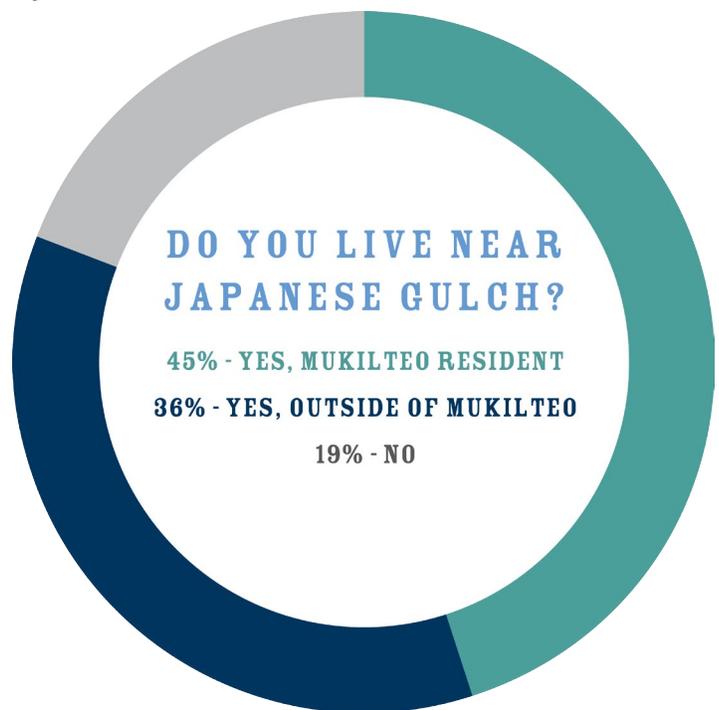
Basics: The first survey completed in December, 2014 and was both online (121 Responses) as well as paper (8 responses) with a total of 129 respondents over the two week survey period. Some respondents did not answer all questions, and some surveys were related to Big Gulch, not Japanese Gulch so the results were combined and clarified as much as possible. Due to the optional responses, the totals of each question vary. The survey format and results are as follows:

Question 1: Name

Question 2: Age of Respondents:



Question 3:



Question 4: If no, where do you visit from? (Open Ended Responses)

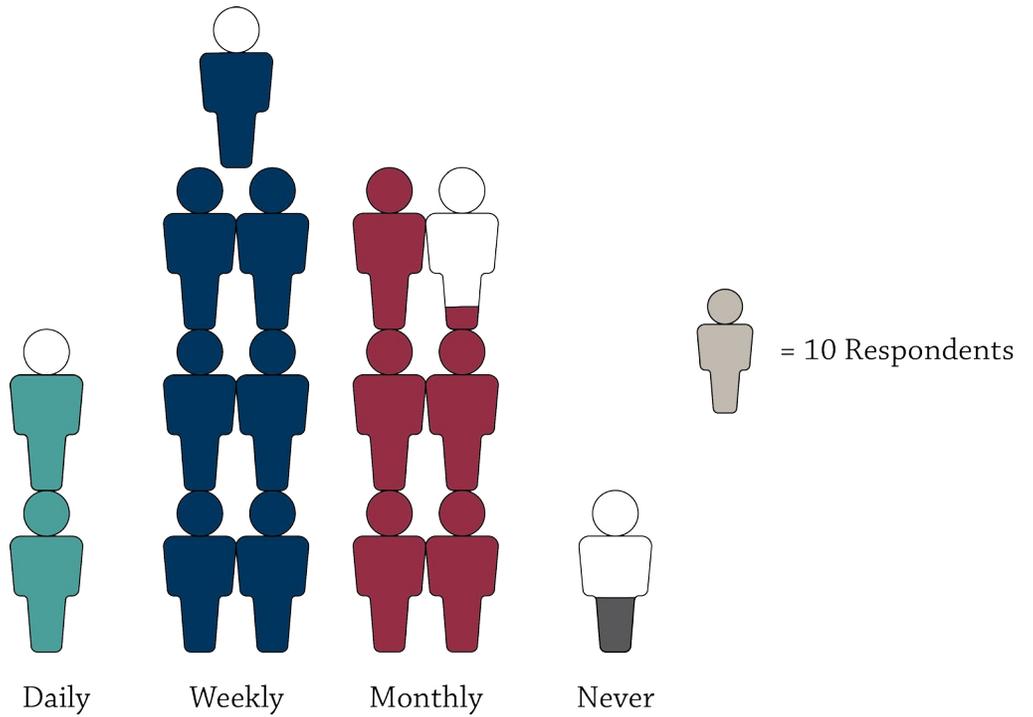
TOP RESPONSES:

1. I work in Mukilteo
2. Everett
3. Lynnwood
4. Marysville
5. Seattle, Brier, Snohomish (Tie)

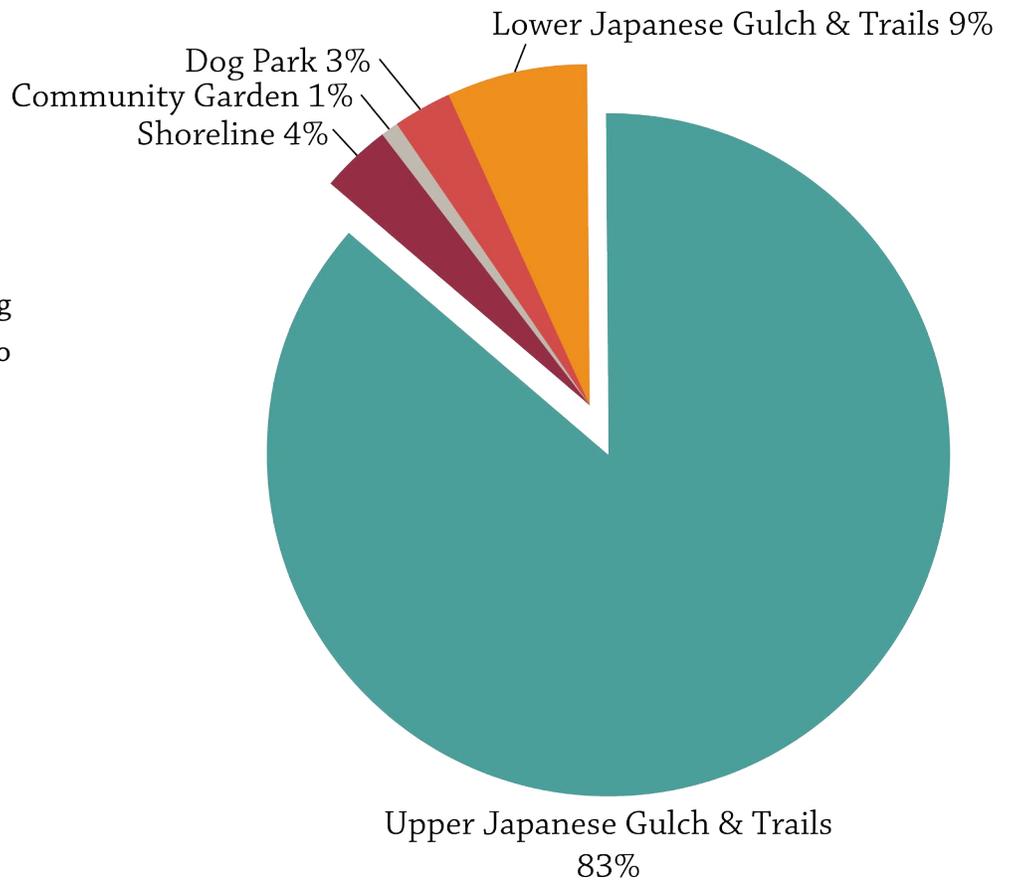


December, 2014 Survey Cont.

Question 5: How many times per year do you visit Japanese Gulch?



Question 6: Which existing area(s) in Japanese Gulch do you use the most?



December, 2014 Survey Cont.

Question 7: What entrance(s) do you use the most?
(Open Ended Responses)

ENTRANCES MOST USED:

1. Precht Property - 49 Responses
2. Dog Park - 39 Responses
3. 19th Street - 16 Responses
4. No Response - 9 Responses
5. Boeing Recreation Center - 8 Responses

Question 8: What do you think makes Japanese Gulch unique? (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response.*

Other responses included: Dogs, BMX, Potential, Preservation, Unofficial, Usability, but each of these categories was less than 4 or less responses.

UNIQUE:

1. Nature/Natural - 64 Responses
2. Trails - 42 Responses
3. Proximity - 29 Responses

Question 9: What is your favorite thing about Japanese Gulch? (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response.*

Other responses included: Active, BMX Course, Cleanliness, Dog Park, Education, Politics, Pride, and Usability was less than 4 Responses

FAVORITE THING:

1. Trails - 78 Responses
2. Nature/Natural - 22 Responses
3. Proximity - 20 Responses
4. Solitude - 11 Responses

Question 10: What is your least favorite thing about Japanese Gulch? (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response.*

Other responses included: Lack of Connectivity, Illegal Trail work, No Wayfinding, Trash.

LEAST FAVORITE THING:

1. Mud & Erosion - 22 Responses
2. Nothing - 16 Responses
3. External Threats - 11 Responses
4. Change - 9 Responses
5. No Response - 9 Responses
6. Nettles - 8 Responses
7. Dogs/Off Leash Dogs/Poop - 7 Responses
8. Bikers - 7 Responses
9. Debate - 6 Responses
10. Lack of Parking - 5 Responses

December, 2014 Survey Cont.

Question 11: If there is one thing that would bring you to the Gulch more often, what would it be? (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response.*

Other responses included: A Ski Lift, All Weather Trail, Connectivity, Dirt Jumps, Invasive Species Removal, Less People, Lighting, Off-Leash Area, Park Area, Potable Water, Public Events, Remove Nettles, and Starbucks.

Question 12: Which potential future activity would you like to see in the Gulch? (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response.*

Other Responses included: ADA Trails, Education, Parking Lot, Skills Area, Zip Lines.

Question 13: Which potential future activity would you NOT like to see in the Gulch? (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response.*

Other Responses included: Separated Trails, Structures, Regulations on Dogs, and Ball Fields.

TOP THEMED RESPONSES:

1. Trail Improvements - 26 Responses
2. No Response - 23 Responses
3. Nothing - 13 Responses
4. Bike Trails - 8 Responses
5. Time - 8 Responses
6. Wayfinding - 8 Responses
7. New/More Trails - 5 Responses
8. BMX Course - 4 Responses
9. Challenging Trails - 4 Responses
10. Parking - 4 Responses

FUTURE ACTIVITY PRO:

1. No Response - 21 Responses
2. Trail Improvements - 18 Responses
3. Bike Trails - 17 Responses
4. BMX Course - 17 Responses
5. Nothing - 17 Responses
6. Public Events - 9 Responses

FUTURE ACTIVITY CON:

1. No Response - 28 Responses
2. Motorized Vehicles - 18 Responses
3. Change - 11 Responses
4. Development Encroaching on Japanese Gulch- 8 Responses
5. Horses - 6 Responses
6. Archery/Guns/Paintballing - 5 Responses
7. BMX Course - 5 Responses

December, 2014 Survey Cont.

Question 14: Which improvements would you be willing to support, as a volunteer (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses and categorized each response based on the theme of response. Other Responses included: Education, Mapping, None, Parking, and Removal of Invasive Species.*

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:

1. Trail Improvements/Maintenance - 77 Responses
2. No Response - 20 Responses
3. Support Biking - 6 Responses
4. All - 5 Responses

Question 15: Please share any other ideas you have (Open Ended Responses) - *City Staff read through every responses, and removed responses that were harassing. Responses can be found within the appendix of this document.*

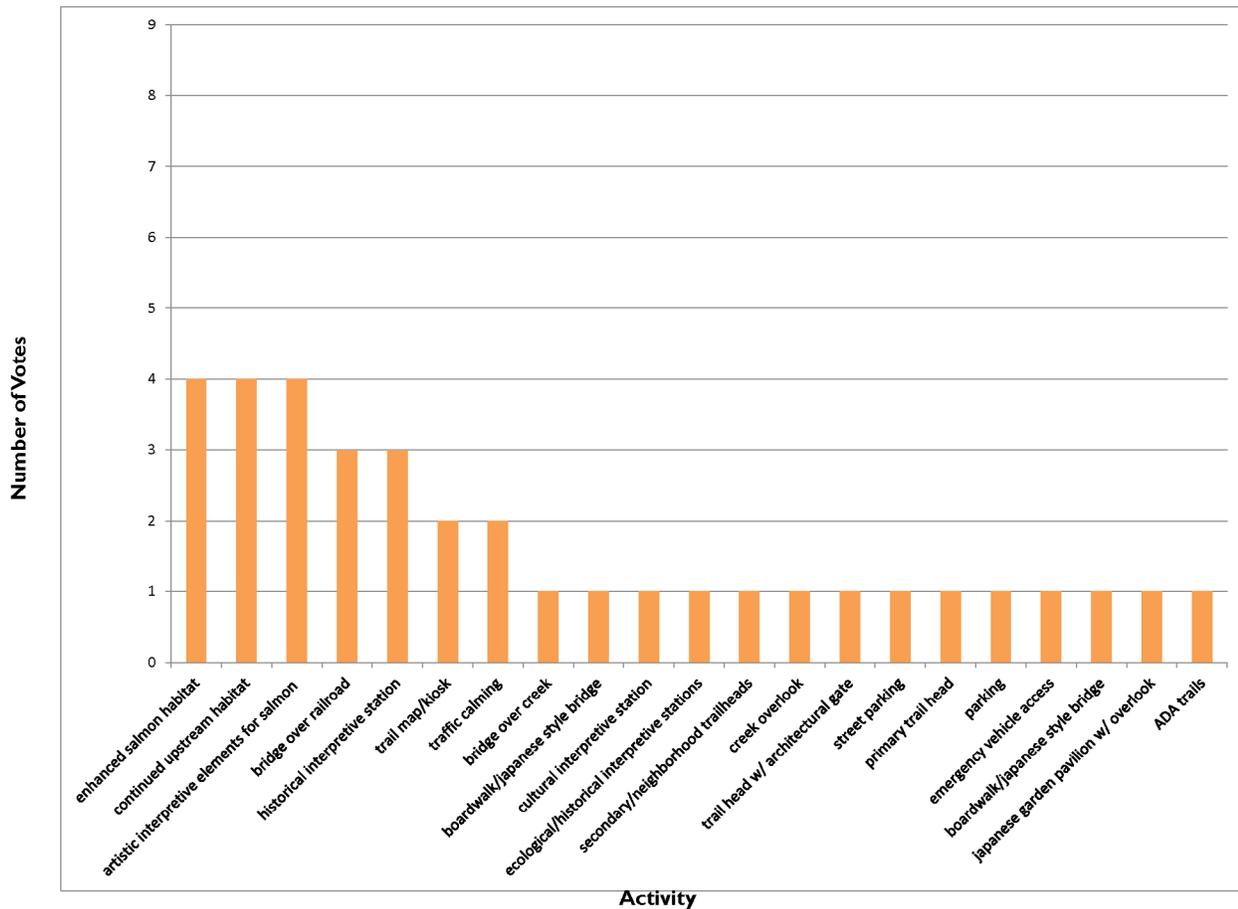
Reflection:

What stood out as general themes? Was there anything that seemed important that was missing? Please use the lines below to make your notes:

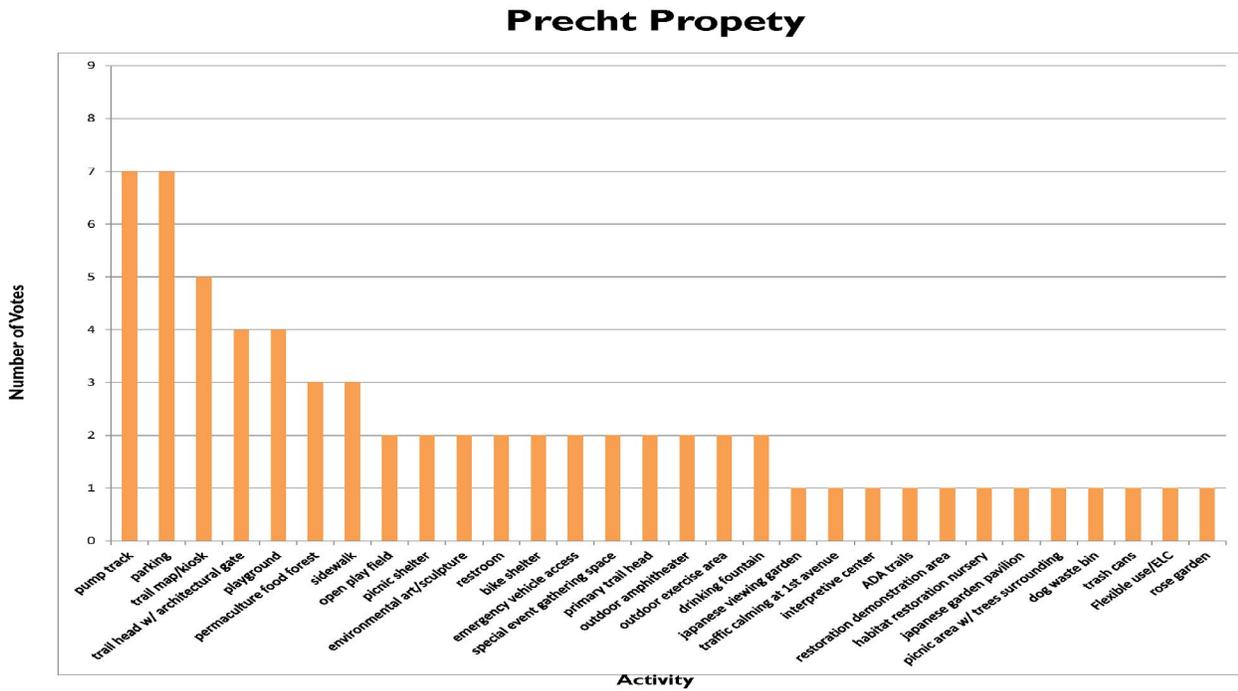
1st Open House: Design Game Results

The Open House in December featured a Design Charrette based activity known as the Design Game. This function was to identify preferred uses and features within Japanese Gulch and where these uses should be located. This differed from the online survey and dot exercise as this was a spatially oriented design where respondents had the opportunity to review different uses within proximity of other uses. One important aspect to note about the Design Game, is that this activity included a significant amount of park-development activities such as amphitheater, rope course and other uses that. The results are tabulated below:

Lower Japanese Gulch Park



1st Open House: Design Game Results Cont.



Reflection:

What stood out as general themes? Was there anything that seemed important that was missing? Please use the lines below to make your notes:

Focus Groups

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance:

- Many of the bike community are willing to do trail maintenance and design of trails – become stewards of the park
- Look at how to enhance the parking at the 76th Street Trailhead and at the Dog Park
- Don't want to clean up the trails so much that you lose the diversity of the park
- Like to keep as many shared trails as possible and install signs marking types of use for each trail
- Would like the park to stay open late at night so can bike after work in the winter – Anacortes does this
- Dogs should be on a leash
- Bike dirt jumps need to be a part of the park and should be signed. Volunteer effort that is phased in over time
- Maintain some single track trails of biking and hiking

City of Mukilteo Public Works Crew:

- Traffic calming on 5th Street – on-street parking, crosswalk signal for crossing
- Dog Park – there is no water or sewer at this site so if have a restroom needs to be composting or pit toilet
- Who would lock and unlock the restrooms? – PD or Park Crew or have auto locking doors
- There is added maintenance with a restroom building
- Need to maintain some of the grass median for a bio-swale – should not take it all out.
- Habitat screening by homes – PUD has a program where they will pay you to take out the existing trees, give you \$50 per tree and can purchase shrubs to put in that won't get so tall.
- Need to put in a chain-link fence
- Earth mounds are hard to maintain and get muddy soft spots
- Low or no maintenance for the grass areas is preferred
- Building – need to research if water, sewer, electrical still at the site.
- Who will maintain the building?
- Additional maintenance will be needed to empty the garbage cans, clean shelters, wash basketball court, lighting, etc.

Mukilteo Police Department:

- Need to have some sort of lighting in the parking lot and on the restroom building
- What are the hours of the park? The trailhead is near a neighborhood.
- Width of main trail should be able to accommodate a vehicle part of the way into the gulch and then a maintenance type Gator vehicle
- Possibly not high-light the neighborhood trailheads on the finished map so it does not draw more people to the neighborhoods – parking issues
- Use of BNSF gravel road for emergency access?
- Look at design for entrance at 76th Street Trailhead – safety issues
- Crossing 5th Street to lower gulch – traffic calming with street parking and enhanced cross-walk

Focus Groups Cont.

City Council:

- Is there a way to connect with the School District on their property that adjoins the Japanese Gulch property?
- Need to keep in mind the maintenance costs associated with the amenities that go in the park
- Basketball Court - Not sure if it is the right fit for this park – Some Council members liked the Basketball Court idea as another activity for teens in the park.
- Liked the multi-use building for seniors to use as well as other groups

BMX Bike Group:

- Like option B with the longer bike jump area
- This could be a good volunteer project – it will take several years to build a bike dirt jump area
- Yes, would like to work with the Mountain Bike community to design some jumps for mountain bike use and jumps for BMX Bike users
- Don't really see a need for the basketball court
- Need an area at the top of the hill to wait before going through the jumps – maybe a seat-wall / picnic table
- Enter into agreement with volunteer group to build and maintain the bike dirt jumps
- Possibly add some type of seating (i.e. bleachers, seat-wall) for people to sit and watch the activity in the bike dirt jump area

Community Garden and Friends of Mukilteo Seniors:

- Very happy with the expansion of the garden area
- Not sure about the basketball court
- Don't really like the mounds in the meadow area
- In alternative B like the garden plaza and picnic area adjacent to the garden
- Would like to see the building be sole use for seniors. Would make it work as a multi-use center, but not their first choice
- Look at having handicapped parking by the building
- Like the aspect of having an ADA boardwalk that is adjacent to the parking lot and next to the building
- Would like a short loop trail at the start of the trailhead

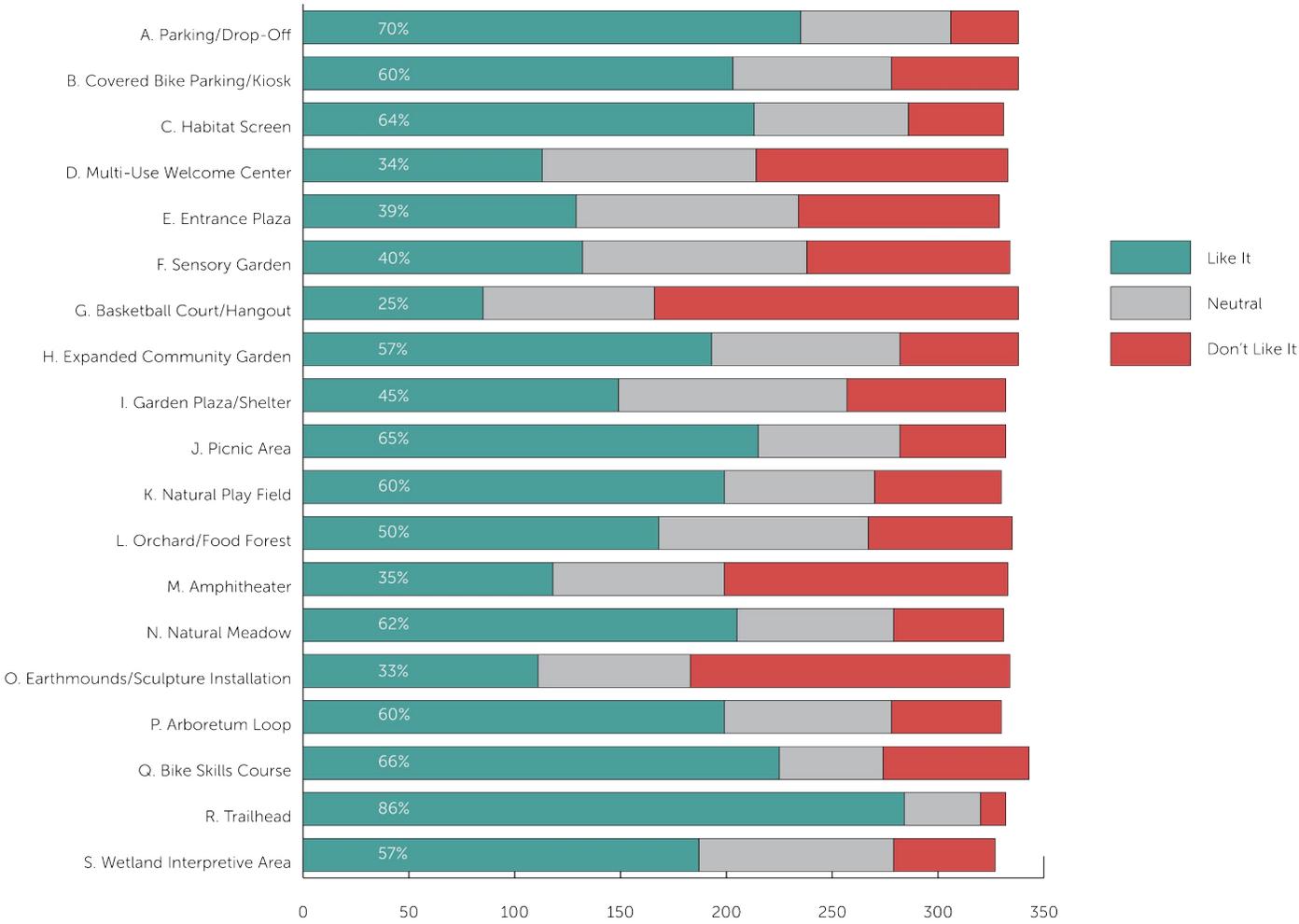
Concerned Neighbors:

- Would like to see the Dog Park area cleaned up a bit as it is what people see as they drive into the City of Mukilteo
- Don't want to expand parking at the Dog Park, would not like to attract more cars and people to this end of town. This area already gets a lot of traffic with people traveling to the Ferry and to Lighthouse Park
- Would like to keep Old Town area quiet and reduce number of people coming to the area
- Would not like to encourage additional trails or other uses in the lower gulch

April, 2015 Survey

Option A: Precht Property (76th Street Trailhead):

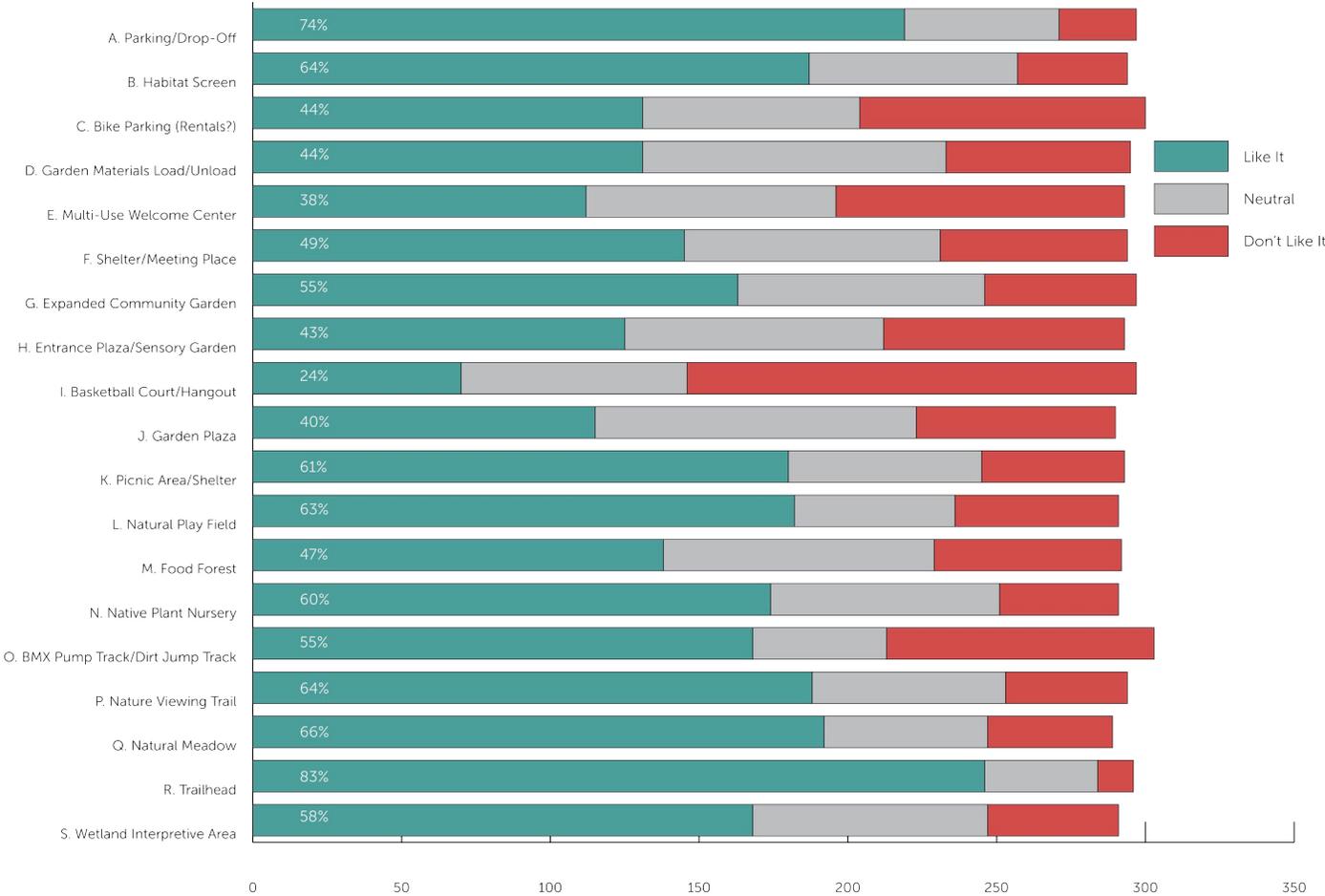
The following is a chart illustrating the ‘Like It’ vs. ‘Don’t Like It’ regarding the design of Option A. Additional comments on the ‘what is missing or should be different’ is shown in the appendix. After reviewing the additional comments, it should be noted that there may have been a miscommunication on the relationship between Japanese Gulch and the 76th Street Trailhead. Specifically, some respondents may have viewed the 76th Street Trailhead as the plan for the entire Japanese Gulch area.



April, 2015 Survey Cont.

Option B: Precht Property (76th Street Trailhead):

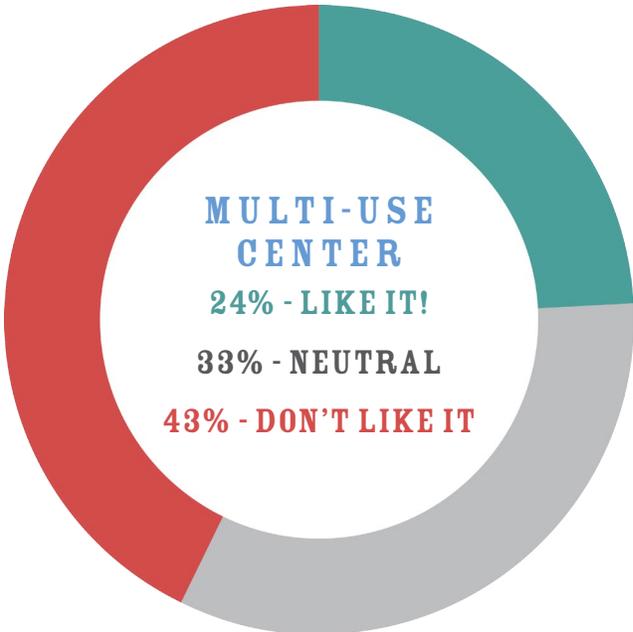
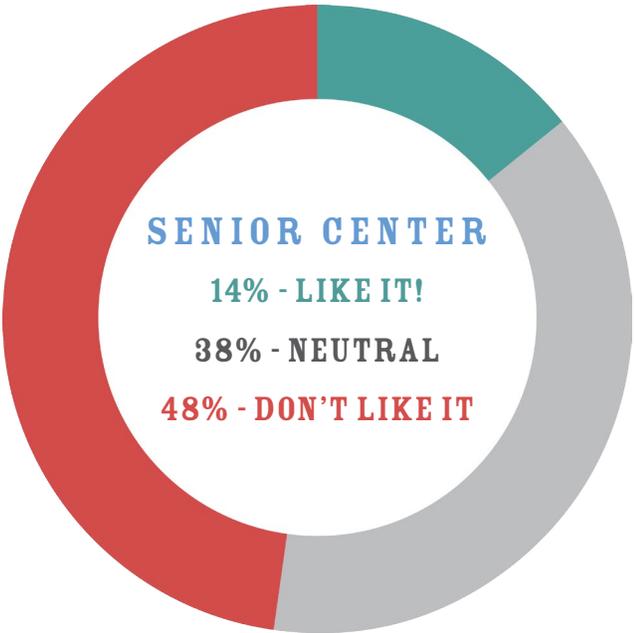
The following is a chart illustrating the 'Like It' vs. 'Don't Like It' regarding the design of Option A. Additional comments on the 'what is missing or should be different' is shown in the appendix. After reviewing the additional comments, it should be noted that there may have been a miscommunication on the relationship between Japanese Gulch and the 76th Street Trailhead. Specifically, some respondents may have viewed the 76th Street Trailhead as the plan for the entire Japanese Gulch area.



April, 2015 Survey Cont.

Senior Center/Multi-use Center: There had been some conversation brought to City Staff by residents related to if the Japanese Gulch Master Plan could address the need for a senior center. After discussing the concept with Barker Landscape, there are some opportunities available not only for seniors, but by other groups that may use Japanese Gulch as well. The public feedback is below:

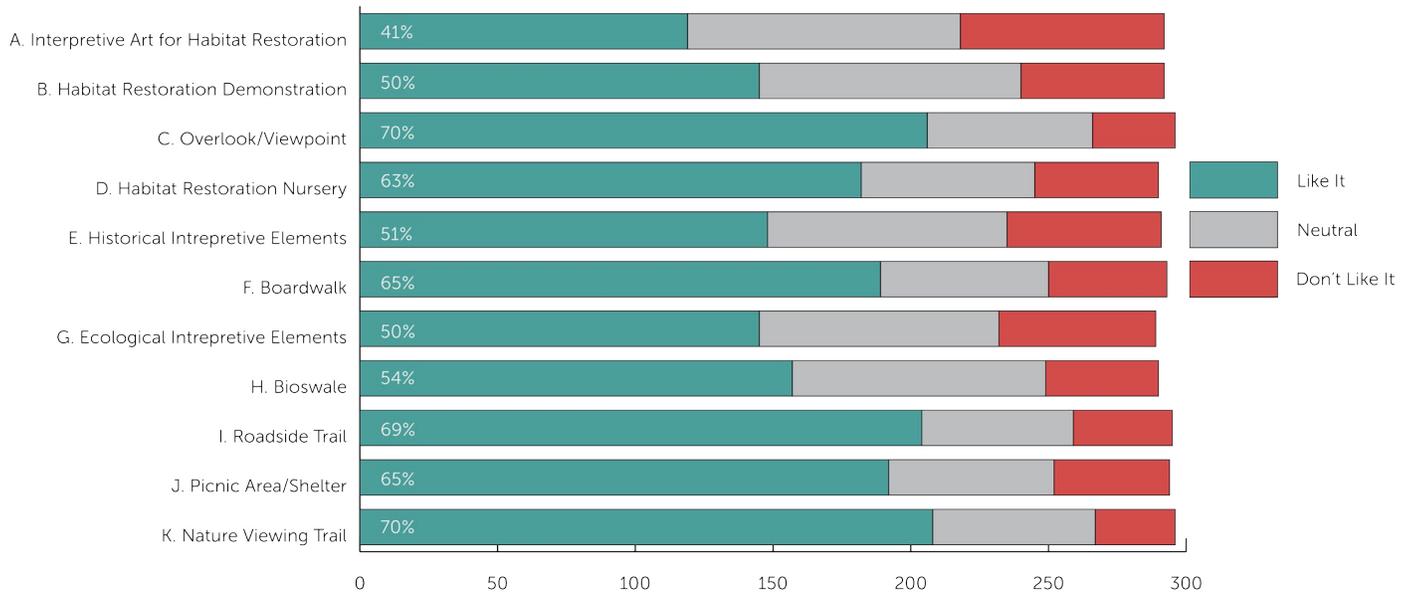
What are your thoughts on a:



April, 2015 Survey Cont.

Lower Gulch & Dog Park:

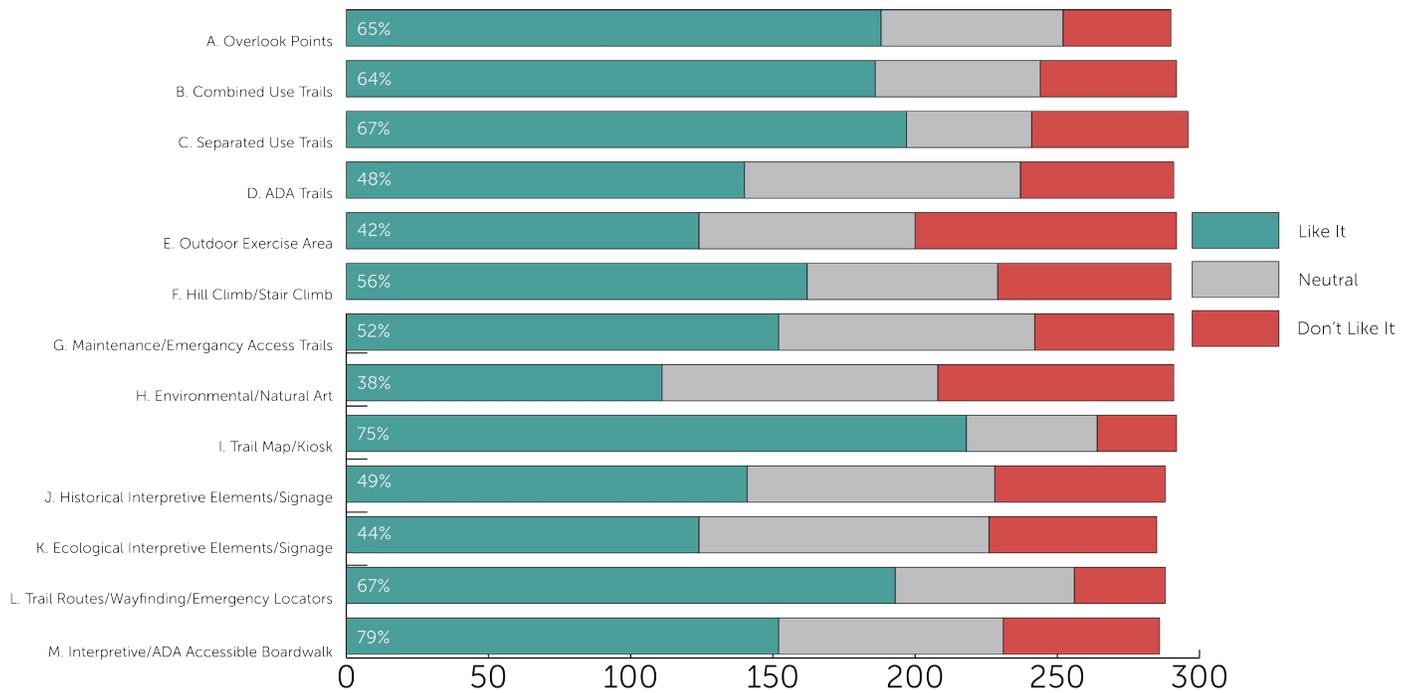
The following is a chart illustrating the 'Like It' vs. 'Don't Like' of the Dog Park and the Lower Gulch.



April, 2015 Survey Cont.

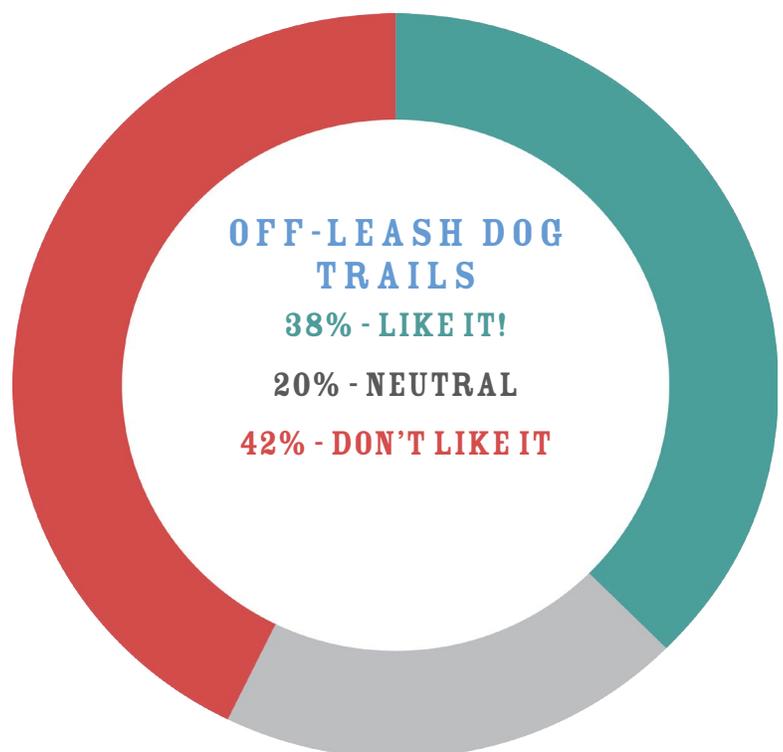
Overall Plan:

The following is a chart illustrating the 'Like It' vs. 'Don't Like' of the Overall Plan incorporate primarily the Upper Gulch trail alignment and trail usage into conversation.



Off-Leash Dogs:

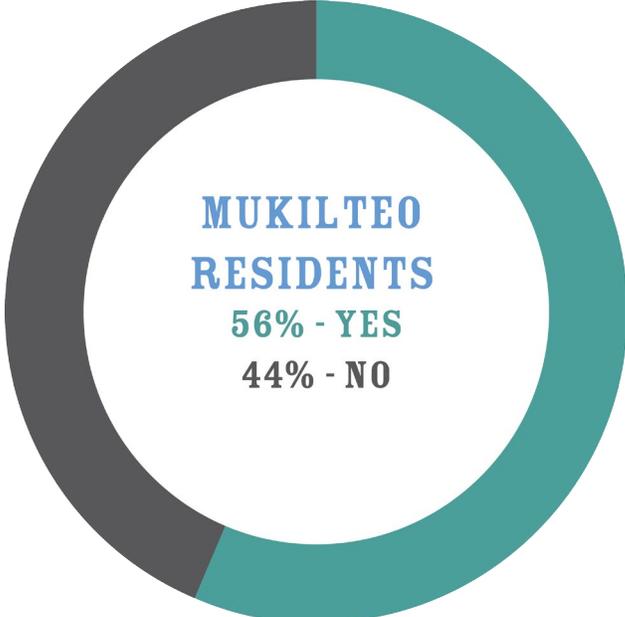
Like Mountain Biking, and Hiking, Dog Walking has been a popular activity within Japanese Gulch and many individuals have become accustomed to the opportunity to walk their dogs off-leash. City Staff has review the applicable insurance logistics, and there is opportunity for off-leash dog trails within Japanese Gulch. See the chart to the right regarding the public opinion voiced in the online survey.



April, 2015 Survey Cont.

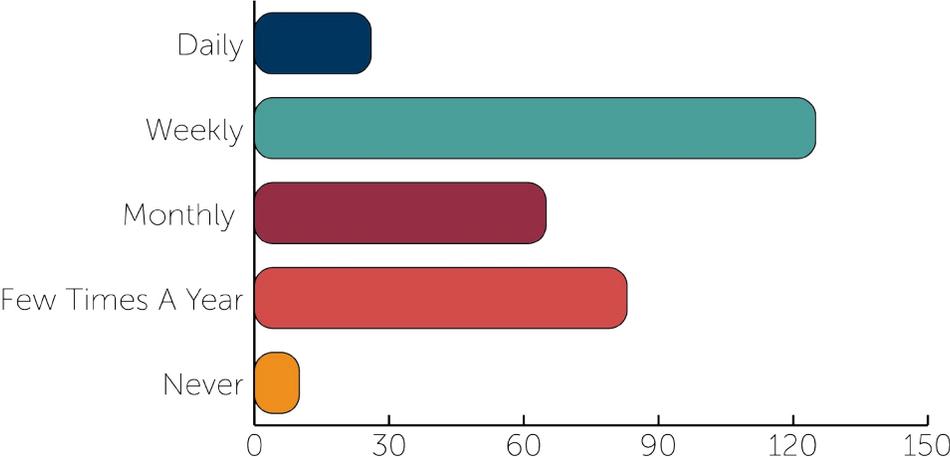
Mukilteo Residents:

Of the 367 Responses online, 308 individuals answered the residency question with 174 individuals stating that they were a resident of Mukilteo. The survey design did not verify residency.

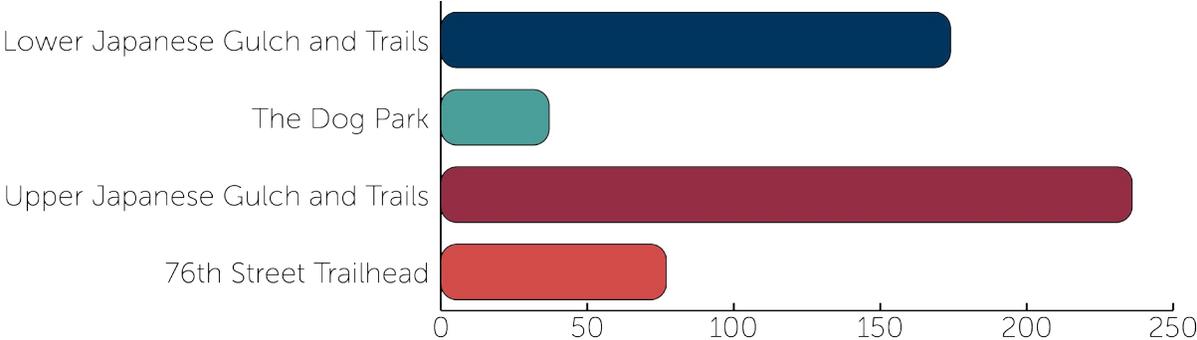


Frequency of Use:

Of the 367 Responses online, 309 individuals answer over 40% identified that they visit Japanese Gulch on a weekly basis.



Which Areas Do You Frequent the Most in Japanese Gulch?



April, 2015 Survey Cont.

Open Ended Responses:

Additional information on the open ended responses is available in the appendix.

Reflection:

What stood out as general themes? Was there anything that seemed important that was missing? Please use the lines below to make your notes:

Outreach & Priorities Reflection

Take a second to look back through the workbook.

Do you see any recurring ideals or concepts, if so what were they?

Do you see any of the priorities that you identified on pages 6-7 differently after reviewing some of the snapshots of public opinion? If you don't see any priorities differently, do you believe that you reaffirmed that the priorities are consistent with the public opinion?

Include any other thoughts that you may have regarding the information presented in this workbook: