

## RESEARCH BRIEF

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# WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS TELEPHONE SURVEY

The *Washington County Parks and Trails Telephone Survey* is a survey of Washington County residents conducted by the **UWM Center for Urban Initiatives and Research (CUIR)**, in cooperation with the **Washington County Planning and Parks Department**. This survey captured preferences and experiences of Washington County residents that related to the County Park and Trail system, and opinions on what the parks should focus on in the future.

Data was collected via a random digit dial (RDD) landline/mobile telephone survey of 697 Washington County residents, conducted by the CUIR Survey Center at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee from October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 24<sup>th</sup>. The sampling margin of error for the unweighted sample statistics is  $\pm 3.7\%$  at the 95% confidence level.<sup>1</sup>

## MAJOR FINDINGS

- 79.8% of respondents stated that someone in their household had visited a Washington County park or trail within the last year.
- For respondents who did not visit a park within the last year, 30.1% stated not having enough time or being too busy as the primary factor in their lack of park utilization.
- Ridge Run County Park was the most commonly cited park; 24% of respondents stated that members of their households have visited that park within the last 12 months.
- The three most prevalent activities and amenities that respondents would like to see were nature-based playgrounds (83.8%), a nature center (80.6%), and lookout towers, with 79.6% of respondents expressing interest in seeing this new amenity.
- When asked what methods of receiving information about the Washington County Park and Trail system would be most preferable, 43.1% of respondents stated that they would like to receive information through a mailed newsletter or postcard.
- Among all personal benefit statements, people are in strongest agreement with the assertion that parks and trails have helped improve their overall physical health; 60.8% of respondents strongly agreed to this statement.
- Among the future investment statements, the most-agreed-to statement was the assertion that conserving land for public parks is a good use of public funds; 66.9% strongly agreed.
- Of the five options of where Washington County should prioritize its investments, the most-preferred option is county greenways, followed by nature-based parks and countywide trail systems; the least desired option is high intensity sports parks.



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<sup>1</sup> Statistical terms are defined in the appendices (See page 55).

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## POST-STRATIFICATION

We compensate for non-response patterns that can cause sample statistics to deviate from population parameters by weighting the sample. We draw population values for age and sex from the most recent wave of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS). Weights are balanced in order to bring sample distributions for age and sex in line with population distributions.

## WEIGHTING DEMOGRAPHICS

	Population value (CPS) %	Unweighted sample %	Unweighted sample N	Weighted sample %	Weighted sample N
18-29	21.7	10.5	73	21.7	151
30-44	27.8	20.5	143	27.8	194
45-59	34.6	34.7	242	34.6	241
60+	16.0	34.3	239	16.0	111

	Population value (CPS) %	Unweighted sample %	Unweighted sample N	Weighted sample %	Weighted sample N
Female	55.5	54.2	378	55.5	387
Male	44.5	45.8	319	44.5	310

## DISPOSITION REPORT

Completes	700
Refusals	3552
Language barrier	16
Fax/data line	211
Disconnected	1319
Ineligible	498
Business	538
No successful contact	5600
Total unique numbers dialed	12434
Response rate	7.6%

## PARK UTILIZATION & QUALITY

The first section of the survey measured the utilization of Washington County parks and trails; the respondents were asked whether they had visited any parks and trails within the last 12 months, which parks they visited, and how they would rank the quality of the parks and trails. Those who indicated they did not visit parks were asked why they did not.

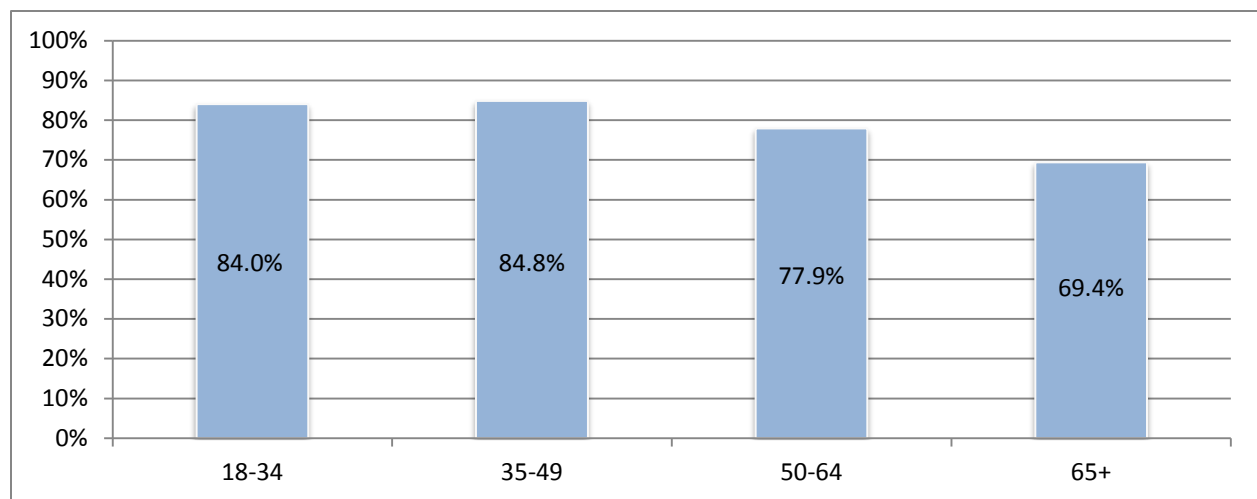
The first question gauged whether anyone within the respondent’s household visited a county park or trail in Washington County within the last year. Out of the 690 respondents that answered this question, 79.8% stated that someone in their household had visited a Washington County park or trail (see Table 1).

**Table 1: In the past year, has anyone in your household visited a County park or trail in Washington County?**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percent</i>
No	139	20.2
Yes	551	79.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>100.0</b>

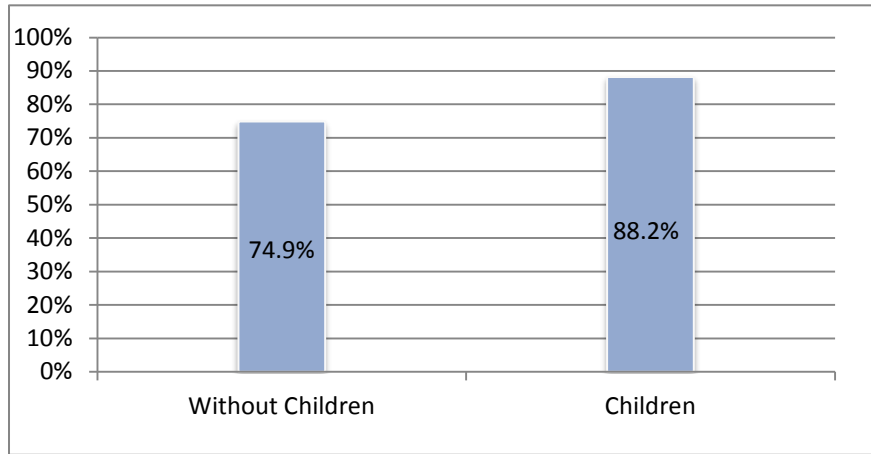
Among those from households whose members had visited a county park or trail in Washington County within the past year, there was statistically significant variation in regards to age and among people who had children under the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> About 84% of both 18-to-34-year-olds as well as 35-to-49-year-olds reported household members visiting parks or trails; however, the percentage decreased to 77.9% for 50-64 year olds, and was the lowest among those 65 and older (see Figure 1). In regards to respondents with children under the age of 18, 88.2% stated that household members had visited parks or trails within the last year, while 74.9% of those from households without children said members had made use of parks or trails over the last year (see Figure 2). Respondents were also asked if they had personally visited ANY park within the last year; 73.5% stated that they had (see Table 2).

**Figure 1: Proportion of Respondents Reporting County Park/Trail Use by Household Members Over Past Year, by Age Group**



<sup>1</sup> For each survey item, results are broken down by gender, age group, and household composition. When statistical tests reveal differences between groups that are unlikely to be the product of random chance, they are reported.

**Figure 2: Proportion of Respondents Reporting County Park/Trail Use by Household Members Over Past Year, by Household Composition**

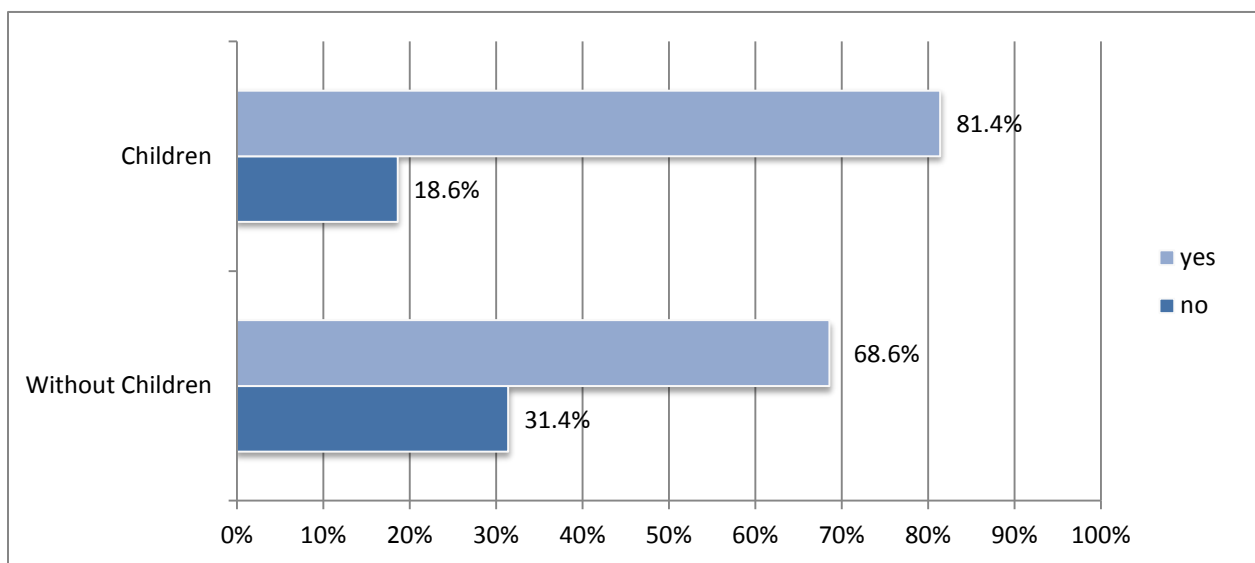


**Table 2: Have you PERSONALLY visited ANY park or trail within the last year, including those OUTSIDE of Washington County?**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percent</i>
No	184	26.5
Yes	512	73.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Among those that answered that they had personally visited a park within the last year, there were significant differences among those with different household compositions. About 81% of respondents with children under the age of 18 living in the household stated that they had visited a park or trail in the last year, while 68.6% of respondents who do not live with children reported having done so (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Personally visited a Washington County park or trail, by household composition**



Respondents that did not utilize parks or trails within the last year were asked to identify the primary factor preventing household members from visiting the Washington County park and trail system. The most-stated factor was not having enough time or being too busy; 30.1% of respondents selected this factor. Another 10% expressed that they did not utilize the parks and trails because they were not familiar with the Washington County Parks system. The third most commonly-cited factor was age, with 6.8% indicating they felt they were too old to make use of county parks or trails (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Primary Factor Preventing Household Members from Visiting Washington County Park and Trail System**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Use parks elsewhere	8	5.7
Not familiar with Washington County Parks system	15	10.0
Too busy/not enough time	44	30.1
No transportation	2	1.1
Parks too far away	3	2.2
I don't enjoy outdoor recreation	1	0.6
I don't have other people to go with	2	1.5
Limited by age	10	6.8
Limited by disability	8	5.2
Other	26	17.9
Don't know/Refused	27	18.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Respondents were asked which Washington County parks or trails household members visited within the past year. Ridge Run County Park was the most commonly cited park; 24% of respondents stated that members of their households have visited that park within the last 12 months. The least-utilized park was Family Park, with just under 1% of respondents reporting use by household members over the last year (Table 4).

**Table 4: Percentage of Respondents Reporting County Park/Trail Use by Household Members**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage of respondents</i>
Ackerman's Grove County Park	32	5.8
Cedar Lake Wayside	11	2.0
Eisenbahn State Trail	79	14.4
Family Park	5	0.9
Glacier Hills County Park	56	10.1
Goeden County Park	5	0.9
Henshcke Hillside Lake Access	6	1.1
Heritage Trails County Park	41	7.4
Homestead Hollow County Park	34	6.2
Leonard J. Yahr County Park	26	4.8
Lizard Mound County Park	22	4.1
Ridge Run County Park	132	24.0
Sandy Knoll County Park	64	11.6
Visited, but unsure which parks	358	65.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>*</b>

\*Respondents could choose multiple answer options, so percentages may not total 100%

There was some meaningful variation in terms of park popularity among respondents from different age groups. Ridge Run County Park was the most popular park for household members of respondents of all age groups. The Eisenbahn State Trail saw the second-most visits from household members of respondents aged 18-34 and 35-49. Sandy Knoll was the second-most popular destination for household members of respondents aged 50-64, while Glacier Hills County Park was the most frequent choice for household members of respondents aged 65 and up. Table 4a shows percentage of respondents reporting visits by household member to each park, by age group; the top three choices for each age group are highlighted in gold, silver and bronze.

**Table 4a: Percentage of Respondents Reporting Household Member Park/Trail Attendance, by Age Group**

	<i>% of Rs aged 18-34</i>	<i>% of Rs aged 35-49</i>	<i>% of Rs aged 50-64</i>	<i>% of Rs aged 65+</i>
Ackerman’s Grove County Park	2.6	5.2	6.1	3.6
Cedar Lake Wayside	0.0	2.1	2.8	0.9
Eisenbahn State Trail	11.3	17.0	9.8	7.2
Family Park	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0
Glacier Hills County Park	6.0	8.8	9.8	8.1
Goeden County Park	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.9
Henschke Hillside Lake Access	0.0	2.1	0.9	0.0
Heritage Trails County Park	6.0	6.7	6.5	3.6
Homestead Hollow County Park	2.0	10.3	4.2	1.8
Leonard J. Yahr County Park	6.0	3.1	4.2	1.8
Lizard Mound County Park	2.0	4.6	3.3	2.7
Ridge Run County Park	13.9	25.8	21.5	13.5
Sandy Knoll County Park	3.3	14.4	11.7	5.4
Visited, but unsure which parks	60.9	47.4	57.0	45.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>

\*Respondents could choose multiple answer options, so percentages may not total 100%

Visitors to Goeden County Park and Leonard J. Yahr County Park were most likely to be from households of respondents aged 18-24. Visitors to the Eisenbahn State Trail, Goeden County Park, Henschke Hillside Lake Access, Homestead Hollow County Park, Lizard Mound County Park, Ridge Run County Park, and Sandy Knoll County Park were all most likely to be from households of respondents aged 35-49. Visitors to Ackerman’s Grove County Park, Cedar Lake Wayside, Family Park, Glacier Hills County Park, Heritage Trails County Park, and Leonard J. Yahr County Park Table were all most likely to be from households of respondents aged 50-64. Table 4b breaks down the total visits by household members of respondents to each park/trail by age; total visits from household members of respondents in each age category is reported as a percentage of the total visits to each park/trail. The age group reporting the highest proportion of total visits at each given park/trail is highlighted in gold.

**Table 4b: Respondent Age Groups as a Proportion of Total Household Member Visits, by Park/Trail**

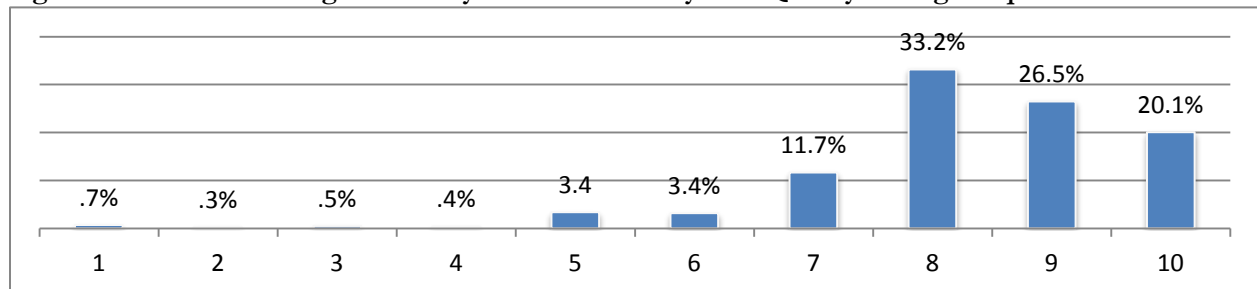
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Totals
Ackerman’s Grove County Park	12.9%	32.3%	41.9%	12.9%	100.0%
Cedar Lake Wayside	0.0%	36.4%	54.5%	9.1%	100.0%
Eisenbahn State Trail	21.5%	41.8%	26.6%	10.1%	100.0%
Family Park	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Glacier Hills County Park	16.1%	30.4%	37.5%	16.1%	100.0%
Goeden County Park	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	100.0%
Henshcke Hillside Lake Access	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Heritage Trails County Park	22.5%	32.5%	35.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Homestead Hollow County Park	8.8%	58.8%	26.5%	5.9%	100.0%
Leonard J. Yahr County Park	34.6%	23.1%	34.6%	7.7%	100.0%
Lizard Mound County Park	13.6%	40.9%	31.8%	13.6%	100.0%
Ridge Run County Park	15.9%	37.9%	34.8%	11.4%	100.0%
Sandy Knoll County Park	7.8%	43.8%	39.1%	9.4%	100.0%
Visited, but unsure which parks	25.8%	25.8%	34.2%	14.3%	100.0%

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of Washington County Parks and Trail where 1 represented “very poor” and 10 represented “excellent”. Over 50% of the respondents gave the parks and trail system a rating of 8 or above, with 26.5% giving a rating of 9 and 20.1% giving a rating of 10 (see Table 5 & Figure 4). When the overall score was broken down by gender, age, and having a child under the age of 18, all gender, age, and household composition categories had a mean overall quality score of approximately 8.5.

**Table 5: Overall Washington County Park and Trail System Quality Rating Frequencies**

Rating (scale of 1 to 10)	Responses	Percentage
1 (“very poor”)	4	.7
2	2	.3
3	3	.5
4	2	.4
5	19	3.4
6	18	3.2
7	64	11.7
8	183	33.2
9	146	26.5
10 (“excellent”)	111	20.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 4: Overall Washington County Park and Trail System Quality Rating Frequencies**





## AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES

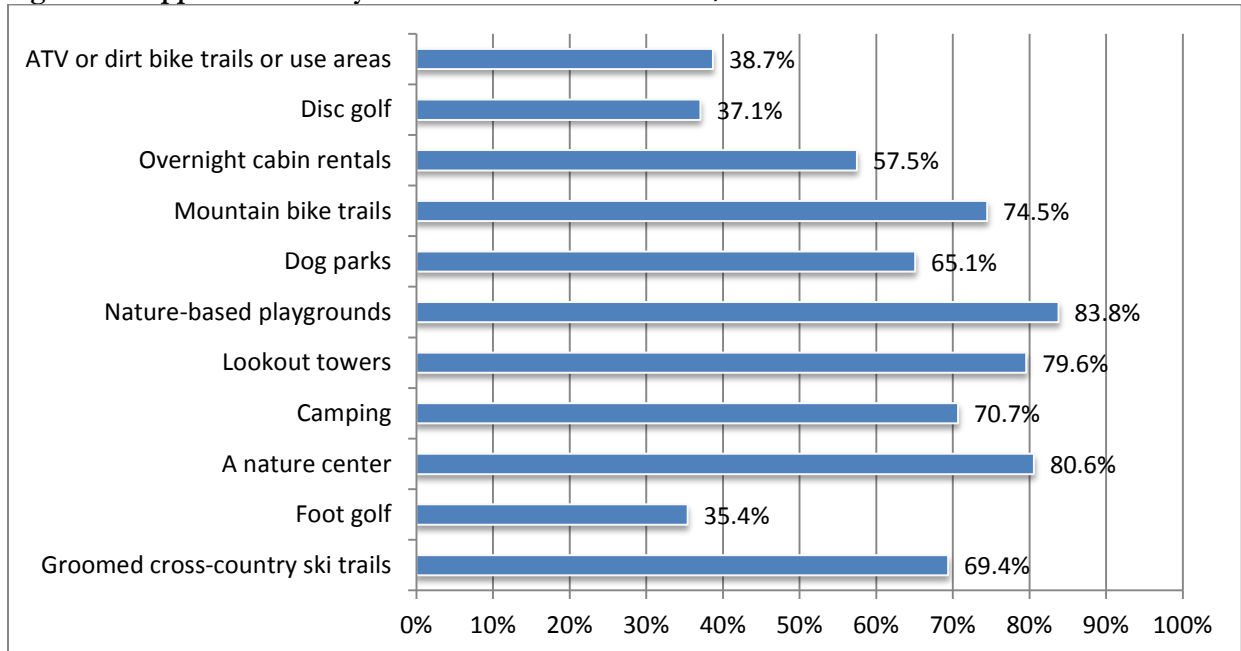
This section of the survey was designed to capture respondent opinions regarding the kinds of amenities and activities they would like to see Washington County provide. The three most prevalent answers were nature-based playgrounds (83.8%), a nature center (80.6%), and lookout towers, with 79.6% of respondents expressing interest in seeing this new amenity. The least suggested new amenity was foot golf, with only 35.4% of respondents expressing interest in that activity (see Table 6 & Figure 7).

**Table 6: Support for County Provision of New Activities/Amenities**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
ATV or dirt bike trails or use areas	258	38.7
Disc golf	414	37.1
Overnight cabin rentals	383	57.5
Mountain bike trails	510	74.5
Dog parks	446	65.1
Nature-based playgrounds	569	83.8
Lookout towers	542	79.6
Camping	481	70.7
A nature center	553	80.6
Foot golf	211	35.4
Groomed cross-country ski trails	477	69.4
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>*</b>

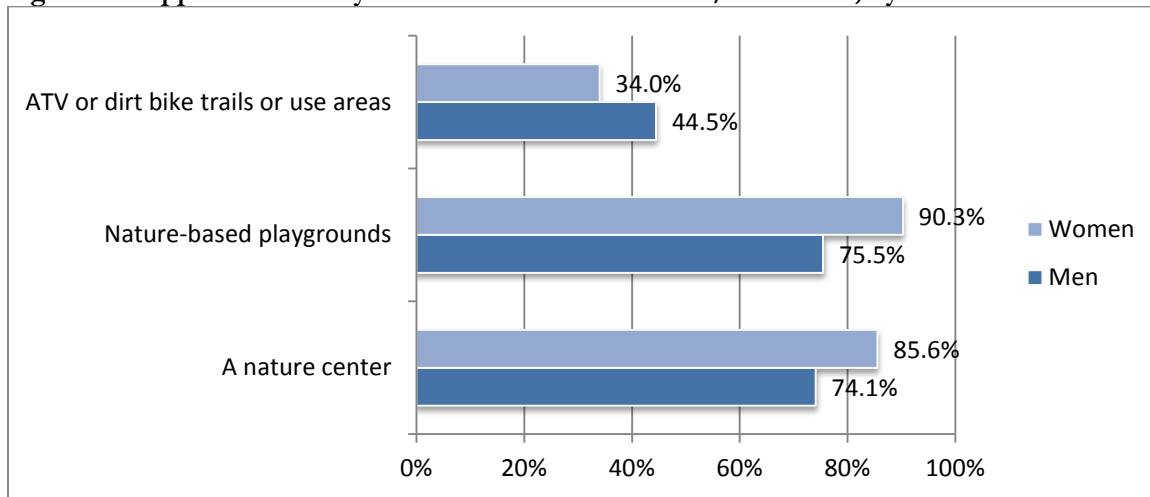
\*Respondents could choose multiple answer options, so percentages may not total 100%

**Figure 5: Support for County Provision of New Activities/Amenities**

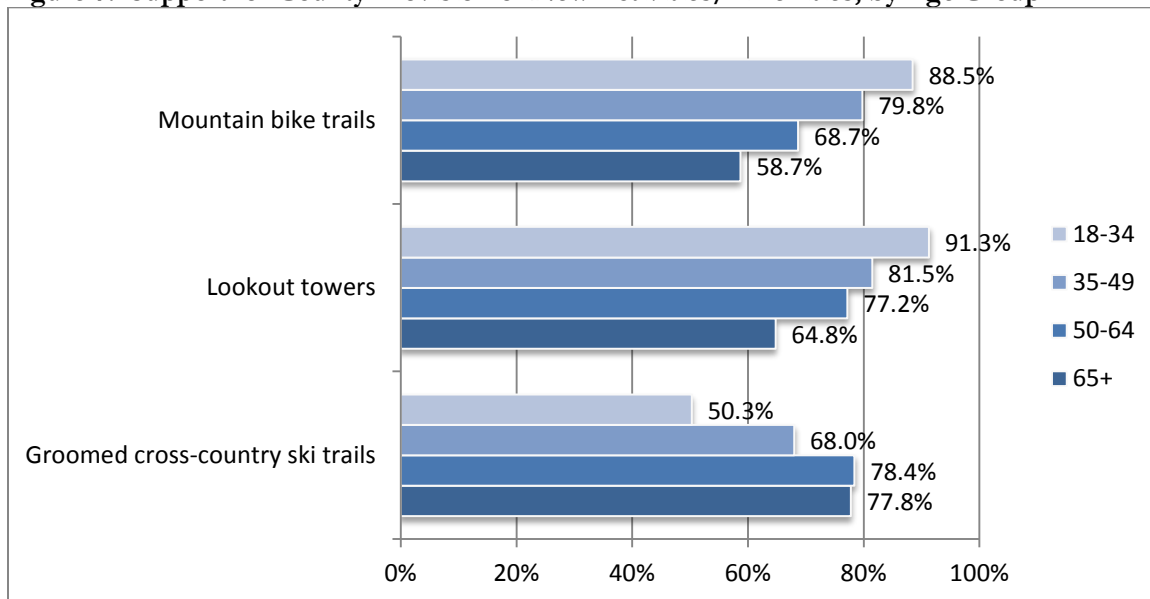


There were significant differences in patterns of support for various possible new activities and amenities among different demographic groups.<sup>2</sup> Figure 6 shows that men were more likely to express support for dirt bike trails than were women, while women were more likely to voice a preference for nature-based playgrounds and a nature center than were men. (There were no statistically significant differences between women and men for any of the other items). Figure 7 shows that relatively younger respondents expressed significantly higher levels of support for both mountain bike trails and lookout towers when compared to older respondents, while relatively older respondents preferred groomed cross-country ski trails more than did younger respondents. (There were no statistically significant differences between respondents of different age groups for the other items.) Unsurprisingly, there were also significant differences in preferences for these three items among those with and without children living in their households (having children in the household is much more common among younger respondents.)

**Figure 6: Support for County Provision of New Activities/Amenities, by Sex**



**Figure 7: Support for County Provision of New Activities/Amenities, by Age Group**



<sup>2</sup> Chi-squared tests were used to determine significant differences;  $p \leq .05$ , two-tailed tests

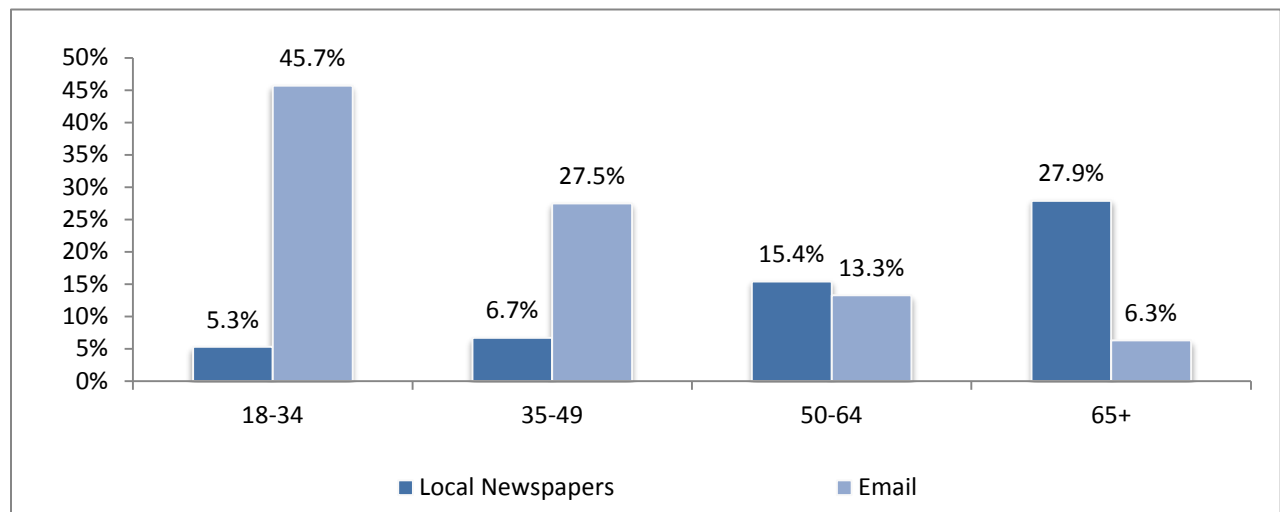
Respondents were asked about their preferred methods of receiving information about the Washington County Park and Trail system. Table 7 shows that respondents were most likely to report a preference for mailed newsletters or postcards (43.1%); the second-most-commonly reported preference was email (23.2%).

**Table 7: Preferred Methods of Receiving Information about the Washington County Park and Trail System**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Internet websites	82	11.8
Facebook	2	0.2
Twitter	0	0.1
Other social media	8	1.2
Mobile apps	1	0.1
Text message	0	0.1
Mailed Newsletter or postcards	300	43.1
Local newspapers	90	12.9
Email	162	23.2
Other	34	4.9
I do not want to be contacted	6	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>100.0</b>

There were some differences in terms of preferences about ways of receiving information about the Washington County Park and Trail system among respondents in different age groups. Figure 8 shows vast differences in the desire to learn about the system via email depending on age; while 45.7% of respondents aged 18 to 34 said they preferred email, that proportion drops to 27.5% among those aged 35 to 49, to 13.3% among those aged 50 to 64, and to just 6.3% among those aged 65 and up. Inversely, the likelihood of respondents stating a preference for learning about the system through local newspapers significantly *increases* with age; while just 5.3% of those aged 18 to 34 would prefer newspapers as their medium of learning, 27.9% of those aged 65 and up stated a preference for newspapers.

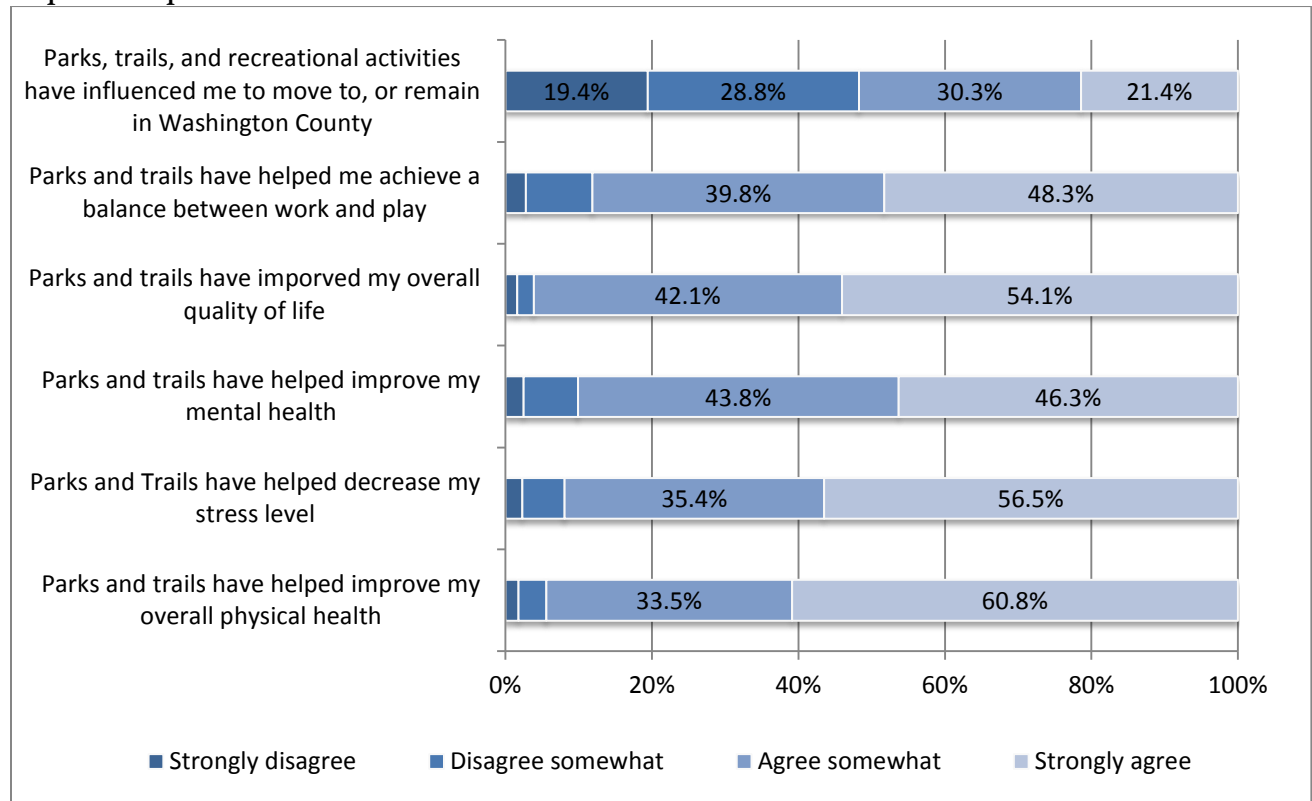
**Figure 8: Preferences for Different Ways of Receiving Information about the Washington County Park and Trail System, by Age Group**



## PERSONAL BENEFITS

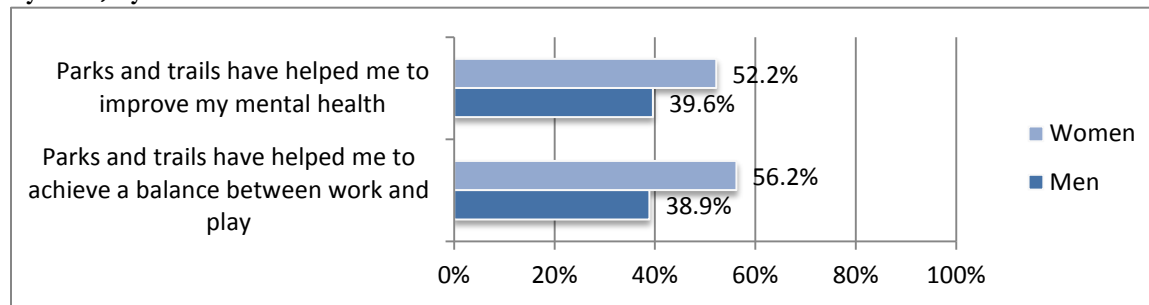
Within this next section of the survey respondents were asked a series of questions in regards to how the parks and trails system impacted their lives. Each respondent was asked to state whether they strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree with several statements. Among all of the statements, people are in strongest agreement with the assertion that parks and trails have helped improve their overall physical health; 60.8% of respondents strongly agreed to this statement. The least-agreed-to statement was that parks and trails influenced the respondent to move to, or remain in Washington County; only 21.4% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement (see Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Agreement with Statements About How the Washington County Park and Trail System Impacts Respondent Lives**

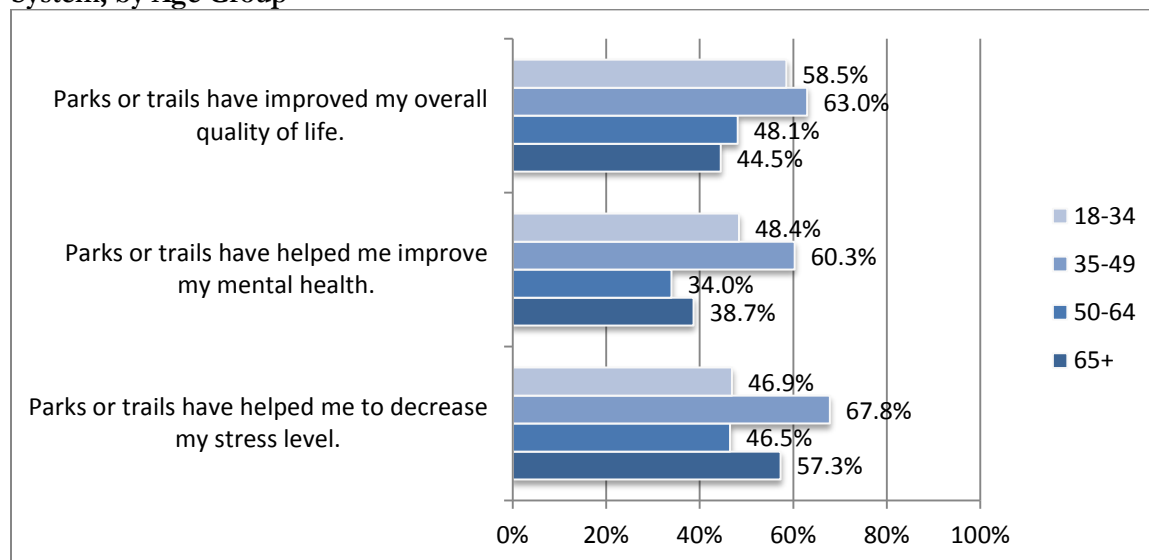


Among the benefits that people experienced from the parks and trails, there were differences in regards to gender, age, and those who have children under the age of 18. Figure 10 shows that women were significantly more likely than men to strongly agree that parks and trails helped to improve mental health and helped achieve a balance between work and play. Figure 11 shows that relatively younger respondents were substantially (and significantly) more likely than older respondents to strongly agree that parks and trails improved overall quality of life and improved mental health. Those aged 35 to 49 were much more likely than respondents in other age groups to strongly agree that parks and trails helped to decrease stress levels. Finally, Figure 12 shows that those without children living in their households were significantly more likely to strongly agree to a number of statements concerning the positive impact of parks and trails on their health than were those whose households contained children.

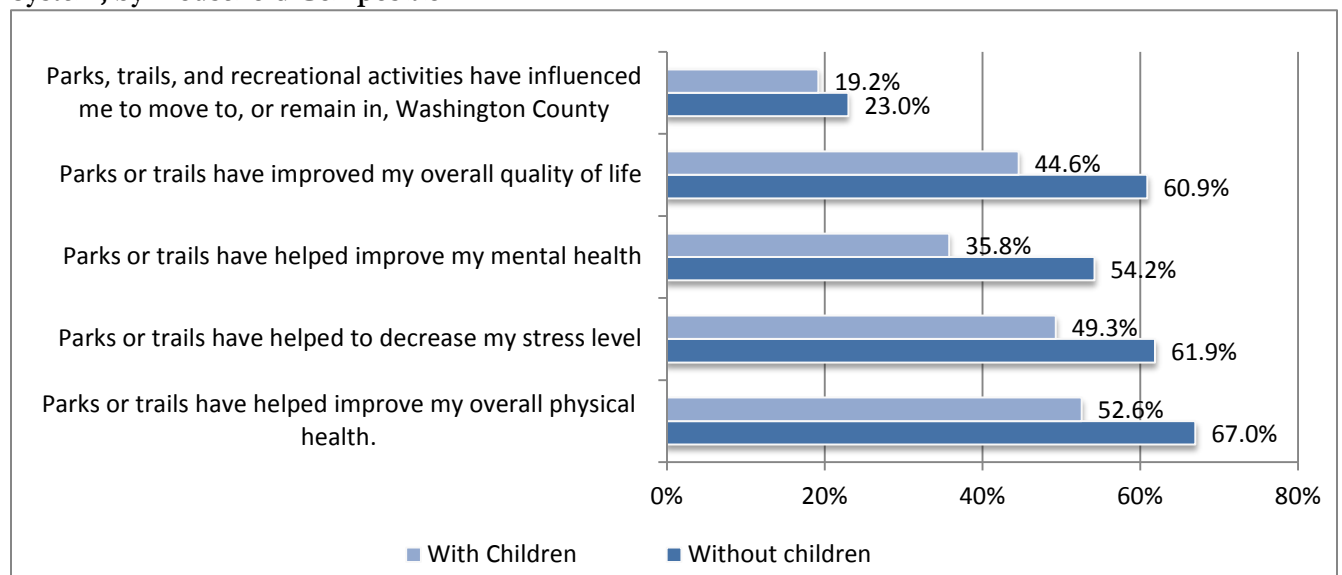
**Figure 10: Frequency of Strong Agreement with Statements about Impact of the Parks and Trails System, by Sex**



**Figure 11: Frequency of Strong Agreement with Statements about Impact of the Parks and Trails System, by Age Group**



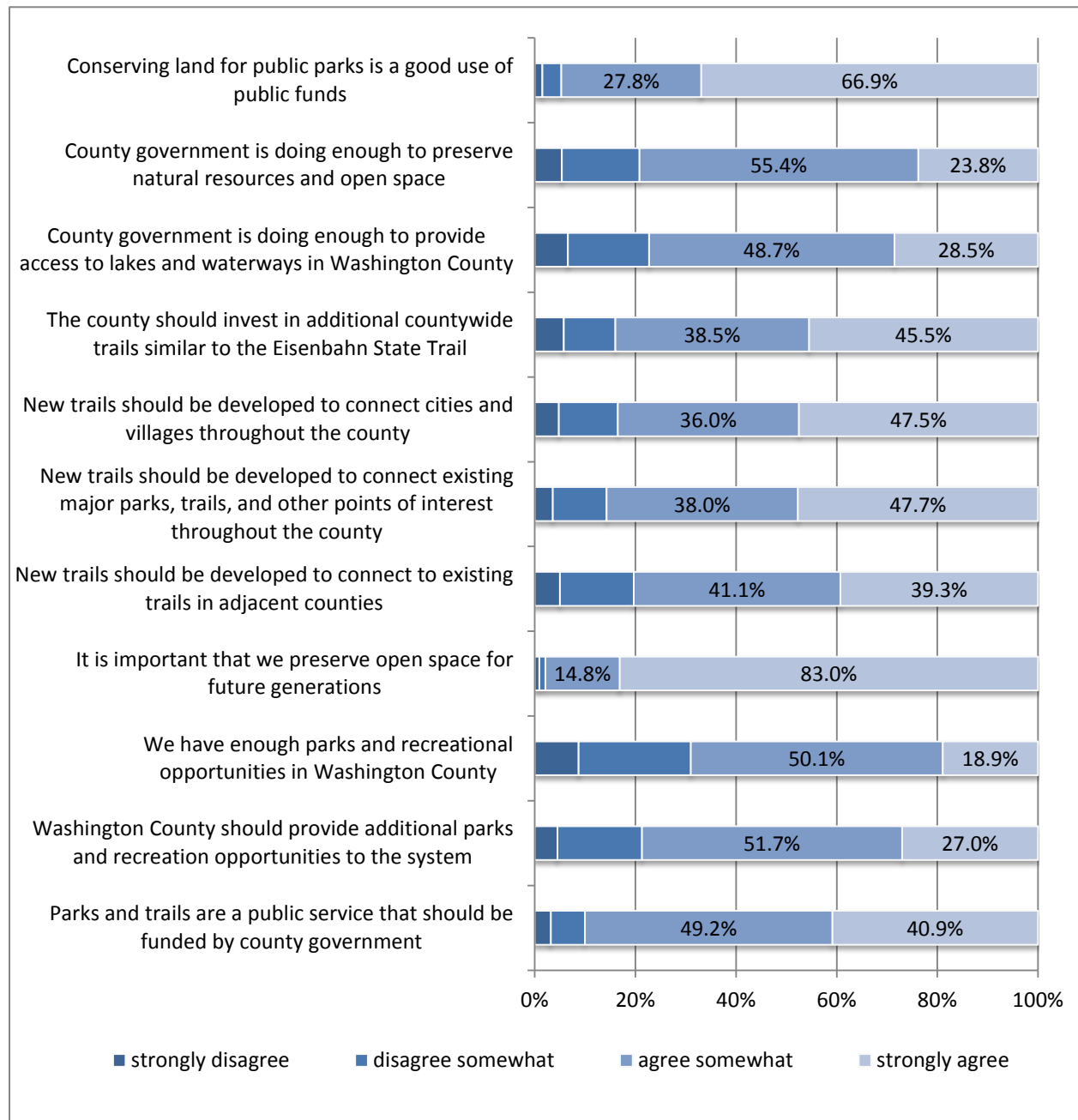
**Figure 11: Frequency of Strong Agreement with Statements about Impact of the Parks and Trails System, by Household Composition**



## FUTURE INVESTMENT AND OPINIONS

Respondents were asked a series of questions to gauge their opinions regarding Washington County park development and conservation efforts. Respondents were asked to state whether they strongly agreed, agreed somewhat, disagreed somewhat, or strongly disagreed with several statements about future development investments and conservation principles. Figure 12 shows that large majorities of respondents either “strongly agree” or “agree somewhat” with each of the statements regarding potential development investments. The most-agreed-to statement was the assertion that conserving land for public parks is a good use of public funds; 66.9% strongly agreed.

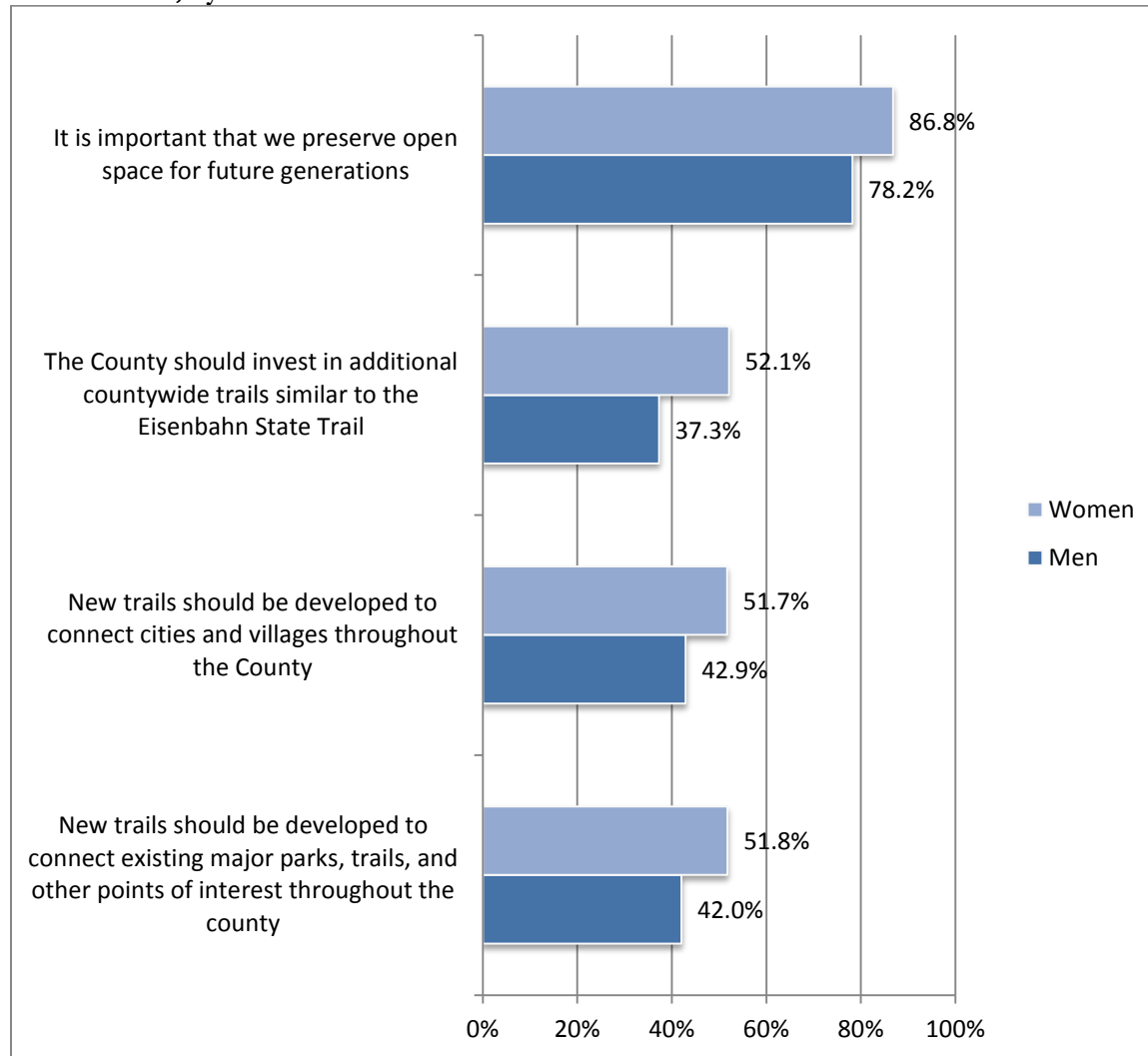
**Figure 12: Agreement with Statements Related to Washington County Park Development and Conservation**



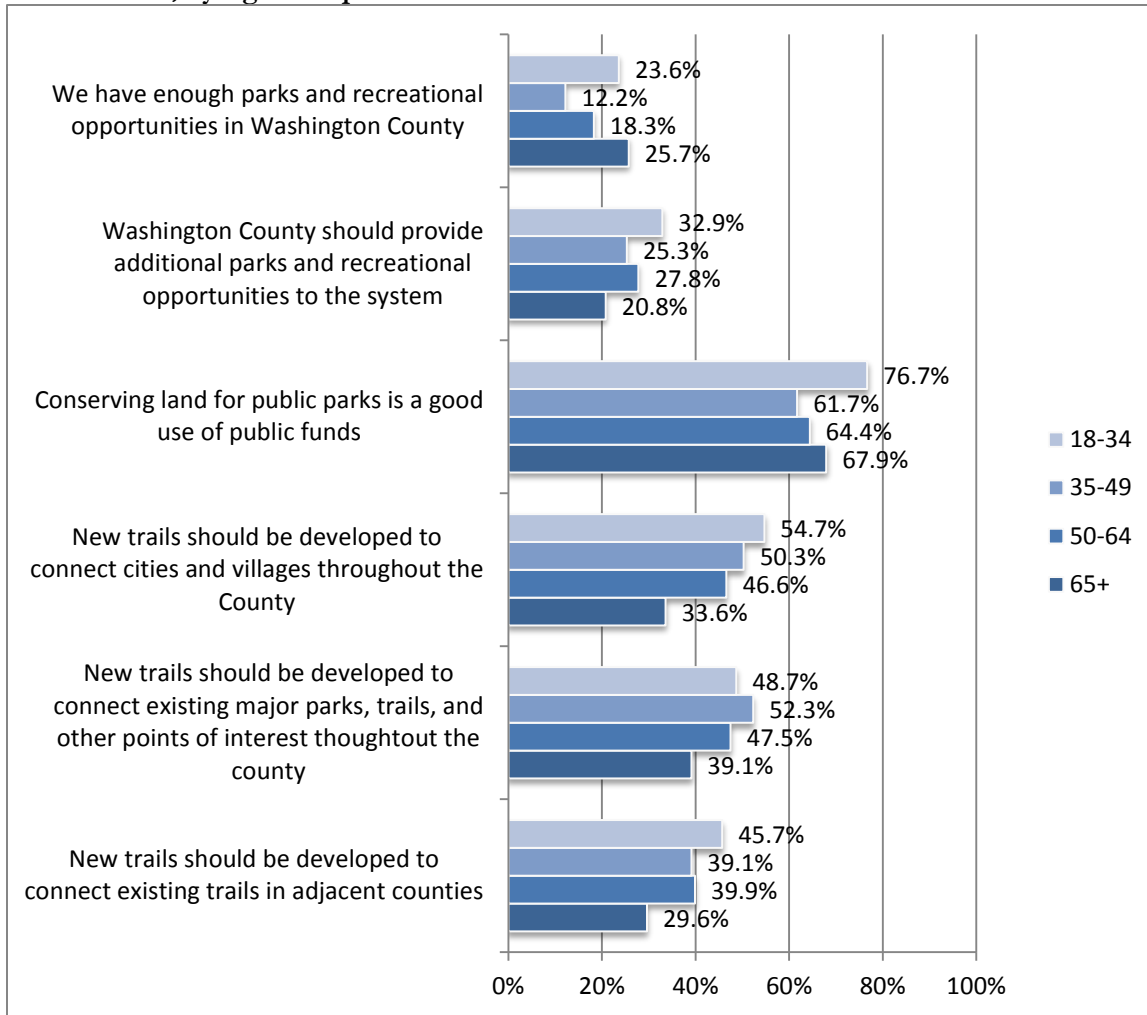
There were significant differences across demographic groups regarding the frequency of strong agreement with several of statements related to park development and conservation. Figure 13 shows that men were significantly less likely than women to strongly agree that Washington County should invest in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail, that new trails should be developed to connect cities and villages throughout the County, and that new trails should be developed to connect existing major parks, trails, and other points of interest throughout the County. Women and respondent from households with children were more likely to strongly agree that it is important to preserve open space for future generations (also see Figure 15).

Figure 14 shows some significant differences between respondents in different age groups regarding trail development and conservation principles; younger respondents were significantly more likely to strongly agree with statements proposing connective trails, and respondents aged 18 to 35 were much more likely than those in other age groups to strongly agree that conserving land for public parks is a good use of public funds. Those aged 65 and up were most likely to strongly agree that there are already enough parks and recreational opportunities in Washington County.

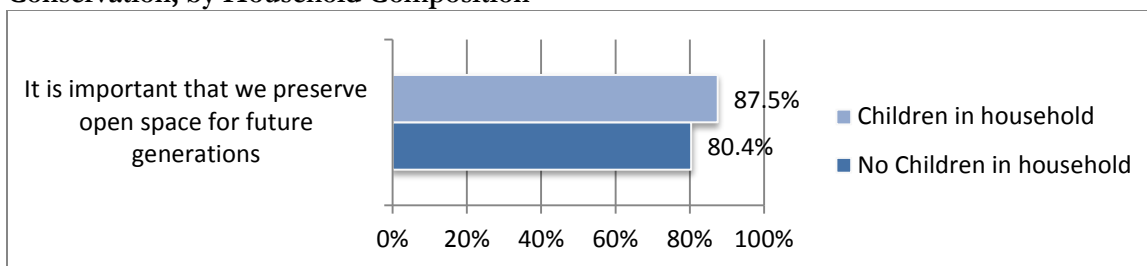
**Figure 13: Agreement with Statements Related to Washington County Park Development and Conservation, by Sex**



**Figure 14: Agreement with Statements Related to Washington County Park Development and Conservation, by Age Group**



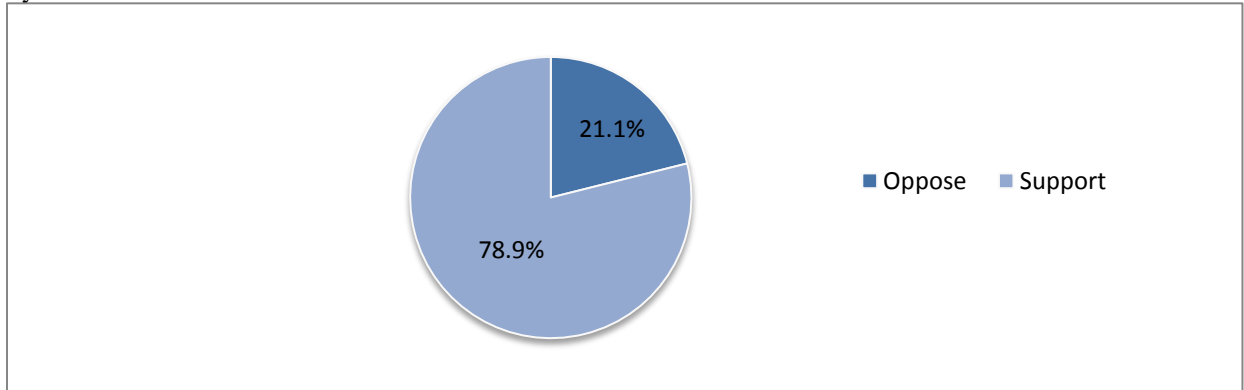
**Figure 15: Agreement with Statements Related to Washington County Park Development and Conservation, by Household Composition**





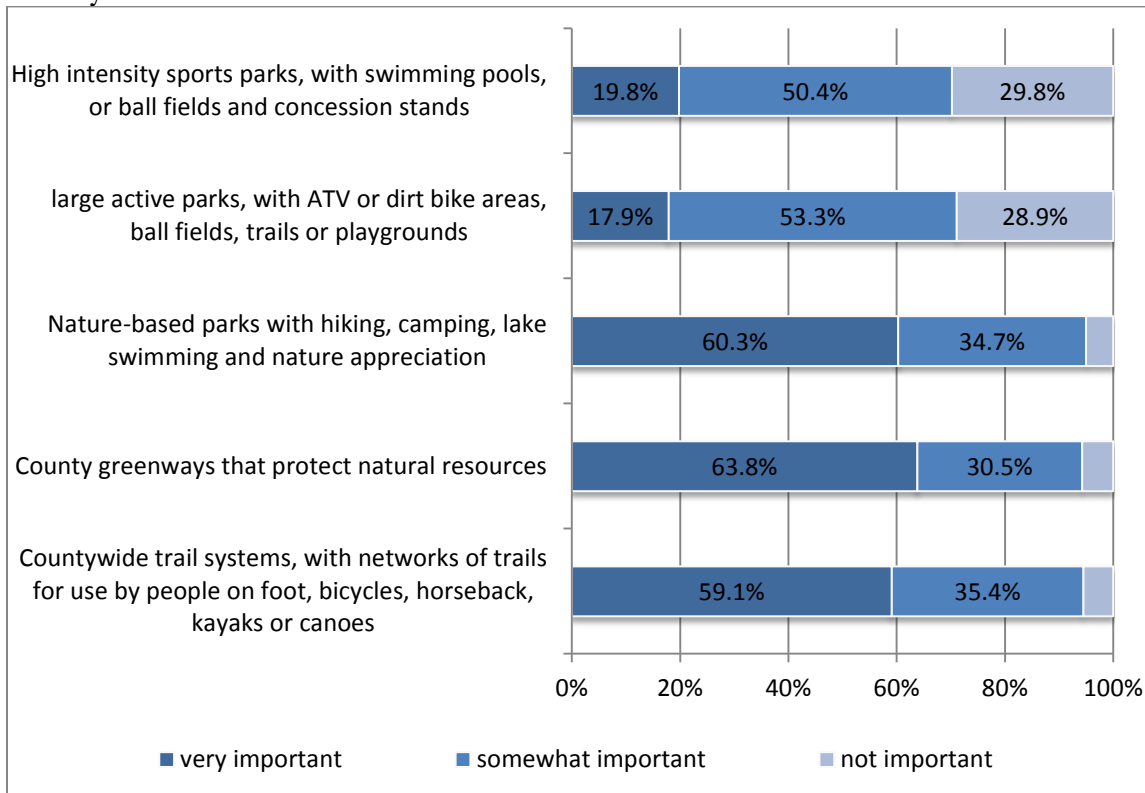
Respondents were also asked about support for an increase in the per capital annual tax contribution to the Washington County Park and Trail system. A large majority (78.9%) of respondents indicated they would support an increase of \$1 (Figure 16).

**Figure 16: Support for \$1 Increase in Per Capital Annual Tax Contribution to County Park and Trail System**



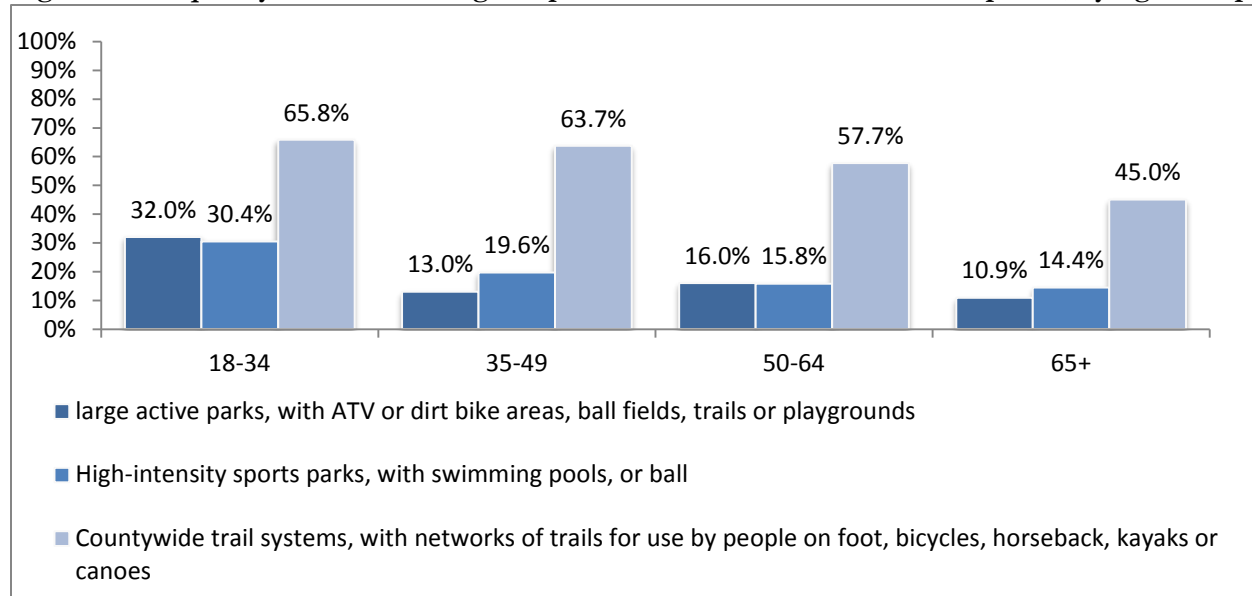
Next, respondents were asked to prioritize potential Washington County investment in five specific types of parks. Of the five options, the majority of the respondents would like to see county greenways that protect natural resources; the least desired option is high intensity sports parks (see Figure 22).

**Figure 17: Perceived Importance of Potential Investment Options for Washington County Park and Trail System**

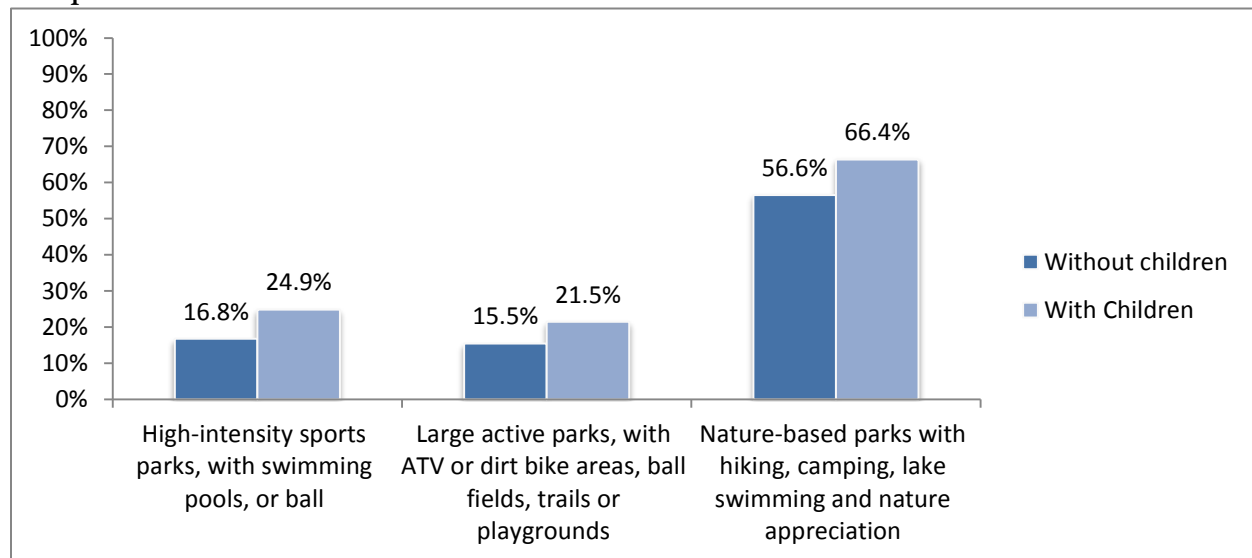


Future investment opinion varied significantly by gender, age group, and household composition. While only 19.8% of the overall sample felt that it was “very important” to invest in high-intensity sports parks with swimming pools, ball fields and concession stands, 61.3% of that group of respondents were women. There were, however, larger differences in preferences according to age. While 59.1% of respondents said countywide trails systems were “very important,” this response was most common among respondents aged 18 to 34 (65.8%, compared to just 45% among those aged 65 and up – see Figure 18). Similar patterns of relatively lower levels of enthusiasm among older respondents were observed relative to high-intensity sports parks and large active parks as well. When it comes to household composition, Figure 19 shows that respondents from households with children were significantly more enthusiastic about high-intensity sports parks, large active parks, and nature-based parks than were those from households without children.

**Figure 18: Frequency of Perceived High Importance of Potential Investment Options, by Age Group**



**Figure 19: Frequency of Perceived High Importance of Potential Investment Options, by Household Composition**



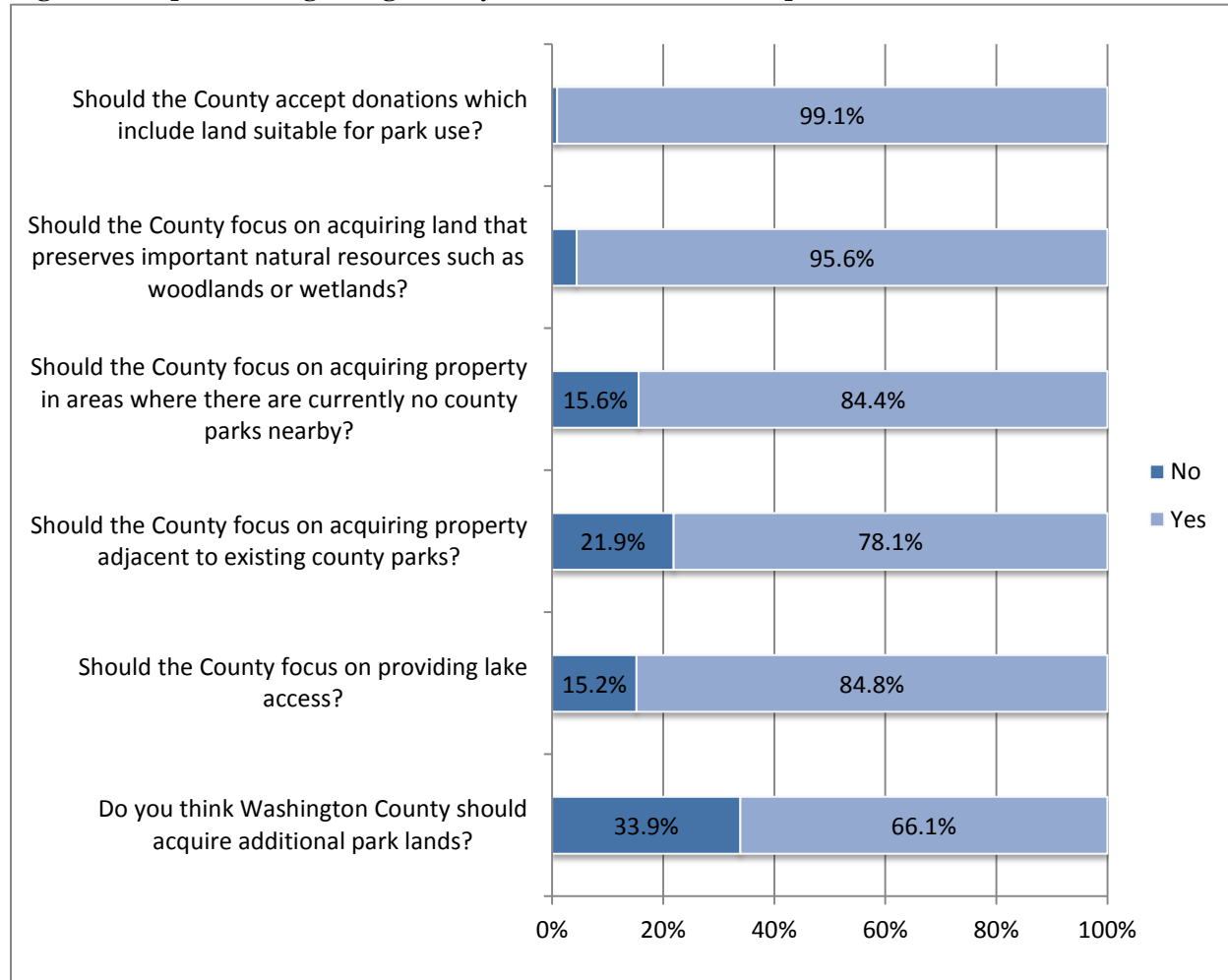
When asked how important it is for the county to achieve a balance between the possible investment priorities, a slight majority of respondents stated that this was very important (see Table 8).

**Table 8. How important is it for the county to achieve a balance between the possible investment priorities?**

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Not important	38	4.0
Somewhat important	245	44.7
Very important	410	51.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>100.0</b>

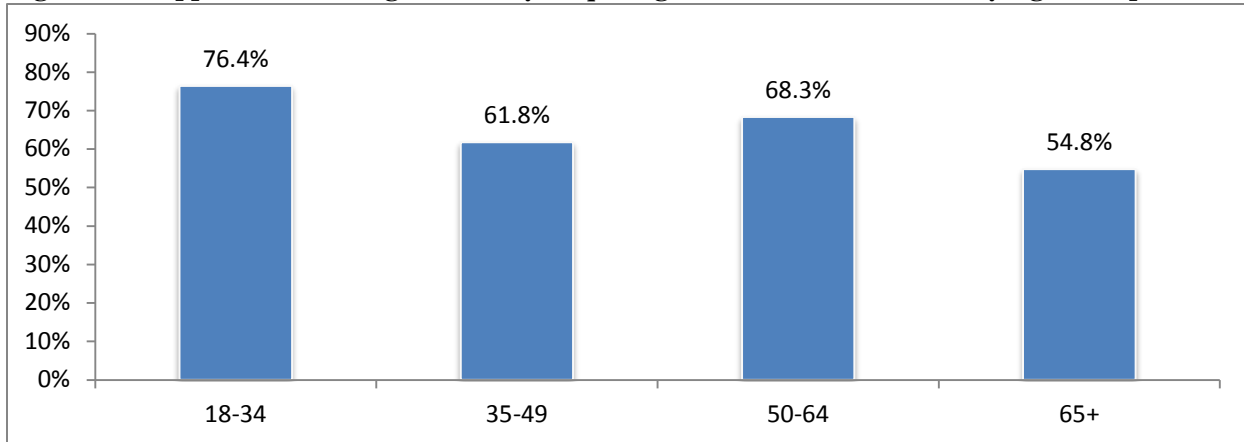
The last future investment/development opinion questions inquired about respondents opinions on Washington County acquiring property. Each proposed investment option drew the support of large majorities of respondents, especially with the statement that the county should accept donations which include land suitable for park use; 99.1% agreed (see Figure 25).

**Figure 20: Opinions Regarding County Investment and Development**



There were statistically significant differences between men and women regarding whether the county should focus on acquiring property in areas where there are currently no county parks nearby. While 56.6% of women expressed agreement in this idea, only 43.4% of men agreed. There were also differences according to age regarding whether Washington County should acquire additional park lands. Respondents aged 18 to 34 were the most supportive, while respondents aged 65 and up were least supporting (see Figure 21).

**Figure 21: Support for Washington County Acquiring Additional Park Lands, by Age Group**



## OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

Each respondent was asked what city, village or town they lived in; Table 9 lists the responses of respondents. The most well-represented communities were West Bend, Hartford and Richfield.

**Table 9: City, Village, or Town of Respondents**

City	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage of respondents</i>
Aaron	1	0.1
Addison	13	1.9
Allenton	5	0.7
Barton	20	2.9
Colgate	4	0.6
Erin	13	1.9
Farmington	16	2.2
Fillmore	1	0.1
German Town	19	2.7
Hartford	90	13.0
Hubertus	18	2.6
Jackson	46	6.6
Kewaskum	26	3.7
Kowalski	1	0.1
Lane	1	0.1
Menomonee Falls	1	0.1
Newburg	5	0.7
Parkside	1	0.1
Parton	1	0.1
Polk	18	2.6
Richfield	55	7.9
Richmond	1	0.1
Slinger	33	4.8
West Bend	258	37.1
Trenton	24	3.4
Wayne	12	1.7
Washington	7	1.0
Waukesha	1	0.1
Hartland	1	0.1
Town of Edison	1	0.1
Town of Merton	1	0.1
Town of Oak	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Each respondent was asked which recreational activities that they or anyone in their household engaged in when visiting the Washington County park and trail system. Each respondent had the opportunity to name each activity that their family was involved in. The activities and frequencies of those responses can be found in Table 10. The most commonly-cited activities were hiking, walking and biking.

**Table 10: Recreational activities the respondent or anyone from their household engaged in when visiting the county park and trail system\***

Activity	Responses	Percentage of respondents
Baseball	10	1.4
Basketball	3	0.4
BBQ	1	0.1
Biking/bicycling	90	12.9
Bird watching	7	1.0
Boating	14	2.0
Boy scouts	1	0.1
Camping	10	1.4
Disc golf	4	0.6
Dog park/walk	17	2.4
Family reunion	3	0.4
Fireworks	6	0.9
Fishing	53	7.6
Football	3	0.4
Frisbee golf	9	1.3
Geocaching	2	0.3
Golf	5	0.7
Hiking	249	35.7
Horseback riding/plow with horses	5	0.7
Horseshoes	1	0.1
Kayaking	5	0.7
Observing nature	1	0.1
Photography	4	0.6
Picnic	47	6.7
Playground	29	4.2
Running	25	3.6
Shelter rental	1	0.1
Skiing/cross country skiing	18	2.6
Sledding	11	1.6
Snow mobile/shoeing/boarding	24	3.4
Soccer	12	1.7
Splash pad	6	0.9
Swimming/pool	79	11.3
Tennis	8	1.1
Volleyball	3	0.4
Walking/walk	186	26.7
Wedding/graduation/birthday/other event	12	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>-</b>

\*Respondents could choose multiple answers; percentages will not total 100%

Respondents were asked what other recreational activities or amenities they would like to see in the Washington County park and Trail system; a very large percentage of respondents stated that there is nothing that they would add, or that the park system has enough (55.2%). For the remaining proportion of respondents who did have suggestions, Table 11 lists the suggestions and frequencies of the responses. The most commonly-cited activities/amenities were snowmobiling/boarding/shoeing and more places to swim.

**Table 11: Other recreational activities or amenities respondents want to see in the Washington County Park and Trail System\***

Activity	Responses	Percentage of respondents
Archery ranges	5	0.7
ATV trails	8	1.1
Baseball fields	1	0.1
Basketball courts	1	0.1
Beaches	5	0.7
Beer garden	1	0.1
Better and safer playground	3	0.4
Bocce ball	1	0.1
Community gathering	1	0.1
Disc golf	2	0.3
Geo caching	1	0.1
Handicap accessibility	3	0.4
Horseback riding	11	1.6
Hunting grounds	6	0.9
Ice skating	4	0.6
Jeep trail	1	0.1
Kayaking	4	0.6
Mini golf	1	0.1
More activities for teenagers	2	0.3
More boat access	3	0.4
More camping areas	4	0.6
More dog park/areas where dogs are allowed	9	1.3
More fishing opportunities	10	1.4
More hiking trails	10	1.4
More paved bike trails	11	1.6
More picnic areas	2	0.3
More places to swim	17	2.4
More restrooms	2	0.3
More shelters to rent	3	0.4
More signs	3	0.4
More splash pads	1	0.1
More trash cans	3	0.4
More walking trails	10	1.4
Nature trails/tours/watching	6	0.9
Pickleball	1	0.1
Race track	1	0.1
Rock climbing	1	0.1
Roller skating	2	0.3

Skateboard parks	2	0.3
Sky diving	1	0.1
Sledding	2	0.3
Snowmobile trails	8	1.1
Snowshoe trails	13	1.9
Soccer fields	3	0.4
Stargazing	1	0.1
Tennis courts	1	0.1
Tour guides	1	0.1
Trout Ponds	1	0.1
Volleyball nets	1	0.1
Winter bird watching	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>-</b>

\* Respondents could choose multiple answers; percentages will not total 100%



**APPENDICES**

**Frequencies (weighed)**

**In the past year, has anyone in your household visited a County Park or trail in Washington County?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid no	139	20.0	20.2	20.2
Valid yes	551	79.0	79.8	100.0
Total	690	99.0	100.0	
Missing don't know	7	1.0		
Total	697	100.0		

**Primary factors preventing you or members of your household from utilizing the Washington County Park and Trail System?**

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Use parks elsewhere	8	5.7%	5.7%
Not familiar with Wash Co Parks system	15	10.0%	10.0%
Too busy/not enough time	44	30.1%	30.1%
No transportation	2	1.1%	1.1%
Parks too far away	3	2.2%	2.2%
I don't enjoy outdoor recreation	1	0.6%	0.6%
I don't have other people to go with	2	1.5%	1.5%
Limited by age	10	6.8%	6.8%
Limited by disability	8	5.2%	5.2%
Other	26	17.9%	17.9%
Don't know/no reason	26	18.0%	18.0%
Refused	1	0.9%	0.9%
Total	146	100.0%	100.0%

**Which County Park properties did you or members of your household visit in the past year?**

[Respondents could choose multiple responses]

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Ackerman's Grove County Park	32	3.7%	5.8%
Cedar Lake Wayside	11	1.3%	2.0%
Eisenbahn State Trail	79	9.1%	14.4%
Family Park	5	0.6%	0.9%
Glacier Hills County Park	56	6.4%	10.1%
Goeden County Park	5	0.6%	0.9%
Henschke Hillside Lake Access	6	0.7%	1.1%
Heritage Trails County Park	41	4.7%	7.4%
Homestead Hollow County Park	34	3.9%	6.2%
Leonard J. Yahr County Park	26	3.0%	4.8%
Lizard Mound County Park	22	2.6%	4.1%
Ridge Run County Park	132	15.2%	24.0%
Sandy Knoll County Park	64	7.3%	11.6%
Visited, but unsure which parks	358	41.0%	65.0%
Total	872	100.0%	158.4%

**On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "very poor" and 10 being "excellent,"how would you rate the overall quality of Washington County Parks and Trails?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	4	.6	.7	.7
1	2	.2	.3	1.0
3	3	.4	.5	1.5
4	2	.3	.4	1.8
5	19	2.7	3.4	5.3
Valid 6	18	2.5	3.2	8.5
7	64	9.2	11.7	20.2
8	183	26.2	33.2	53.4
9	146	21.0	26.5	79.9
10	111	15.9	20.1	100.0
Total	551	79.0	100.0	
Missing System	146	21.0		
Total	697	100.0		

**Have you PERSONALLY visited ANY park or trail within the last year, including those  
OUTSIDE of Washington County?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	no	184	26.5	26.5	26.5
Valid	yes	512	73.4	73.5	100.0
	Total	696	99.9	100.0	
Missing	don't know	1	.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**Would you like to see the County provide any of the following activities or amenities? [Respondents could choose  
multiple responses]**

		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
	ATV or dirt bike trails or use areas (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	258	5.3%	37.5%
	Disc golf (Would you like to see the County provide it?)	414	8.6%	60.3%
	Overnight cabin rentals (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	383	7.9%	55.8%
	Mountain bike trails (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	510	10.5%	74.3%
	Dog parks (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	446	9.2%	65.0%
test <sup>a</sup>	Nature-based playgrounds (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	569	11.7%	82.8%
	Lookout towers (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	542	11.2%	78.9%
	Camping (Would you like to see the County provide it?)	481	9.9%	70.1%
	a Nature Center (Would you like to see the County provide it?)	553	11.4%	80.5%
	Foot Golf (Would you like to see the County provide it?)	211	4.4%	30.8%
	Groomed cross-country ski trails (Would you like to see the County provide them?)	477	9.8%	69.4%
Total		4845	100.0%	705.6%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

**Parks and trails have helped improve my overall physical health. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	9	1.4	1.8	1.8
	disagree somewhat	19	2.8	3.8	5.6
	agree somewhat	171	24.5	33.5	39.2
	strongly agree	310	44.4	60.8	100.0
	Total	509	73.0	100.0	
Missing	don't know	3	.4		
	System	185	26.6		
	Total	188	27.0		
Total		697	100.0		

**Parks or trails have helped to decrease my stress level. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	12	1.7	2.3	2.3
	disagree somewhat	30	4.2	5.8	8.1
	agree somewhat	180	25.9	35.4	43.5
	strongly agree	288	41.4	56.5	100.0
	Total	510	73.2	100.0	
Missing	don't know	0	.1		
	refused	1	.2		
	System	185	26.6		
Total		187	26.8		
Total		697	100.0		

**Parks or trails have helped improve my mental health. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	13	1.8	2.5	2.5
	disagree somewhat	37	5.4	7.4	9.9
	agree somewhat	221	31.7	43.8	53.7
	strongly agree	234	33.5	46.3	100.0
	Total	505	72.4	100.0	
Missing	don't know	6	.8		
	refused	1	.2		
	System	185	26.6		
Total		192	27.6		
Total		697	100.0		

**Parks or trails have improved my overall quality of life. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	8	1.1	1.6	1.6
	disagree somewhat	12	1.7	2.3	3.8
	agree somewhat	215	30.8	42.1	45.9
	strongly agree	276	39.5	54.1	100.0
	Total	510	73.1	100.0	
Missing	don't know	2	.2		
	refused	0	.1		
	System	185	26.6		
	Total	187	26.9		
	Total	697	100.0		

**Parks or trails have helped me achieve a balance between work and play. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	14	2.0	2.8	2.8
	disagree somewhat	46	6.6	9.1	11.9
	agree somewhat	200	28.7	39.8	51.7
	strongly agree	243	34.8	48.3	100.0
	Total	503	72.1	100.0	
Missing	don't know	7	1.0		
	refused	2	.3		
	System	185	26.6		
	Total	194	27.9		
	Total	697	100.0		

**Parks, trails, and recreational activities have influenced me to move to, or remain in, Washington County.**

**(Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	95	13.6	19.4	19.4
	disagree somewhat	141	20.2	28.8	48.3
	agree somewhat	148	21.3	30.3	78.6
	strongly agree	105	15.0	21.4	100.0
	Total	489	70.1	100.0	
Missing	don't know	18	2.6		
	refused	5	.7		
	System	185	26.6		
Total	208	29.9			
Total	697	100.0			

**Conserving land for public parks is a good use of public funds. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	11	1.5	1.5	1.5
	disagree somewhat	26	3.8	3.8	5.3
	agree somewhat	193	27.6	27.8	33.1
	strongly agree	464	66.6	66.9	100.0
	Total	694	99.5	100.0	
Missing	don't know	3	.5		
Total	697	100.0			

**County government is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open space. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	36	5.2	5.4	5.4
	disagree somewhat	102	14.7	15.4	20.8
	agree somewhat	369	52.9	55.4	76.2
	strongly agree	158	22.7	23.8	100.0
	Total	666	95.5	100.0	
Missing	don't know	31	4.4		
	refused	0	.1		
	Total	31	4.5		
Total	697	100.0			

**County government is doing enough to provide access to lakes and waterways in Washington County.**

**(Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	43	6.2	6.6	6.6
	disagree somewhat	105	15.0	16.1	22.7
	agree somewhat	317	45.5	48.7	71.5
	strongly agree	186	26.7	28.5	100.0
	Total	651	93.4	100.0	
Missing	don't know	45	6.5		
	refused	1	.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**The County should invest in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail. (Would you...)**

**you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	37	5.4	5.8	5.8
	disagree somewhat	66	9.4	10.2	16.1
	agree somewhat	247	35.5	38.5	54.5
	strongly agree	292	41.9	45.5	100.0
	Total	643	92.3	100.0	
Missing	don't know	51	7.3		
	refused	3	.5		
Total		697	100.0		

**New trails should be developed to connect cities and villages throughout the County. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	33	4.8	4.8	4.8
	disagree somewhat	80	11.5	11.7	16.5
	agree somewhat	248	35.6	36.0	52.5
	strongly agree	328	47.0	47.5	100.0
	Total	690	99.0	100.0	
Missing	don't know	5	.8		
	refused	2	.2		
Total		697	100.0		

**New trails should be developed to connect existing major parks, trails, and other points of interest throughout the county. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	25	3.5	3.6	3.6
	disagree somewhat	74	10.7	10.7	14.3
	agree somewhat	264	37.9	38.0	52.3
	strongly agree	331	47.6	47.7	100.0
	Total	695	99.7	100.0	
Missing	don't know	2	.3		
Total		697	100.0		

**New trails should be developed to connect to existing trails in adjacent counties. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	34	4.9	5.0	5.0
	disagree somewhat	101	14.5	14.7	19.6
	agree somewhat	283	40.6	41.1	60.7
	strongly agree	271	38.9	39.3	100.0
	Total	690	99.0	100.0	
Missing	don't know	7	1.0		
Total		697	100.0		

**It is important that we preserve open space for future generations. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	6	.9	.9	.9
	disagree somewhat	9	1.2	1.2	2.1
	agree somewhat	103	14.8	14.8	17.0
	strongly agree	577	82.8	83.0	100.0
	Total	695	99.7	100.0	
Missing	don't know	2	.3		
Total		697	100.0		



**We have enough parks and recreational opportunities in Washington County. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	59	8.5	8.7	8.7
	disagree somewhat	152	21.7	22.3	31.0
	agree somewhat	340	48.8	50.1	81.1
	strongly agree	128	18.4	18.9	100.0
	Total	680	97.5	100.0	
Missing	don't know	17	2.5		
Total		697	100.0		

**Washington County should provide additional parks and recreational opportunities to the system. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	30	4.3	4.5	4.5
	disagree somewhat	112	16.1	16.8	21.3
	agree somewhat	347	49.8	51.7	73.0
	strongly agree	181	26.0	27.0	100.0
	Total	671	96.3	100.0	
Missing	don't know	24	3.4		
	refused	2	.3		
Total	Total	26	3.7		
Total		697	100.0		

**Parks and trails are a public service that should be funded by county government. (Would you...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	21	3.1	3.2	3.2
	disagree somewhat	46	6.6	6.8	9.9
	agree somewhat	333	47.7	49.2	59.1
	strongly agree	277	39.7	40.9	100.0
	Total	676	97.0	100.0	
Missing	don't know	18	2.6		
	refused	3	.4		
Total	Total	21	3.0		
Total		697	100.0		

**Would you support or oppose increasing the per capita annual tax contribution by \$1 to improve Washington County Parks and Trails?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	oppose	144	20.7	21.1	21.1
	support	538	77.1	78.9	100.0
	Total	682	97.8	100.0	
Missing	don't know	15	2.2		
Total		697	100.0		

**Do you think Washington County should acquire additional park lands?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	224	32.1	33.9	33.9
	yes	435	62.5	66.1	100.0
	Total	659	94.6	100.0	
Missing	don't know	36	5.2		
	refused	2	.2		
	Total	38	5.4		
Total		697	100.0		

**Should the County focus on providing lake access?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	69	10.0	15.2	15.2
	yes	389	55.8	84.8	100.0
	Total	458	65.7	100.0	
Missing	don't know	12	1.7		
	refused	4	.5		
	System	224	32.1		
	Total	239	34.3		
Total		697	100.0		

**Should the County focus on acquiring property adjacent to existing county parks?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	97	13.9	21.9	21.9
	yes	347	49.7	78.1	100.0
	Total	444	63.7	100.0	
Missing	don't know	29	4.1		
	refused	1	.2		
	System	224	32.1		
Total		253	36.3		
Total		697	100.0		

**Should the County focus on acquiring property in areas where there are currently no county parks nearby?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	71	10.3	15.6	15.6
	yes	388	55.6	84.4	100.0
	Total	459	65.9	100.0	
Missing	don't know	13	1.9		
	refused	1	.1		
	System	224	32.1		
Total		238	34.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**Should the County focus on acquiring land that preserves important natural resources such as woodlands or wetlands?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	20	2.9	4.4	4.4
	yes	446	64.0	95.6	100.0
	Total	466	66.9	100.0	
Missing	don't know	7	1.0		
	System	224	32.1		
	Total	231	33.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**Should the County accept donations which include land suitable for park use?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	4	.6	.9	.9
	yes	462	66.2	99.1	100.0
	Total	466	66.9	100.0	
Missing	don't know	6	.8		
	refused	2	.2		
	System	224	32.1		
	Total	231	33.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**High-intensity sports parks, with swimming pools, or ball fields with bleachers and concession stands. As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not important	206	29.6	29.8	29.8
	somewhat important	349	50.1	50.4	80.2
	very important	138	19.7	19.8	100.0
	Total	693	99.4	100.0	
Missing	don't know	4	.6		
Total		697	100.0		

**Large active parks, with ATV or dirt bike areas, ball fields, trails or playgrounds (As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not important	199	28.6	28.9	28.9
	somewhat important	367	52.7	53.3	82.1
	very important	123	17.7	17.9	100.0
	Total	689	98.9	100.0	
Missing	don't know	5	.8		
	refused	2	.3		
	Total	8	1.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**Nature-based parks with hiking, camping, lake swimming and nature appreciation (As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not important	35	5.0	5.0	5.0
	somewhat important	241	34.6	34.7	39.7
	very important	419	60.2	60.3	100.0
	Total	695	99.8	100.0	
Missing	refused	2	.2		
Total		697	100.0		

**County greenways that protect natural resources (As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not important	39	5.6	5.7	5.7
	somewhat important	211	30.2	30.5	36.2
	very important	440	63.1	63.8	100.0
	Total	689	98.9	100.0	
Missing	don't know	8	1.1		
Total		697	100.0		

**Countywide trail systems, with networks of trails for use by people on foot, bicycles, horseback, kayaks or canoes. (As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not important	38	5.5	5.5	5.5
	somewhat important	245	35.2	35.4	40.9
	very important	410	58.8	59.1	100.0
	Total	694	99.5	100.0	
Missing	don't know	3	.5		
Total		697	100.0		

**How important is it for the county to achieve a balance between the possible investment priorities I just listed? Would you say..**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not important	27	3.9	4.0	4.0
	somewhat important	308	44.2	44.7	48.7
	very important	353	50.7	51.3	100.0
	Total	689	98.8	100.0	
Missing	don't know	7	1.0		
	refused	1	.1		
	Total	8	1.2		
Total		697	100.0		

**What is your preferred method for receiving information about the Washington County Parks and Trails System and its programming and activities?**

		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
test <sup>a</sup>	Internet websites	82	11.8%	11.8%
	Facebook	2	0.2%	0.2%
	Twitter	0	0.1%	0.1%
	Other social media	8	1.2%	1.2%
	Mobile apps	1	0.1%	0.1%
	Text message	0	0.1%	0.1%
	Mailed newsletters or postcards	300	43.1%	43.1%
	Local newspapers	90	12.9%	12.9%
	Other	34	4.9%	4.9%
	I do not want to be contacted	6	0.8%	0.8%
	don't know	7	1.0%	1.0%
	refused	4	0.6%	0.6%
	EMAIL	162	23.2%	23.2%
	Total	697	100.0%	100.0%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

**What is your gender?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid female	387	55.5	55.5	55.5
Valid male	310	44.5	44.5	100.0
Total	697	100.0	100.0	

**Please stop me when I get to the age range that includes you**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-34	151	21.7	21.7	21.7
Valid 35-49	194	27.8	27.8	49.5
Valid 50-64	241	34.6	34.6	84.0
Valid 65 and up	111	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	697	100.0	100.0	

**How many adults aged 18 and older live in your household, INCLUDING YOU?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	106	15.2	15.3	15.3
Valid 2	440	63.1	63.5	78.7
Valid 3	93	13.4	13.4	92.1
Valid 4 or more	54	7.8	7.9	100.0
Total	693	99.5	100.0	
Missing don't know	2	.2		
Missing refused	2	.3		
Missing Total	4	.5		
Total	697	100.0		

**Do you have any children under the age of 18 living with you?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid no	431	61.8	62.0	62.0
Valid yes	264	37.9	38.0	100.0
Total	695	99.7	100.0	
Missing refused	2	.3		
Total	697	100.0		

**What is your race or ethnicity?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	African-American	3	.4	.4
	Asian	6	.9	.9
	White	651	93.5	95.7
	Hispanic/Latino	7	1.0	1.1
	Native American/Alaska Native	2	.3	.3
	Mixed	4	.6	.6
	Other	6	.8	.9
	Total	680	97.6	100.0
Missing	don't know	2	.2	
	refused	15	2.2	
	Total	17	2.4	
Total	697	100.0		

**About how much was your total household income before taxes in 2013? Please stop me when I get to the range that covers your answer**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	\$30k or less	62	8.9	10.6	10.6
	\$30k to \$60k	168	24.1	28.8	39.4
	\$60K to \$90k	168	24.2	28.9	68.2
	\$90k to \$120k	112	16.0	19.2	87.4
	more than \$120k	74	10.6	12.6	100.0
Missing	Total	584	83.8	100.0	
	don't know	27	3.8		
	refused	87	12.4		
Total	113	16.2			
Total	697	100.0			



## Survey Instrument

### q:intro

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling on behalf of Washington County.

I'm not selling anything or asking for donations.

The Washington County Planning and Parks Department wants to know about your preferences and your experiences related to the County Park and Trail System.

Your input will help the Planning and Parks Department decide how to devote resources and plan for the future.

Do you have 9 to 10 minutes to answer some questions about the County Park and Trail System today?

(When would a better time to call back be?)

0 No

1 Yes

### q:adult

First, are you an adult, aged 18 or older?

0 no

1 yes

### q:adult2

Is there an adult with whom I can speak?

0 no

1 yes

### q:screen

Are you a resident of Washington County?

0 "no"

1 "yes"

### q:q1

In the past year, has anyone in your household visited a County Park or trail in Washington County?

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q1no**

What is the primary factor preventing you or members of your household from utilizing the Washington County Park and Trail System?

- 01 Use parks elsewhere
- 02 Not familiar with Wash Co Parks system
- 03 Too busy/not enough time
- 04 Poor quality facilities
- 05 Fear for personal safety
- 06 No transportation
- 07 Parks too far away
- 08 I don't enjoy outdoor recreation
- 09 I don't have other people to go with
- 10 Limited by age
- 11 Limited by disability
- 12 Other
- 13 Don't know/no reason
- 14 Refused

**q:q2**

Which County Park properties did you or members of your household visit in the past year?

- 01 Ackerman's Grove County Park
- 02 Cedar Lake Wayside
- 03 Eisenbahn State Trail
- 04 Family Park
- 05 Glacier Hills County Park
- 06 Goeden County Park
- 07 Henschke Hillside Lake Access
- 08 Heritage Trails County Park
- 09 Homestead Hollow County Park
- 10 Leonard J. Yahr County Park
- 11 Lizard Mound County Park
- 12 Ridge Run County Park
- 13 Sandy Knoll County Park
- 14 Visited, but unsure which parks

**q:q3**

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "very poor" and 10 being "excellent," how would you rate the overall quality of Washington County Parks and Trails?

>>ENTER 0 for don't know/refused>>

**q:q4**

Over the last year, what recreational activities did you or members of your household engage in when visiting the county park and trail system?

**q:q5a**

Would you like to see the County provide any of the following activities or amenities?

First,

ATV or dirt bike trails or use areas

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5b**

Disc golf

(Would you like to see the County provide it?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5c**

Overnight cabin rentals

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5d**

Mountain bike trails

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5e**

Dog parks

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5f**

Nature-based playgrounds

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5g**

Lookout towers

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5h**

Camping

(Would you like to see the County provide it?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5i**

a Nature Center

(Would you like to see the County provide it?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5j**

Foot Golf

(Would you like to see the County provide it?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q5k**

Groomed cross-country ski trails

(Would you like to see the County provide them?)

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q6**

Are there any other recreational activities or amenities that you would like to see in the Washington County Park and Trail System?

q:q7screen

Have you PERSONALLY visited ANY park or trail within the last year, including those OUTSIDE of Washington County?

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q7**

We are interested in how you might have personally benefitted from parks and trails over the past year.

For each statement I read, please tell me if you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree.

First,

Parks or trails have helped improve my overall physical health.  
(would you...)

3 "strongly agree"

2 "agree somewhat"

1 "disagree somewhat"

0 "strongly disagree"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q8**

Parks or trails have helped to decrease my stress level.  
(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q9**

Parks or trails have helped improve my mental health.

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q10**

Parks or trails have improved my overall quality of life.  
(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q11**

Parks or trails have helped me achieve a balance between work  
and play.  
(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q12**

Parks, trails, and recreational activities have influenced me to move to, or remain in, Washington County.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q13**

For the following statements I read, please continue to tell me whether you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree.

First,

Conserving land for public parks is a good use of public funds.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"

**q:q14**

County government is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open space.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q15**

County government is doing enough to provide access to lakes and waterways in Washington County.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q16**

The County should invest in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q17**

New trails should be developed to connect cities and villages throughout the County.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q18**

New trails should be developed to connect existing major parks, trails, and other points of interest throughout the county.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"



**q:q19**

New trails should be developed to connect to existing trails in adjacent counties.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q20**

It is important that we preserve open space for future generations.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q21**

We have enough parks and recreational opportunities in Washington County.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q22**

Washington County should provide additional parks and recreational opportunities to the system.

(Would you...)

- 3 "strongly agree"
- 2 "agree somewhat"
- 1 "disagree somewhat"
- 0 "strongly disagree"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q23**

Parks and trails are a public service that should be funded by county government.

(Would you...)

3 "strongly agree"

2 "agree somewhat"

1 "disagree somewhat"

0 "strongly disagree"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q31**

Currently, Washington County residents' annual property tax contribution to the County Park and Trail system is \$8.22 per capita.

Would you support or oppose increasing the per capita annual tax contribution by \$1 to improve Washington County Parks and Trails?

0 "oppose"

1 "support"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q32**

Do you think Washington County should acquire additional park lands?

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q33**

Should the County focus on providing lake access?

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q34**

Should the County focus on acquiring property adjacent to existing county parks?

0 "no"

1 "yes"

8 "don't know"

9 "refused"

**q:q35**

Should the County focus on acquiring property in areas where there are currently no county parks nearby?

- 0 "no"
- 1 "yes"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q36**

Should the County focus on acquiring land that preserves important natural resources such as woodlands or wetlands?

- 0 "no"
- 1 "yes"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q38**

Should the County accept donations which include land suitable for park use?

- 0 "no"
- 1 "yes"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q39**

Next, we want to know what types of parks Washington County should invest in for the future. Please tell me how important you think it is for the county to invest in each of the following.

First,

High-intensity sports parks, with swimming pools, or ball fields with bleachers and concession stands

As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...

- 2 "very important"
- 1 "somewhat important"
- 0 "not important"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q40**

large active parks, with ATV or dirt bike areas, ball fields, trails or playgrounds

(As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)

- 2 "very important"
- 1 "somewhat important"
- 0 "not important"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q41**

Nature-based parks with hiking, camping, lake swimming and nature appreciation

(As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)

- 2 "very important"
- 1 "somewhat important"
- 0 "not important"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q42**

County greenways that protect natural resources

(As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)

- 2 "very important"
- 1 "somewhat important"
- 0 "not important"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q43**

Countywide trail systems, with networks of trails for use by people on foot, bicycles, horseback, kayaks or canoes.

(As an investment priority for the County, would you say these are...)

- 2 "very important"
- 1 "somewhat important"
- 0 "not important"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:q44**

How important is it for the county to achieve a balance between the possible investment priorities I just listed?

Would you say...

- 2 "very important"
- 1 "somewhat important"
- 0 "not important"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:contact**

What is your preferred method for receiving information about the Washington County Parks and Trails System and its programming and activities?

- 01 Internet websites
- 02 Facebook
- 03 Twitter
- 04 Other social media
- 05 Mobile apps
- 06 Text message
- 07 Mailed newsletters or postcards
- 08 Local newspapers
- 09 Other
- 10 I do not want to be contacted
- 11 don't know
- 12 refused
- 13 EMAIL

**q:city**

Now just a few questions to help us compare answers across respondents. First, what city, village or town do you live in?

**q:zipcode**

What is your current zip code?

**q:years**

How many years have you lived in Washington County?

**q:age**

Please stop me when I get to the age range that includes you.

- 1 "18-34"
- 2 "35-49"
- 3 "50-64"
- 4 "65 and up"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:adults**

How many adults aged 18 and older live in your household,  
INCLUDING YOU?

- 1 "1"
- 2 "2"
- 3 "3"
- 4 "4 or more"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:child**

Do you have any children under the age of 18 living with you?

- 0 "no"
- 1 "yes"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:race**

What is your race or ethnicity?

- 1 "African-American"
- 2 "Asian"
- 3 "White"
- 4 "Hispanic/Latino"
- 5 "Native American/Alaska Native"
- 6 "Mixed"
- 7 "Other"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:hhinc**

About how much was your total household income before taxes in 2013?  
Please stop me when I get to the range that covers your answer.

- 1 "\$30k or less"
- 2 "\$30k to \$60k"
- 3 "\$60K to \$90k"
- 4 "\$90k to \$120k"
- 5 "more than \$120k"
- 8 "don't know"
- 9 "refused"

**q:gender**

What is your gender?

0 "female"

1 "male"

## Definitions of statistical terms

### *Population*

In statistics, the population is the complete set of items that share the common trait the statistician is interested in studying. For the purposes of this study, the population is all adult Washington County residents. A piece of information about the population is referred to as a “population parameter.”

### *Sample*

A sample is a subset of items drawn from a population to represent that population in a statistical analysis. A piece of information about the sample is referred to as a “sample statistic.”

### *Margin of Error*

The margin of error expresses the precision of a survey’s results. The smaller the margin of error, the more likely the poll’s reported results represent the “true” opinions of the population. For example, a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$  at the 95% confidence level means that there is a 95% probability that if the opinions of everyone in the population were measured, the result (the “population parameter”) would fall within 5 points (above or below) of the result from the survey (the “sample statistic”).

### *Non-response patterns*

Non-response patterns refer to the tendency of some demographic groups to respond to surveys at lower rates. Non-response patterns can bias survey results.

### *Statistical significance*

If differences between statistics are labeled as “statistically significant,” generally this means that there is a high probability (normally 95%) that the difference is not the result of random chance, and would also be seen in the population if every item was measured.