



Washington County 2013 Park System Online Survey Report May 2014



Washington County Park System "Something for Everyone"





WASHINGTON COUNTY 2013 PARK SYSTEM ONLINE SURVEY REPORT

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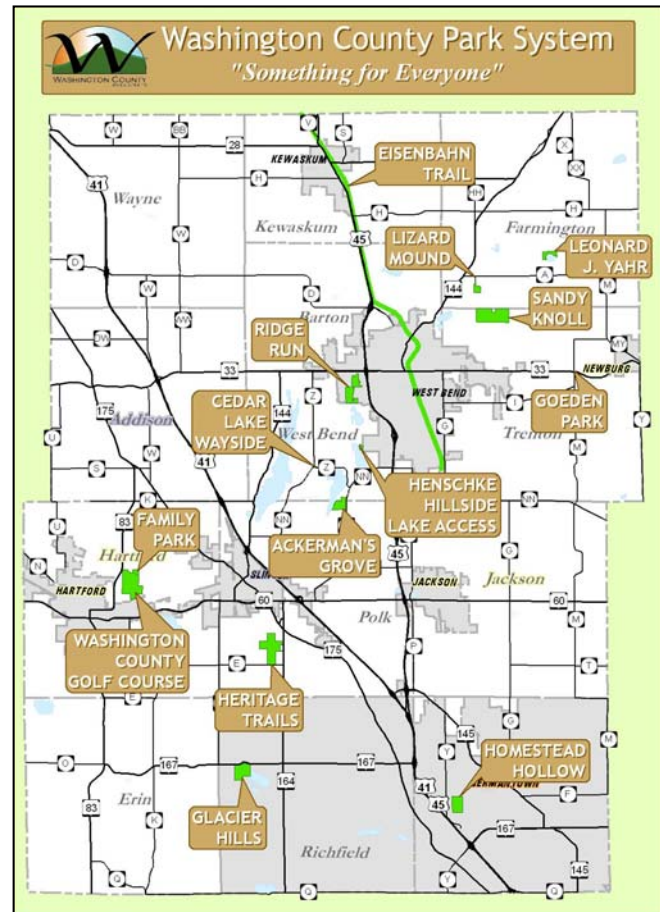
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About the Park System

The Washington County Park System encompasses more than 1,200 acres and includes 12 parks with amenities (Ackerman's Grove, Cedar Lake Wayside, Family Park, Glacier Hills, Goeden, Henschke Hillside Lake Access, Heritage Trails, Homestead Hollow, Leonard J. Yahr, Lizard Mound, Ridge Run, and Sandy Knoll), the Washington County Golf Course, and the Eisenbahn State Trail.

The park system offers scenic views, wooded trails and serene lakes and ponds, as well as various sporting facilities and 25 rentable shelters. Examples of spring, summer and fall activities available include hiking, picnicking, boating, swimming, archeological education, canoeing, fishing, basketball and sand volleyball. Ice fishing, sledding, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are winter activities offered through the park system.



Purpose and Methodology

The survey was conducted by the Planning and Parks Department to help determine future funding priorities for improvements to the Washington County Park System. It offered a chance for the public to provide opinions about what the County Park System should look like in the future.

Promoted primarily as an on-line survey (utilizing Survey Monkey), the survey was advertised through the Washington County website, Get Moving Washington County website, and signs and business cards located throughout the County Park System. Planning and Parks Department staff notified various organizations that utilize County parks on a regular basis such as soccer clubs and athletic/school groups. Several groups provided a link to the survey on their website. Survey postcards were mailed to owners of property within 400 feet of major County parks and 150 feet of the Eisenbahn State Trail. People that had reserved a park shelter in the last 2 years or receive the Planning and Parks Department bi-annual newsletter were also informed of the survey. A press release was published on June 27, 2013.

Responses

The survey began on June 20, 2013 and ended 19 weeks later on October 31, 2013. On average, it took approximately 10 minutes to complete the survey and answers were anonymous. A total of 650 surveys were submitted overall. The majority of respondents (533, 82%) participated on-line and 117 or 18% submitted a hardcopy via mail or at the Department office.

Participation was encouraged by offering a chance for participants to enter into a drawing to win one of seven prizes: a two-person 18-hole round of golf at Washington County Golf Course (WCGC), one of five coupons for a bucket of range balls at the WCGC, and a \$25 gift card for Amazon.com. A total of 431 people were entered into the drawing and winners were notified in early November 2013.

Summary of Findings

- A total of 650 surveys were submitted overall. The majority of respondents (533, 82%) participated on-line and 117 or 18% submitted a hardcopy via mail or at the Department office.
- The five most frequently visited facilities in the County Park system: 1) Eisenbahn State Trail; 2) Ridge Run; 3) Glacier Hills; 4) Sandy Knoll; 5) Ackerman's Grove.
- The five most popular activities when visiting the County Park System: 1) Walking/running/jogging; 2) Hiking; 3) Biking; 4) Relaxation/stress relief; 5) Nature viewing/study.
- The five most requested additional recreational activities/amenities: 1) Additional bike trails, 2) Lookout towers; 3) Trail signage displaying slopes, distances and trail surfacing; 4) Additional benches along trails; 5) Dog parks.
- Nearly three quarters (460, 74%) of respondents were in favor of the County investing in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail.
- Of the 459 responses, 94% (429) indicated that new trails should connect cities and villages throughout the County.
- Of the 460 responses, 95% (438) indicated that new trails should connect major existing parks and trails throughout the County.
- Of the 460 responses, 89% (408) indicated that new trails should connect to existing trails in adjacent counties.
- Approximately two-thirds (66%) of respondents expressed that having a heated flush restroom with running water does not impact their decision on which park they visit. About one-third (34%) of respondents prefer to visit a park with a heated flush restroom.
- More than half of respondents (54%) expressed that it was either somewhat or very important to have access to a heated flush restroom with running water during their visit to a County Park.
- More than half of respondents (315, 53%) expressed that porta potties were sufficient in Family Park, front part (south side) of Sandy Knoll, Goeden, front part – east side (near soccer fields) of Ackerman's Grove, Heritage Trails, and Lizard Mound.
- The majority of respondents, 92% (567) expressed that parks and trails were either somewhat or very important to their quality of life in Washington County.
- Five benefits most often experienced by visiting the County Park System: 1) Enjoying nature; 2) Improved physical health; 3) Family time; 4) Improved mental health; and 5) Social interaction.
- Respondents most frequently expressed that they liked the safety, cleanliness, and general maintenance of the park system; accessibility, location, and variety of parks and amenities offered; preservation of nature, scenery, and peacefulness; and trails for hiking and biking.
- When asked what factors would influence them to visit the County Park system, 192 (41%) respondents stated that developing a County park or trail in closer proximity to their residence would

influence them, followed by adding or improving specific nature-based recreational amenities at existing County parks (189, 40%).

- When asked to provide comments regarding the County Park system the most frequent response indicated appreciation for parks and/or trails in general, the County Park System, or various aspects of the system. The second most frequent response was support for the enhancement of the trail system in Washington County. Respondents expressed support for expansion, connection, and improved access to existing trails; construction of new trails; more trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail; extension of the paved portion of the Eisenbahn State Trail; additional amenities along trails such as additional signage, waste collection receptacles, and benches; more off-road/unpaved hiking and biking trails; and various improvements to existing hiking and biking trails.

Form of Participation

Q1 – By proceeding with this survey, you are indicating that:

- **You voluntarily agree to participate**
- **You are at least 18 years of age**
- **You agree to submit only one survey**

Form of Participation

Participation Options	Number of Participants	Percent
On-line	533	82.0%
Hardcopy	117	18.0%
Total participants	650	100.0%

As previously stated, the survey was promoted primarily as an on-line survey, but hardcopies were also distributed throughout the County Park System and at the Planning and Parks Department office. Question 1 of the survey did not solicit an opinionated response, but was instead intended to confirm that the respondent was voluntarily agreeing to participate, was at least 18 years of age, and agreed to submit only one survey.

A total of 650 surveys were submitted. The majority of respondents (533, 82%) participated on-line and 117 or 18% submitted a hardcopy via mail or at the Department office.

Frequency of Visits

Q2 – Indicate the frequency in which you and/or your children visited the County Park System in the past year. (check all that apply)

The Eisenbahn State Trail (337), Ridge Run County Park (299), and Glacier Hills County Park (272) were the three most visited facilities in the park system.

Glacier Hills received the most responses for being visited 1-5 times (209), followed by Ridge Run (170), and Sandy Knoll (167). Ridge Run received the most responses of being visited 6-10 times (66), followed by the Eisenbahn State Trail (43), and Sandy Knoll (34). The Eisenbahn State Trail received the most responses of being visited more than 10 times (151), followed by Ridge Run (63), and Ackerman’s Grove (53).

Ranking of County Park System Facilities Most Often Visited

- 1) Eisenbahn State Trail
- 2) Ridge Run
- 3) Glacier Hills
- 4) Sandy Knoll
- 5) Ackerman’s Grove
- 6) Washington County Golf Course
- 7) Homestead Hollow
- 8) Heritage Trails
- 9) Leonard J. Yahr
- 10) Lizard Mound
- 11) Cedar Lake Wayside
- 12) Family Park
- 13) Goeden
- 14) Henschke Hillside Lake Access

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Q2. Indicate the frequency in which you and/or your children visited the County Park System in the past year. (check all that apply)

Answer Options	0 visits		1-5 visits		6-10 visits		>10 visits	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ackerman's Grove	386	61.5%	134	21.3%	20	3.2%	53	8.4%
Cedar Lake Wayside	511	81.4%	67	10.7%	5	0.8%	2	0.3%
Eisenbahn State Trail	265	42.2%	143	22.8%	43	6.8%	151	24.0%
Family Park	519	82.6%	54	8.6%	6	1.0%	7	1.1%
Glacier Hills	322	51.3%	209	33.3%	29	4.6%	34	5.4%
Goeden	526	83.8%	50	8.0%	5	0.8%	2	0.3%
Henschke Hillside Lake Access	547	87.1%	28	4.5%	4	0.6%	2	0.3%
Heritage Trails	422	67.2%	98	15.6%	28	4.5%	44	7.0%
Homestead Hollow	418	66.6%	107	17.0%	25	4.0%	44	7.0%
Leonard J. Yahr	435	69.3%	117	18.6%	21	3.3%	17	2.7%
Lizard Mound	448	71.3%	126	20.1%	11	1.8%	6	1.0%
Ridge Run	306	48.7%	170	27.1%	66	10.5%	63	10.0%
Sandy Knoll	362	57.6%	167	26.6%	34	5.4%	33	5.3%
Washington County Golf Course	397	63.2%	150	23.9%	29	4.6%	11	1.8%
answered question							628	96.6%
skipped question							22	3.4%

Activity Participation

Q3 – Indicate the activities you and/or your children participate in when you visit the County Park System. (check all that apply)

A total of 627 respondents indicated the activities they and/or their children typically engage in while visiting the County Park System. Each respondent was allowed to select as many responses as they wished. "Walking/running/jogging" was the most frequently selected activity by 350 respondents which is more than half (56%) of those that responded to the question. "Hiking" was the second most popular activity selected by 308 respondents (49%). "Biking" was the third-most popular activity (280, 48%), followed by "relaxation/stress relief" (262, 42%) and "nature viewing/study" (240, 38%). A total of 30 written responses were provided for Question 3. The most frequently submitted written responses included photography, Cub and Boy Scout events, disc golfing, weddings and parties, horseback riding, and kayaking. Written responses are listed in Attachment 1–Q3.

Q3. Indicate the activities you and/or your children participate in when you visited the County Park System. (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Archeological study	33	5.3%
Athletic events (examples: cross country meet, organized soccer games)	101	16.1%
Baseball	28	4.5%
Basketball	12	1.9%
Biking	280	44.7%
Boating (trailered)	47	7.5%
Boating (carry-in/ canoe)	48	7.7%
Charitable fundraisers	26	4.1%
Cross country skiing	55	8.8%
Dog walking/ pet exercise	168	26.8%
Family gathering	153	24.4%
Fishing - ice	40	6.4%
Fishing - open water	113	18.0%
Geocaching	54	8.6%
Golfing	133	21.2%
Hiking	308	49.1%
Horseshoes	7	1.1%
Ice skating	14	2.2%
Kite flying	29	4.6%
Lunch/ work break	87	13.9%
Nature viewing/ study	240	38.3%
Pickleball	2	0.3%
Picnicking	178	28.4%
Playing on playgrounds/ playfields	181	28.9%
Relaxation/ stress relief	262	41.8%
Religious event	11	1.8%
Remote control activities	6	1.0%
School group visits	19	3.0%
Shelter rental	67	10.7%
Skateboarding/ rollerblading	8	1.3%
Sledding/ tubing	95	15.2%
Snowmobiling	14	2.2%
Snowshoeing	47	7.5%
Soccer	86	13.7%
Swimming	96	15.3%
Tennis	29	4.6%
Using fitness equipment	32	5.1%
Volleyball	13	2.1%
Walking/ running/ jogging	350	55.8%
Wild Wacky 4-H - summer youth camp	10	1.6%
Work-related function	19	3.0%
None	16	2.6%
Others (please specify)	30	4.8%
answered question		627
skipped question		23
		96.5%
		3.5%

10 Most Popular Activities When Visiting the County Park System

- 1) Walking/running/jogging
- 2) Hiking
- 3) Biking
- 4) Relaxation/stress relief
- 5) Nature viewing/study
- 6) Playing on playgrounds/ playfields
- 7) Picnicking
- 8) Dog walking/pet exercise
- 9) Family gathering
- 10) Golfing

Requested Activities/Amenities

Q4 – What additional recreational activities/amenities would you like to see in the County Park System? (check all that apply)

Question 4 received 618 responses. “Additional bike trails” received the most responses (246, 40%) followed by “lookout towers” (212, 34%) and “trail signage displaying slopes, distances and trail surfacing” (137, 22%).

10 Most Requested Additional Recreational Activities/Amenities	
1) Additional bike trails	
2) Lookout towers	
3) Trail signage displaying slopes, distances and trail surfacing	
4) Additional benches along trails	
5) Dog parks	
6) Additional trail markers	
7) Pet waste stations along Eisenbahn Trail	
8) Mountain biking trails	
9) Disc golf course	
10) Nature center	

Q4. What additional recreational activities/amenities would you like to see in the County Park System? (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Additional benches along trails	134	21.7%
Additional bike trails	246	39.8%
Additional outdoor fitness equipment	44	7.1%
Additional trail markers	116	18.8%
Archery ranges	81	13.1%
Disc golf courses	108	17.5%
Dog parks	121	19.6%
Educational sessions for school groups	25	4.0%
Groomed cross country ski trails	90	14.6%
Horse trails	28	4.5%
Improved ice skating areas	55	8.9%
Lookout towers	212	34.3%
Mountain biking trails	110	17.8%
Nature center	95	15.4%
Nature playgrounds	72	11.7%
Paved / ADA accessible trails	43	7.0%
Pet waste stations along Eisenbahn Trail	116	18.8%
Splash pads	74	12.0%
Toddler playgrounds	47	7.6%
Trail signage displaying slopes, distances and trail surfacing	137	22.2%
Water trails	57	9.2%
None	58	9.4%
Others (please specify)	88	14.2%
answered question	618	95.1%
skipped question	32	4.9%

Question 4 also offered an opportunity for respondents to write in responses. A total of 88 respondents (14%) provided a written response. Written responses are listed in Attachment 2–Q4. Responses were generalized and the most frequently mentioned topics are described as follows.

Most Frequent Write-in Responses and Topics

Trails

The most frequent write-in response related to trails with many of the responses specific to the Eisenbahn State Trail. Respondents expressed that they would like to see additional signage regarding distance and historical information. They would also like more waste receptacles for trash and pet waste. Some respondents requested additional trails for various uses such as hiking and mountain biking as well as extensions and connections to existing trails.

Fishing / Boating / Kayaking

The second most frequently mentioned topic was aquatic activities such as fishing, boating, and kayaking. Many respondents would like to see more public fishing docks, additional public boat access sites, and improved shore fishing opportunities and fisheries management.

Waste Collection

Many respondents requested additional waste receptacles for trash and pet waste. Specific park system locations that were mentioned include the Eisenbahn State Trail, Heritage Trails, Glacier Hills, and Ridge Run.

Investing in Trails

Q5 – Do you think the County should invest in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail?

Question 5 received 618 responses. Nearly three quarters (460, 74%) of respondents were in favor of the County investing in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail. About one quarter (156, 26%) of respondents were not in favor of the County investing in additional trails.

Q5. Do you think the County should invest in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail?

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Yes	460	74.4%
No	158	25.6%
answered question	618	95.1%
skipped question	32	4.9%

Trail Specifics

If respondents selected “Yes” to Question 5, they were directed to complete Questions 6 through 8. If they selected “No” to Question 5, they were directed to Question 9. Questions 6 through 8 were intended to solicit more detailed opinions regarding investing in trails.

Q6 – Should new trails connect cities and villages throughout the County?

Of the 460 respondents that answered “Yes” to Question 5, 459 provided a response to Question 6. Of the 459 responses, 94% (429) indicated that new trails should connect cities and villages throughout the County.

Q6. Should new trails connect cities and villages throughout the County?

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Yes	429	93.5%
No	30	6.5%
answered question	459	99.8%
skipped question	1	0.2%

*Follow-up question if respondents answered "Yes" to Question 5.

Q7 – Should new trails connect major existing parks and trails throughout the County?

Of the 460 respondents that answered “Yes” to Question 5, 460 provided a response to Question 7. Of the 460 responses, 95% (438) indicated that new trails should connect major existing parks and trails throughout the County.

Q7. Should new trails connect major existing parks and trails throughout the County?

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Yes	438	95.2%
No	22	4.8%
answered question	460	100.0%
skipped question	0	0.0%

*Follow-up question if respondents answered "Yes" to Question 5.

Q8 – Should new trails connect to existing trails in adjacent counties?

Of the 460 respondents that answered “Yes” to Question 5, 460 provided a response to Question 8. Of the 460 responses, 89% (408) indicated that new trails should connect to existing trails in adjacent counties.

Q8. Should new trails connect to existing trails in adjacent counties?

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Yes	408	88.7%
No	52	11.3%
answered question	460	100.0%
skipped question	0	0.0%

*Follow-up question if respondents answered "Yes" to Question 5.

Impact of Heated Flush Restroom with Running Water

Q9 – Does having a heated flush restroom with running water impact your decision on which park you visit? (check one response)

Question 9 received 616 responses. Approximately two-thirds (66%) of respondents expressed that having a heated flush restroom with running water does not impact their decision on which park they visit. About one-third (34%) of respondents prefer to visit a park with a heated flush restroom.

Q9. Does having a heated flush restroom with running water impact your decision on which park you visit? (check one response)

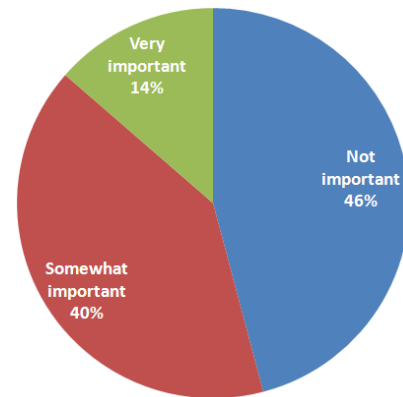
Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
No impact on which park I visit	407	66.1%
I prefer to visit a park with a heated flush restroom	209	33.9%
answered question	616	94.8%
skipped question	34	5.2%

Importance of Heated Flush Restroom with Running Water

Q10 – How important to you is having access to a heated flush restroom with running water during your visit to a county park? (check one response)

Question 10 received 617 responses. More than half of respondents (54%) expressed that it was either somewhat or very important to have access to a heated flush restroom with running water during their visit to a County Park. Approximately 46% (283) of respondents expressed that having access to a heated flush restroom with running water is not important to them during their visit to a County Park.

Importance of Having Access to a Heated Flush Restroom with Running Water During a Visit to a County Park



Q10. How important to you is having access to a heated flush restroom with running water during your visit to a county park? (check one response)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Not important	283	45.9%
Somewhat important	250	40.5%
Very important	84	13.6%
answered question	617	94.9%
skipped question	33	5.1%

Parks that would Benefit Most from Addition of a New Flush Restroom

Q11 – If Washington County were to construct one or more new heated flush restroom(s) with running water to replace current porta potties, what park(s) do you think would benefit from the addition of the new flush restroom? (check all that apply)

Question 11 provided a list of six county parks and asked respondents to identify one or more parks (or an area of a park) that would benefit from the addition of a new heated flush restroom with running water. They could also select a response indicating that they believe porta potties are sufficient in these parks (therefore construction of a new heated flush restroom is not necessary). The question received 599 responses, and more than half of respondents (315, 53%) expressed that porta potties were sufficient

in these parks. Of the six parks listed, Heritage Trails received the most responses (120) followed by the front part (east side) of Ackerman’s Grove (113), Family Park (93), the front part (south side) of Sandy Knoll (85), Lizard Mound (60), and Goeden (22).

Q11. If Washington County were to construct one or more new heated flush restroom(s) with running water to replace current porta potties, what park(s) do you think would benefit from the addition of the new flush restroom? (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Family Park	93	15.5%
Front part (south side) of Sandy Knoll	85	14.2%
Goeden	22	3.7%
Front part - east side (near entrance and soccer fields) of Ackerman’s Grove	113	18.9%
Heritage Trails	120	20.0%
Lizard Mound	60	10.0%
Porta potties are sufficient in these parks	315	52.6%
answered question	599	92.2%
skipped question	51	7.8%

- Ranking of Parks that Would Benefit from Addition of a New Heated Flush Restroom**
- 1) Heritage Trails
 - 2) Ackerman’s Grove (front of park)
 - 3) Family Park
 - 4) Sandy Knoll (front of park)
 - 5) Lizard Mound
 - 6) Goeden

Importance of Parks and Trails to Quality of Life

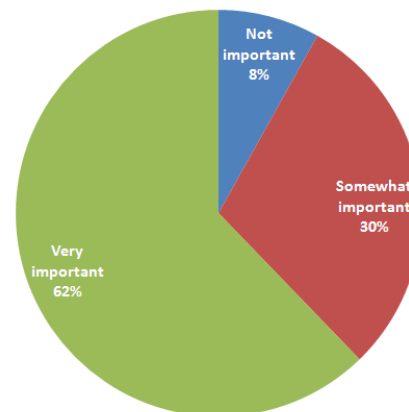
Q12 – How important are parks and trails to your quality of life in Washington County? (check one response)

Question 12 received 617 responses. The majority of respondents, 92% (567) expressed that parks and trails were either somewhat or very important to their quality of life in Washington County. Approximately 8% (50) of respondents expressed that parks and trails are not important to their quality of life in Washington County.

Q12. How important are parks and trails to your quality of life in Washington County? (check one response)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Not important	50	8.1%
Somewhat important	183	29.7%
Very important	384	62.2%
answered question	617	94.9%
skipped question	33	5.1%

Importance of Parks and Trails to Quality of Life in Washington County



Benefits Experienced

Q13 – What benefits have you experienced by visiting the Washington County Park System? (check all that apply)

Question 13 provided a list of seven benefits that could be experienced by visiting the County Park System. Respondents could select as many responses as they wanted to identify benefits they experienced. They could also select a response indicating that they did not experience any benefits or write in a response to describe a benefit they experienced.

The question received 618 responses. The most frequently selected benefit was “Enjoying nature” selected by 81% (503) of respondents, followed by “Improved physical health” (457, 74%), “Family time” (389, 63%), and “Improved mental health” (374, 61%).

There were 33 written responses to this question. The most frequent written responses included outdoor exercise and sporting events, natural resource preservation and education, and pet exercise. Written responses are listed in Attachment –Q13.

Q13. What benefits have you experienced by visiting the County Park System? (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Improved physical health	457	73.9%
Improved mental health	374	60.5%
Family time	389	62.9%
Educational fulfillment	78	12.6%
Enjoying nature	503	81.4%
Social interaction	236	38.2%
Commuting (to work, school, shopping, etc)	41	6.6%
None	29	4.7%
Other (please specify)	33	5.3%
answered question	618	95.1%
skipped question	32	4.9%

Benefits Most Often Experienced by Visiting the County Park System

- 1) Enjoying nature
- 2) Improved physical health
- 3) Family time
- 4) Improved mental health
- 5) Social interaction
- 6) Educational fulfillment
- 7) Commuting
- 8) Others (see write-in responses)

Favorite Things About the Park System

Q14 – What do you like most about the Washington County Park System?

A total of 412 respondents offered their opinions regarding what they liked most about the Washington County Park System. Written responses are listed in Attachment 4–Q14.

Respondents most frequently expressed that they liked:

- Safety, cleanliness, and general maintenance of the park system
- Accessibility, location, and variety of parks and amenities offered
- Preservation of nature, scenery, and peacefulness
- Trails for hiking and biking
- Allowance of pets
- Free admission
- Access to water
- A place for families and children to gather

Factors Influencing Visits

Q15 – Please indicate if any of the following factors would influence you to visit the County Park System more frequently in the future. (check all that apply)

Question 15 received 473 responses. Respondents were asked to identify factors that would influence them to visit the County Park System more frequently in the future. They were provided a list of four possible factors and the opportunity to write in a response.

Of the four factors provided, developing a County park or trail in closer proximity to their residence was selected most often (192, 41%) followed by adding or improving specific nature-based recreational amenities at existing County parks (189, 40%). Additional or improved restroom facilities were indicated by 121 (26%) of respondents, and 75 (16%) respondents would like to add or improve shelter facilities.

There were 152 written responses provided. The most frequent write-in factor that would influence respondents to visit the County Park System more often in the future were various enhancements to the County trail system. Examples of such enhancements included:

- 1) Having more trails
- 2) Extending and connecting existing trails within the County and connecting to surrounding counties
- 3) Creating mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding trails
- 4) Improving signage along trails
- 5) Having more paved trails including extending the paved portion of the Eisenbahn State Trail

The second most frequent response reflected that no additional improvements are needed to the park system for various reasons. For example, numerous respondents reported being satisfied with the system as it is, and others were not in favor of spending tax dollars on improvements. Written responses are listed in Attachment 5–Q15.

Q15. Please indicate if any of the following factors would influence you to visit the County Park System more frequently in the future. (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Washington County developing a County park or trail in closer proximity to my residence	192	40.6%
Adding or improving specific nature-based recreational amenities at existing County parks	189	40.0%
Adding or improving shelter facilities at existing County parks	75	15.9%
Adding or improving restroom facilities at existing County parks	121	25.6%
Others (please describe)	152	32.1%
answered question	473	72.8%
skipped question	177	27.2%

Other Comments

Q16 – If you’d like to provide any other comments regarding the County Park System, please provide them here:

Question 16 offered a chance for survey respondents to provide a written response and comment on anything they wanted regarding the County Park System. A total of 234 responses were provided. Written responses are listed in Attachment 6–Q16.

The most frequent response indicated appreciation for parks and/or trails in general, the County Park System, or various aspects of the system. The second most frequent response was support for the enhancement of the trail system in Washington County. Respondents expressed support for:

- 1) Expansion, connection, and improved access to existing trails
- 2) Construction of new trails
- 3) More trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail
- 4) Extension of the paved portion of the Eisenbahn State Trail
- 5) Additional amenities along trails such as additional signage, waste collection receptacles, and benches
- 6) More off-road/unpaved hiking and biking trails
- 7) Various improvements to existing hiking and biking trails

A number of respondents also indicated their support for or opposition to expansion or improvement of the County Park System and greenspace in general. The level of support expressed for the creation of more parks and protected greenspace was fairly equal to the opposition of spending money on such projects.

How Respondents Heard About the Survey

Q17 – How did you hear about this survey? (check all that apply)

Question 17 received 614 responses. Participants were provided a list of 10 ways they could have heard about the survey and were also given the opportunity to write in a response. Written responses are listed in Attachment 7–Q17.

Q17. How did you hear about this survey? (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
County Fair display	10	1.6%
County staff member	48	7.8%
County website	67	10.9%
Email	53	8.6%
Hard copies distributed within County park system	128	20.8%
Newspaper	40	6.5%
Postcard	174	28.3%
Radio	1	0.2%
Signage within County park system	91	14.8%
Word of mouth	40	6.5%
Other (please specify)	57	9.3%
answered question	614	94.5%
skipped question	36	5.5%

Postcards mailed to owners of property within 400 feet of major County Parks and within 150 feet of the Eisenbahn State Trail was the most effective means of facilitating survey responses (174, 28%). Hardcopies distributed within the County Park System (128, 21%) and signage within the park system (91, 28%) were also effective. It is important to note that this is merely an indication of how respondents heard about the survey and is not necessarily an indication of how they participated in the survey (on-line versus submitting a hardcopy).

Where Respondents Live

Q18 – What is the 5-digit zip code of your home address?

Question 18 received 613 responses. Respondents were asked to write in the 5-digit zip code of their home address to provide perspective of where survey participants reside.

The 10 most reported zip codes are displayed in the table on the right. The majority of respondents reside in West Bend (53095 and 53090) totaling 263 (43%) followed by Hartford (65, 11%), Slinger (64, 10%), Germantown (54, 9%), Richfield (48, 8% - combined), Kewaskum (36, 6%), and Jackson (31, 5%). Thirty-two other zip codes were also reported by 52 respondents, 21 of which were outside of Washington County but within Wisconsin, three outside of Wisconsin, and one from outside of the United States.

Q18. What is the 5-digit zip code of your home address?

Write-in responses	General Area Description	Number of Responses	Percent
53095	Southern West Bend	172	28.1%
53090	Northern West Bend	91	14.8%
53027	Hartford	65	10.6%
53086	Slinger	64	10.4%
53022	Germantown	54	8.8%
53040	Kewaskum	36	5.9%
53037	Jackson	31	5.1%
53033	Northern Richfield	20	3.3%
53076	Central Richfield	18	2.9%
53017	Southern Richfield	10	1.6%
(32 Others)		52	8.5%
answered question		613	94.3%
skipped question		37	5.7%

Age of Respondents

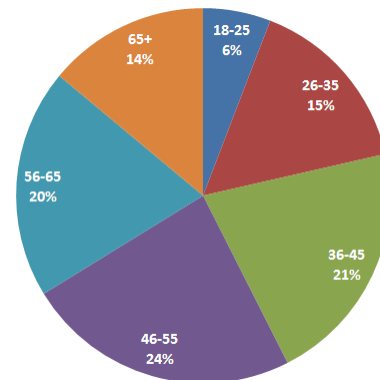
Q19 – What is your age?

Question 19 received 616 responses. Respondents could identify their age by selecting from six age ranges. The most frequently selected age range was 46-55 (146, 24%), followed by 36-45 (130, 21%) and 56-65 (122, 20%). When combined, approximately two-thirds (65%) of respondents were between 36 and 56 years of age.

Q19. What is your age?

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
18-25	36	5.8%
26-35	96	15.6%
36-45	130	21.1%
46-55	146	23.7%
56-65	122	19.8%
65+	86	14.0%
answered question	616	94.8%
skipped question	34	5.2%

Age of Respondents



Gender of Respondents

Q20 – What is your gender?

Question 20 received 618 responses. More than half of respondents were men (57%) and 43% were female.

Q20. What is your gender?

Answer Options	Number of Responses	Percent
Male	345	56.9%
Female	273	43.1%
answered question	618	95.1%
skipped question	32	4.9%

Attachment 1 – Q3

Activity Participation

Q3 – Indicate the activities you and/or your children participate in when you visit the County Park System. (check all that apply)

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) Sledding
- 2) Photography
- 3) Had our soccer end of year party at Homestead last year (using the shelter, fields)
- 4) Cub Scout event
- 5) Mountain biking!!!
- 6) Running
- 7) Disk Golfing
- 8) Boy Scouts Crossover
- 9) Horseback riding
- 10) Disc golf
- 11) Wedding
- 12) disc golf
- 13) Photography
- 14) Photography
- 15) Cub scout activities
- 16) Im a Photographer and I use this Park for Weddings and Family Pictures.
- 17) Kayaking
- 18) Would be interested in a horse trail
- 19) Photography
- 20) dog walk
- 21) Wedding rehearsal dinner
- 22) boy scout events
- 23) atving
- 24) Actually bought discs this year but apparently Frisbee golf is not available at Heritage anymore.
- 25) Graduation party
- 26) Kayaking
- 27) Taking kids to play on the swings
- 28) Photography
- 29) Scout gathering
- 30) Enjoy trees

Attachment 2 – Q4

Requested Activities/Amenities

Q4 – What additional recreational activities/amenities would you like to see in the County Park System? (check all that apply)

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) Dog sled trails
- 2) Spots open to bow hunting
- 3) Signs indicating historical significance, perhaps along Eisenbahn discussing where the railroad used to serve various industries standing before you
- 4) Hard to say.....I only use Homestead because it is close to where I live, not familiar with other areas.
- 5) Ice Skating warming house
- 6) I would like to see a paved bike trail from west bend to the Washington Co. fair grounds and also to Jackson Wi.
- 7) signage stating if daily fees are required. the state biking brochure indicates daily trail passes are required yet the trail itself doesnt mention this nor where to purchase a daily pass if required.
- 8) We would like to see more effort into the soccer fields at Heritage and Ackerman.
- 9) Better maintained soccer fields
- 10) Flush toilets at heritage trails
- 11) Additional garbage cans (especially at Eisenbahn and major intersections/access points). Signs indicating distance to next landmark. EG, at Eisenbahn & 33, have sign facing south saying "Decorah Road 1.2 miles" (or whatever distance is) and facing north saying "Barton Ave 0.7 miles". Access path from the north end of North Street in West Bend to Eisenbahn. Maybe even incorporate the deserted parking lot to the north of North Street into park system and cleanup existing stairs between Eisenbahn and parking lot.
- 12) Permanent Rest Rooms
- 13) Additional waste receptacles
- 14) It would be wonderful if the water park that was planned to be built in Germantown years ago would be built and completed finally!! i.e...Cool Waters in Greenfield Park....Country Springs(but out-doors, not in a Hotel!!
- 15) Water features or more access to water and swimming that is safe and clean.
- 16) On asphalt trails, a painted center line would encourage users to move on the right and pass on the left. Too many users are moving against the flow of traffic.
- 17) stop spending money on development during tough economic times
- 18) Docks for fishing
- 19) Camping
- 20) Pet waste stations at Heritage Trails and Glacier Hills and more tree trimming
- 21) more places to have parties that can hold a little bit larger groups like for family reunions, weddings,anniversaries, birthday parties and that can be indoors in case of rain. With a kitchen & bathrooms. that can maybe hold 135 to 150 people standing with at least 100 seated. Something like Riverside Park just bigger. That has a playground for the children near by it. that would be GREAT !!!!! Halls are costing to much these days and you can't have your own catering service at most of them. At the right price you would have it booked every weekend all summer long. AT THE RIGHT RENTAL PRICE !!! (\$200 - \$250 rental fee) think about it please
- 22) Historical Markers on the Eisenbahn explaining the areas history
- 23) more boating access, especially if additional land can be developed at other 'public' lakes.

- 24) Horseshoe courts.
- 25) -Paved trails which extend existing trails (incremental spending) -Nature markers/kiosks rather than a "center" (simple, informative, easy to maintain and inexpensive (relatively))
- 26) atv area/ trails
- 27) shooting range
- 28) Glacier Hills-Safer trails to walk in the winter time. Some way to have less ice??? You are here signs throughout the trail. People ask how to get back to parking lot.
- 29) Bathrooms
- 30) garbage cans in all parks not just the dumpsters
- 31) hiking trails
- 32) Swimming pool
- 33) Camping
- 34) None!
- 35) Less infrastructure -- excess development of a natural area takes away from the experience
- 36) additional trails for hiking
- 37) My backyard is next to the eisenbahn trail. Lots of dog waste. I have a big concern about the health hazard
- 38) Campground
- 39) Off road parking at south end of Eisenbahn Trail
- 40) Hunting
- 41) volleball nets
- 42) hunting opportunities
- 43) More garbage cans along bike trail
- 44) More, or at least some, trash containers on Eisenbahn Trail
- 45) Not so many it is a waste of county resources to maintain this many places. the tax revenue on these lands would help the county financially I am not against some parks but this county is over the top with parks To many to maintain
- 46) more place for radio control activities
- 47) Distance of trails displayed at trail-heads. Drinking water fountains.
- 48) need parking along bike trails
- 49) flush toilets and more lake access (Big Cedar)
- 50) Trash containers
- 51) they're all pretty well equipped
- 52) More clean places to swim
- 53) • Volleyball net (Family Park), bubbler (working), garbage cans
- 54) Nature information, tree names & plant names
- 55) More pet waste stations/or garbage cans @ Glacier & Heritage Trails
- 56) Pet waste stations in Ridge Run
- 57) Fishing spots
- 58) Five years ago asked for more benches along trail (Eisenbahn) & still waiting, especially between Decorah and Paradise
- 59) A beach where dogs and people can swim together
- 60) Water bottle stations as pictured (see question #16)
- 61) Trees trimmed along trail Eisenbahn
- 62) Lights at night at intervals on the Eisenbahn Trail starting at Decorah School and going toward the new Binkery at the round-about
- 63) Longer trails
- 64) Plant, bush, & tree ID signage

- 65) • Enhanced fishery Mgmt. Homestead Pond. Pond clean-up, introduce self-sustaining forage Panfish (Perch) with Fathead Minnow base.
- 66) • Mileage signage along bike trails knowing how far you have traveled; Paved bike path from Barton North to lighthouse lanes.
- 67) Garbage cans!
- 68) Please pave Eisenbahn State Trail from 144 to Lighthouse Lane
- 69) Heritage Trails used to have disc golf :(
- 70) Kayak launch ramps
- 71) Better shore fishing accommodations
- 72) Disc golf course!!!
- 73) Better shore fishing opportunities begins with the children learning to fish
- 74) Shooting range
- 75) The stretch between Cambellsport & Kewaskum could use a few benches for resting. We biked from Campbellsport to the end of the Eisenbahn Trail in West Bend - on the way back a bench rest would have been great.
- 76) Family Park could use a softball diamond to attract more families
- 77) Snowplowing entire Eisenbahn from Rusco Road to parking lot north of Barton Ave.
- 78) What happened to disc golf at Heritage Trails?
- 79) What happened to disc golf at Heritage Trails?
- 80) Porta Potties somewhere along the Eisenbahn Trail
- 81) More trails, including shortcuts.
- 82) Continue to upgrade restroom facilities.
- 83) Snow removal on Eisenbahn in winter – if only on the paved section to begin with. Expand to gravel area if possible at later date.
- 84) Trash receptacles along Eisenbahn Trail
- 85) More mountain bike trails please!
- 86) garbage on far end of trail - ie: Homestead Hollow
- 87) Camping!!! Campfires
- 88) I would like to see better care taken of the parks, lots of neglect on what is laying around deads to diseases for the trees.

Attachment 3 – Q13

Benefits Experienced

Q13 – What benefits have you experienced by visiting the Washington County Park System? (check all that apply)

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) I have learned much about the history of west bend by studying subtle clues along the Eisenbahn as to where the railroad ran decades ago
- 2) Our soccer club uses Homestead Hollow almost every weeknight in the fall and spring with multiple teams practicing on the various fields. There are issues already where we have a hard time finding practice space/times for each team as our club grows, so any reduction in this space would be detrimental to our club. We would welcome additional soccer space at Homestead if more land were available!
- 3) The uses of the Soccer Fields
- 4) sporting events
- 5) Visiting friends/family along trail. Stopping in businesses located near trail (downtown West Bend, Barton, near Decorah & Eisenbahn, Benders (Paradise Drive)
- 6) Pet exercise
- 7) Escape from busy streets
- 8) Cross country practice for Germantown High School girls team
- 9) Spending time exercising my dog
- 10) Conservation of green space for future generations.
- 11) caught fish for dinner
- 12) improved physical & mental health for family pets/companions (dogs)
- 13) The biggest benefit -- more wildlife and plant & animal diversity. Also benefits to water quality, sense of place and scenic beauty.
- 14) Dog exercise
- 15) Showing people from out of town what an attractive place Washington County is to live and do business.
- 16) The outdoor exercise center at front of Ridge Run is FABULOUS!!
- 17) Swimming for free
- 18) a place to meet for a party just like any other venue it's just outside
- 19) Getting to see various parts of the county -- otherwise might not see.
- 20) Soccer Games/practices
- 21) Recreation
- 22) We have not been to a park this past year. Our time has been limited due to family health issues. The park system is important to me and I hope to visit more often than I have recently.
- 23) Names on plants and trees would be an educational fulfillment
- 24) Improved dog health
- 25) • Nice to be able to take dogs – not allowed in W.B. city parks/trails
- 26) A place to walk a pet. Soccer field early AM - great place to chase a ball.
- 27) Happy dog
- 28) I've somewhat enjoyed learning the identification of the new trees planted at the Family Park
- 29) 1) Lake access for fishing and swimming; 2) Hiking
- 30) Happy greyhound! :)
- 31) Pretty women for puppy
- 32) Scout outings

- 33) So very important to kids who are so connected to their electronics nowadays, parks have to be educational & enjoyable so they want to go & more important come back

Attachment 4 – Q14

Favorite Things About the Park System

Q14 - What do you like most about the Washington County Park System?

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) Lots of choices. Free admission.
- 2) Part of the county that is being preserve.
- 3) Accessible
- 4) Hiking trails.
- 5) the variety
- 6) We greatly appreciate that it is free for our family to go and enjoy the parks. This definitely increases our attendance.
- 7) Clean
- 8) Varied and extensive. There is a nice combination of manicured and wilderness areas. Usually in the same park.
- 9) The parks are nice and well maintained usually. I like clean heated bathrooms and garbage cans. There are enough parks that you can find one without being so crowded you'd rather avoid it.
- 10) The natural state of the parks and the great maintenance of the trails within the parks.
- 11) Very nice parks and well maintained
- 12) We have a great system
- 13) The diversity of experiences available to the public in a populated area.
- 14) undeveloped open spaces, no need to put formal trails and signs everywhere
- 15) Beautiful scenery on great trails. Nice places to walk!
- 16) Abundance
- 17) The beauty and quiet of nature
- 18) Free. Clean. Close to our home
- 19) BIKING TRAILS
- 20) The Eisenbahn Trail, but I wish it connected to the Ozaukee County system.
- 21) gives you something to do
- 22) Good locations--a wide variety of parks to span the entire county. Extremely well-maintained.
- 23) Soccer fields
- 24) Absolutely love Glacier Hills Park! Hike there with our family weekly.
- 25) That one can be with their dogs, even though it's on leash. I do appreciate that you can have dogs though.
- 26) Golf
- 27) All of the parks are maintained very well.
- 28) Good system overall
- 29) it's nice
- 30) cleanliness and upkeep of the parks
- 31) The access to sports fields, trails, and natural areas for our family to use.
- 32) No fees to use. Good for families with children.
- 33) Eisenbahn trail
- 34) Trails to walk
- 35) The beauty and cleanliness, flora and fauna, ease and accessibility of a variety of parks!
- 36) Use of soccer fields and walking paths.

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- 37) Like that there's no cost. Me and my daughters go hiking in Glacier Hills frequently. However, I think that park is grossly underutilized. When I'm there the parking lot is virtually empty. While I love the park the community must utilize it otherwise why have it???
- 38) Being a part of nature, having a place for the kids to play with fields available for soccer and an ice rink.
- 39) The trails at Ridge Run and Glacier Hills are beautiful, challenging, and well maintained.
- 40) Variety and great soccer fields at Homestead Hollow
- 41) Bike trails - paved Also disc golf is a great physical activity for all ages and get young adults outdoors
- 42) Soccer fields and I would like a longer bike trail, like the interurban
- 43) Close-proximity break from urban world.
- 44) freedoms
- 45) The Bike trail and little cedar lake
- 46) The number, size and quality of the parks in Washington County.
- 47) They are well kept. Each a gem.
- 48) I think that our county has some very beautiful parks. There is a wide variety of activities to choose from. My grandmother was in a wheelchair and enjoyed fishing so we were really happy when Ackerman's improved the fishing pier a few years ago to accommodate wheelchairs.
- 49) Variety
- 50) clean and well located
- 51) They are all kept very clean.
- 52) I like the versatility all have combined based on what activity I want to do
- 53) clean
- 54) variety of facilities that are spread out through the county
- 55) Golf Course and Homestead Hollow Park in Germantown
- 56) I have no issues with any of the parks and probably should use them more. I think the parks are great.
- 57) Parks are clean and safe
- 58) Well maintained facilities; beautiful natural landscapes
- 59) The number and variety of parks is a benefit to the community.
- 60) Everything
- 61) lots of choices and variety close by
- 62) Hiking/biking trails
- 63) Gets us away from today's technologies for awhile.
- 64) The parks we visit are mainly because of athletic events. Without these spaces, we would not have the space to play.
- 65) Well maintained. Beautiful scenery!
- 66) Cleanliness
- 67) The abundance of them in the county.
- 68) VERY CLEAN
- 69) maintenance and upkeep is good at all of the parks
- 70) Nature
- 71) the natural settings
- 72) THE TRAILS
- 73) Accessibility
- 74) Family time
- 75) The wonderful trails.

- 76) I like the fact that there are several we can use and they are relatively close to some state parks as well. Pike Lake for instance. A bike trail between Family Park and Pike Lake might make Family more accessible?
- 77) Dogs are allowed on trails. Ability to walk/run/bike and push stroller in nature. The trails and parks seem safe and well maintained. The parks bring the community together.
- 78) The trails
- 79) free someone else pays the taxes I rent
- 80) The abundance and variety of parks
- 81) variety of parks
- 82) Lots of different parks around town.
- 83) I enjoy taking my kids for walks on the trails and doing photography there.
- 84) Disc golf
- 85) Peacefulness Nature native plants
- 86) Scenic views. Opportunity to have a nice surrounding to socialize. Physical activity.
- 87) they are beautiful and tranquil
- 88) easy access, well-maintained, kid friendly
- 89) Walking trails
- 90) The fact that we even HAVE the parks
- 91) The amount of parks. There are a lot.
- 92) I like being able to enjoy nature for free close to home.
- 93) It seems to be kept in fairly good condition.
- 94) Enjoying the natural beauty of the area
- 95) Clean, nature, walking trail
- 96) They are typically well maintained and clean.
- 97) Trails and naturalized areas
- 98) Lots of parks
- 99) We have beautiful parks that are clean and seem to be well-maintained.
- 100) Washington County Golf Course - love the course
- 101) The woods and nature - some paved trails - access to water
- 102) soft, unpaved paths
- 103) Accessibility
- 104) The many options and hike/bike trails.
- 105) The variety
- 106) The trails! I enjoy hiking at Ridge Run and snowshoeing at Sandy Knoll.
- 107) Ease of access
- 108) Well kept
- 109) Nothing. No county parks or trails near Jackson area.
- 110) free
- 111) Cleanliness, accessible
- 112) the nature and quiet leisure offered
- 113) General upkeep is good.
- 114) Allows dogs and new fitness equipment is cool!!
- 115) Maintained well, dogs allowed, safe.
- 116) Safe environment. Great maintenance. Friendly staff. Beautiful natural settings.
- 117) not crowded, sledding hill at Glacier Hills
- 118) The minimized managed care approach. Parks are managed but not overly developed so that there is a more natural air about them.
- 119) Great trails - good upkeep - beautiful nature. I love Washington County Parks!
- 120) Diversity, quantity & quality

- 121) Ease of access. Many to choose from
- 122) Accessibility
- 123) They are free for everyone.
- 124) The bike trails
- 125) Scenery
- 126) The flowers, trees, birds, playgrounds & equipment, trails fresh air, picnic areas. Places to fly kites or play horses shoes. And shaded area like shelters.
- 127) The number of parks that are kept in good repair
- 128) I like that we can bring dogs to the parks, since the city parks don't allow pets. I also like that the county parks are more wooded with more trails and mature trees.
- 129) Long trails, Eisenbahn.
- 130) The variety of parks that can be used for different types of functions
- 131) That we have saved areas.
- 132) That I have free access to a variety of parks with a variety of activities, not too far from my home.
- 133) people can bring dogs, unlike the City of West Bend parks
- 134) That they even exist!
- 135) Total number of parks. Types of parks.
- 136) Good number of options for activities at the various parks. Appreciate the access to Little Cedar and Silver Lakes
- 137) easily accessible
- 138) Nature & being outside
- 139) They are well-maintained.
- 140) Not crowded.
- 141) The paved part of the Eisenbahn. More paved would be nice.
- 142) clean rental areas and restrooms
- 143) Clean and well kept
- 144) A nice mix of active recreation and natural areas.
- 145) cost
- 146) trails
- 147) The bike trail
- 148) Cheap golf
- 149) They are clean and accessible. They give a great variety of natural settings with good amenities.
- 150) There are many parks that support a number of activities depending on a person's interest. VERY family friendly, clean, well maintained and groomed. I am always bragging about how lucky we are in West Bend with our parks and the Eisenbahn!! I also love that we can bring our dog- he loves the nature walks too!
- 151) Free access, variety locations, generally clean,
- 152) Gets families out and together and room to play for the kids.
- 153) We don't have a large yard, so we use the parks to keep our family busy outdoors.
- 154) The parks are well maintained and beautiful.
- 155) Eisenbahn Trail, the portion that is paved! Please pave it through Kewaskum and beyond!
- 156) We have so many to choose from...and they are located all over the county.
- 157) I love Riverside Park. I love the trails and walks along the river. I like the parks along water. I like that they are free. I like the bridges.
 1. Quantity and quality of parks. For a county of this size and location, features and amenities are very good (I've lived in several other areas/states in the Midwest)
 2. Excellent use and maintenance of the rails-trails conversions

3. Variety of park locations/natural features (make it interesting to try to get to them all, or connect the trails in different ways)
 4. Length of the trails lends variety to repeated use
- 158) Quantity & quality of parks available.
 - 159) I love the bike trails and all the nature I can see on the trail.
 - 160) Eisenbahn trail the number of parks with playgrounds
 - 161) Variety; natural areas, access
 - 162) Access and natural beauty!
 - 163) accessibility and proximity to town
 - 164) Walking trails for exercise and nature
 - 165) The trails, maps and free access to the parks.
 - 166) The county has a very nice parks system and is a big benefit to our community.
 - 167) Nature trails for hiking/running
 - 168) The Eisenbahn Trail, specifically. I also like the balance of wild areas and heavier use areas.
 - 169) Outdoors
 - 170) Country setting
 - 171) The country
 - 172) rural atmosphere
 - 173) currently they are not crowded
 - 174) A safe place to go for recreation
 - 175) I like that there are several to choose from and how well kept they are.
 - 176) I enjoy going to the park and having picnics with my family, as well as hiking.
 - 177) Its rustic beauty
 - 178) The physical and mental health derived from the interaction with nature, the quiet.
 - 179) I felt that Homestead Hollow was extremely clean and well organized. I was immediately greeted at the door and given instructions on how to care for the shelter. I thought it was priced fairly and there were excellent amenities provided at no charge.
 - 180) There are many I haven't visited. I need to get to those.
 - 181) Large Scale and privacy and wooded.
 - 182) Green space
 - 183) Beautiful hiking trails. Enjoy the biking trail (Eisenbahn). Enjoy the dog park in West Bend.
 - 184) Ridge Run Park before the trail on the west side was blocked off.
 - 185) Eisenbahn trail
 - 186) clean and well run
 - 187) Nice variety of parks and scattered throughout the county
 - 188) I think the parks are wonderful. I do like the fact that we don't have to purchase a sticker to enter them like we do Waukesha County.
 - 189) Biking continues to be my chief interest.
 - 190) well maintained
 - 191) Location, simplicity, well-kept
 - 192) The variety of swimming locations.
 - 193) Variety
 - 194) They are very well kept.
 - 195) Beautiful and easily accessible. I love the trails at homestead hallow.
 - 196) Beautiful natural areas
 - 197) Locations
 - 198) Besides being out in nature...the parks are all well maintained!!
 - 199) greenery and wildlife
 - 200) Clean, many parks in area, trail is wonderful

- 201) The Eisenbahn trail is great. Love everything I do there. I've gone from end in West Bend at Rusco Rd. to Campbellsport several times biking and running.
- 202) The golf course
- 203) Variety, quality trails, good locations. Like that Ridge Run allows pets and that the trails there are through multiple habitats including along water bodies (very desirable). Suitable for multiple uses.
- 204) Paved bike trails are cleared of snow during winter months so one can extend riding year round
- 205) CHOICES FOR A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AND A SPACE FOR SOCIALIZING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
- 206) Well kept.
- 207) variety of parks
- 208) Availability
- 209) Proximity
- 210) well kept facilities
- 211) free and close by
- 212) It's very relaxing
- 213) Natural areas. Department is putting in far too many paved roads, signs, and other intrusive amenities.
- 214) Connection to nature!
- 215) Clean
- 216) cleanliness for most part
- 217) There is a county park close to anywhere I happen to be.
- 218) Quality parks in close proximity to the residents.
- 219) Just being away from the city having a nice nature walk area and play area for children.
- 220) The number of high quality parks
- 221) None
- 222) The ability to go to a park and experience nature is a priority for me in deciding where to live & work.
- 223) clean and large areas
- 224) Eisenbahn Trail for biking but I wish more of it was paved especially from West bend to Kewaskum.
- 225) The trail systems.
- 226) Well Maintained and awesome nature trails
- 227) Not much, need major up grade
- 228) The trails at Heritage where dogs can be walked
- 229) They are well maintained, cleaned of trash, mowed and groomed.
- 230) Washington County is willing to invest in an excellent park system which enhances the rural flavor of our county while providing great outdoor rec opportunities. Love the golf course, too - challenging, well-maintained - hear only positive comments!
- 231) Hard to define - I suppose I would notice if it didn't exist. I suppose my answer is that what I like most about the WCPS is that it simply exists - I would not live in an area that would not have a park system.
- 232) A few of the parks should be closed.
- 233) The landscape in the parks is varied and interesting.
- 234) Public access to beautiful natural areas close to home -- lakes, trails, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas.
- 235) All parks visited are maintained well.
- 236) We love to walk the Eisenbahn trail with our dog, even in winter, but are disappointed that the plowing does not extend to the beginning of the trail at Rusco Drive where we typically embark.

- 237) They are clean and neat
- 238) Nature
- 239) Options.
- 240) Very clean and well groomed.
- 241) They are BEAUTIFUL. Thank you!!
- 242) Variety of beautiful scenery in many of the parks, clean, nice restrooms. Hiking trails at Ridge Run are very nice.
- 243) Yahr Park is so new that it is very clean. It is also close to my home.
- 244) Terrific golf course and I like Craig the new pro who gives great lessons.
- 245) Close to my home
- 246) Their locations throughout the county
- 247) It is kept very clean and free of bugs.
- 248) well maintained
- 249) Every park has its unique differences in beauty.
- 250) low cost
- 251) spread thru out county
- 252) Variety and locations throughout the county.
- 253) Varied themes, beautiful scenery, great spaces to enjoy alone or with others
- 254) The quiet, natural space, trails, water
- 255) The parks we frequent are well maintained and very clean.
- 256) well kept and free
- 257) Litter free, unobstructed trails, (meaning fallen trees are removed fairly quickly). Also, safety, accessible restrooms and beautiful nature.
- 258) Our county parks are clean and well-maintained.
- 259) They are so well kept up that they are enjoyable to all.
- 260) Access to Little Cedar lake for fishing, boating. Great hiking/walking trails.
- 261) number of parks
- 262) A large variety of available options for party planning
- 263) easy access
- 264) I like all the trails that are paved
- 265) They are a place to get away from the hectic pace we live in!
- 266) Not too crowded!
- 267) The parks are beautiful and relaxing. Well maintained
- 268) The ability to enjoy them year round
- 269) Clean and well maintained
- 270) The fact that pets are allowed.
- 271) Focus on natural environment, forests, and trees.
- 272) The parks that I visit are well maintained.
- 273) Golf course quality
- 274) As I have gotten older I use them very little
- 275) Rural character. Not a major emphasis on sports - leave those in the cities and villages.
- 276) Evidence of tax dollar responsibility
- 277) Variety
- 278) Most parks have very nice settings (i.e. Ridge Run with the stream and pond, Glacier Hills off of Fries Lake, etc) and allow for relaxing stay/visit.
- 279) The scenery
- 280) Cleanliness
- 281) Well taken care of.
- 282) Very Nice and clean parks with good amenities. Well maintained.

- 283) Choices
- 284) That I can bring my dogs!!!
- 285) I enjoy all the parks have to offer - natural setting, connection to community, being outdoors, access to trails and playground equipment, etc.
- 286) Just to get out of the house and enjoy nature and get out of the everyday routine.
- 287) The natural beauty, however they park system could be maintained better (i.e. clearing paths of down trees, branches, removing over grown vegetation, repairing erosion washouts, etc...)
- 288) Beautiful, well kept.
- 289) Close proximity
- 290) Green space and trails
- 291) I like the many options available. The Parks we've visited have been free of litter and the paths well-marked.
- 292) The beauty and diversity of landscapes as well as recreational opportunities.
- 293) Trails and variety
- 294) Places to go outdoors
- 295) The Eisenbahn is awesome and we need more trail links.
- 296) Accessibility to natural features/amenities like lakes, rivers, hills.
- 297) I like the quantity/selection of parks. They are maintained very nicely.
- 298) Variety of parks throughout the County, the amenities available, recreation equipment.
- 299) We've used only the Eisenbahn. Like that at least part of it is kept clean during the winter.
- 300) Beauty and peacefulness of the parks.
- 301) That they are more country parks, like lots of land
- 302) It is very well maintained.
- 303) Different varieties of activities.
- 304) Great trails
- 305) cleanliness
- 306) the numerous walking trails in the parks
- 307) The golf course is amazing. Also, if we had interconnected trails as questioned about earlier in the survey, that would be amazing.
- 308) Getting outdoors
- 309) The parks make it possible for me to get out of the house and enjoy the out of doors close to home. I also like it that the parks are well maintained.
- 310) The closeness of these parks and easy access.
- 311) We enjoy taking our dogs on walks to the park and are happy that they are allowed. It is also nice to have a park at a walking distance.
- 312) Cleanliness
- 313) I can go hiking or cross country skiing any time I want
- 314) Close to almost everyone's home
- 315) They are kept up
- 316) The parks are well kept up and clean
- 317) They are groomed/and mowed for the most part for nearly year around accessibility.
- 318) Eisenbahn Trail bike riding; Sandy Knoll & Ridge Run Hiking Trails; Ackerman Grove Lake Access
- 319) Trails, close to home
- 320) I use the Eisenbahn Trail frequently and I enjoy that it is fairly tidy and easy to access. Trash bins would be very helpful to keep pet waste under better control
- 321) I've only been in Ridge Run. I like the park very much. They have been making a lot of repairs and improvements.
- 322) The distribution of the parks

- 323) All of it, we just need more disc courses one is not enough. It's always packed and a good way to keep kids off drugs!
- 324) They seem to be maintained well
- 325) That it is free to enter and use
- 326) No fee
- 327) Convenience, variety, cleanliness
- 328) Beautiful, clean
- 329) The ones I've been to seem to be clean and well-maintained
- 330) Dogs are allowed
- 331) The paved Bike Trail and plowed portion in the winter – of the Eisenbahn Trail – Keep up the good work! -
- 332) Shelter reservations; Dog walking trails
- 333) Number of parks, condition of parks, accessibility. Diversity of natural plants & trees – sanctuary for animals, Ability to walk my dog (Lilee – a German Shepherd) in all the parks in Germantown – She says “thanks” too
- 334) That they're there. Kept up mowing and cleaning
- 335) Enjoying nature's beauty with family
- 336) I love seeing nature - animals, plants, & even bugs. Ridge Run is my favorite
- 337) I love the Eisenbahn Trail and use it often!
- 338) Our park system is kept up to a very high standard...
- 339) Park well laid-out – Plenty of open space & trails. Fishery @ Homestead could be improved with little County expense. Consider volunteers for certain aspect of the park(s)
- 340) Being able to enjoy nature, partake in recreational activities like fishing, kayaking, and hiking, and getting "peace and quiet"
- 341) I enjoy biking the paved trails – afraid to take bike unpaved trails fearing tire will pop. Wish trails were paved farther.
- 342) I have 3 young children so we visit parks a lot. Having a clean beach and fishing pier are what we like best
- 343) Winter recreational opportunities
- 344) Walking the trails and experiencing beneficial effects of nature.
- 345) Getting out into the natural world
- 346) Being outside with family
- 347) We mainly use the Eisenbahn Trail and find it well maintained
- 348) Bike trails
- 349) As a West Bend resident, having Ridge Run & Sandy Knoll so close is very nice.
- 350) Paved bike/walking trail
- 351) Access, setups, although, lots of natural landscape lost @ Homestead with soccer field addition – do they use it?
- 352) I like the different tree plantings (arbor trail??) at the Family Park. (My dog loves cooling off in the pond.)
- 353) I love the maintenance of the parks' trails groomed - the cleanliness yet with the unique mixture of wild flowers and nature.
- 354) There are so many choices and experiences - can go to a different park each night/day. The fall season is exceptionally beautiful.
- 355) The bike trails
- 356) Fantastic workers, beautiful locations
- 357) Trails at Glacier Hills
- 358) They are maintained well
- 359) Nice nature trails

- 360) Nice trails, flush restrooms, nice playground equipment
- 361) The picnic areas
- 362) Nature trails
- 363) Lake access for fishing & swimming & hiking
- 364) Improved shore fishing opportunities
- 365) That dogs are allowed
- 366) Eisenbahn Trail - we travel from Van Dyne to either Campbellsport or Eden to start our biking trip & bike the entire length & back.
- 367) Not crowded, great trails to walk on, excellent maintenance!
- 368) I like the sections with simple/rustic trails through untouched forest. Please do not cut down anymore old-growth, natural, wild sections of our parks for any new landscaping or building. Maintaining what is already there would be ideal.
- 369) The upkeep of trails, bldgs, and lawn areas in the city. Very well done!!!
- 370) Free; nice basketball/volleyball courts
- 371) Bike riding & running paths
- 372) The ability to enjoy nature, bring my dogs along (We pick up their waste) and being thankful that these beautiful places are available to us.
- 373) Pretty
- 374) I especially enjoy the opportunity the county parks provide to enjoy nature without the need to travel far from my home.
- 375) "It is amazing. We are so fortunate to have the park system we do. I love the Eisenbahn Trail (my family uses it all the time) & Yahr Park (we go swimming in the summer).
- 376) Clean, easy parking, Info boards (Keep current and trail map up to date)
- 377) Somewhere to go, with something to do that's different than what you have at home. The kids are excited to go places and do stuff that's different than home, yet it makes for family time together.
- 378) What I like most the county park is located close to where I reside
- 379) The trails
- 380) I primarily visit Homestead Hollow and am impressed with how well maintained it is as well as clean. They seem to care about improvements to the trails (recently adding a boardwalk to one of the low lying areas).
- 381) Beauty
- 382) Bike trails, hiking trails
- 383) No fees for use
- 384) Easy access, well maintained
- 385) Being able to enjoy nature and quiet in the company of my dog.
- 386) Well-maintained parks that are very well designed, around interesting locations.
- 387) There's easy access and they well care for, Washington County Golf Course is excellent
- 388) They are well maintained and usually not busy
- 389) Parks have been nicely developed and are very well maintained.
- 390) The different landscape of each park, the fact that you can walk your dog, (I strongly am disappointed by dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs) cleanliness of the parks. Nice bathrooms, clean, well-maintained.
- 391) Access to nature
- 392) What I like most is that we have as many parks as we do – but with the increasing population I would like to see even more parks – even small ones such as Maplewynde “park” is so valuable to our neighborhood.
- 393) Location & improvements along with excellent maintenance.
- 394) Hiking and some biking trails.
- 395) Convenience and beauty

- 396) Many choices
- 397) Accessibility to residents - parks are nearby
- 398) Clean - Quiet - Nice trails
- 399) Walking and hiking trails - quiet, solitude
- 400) Hiking trails
- 401) As a senior citizen, I appreciate the convenience, safety, and serenity of the Eisenbahn Trail.
When my family lived at home we liked to visit the other parks for the variety of amenities Ex:
swimming, play areas, ball fields, ski trails, picnicking
- 402) Golf Course
- 403) The variety of parks
- 404) The escape, solitude, nature - mental health
- 405) Getting back to nature. Close to home. Improving trail for yr round access. I.e.: foot bridge in
low wet areas on east side. I now can hike with dog in spring.
- 406) Parks are well maintained with lots of natural areas and water areas.
- 407) The abundance and accessibility
- 408) So appreciative of Eisenbahn Trail and ability to so easily walk, bike, exercise dog year round.
Thanks so much for clearing more of trail near Decorah Elementary in 2012-13
- 409) Clean and safe
- 410) How well kept they are
- 411) They are very well kept up, easy to get to, love the trails
- 412) The quality and maintenance of trails, restrooms, structures

Attachment 5 – Q15

Factors Influencing Visits

Q15 – Please indicate if any of the following factors would influence you to visit the County Park System more frequently in the future. (check all that apply)

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) Partner with private organizations. County can provide land, private organizations can improve.
- 2) None.
- 3) Trails that are stroller friendly are a HUGE factor for us when attending a park. If more trails could be this way, or even if there was at least one such option at each park, it would be very helpful.
- 4) Something that encourages casual socialization among park visitors. Like a coffee spot or reading spot. Something that brings like-minded chill people together in a super low pressure environment.
- 5) They're very nice as they are
- 6) none It's find the way we have it
- 7) having a reduced cost launch fee for non motorized, non tailored boat or canoe
- 8) MORE CROSS COUNTY BIKING TRAILS CONNECTING TOWNS AND EXISTING TRAILS. GREAT FORM OF TRANSPORTATION WHEN YOU WANT TO SAVE ON GAS IN YOUR CAR.
- 9) Restrooms are important especially when you have small children. The Eisenbahn is a great trail, but it would be much better if you could travel to Cedarburg or Port Washington on the trail. This would add destinations to the trail system.
- 10) please clean up the back trail at homestead hollow the one with the hills, the longest trail
- 11) Not much that is very close to Germantown, would love to see trails closer to where we live.
- 12) we live in Waukesha county but frequent Glacier Hills park cause not too far away from us. Probably wouldn't visit other Wash. Cty Parks too regularly, so not sure what could influence us.
- 13) Creating intense running/workout trails
- 14) Create more areas for children to learn how to fish.
- 15) Frisbee golf (just took it up).
- 16) more disc golf courses
- 17) Adding additional mountain bike trails.
- 18) more connected biking trails
- 19) Just a matter of too many choices for leisure. We visited the parks much more when the kids were smaller.
- 20) Swimming pool
- 21) I am not sure where some of these parks are. Maybe better educating on parks.
- 22) Connecting trails
- 23) I wish the Villages of Hartford and Slinger had a better bike trail between them.
- 24) Places for dog to get drink of water. However, not if it costs a lot. Maybe adding a small pool or dish outside buildings that already have running water.
- 25) adding archery ranges would help
- 26) LOWERING THE COST OF THE GOLF COURSE !! I Can play Oz county as a non resident 1.5 times for the cost of wash co and Hawthorne hills is just as nice.
- 27) I would like to see Heritage Trails open in the winter.
- 28) Heritage Trails being open in the winter!

- 29) many children these days don't even know HOW to enjoy nature; demonstrations on nature-based activities would help to get them involved and develop a life-long appreciation of their natural surroundings
- 30) A shooting range
- 31) I'm happy with the Eisenbahn trail for biking.
- 32) A dog park closer to my residence
- 33) more info on what parks are available and what they have to offer
- 34) Don't add. Just POLICE FOR TRASH & CREEPY GUYS!
- 35) More swimming in the area
- 36) Allowing more bicycle access
- 37) Please reconsider the ban on bicycles on county park trails. There are some places where the ban makes sense, but there are many other places where riders and walkers can coexist, especially if bicycle traffic is one-way. Prepare for growth in the "fat bike" segment of the off-road market. Fat bikes have very wide tires that allow riders to traverse sand and snow. Winter fat bike rides are growing in popularity and would be perfect for county park trails that are not used for nordic skiing. Cyclocross is another rapidly growing bicycling discipline. It is a bicycle steeplechase on a mostly-turf course. Two years ago a small group of cyclocross racers was practicing at Sandy Knoll when it was asked to leave by the park ranger, assisted by a county sheriff's department officer. There were NO other park users and the cyclists were causing no harm to the park! It's just field grass; if people can play football and soccer on it, then why can't they ride bikes on it?
- 38) Disc golf course at heritage trails
- 39) More shade near playgrounds. The equipment gets too hot for children to play on it during the summer months.
- 40) More bike trails, particularly ones that connect cities and other trails
- 41) I live in Slinger and there are no bike trails connecting to Pike Lake or WB
- 42) connecting more bike trails and safe access to the trails.
- 43) adding additional parks with water access. Don't know how I could manage without Ackermans Grove in the summer!
- 44) More connecting bike trails.
- 45) Adding and preserving more parks (green space) for growing populations & future generations.
- 46) open to hunting
- 47) cleanliness, good long term maintenance, and safety
- 48) more photos of parks to preview before a visit, better map to find within the county.
- 49) I would love more hiking/running trails in West Bend. Would love to see the Eisenbahn paved further North.
- 50) stop developing, stop adding, stop improving, stop spending money in parks, spend money on services for homeless, hungry, unemployed, fill the immediate needs of county residents
- 51) Adding more PAVED trails
- 52) I live 1/2 mile from the Eisenbahn & 1/4 from Riverside
- 53) I live right on the paved portion of the Eisenbahn, so it couldn't be any closer. Otherwise, I would have checked it.
- 54) I think the current facilities are adequate. Nature does not need improvements.
- 55) None
- 56) allow well trained dogs on leash (this would include responsible dog owners).
- 57) Fewer dollars spent on parks and more tax dollars in our pocket so we can afford recreational activities
- 58) More natural roads and parking/less city blacktop
- 59) Don't add anything
- 60) Better maintaining

- 61) consider the installation of waterless toilets.
- 62) Extending the Eisenbahn paved trail
- 63) A fenced-in dog park/run/area in Glacier Park would definitely be fabulous! I hike in Glacier Park with our family dogs frequently, as do many many people, and we would greatly enjoy a dog park/area there. Please consider. Please contact me if there is anything I can do to help get one started. I live very close on the same street as Glacier Park - Friess Lake Rd., and I would be happy to volunteer/help at a dog park there. Also, the indoor facilities/rental rooms at Glacier Park are charming, useful, and greatly appreciated.
- 64) I think that if trails led to and from different parks I would use these a lot. I thought that if a bike trail connected Kewaskum and Mauthe Lake, it would be used a lot and would generate money for the area.
- 65) Would like a bike trail to connect with Grafton, Cedarburg and Mequon
- 66) Adding horse trails would significantly improve my park visiting frequency.
- 67) Long term maintenance costs unfortunately need to be considered. Adding lots of additional acreage may prove too costly. Continue improving current facilities.
- 68) None additional. I love what I've used so far.
- 69) MORE SNOWSHOE TRAILS
- 70) Not sure.
- 71) more walking trails
- 72) Who really benefits the most? Residents or outsiders?
- 73) Connecting parks and trails to other public amenities -- such as municipal parks and trails, OWLT and CLCF lands state parks and the Ice Age Trail.
- 74) 1--Paving Eisenbahn from West Bend to Kewaskum. 2--Cheaper rates for county residents at Washington County Golf course.
- 75) I like what I have seen and keep up the good work. Thanks!
- 76) Bike trails and safe bike access. Dog waste containers at all parks with trails, Fenced Dog play area.
- 77) The restrooms would be nice but it probably isn't a deciding factor for me.
- 78) Dream world - another golf course - take over Blackstone!
- 79) Keeping the current park buildings maintained and the properties looking the best they can.
- 80) I own a farm and am paying tax on it I do not need a park!!
- 81) Mow perimeter of trail at Heritage more often
- 82) More well-marked trails in County parks and connecting places throughout the County. Also, parks with significant frontage on lakes without public parks (not just tiny boat access spots).
- 83) Hunting
- 84) too many parks already
- 85) I have young children so we frequent any parks that have playgrounds.
- 86) None
- 87) Outhouses like in Goeden are fine. The stand alone at Cedar Wayside is trashy. Garbage pails would be nice in the smaller parks.
- 88) None
- 89) The trail that goes south from the lower parking lot at Ridge Run, that runs along the lake, slopes quite a bit towards the lake. If that could somehow be made level, that would be wonderful. I've come close to twisting ankles quite often, due to the leftward sloping on that trail. At Sandy Knoll, a lot of the trails on the northern end of the park have been very wet, from the recent many weeks of rain, which makes them impossible to use.
- 90) Cross country skiing and snow shoe trails with rental for winter use of parks.
- 91) hunting opportunities

- 92) Somehow make people pick up after their dogs the signs are posted but a lot of people don't obey the signs.
- 93) more golf courses
- 94) Nothing. I would go if someone had something going on there - just to go there. No, I am too busy trying to make money to pay for the taxes the county charges to pay for all these parks.
- 95) more areas for radio control activities(boat,planes,cars)
- 96) adding and connecting horse trails
- 97) Our kids would enjoy a nice beach to go swimming.
- 98) Adding more horse trails
- 99) More kid activities- splash pad, toddler playground
- 100) Parks are fine as they are. Too many parks, and that would be a bigger tax expense.
- 101) Nothing that I can think of right now.
- 102) I would like to see more bike trails around the county. beautiful county, but we are considerably behind Ozaukee and Waukesha counties
- 103) Trails connecting parks and/or communities to provide alternate means of commuting in the county would be awesome. Would especially like to see the county have "complete street" ordinances to provide the opportunity to bike or walk safely wherever you live, work & play.
- 104) better parking
- 105) N/A (children are grown-only visit parks when grandchildren are over) (have a beautiful park very near my house-don't visit it often enough (no particular reason)
- 106) I would like to have a park closer to my residence.
- 107) adding ATV trails connecting to the parks
- 108) upkeep trails more
- 109) At this point I must inform you that our activities are limited: I am 81 years of age, and my wife is 77 years: In addition, she is a stroke victim.
- 110) As mentioned earlier - more waste/trash cans.
- 111) Adding a loop trail connection to the Eisenbahn
- 112) I was not even aware that some of these parks existed. Perhaps a flyer with maps would be helpful to increase park use. The front page of this survey is actually quite helpful.
- 113) Having areas where dogs can exercise off leash; Having events such as hikes; Mosquito control but only if not harmful to the environment (I know, probably not possible!) Adding more paved trails for biking/running
- 114) None
- 115) Adding more paved trails for biking/running.
- 116) Keeping trails cleaned clear of brush. Trying to keep inclines clear of bigger stone.
- 117) Keeping waterways clear of debris. Several large trees have fallen along at Ridge Run & it blocks the flow of water.
- 118) N/A I like them the way they are
- 119) None
- 120) Addition of a tower, bird sanctuary, and nature center
- 121) We live in the Village of Kewaskum so all the parks are easy to get to and are all great!
- 122) More opportunities for bicycling (casual trail & mountain biking)
- 123) Dog park near a pond or river
- 124) I'm fortunate to live very close to Family Park; *I wish the bubbler was working.
- 125) Better trail signage
- 126) Putting disc-golf back in
- 127) Add disc golf courses!
- 128) Improve shore fishing opportunities

- 129) Improved shore fishing opportunities
- 130) Improved trail maintenance
- 131) If more trails were created, we would use those trails too.
- 132) Leave the natural/wild parts as they are
- 133) I see a bubbler/water fountain at the Family Park - can you turn it on?!
- 134) More safe bike paths along side roads & also making people stop at roads when persons want to cross on the Eisenbahn Trail
- 135) Combine some of Historical Information into the park. Lots of history fading away around these parts.
- 136) None of the above. We live close to Eisenbahn Trail – (walking distance) easy to get to Ridge Run park.
- 137) Extending the Eisenbahn Trail both north and south.
- 138) Long bike trails. A specific dog park
- 139) Solar lighting in some of the more popular parks, say Ridge Run along roadway from swing side of park to shelter side
- 140) Unique playground equipment for older kids (5-12 yrs)
- 141) More benches on trails (for us oldies)
- 142) More benches along trails would be helpful to the elderly
- 143) Keeping trails at Heritage Trails open during winter
- 144) Make Eisenbahn a year round trail - expand paved surface to the north –
- 145) If my family lived in the area the above checked factors would be appreciated
- 146) None
- 147) Mountain bike trails
- 148) More mulch in rocky, muddy, roots raised area for safety. I have fallen multiple times at Homestead Hollow.
- 149) Please consider adding some camping locations like adjacent counties.
- 150) Groomed cross country ski trails would get me to more in winter
- 151) Better care of the parks
- 152) I believe anything that would get the youth more involved would be a great advantage.

Attachment 6 – Q16

Other Comments

Q16 – If you'd like to provide any other comments regarding the County Park System, please provide them here:

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) Good job.
- 2) more spots open to public hunting
- 3) The maintenance has not been as good as previous years. I recognize the problem with budgets.
- 4) I really like the way you guys promoted this survey, it caught my attention with the bright green business cards. And I'm glad you offered SurveyMonkey as I have been meaning to fill out this survey for months and kept putting it off and may never have sent it in, had it not been so convenient.
- 5) We like them as they are!
- 6) not that this time
- 7) Overall I love the parks available to me. I realize that the costs must be balanced against the value but the quality of life in the county would greatly suffer without these parks
- 8) Please get a handle on the public dumping issues in Ackermans Grove and other county parks. I would like park participants to take their garbage out like the state parks do. A lot of taxpayer expense for household waste being put into dumpsters, no enforcement. The parks focus so much on dog waste and nothing on dumpsters. They are always full to the top and big items placed outside like car bumpers, furniture and construction waste. Possibly small circuit cameras to get license plates on recurring patrons.
- 9) I appreciate how clean the parks always seem to be.
- 10) Great work, keep it up, and thanks for asking!
- 11) I am pleased with the county parks. Any improvements, would be great
- 12) amputees use these parks, think of them
- 13) All in all, its a great park system.
- 14) It would like a membership or annual fee option for Washington County Golf Course.
- 15) Lots of great park areas we have. Nice job folks!
- 16) Sandy Knoll Park - The hiking trails are not maintained - most of the cleanup is done by people walking the trail-there are downed trees-etc park trails are terrible. We snowmobile but the snowmobile club should not be allowed to destroy trees and bushes and just leave debris all over park - also whoever maintains the park does a very poor job with the trails.
- 17) I appreciate the beautiful land trusts in the parks of Washington County.
- 18) You might need better marketing. Back to Glacier Hills -- nobody knows it's there. Most of the other parks -- which the exception of Lizard Mound -- I've never heard of. Because there's nothing to motivate you to go there.
- 19) It would be great to have a warming house for the ice rinks. I think it would promote a great family activity which keeps kids out of trouble and provides exercise in the winter months.
- 20) Thank you for doing a good job. We appreciate and use the park facilities on a regular basis.
- 21) Expand bike trails in general
- 22) Supporting biking and walking/running trails is important. Continuous, smooth trails are make safer than roads. Providing parking at access points and bringing access points closer to neighborhoods would be priority for me.
- 23) we are lucky to have such nice trails (especially the ice age trail!)
- 24) Keep up the good work (and please add more MTB trails)!

- 25) There are a lot of native wild flowers in the parks. Very beautiful.
- 26) sometimes there is a lack of garbage pick up at Heritage park
- 27) Generally I am very pleased with parks... but more is better.
- 28) Dodge County seems to provide more boating rental activities at their parks - could that be done here?
- 29) Keep up the good work.
- 30) Overnight camping sites desired
- 31) Keep it up with the Geocaching.
- 32) We use Heritage Trails a lot for not only soccer, but for other recreational activities with our family. Port-a-potties are fine, but having one of them is not sufficient, and they are not cleaned out in a timely manner. The one that is there gets disgusting as it is used so frequently, and it is honestly embarrassing when outside teams and their families have to deal with it in such conditions. If it is in the budget for flush toilets, great - I have no problems myself paying a bit more in taxes if it means cleaning it up. Otherwise, more toilets and more frequent cleaning of such is necessary.
- 33) Hertiage and Ackemans if taken care of could host a county soccer tournament through WCFC and generate revenue for the county and soccer club.
- 34) Thanks to everybody who helps care for and maintain the parks.
- 35) no flush toilet-waste of money
- 36) For land that was donated. I can't afford to take my family to wgcg. or as I call it Washington county country club.
- 37) None. I really enjoyed my stay.
- 38) Parks are a great benefit to the quality of life for residents. However, there is no need for additional flush toilets or further expansion of county parks. In addition to the extensive park system our county taxes pay, we have the Ice Age Trails, Pike Lake State Park, and Kettle Moraine State Park within the county. The very thought of connecting the parks with a trail system is a ridiculous waste of money. I also think offering prizes for competing this survey not only is a waste of taxpayer's money, but will skew the results as well. While you may think that our county taxes are one of the lowest in the state, you need to keep in mind the huge tax burden Wisconsin taxpayers have when including the local, state, and federal taxes. We need reductions from current levels and the county needs to step up to the plate and stop the cycle of constantly increasing or maintaining the unsustainable levels.
- 39) I'd like to see Heritage Trails open in the winter
- 40) NA
- 41) Make and build a water park in Germantown...in the summer there is NO public swimming pool for families to go to...have to go to another city to swim, have fun, and cool off!! (i.e. Cederburg water park)
- 42) I would be willing to volunteer to help set up and run a shooting range.
- 43) Ridge Run park - The tennis courts: I (and many others) use the tennis courts (I like the backboard for playing singly). Could you please clean the grass off the courts after mowing? Tennis balls tend to roll to the edge where there's a 1 foot of grass clippings and I spend a fair amount of time cleaning the grass off my balls instead of playing tennis.
- 44) Thanks for taking care of our parks and asking for feedback.
- 45) I think we should put the facilities we have to good use before expanding or spending more money - we have a beautiful park system. Thank you!
- 46) The parks are nice. I enjoy walking trails. I would like a dog park at Homestead Hollow.
- 47) when will you finally be don with lizzard mounds.what takes so long.
- 48) I really would like to see horse trails and more bike trails added in the county. We need an alternative to the automobile. Kids need to be able to bike to ball fields without risk of

automobile collision. Washington County has a huge recreational horse population and should leverage its parkland and proximity to the Northern Kettle Moraine to attract more tourist dollars.

- 49) I am very thankful to have any parks in our area - and any improvements would be well used and appreciated by our county and others!
- 50) Regular pruning along the pathways would be nice- especially at Homestead Hollow.
- 51) What is going on with albecker park? We tried to go there and could not access the 90 acres that the park map said that it had.
- 52) Would love to see a connector trail between Sandy Knoll and Lizard Mound. Can an easement be negotiated with the landowner?
- 53) Need to bring back disc golf at heritage trails
- 54) Monies collected from taxpayers should go to services for residents in need, not parks
- 55) Providing and keeping green space in the County is important to me. When an appropriate site is offered for sale, purchase it. Much of the farm land will be for sale soon as farmers retire and their children no longer farm. Families will sell to developers and County officials and residents will lose out on another green space if money is not budgeted for this purpose.
- 56) Eisenbahn trail is a great asset. If any opportunities arise to add more trails and connections I believe it should be done.
- 57) See previous comments. It is one of the best features of Washington County.
- 58) I'm originally from Racine and I'm so glad we moved to Washington county and have the beautiful and safe parks to visit.
- 59) I don't care whether there are potapottys or fishing bathrooms; as long as they are maintained and cleaned regularly. Also, sandy knole swimming pond is filthy, and until it is cleaned, my children will not use it!!!
- 60) More trash receptacles along eisenbahn trail would be wonderful!
- 61) more benches also would help at these parks. Also think about people with walkers getting to the benches. They don't roll over grass very well. Most of these parks we never ever knew they were there. That is why we never went to them. May take a few Sunday trips to see these parks now. Thank you
- 62) I feel there should be more xc skiing it is becoming a very popular activity for all ages. More bike trails near my house in Slinger of course. thank you keep up the good work!! Ava Cozzi Slinger
- 63) While hiking on the trails at Ridge Run, we would appreciate clearer signage as to what trail we are on, where to turn, etc.
- 64) I love the Washington County Parks and visit them often with my kids. Please continue to keep them the quality parks that they are.
- 65) please work on providing more access to our 'public' lakes. Big Cedar is a beautiful lake and has NO public access points. This is a sin! Wisconsin lakes and rivers need to be open and available to everyone. Look to MN for example. Washington County could be a leader in this. thank you
- 66) I think that it would benefit myself along with others, if the bike/hiking trails were marked better. Which bigger and more noticeable signs.
- 67) With increasing population growth, please preserve & add more green spaces & walking/biking trails in Washington County.
- 68) Please keep acquiring land before the developers do. Keep up the good work.
- 69) open to hunting
- 70) more trails
- 71) Please connect the Eisenbahn trail to Jackson!!
- 72) a strong park system is critical to quality of life in the county and attracts families and businesses adding to the tax base.

- 73) Very happy and impressed with how well maintained the parks are! Especially love Ridge Run- we are frequent visitors all times of year!
- 74) instead of expanding, maintain current buildings, trails, waterways, etc; these are tough economic times and expensive capital improvements need to stop
- 75) Please expand the paved portion of the Eisenbahn Trail!
- 76) Our foundation worked very close with 2 park members to select and construct a bench along the Eisenbahn trail in Kewaskum. both were pleasant to talk with, helpful to answer all questions we had, and professional. They cared about making sure we liked the site and met with us numerous times. I wish I could remember their names so I could give them personal recognition!!
THANK YOU!! Donna Hesprich Secretary for MFMF Kewaskum Wi
- 77) Thank you for being serious about our parks, as well as considering our children and future generations. When green space is gone, it's gone.
- 78) Thank you for all of them, i really like them. Maybe some Garbage cans on the Eisenbahn, on the part where the school kids walk, they leave trash.
- 79) Thanks for doing what you do! It is very important to my quality of life and mental health!!!
Keep up the good work!
- 80) Consider adding horseshoe pits to some of the parks (Heritage Trails). Overall, it is a great park system the way it is.
- 81) Dogs are part of the family. I am very disappointed in the no dogs rule. Pets should be on a leash; owners should clean up waste. Most pet owners abide by these rules.
- 82) I again state it would be nice to be able to take dogs into more county park areas.
- 83) At times the trimming on the Eisenbahn Trail appears to be done correctly as limbs are torn instead of cut.
- 84) We have an excessive number of parks and we should spend no additional money to add on, just maintain what we already have
- 85) maintain the current park better (Picnic tables ect.) rather than continually expanding and spending money bigger is not always better
- 86) more access to water for dogs to swim; more bike trails
- 87) I dont think we need to spend ANY MORE MONEY on the parks!!! People dont have jobs but they can got to a park and flush a potty!! Really!!!! Use the hard working peoples TAX MONEY other things that are needed not wanted!!!! Taxes are SOO high for Washington County thats why people want to move out of it. Stop spending money on Parks. Keep them simple, clean, grass cut and basic items to attract people. If you want a flushing toilet- STAY HOME! Thanks much.
- 88) thanks to the staff that maintains them!
- 89) bathrooms don't need to be heated no need to be yr. round at all parks
- 90) If there is one thing I would love to have the most - it would be a dog park area at Glacier County Park. I live nearby and hike there often with our family dogs as many people do. I would be very happy to volunteer/help the park with a dog park/area in Glacier Park. It would be the best addition to the Washington County Park System that I can think of along with more biking trails, of course! Thank You!
- 91) Maintain the parks we have now. We don't need additional parks. Heated restrooms in parks that are not used frequently are a waste of tax dollars. Open the trail at Ridge Run Park on the west side. We see no reason why this was blocked off. That area had the best cross-country ski run in the entire park. Maintain the trails that are open by removing fallen trees and cutting back branches on a regular basis.
- 92) nothing else
- 93) We have had our family reunions at Homestead Hollow and everyone raves about it because it is close to hotels, restaurants and easy access off and on Hwy 41-45. Would like to have the sign

up Online instead of coming to West Bend. I think it would enhance more people to use the County Park System.

- 94) Spending way too much on the park system
- 95) The parks are fabulous! Continue promoting family activities.
- 96) Put your money towards garbage cans and pick up. Some people are too lazy to walk to the dumpsters. You're doing a fine job PPD
- 97) Please continue to purchase parkland to preserve important natural areas for the use of current and future county residents.
- 98) Thanks - keep up the good work
- 99) County is lucky to have what it does.
- 100) None at this time.
- 101) Straying a bit from the specific questions, would like to see an annual county-wide boat launch permit available.
- 102) A big THANK YOU for providing the Eeinsenban bike trail. It has made my retirement years so enjoyable biking for health and getting around to do my shopping
- 103) For me, the most important factor is how "well kept" the parks are. Is the grass well mowed and trimmed? Are garbage cans emptied? Are facilities in a state of disrepair? I'd prefer a higher level of service over new facilities.
- 104) None
- 105) What is the TOTAL annual cost of the Washington county parks system? Why do we need to keep expanding it with little population increases. What is the true goal(s) of the system?
- 106) Thank you for the Eisenbahn Trail!
- 107) Stop spending our money on park development. Most people that come to Yahr park are non-residents, why don't we charge them?
- 108) Thanks for providing great parks!!
- 109) I had rented a picnic area at Sandy Knoll and though the event went well I did not receive all my deposit back. I am a middle aged woman and know how to clean up. All the garbage was taken to the dumpster, the tables were wiped down so as not to draw ants/insects-even swept the concrete. I was given the reason that there were cigarette butts found in the area after our event. None of our guests were smoking...the event was for a person who had cancer in our church group!! In speaking with others who have also rented facilities, not just at Sandy Knoll but at other parks in the county...it seems to be a common thread that you can pretty much count on not getting all your deposit money back-no matter if you were to scrub the facility with a toothbrush. Kind of keeps me from wanting to use the parks again as a venue for any type of event.
- 110) Consider protecting more wildlife and water resources. Not every park needs to have paved parking and playgrounds. Some parks can be more like the Ice Age Trail or land trust properties. Don't spend so much time bringing parks on line. So many times the county takes years to open a park. Work more closely with land trusts, Ice Age Trail and the state to work together. Maybe the county could partner with the local land trusts to co-own or manage property. I think owl co-holds and manages property in Ozaukee County. Thinking out of the box, maybe the County could outsource some function/management to the owl, clcf or ice age trail. It could save the county some money and help support and strengthen local non-profits.
- 111) Thank you for asking for input.
- 112) Good survey
- 113) Excellent park system in the county
- 114) The parks are not as well kept as the were five years ago.
- 115) DITTO the comment too last Question
- 116) If more tree would be planned along the trails to offer shade, that would be helpful.
- 117) Please continue to maintain these wonderful gems for our county.

- 118) I do not want to see any expansion of the park system at this time. We need to take great care of the resources we currently have. I want to eliminate any flush and heated toilets from future park budgets. In my opinion we should also eliminate dumpsters in the parks. Thank you for asking my opinion!!
- 119) At least two of the parks should be closed.
- 120) I would like to see a park in the Allenton area
- 121) GET LIZARD MOUND PARK OPEN ALREADY! Not only is it a beautiful park, but it's of international historical/cultural significance. Seriously, it's one of the premier mound groups in THE WORLD. Washington County should drop everything else and get it finished! Soccer fields? Boat launches? Playground equipment? Flush toilets? NO! Lizard Mound Park!
- 122) Parks are key to making Washington County an attractive place to live and to locate businesses. Investing in a diversity of recreational facilities and infrastructure such as restrooms and parking will yield benefits in terms of a healthy economy and healthy population.
- 123) I believe that there should be garbage disposal stations at every 1 mile point of the Eisenbaum trail. While we pick up after our dog; many do not. I believe they might do so if there was a convenient place to deposit their dog waste.
- 124) should open more land up to hunting
- 125) Upkeep of all parks is great. We have used parks for reunions and the family is always impressed with the park system.
- 126) We were very sad to see all the trees cut down in the back of Ridge Run Park. There was so much nature and peace and quiet back there.
- 127) Have never used anything but the golf course which is great, but should really consider taking the grandkids on a nature trail hike. Never really had the info on hand to spark the idea.
- 128) Whenever I have rented a shelter, they have been clean and in good repair.
- 129) I think the rental rates are a little high for families that live in this area.
- 130) We do have beautiful parks in Washington county
- 131) better maintenance needed at all facilities!
- 132) A Washington County Park in the Allenton/Addison area would be a nice addition.
- 133) One of the best things about living in this county is having a lot of parks around.
- 134) A trail near 33 west of West Bend would be nice. With no road south of 33 unless I go south of Big Cedar and no roads north without very steep hills, this is a tough place to bike/walk.
- 135) I really appreciate the fact that dogs on leashes are allowed in the county parks. It's the only place I can safely walk my dog.
- 136) I live in the city of West Bend which has plenty of great city parks that my young children love. Therefore I don't use the county parks except for fishing. Would love to use the county parks in winter but there isn't much to do in the parks in winter.
- 137) Any larger parks should be open to at least bow hunting in order to control suburban deer population.
- 138) The parks are great now! Improvements are not critical, but nice to have.
- 139) Washington county does a wonderful job. Keep it up
- 140) Make shelters more reasonable to rent
- 141) Would like to see additional development on the Eisenbahn trail, extending it further south, more paved area, etc.
- 142) I would love it if the city of W. Bend and the county could combine in a joint effort to develop private lands east of University Dr. between the the freeway just north and south of Decorah St. into a 18 hole golf course. I realize this would involve procuring private property including an existing quarry. But, it would be amazing.
- 143) None

- 144) Keep what you have and put a lid on the spending if people want to go to the park let them drive one of the ones that are already there!
- 145) add more place for people of different interests
- 146) Trails are nice but not worth re purposing dedicating farm land. Use abandoned train right away and add rest stations at specific intervals.
- 147) horseback riding is a family and friends activity that brings in money for the area
- 148) Looking forward to seeing the results of this survey. Please provide a summary of the feedback of this survey somewhere on the web site and possibly what decisions are being considered as a result of the feedback. Thanks.
- 149) Adding more horse trails near the West Bend area, instead of always having to travel to New Prospect in another county to ride or camp.
- 150) rest stops and benches
- 151) Trail systems are very important. Demand for trails for biking, walking, and running will only increase.
- 152) There were parts of this survey that did not apply, but I was forced to answer the survey questions. I was forced to answer inaccurately. eg. I do not visit all parks in Washington co, but I was asked if they should have bathroom facilities...I have no idea, but I would guess that it would be nice for them to have bathrooms?
- 153) We have a wonderful network of parks in WC. I live adjacent to Homestead Hollow and use it regularly. I love the paved portions of the trail as they are usable even when it is wet. Unfortunately, our subdivision is on the south side and you have to walk or drive to the north side to access them. The south side of the park has trail access but it can be very wet and muddy. LOVE the updated toilet facilities. The buildings, which we've used several times, are adequate.
- 154) Wash Co has a good park system and the more the better.
- 155) The existing parks seem to have identical ammenities. Some- thing different (mountain biking/horse trails) would be appreciated.
- 156) The County should invest more in new sites and in developing exising parks and trails. A percentage of the county sales tax should automatically go toward county parks and trails. Stop giving grants to private businesses.
- 157) Local disc golf courses are very crowded and in demand. Many other counties have at least one county owned course however Washington has none.
- 158) Trim the edges of the Eisenbahn once per season to eliminate over-growth.
- 159) A disc golf course near west bend would be nice, a few mile is fine, could compete with riverside in west bend
- 160) The County does a very good job maintaining the parks.
- 161) Any thought to beer gardens like the ones that have opened in Milwaukee??
- 162) More county trails like the Eisenbahn across the county. Splash pads in parks.
- 163) upkeep trails more, such as cutting back branches that hang over the path etc
- 164) I feel Washington Co. has a very nice park system. I would like to see a better or improved fishing area by the Little Cedar Lake fishing pier.
- 165) Re: Homestead Hollow Park – We had a family get together there. ½ the people missed the entrance due to bad signage. People couldn't see sign (westbound). My friend and I got lost on trails. Better signage needed. The trails need more mulch. Very muddy.
- 166) We have noticed the new grass trails in Family Park. My family and I also have noticed the bubbler that does not work.
- 167) At Heritage Trails; 1) Please cut box elder trees down when young – future problem; 2) Spray poison ivy; 3) c. Early Sat. morning a red Yukon drives up to the soccer fields with 3 smaller dogs. They run out on the soccer fields and poop (never picked up poop) and later leashed.

That's not right!!! The kids run in that. Dogs should not be allowed on fields, even smaller dogs.
(License plate information deleted.)

- 168) My wife was handicapped with Alzheimer's disease(?) & the County gave us a permit to use a golf cart in the park on the 6 foot wide pedestrian strip (asphalt). We used this many times until her passing. I am very grateful to the County for this permission. Maybe there are other handicapped people who would enjoy this type of license(?)
- 169) We feel fortunate to live in Richfield and have the parks and trails we do. Thank you for taking good care to provide us nice parks and trails to use all throughout the year!
- 170) I would have said "yes" to #5 – but only if there is a budget surplus of some sorts or money saved up from park's budget each year
- 171) I do not see the justification in spending money for new bathrooms at this time. We're all paying more for food, gas, & energy – trying to make ends meet. Now is not the time for such an unnecessary project.
- 172) I would very much like to see a skate park. We have a very nice dog park. I would like to see a skate park for the kids.
- 173) More benches on the Eisenbahn. I did purchase one five years ago and at that time asked for more.
- 174) Would golf at the Washington County Golf Course if price would be lower for county residents. A shame when we can golf cheaper at Hawthorne GC in Ozaukee Cty.
- 175) More discing courses. Also more on shore fishing spots. That's the money maker.
- 176) Please use crushed limestone for bike trails
- 177) Are any other old railroad lines available?
- 178) Adding 1-2 H2O stations along the Eisenbahn Trail would be awesome. Photo enclosed taken in Grand Lake, Colorado. H2O bottles were sold as a fundraiser to help pay for the stations. Lower bubbler is for dogs!
- 179) Cutting back limbs and grass on trail
- 180) You do a wonderful service for the community and improve all of our lives - Thank you!!!
- 181) Trails could be clear of branches growing out & above. Big rocks on trails should be cleared on incline trails. Grass could be mowed on old trails. Where there used to be Frisbee golf. Especially on Heritage Trails & Glacier Hills Park
- 182) The County should invite the Boy Scout, Girl Scouts, & Boys & Girls Club to help clean up County parks.
- 183) It always amazes me how few people are enjoying these parks. Today, for example, I'm at Glacier Hills and there is literally no one else here (makes it kind of creepy). This is a beautiful park and I'm not sure why it's underutilized.
- 184) Would like to discuss fishing opportunities (additional) for youth, etc. in these parks – I have significant experience in this area
- 185) Since the Leonard J. Yahr park opened, I have greatly increased my visits to the park system (mainly due to its location in regards to my residence, but also because it is a great park with a lake). Parking for the canoe/kayak carry-ins is rather limited, however, and the other park goes tend to not obey the signs indicating it being for carry-ins only. I find it irritating when the carry-in spots are filled up by people without a boat, causing me to drag/carry my kayak a much greater distance than need be.
- 186) My only wish is that where the Eisenbahn Trail goes from being paved to unpaved is you finish it off. I am afraid to bike on unpaved trails in fear of popping a tire and being in the middle of nowhere. A paved path in my opinion lessens the possibilities of a tire popping. I enjoy biking long distance.
- 187) Having a park or swimming area for our dog would be great!

- 188) 1. More areas of parks left natural with educational emphasis for youngsters on the importance of nature in our lives – Fewer areas dedicated to sports activities such as soccer, football, etc. 2. @Homestead – very wet for walking. Would appreciate filling in muddy areas w/ mulch or planks.
- 189) We need more promotion of individual and small group activities and less team sport promotion. Would like some of the wet areas on trails at Homestead filled with mulch so they are walkable.
- 190) Plow it out down to Paradise in the winter
- 191) Extending the Eisenbahn or similar trail to Jackson should be a priority
- 192) Pave the Eisenbahn State Trail all the way to Lighthouse Lane
- 193) Eisenbahn Trail: The trail is in need of resurfacing. Blacktop would be the best option ever, but good traffic bond would work well also. I'm sure there is grant money somewhere. Duluth, Minn. has acquired over \$300,000 to put in connecting mountain bike trails; Establishing a "friends" program for the Eisenbahn & each park could form some sort of volunteer base.
- 194) Lower price at county golf course. I would use the course a lot more if cost was reduced. It is a beautiful course.
- 195) Sad to see not very many people using park facilities. Lovely parks – why not? Can only judge by visits in AM. Mostly dog walkers.
- 196) I've always said Wisconsin has the BEST parks and certainly Washington County parks add greatly to my enjoyment! :)
- 197) We love the abundance of parks in the area. We appreciate the opportunities to enjoy the wooded areas - trails throughout the year.
- 198) Bike trails connecting East Slinger to Slinger-Pike Lake-Hartford. Hwy 60 is dangerous on a bike
- 199) Add disc golf courses! Would it help if I said please!?
- 200) Restrooms are dirty
- 201) County Parks are appreciated by all. Parks should be developed on Silver & Big Cedar Lakes for families to shore fish & swim.
- 202) Keep up the good work. Parks are very important to communities. I'd like to see family parks with shore fishing on Silver and Big Cedar lakes. Swimming should also be available. Thank you
- 203) If more of the Eisenbahn were paved, it would be great! We would use the trail even more if it were paved – worth the drive even more then. We use trails close to home but the Eisenbahn is a nice change.
- 204) We love the parks. Thank you!
- 205) I would like to commend everyone who is involved with the care of the Eisenbahn Trail. I use it daily by riding my bike. It is a wonderful asset to the County. One suggestion, remove dead wood and trees more promptly from along the trail. Very unsightly.
- 206) Improve the beach at Glacier Hills; Rake the wood chips at Family Park in the playground to even it out and weed it; Would be nice to use the heated restrooms to advertise or something to direct more people to county parks
- 207) We enjoy the things you have in place, however we believe it is important to keep costs down.
- 208) We just went to Lizard Mound and think it is a wonderful asset and it should be advertised more and hopefully schools are using it for teaching destinations.
- 209) Can I get a job. Robert J. Furka
- 210) See above. Wonderful parks. Maybe water access to Lukas Lake from Ridge Run Park? Unsupervised swimming like you have at Yahr Park? Can you "annex" part of the adjoining property?
- 211) Cut wider path along trails; Use the free mulch to put down on trails in low and wet areas ie: the mud

- 212) I think the County has a good progressive vision in trying to improve the parks system. Any and all improvements will be welcomed and appreciated.
- 213) At Homestead Hollow, there is only one dumpster for garbage/pet waste. It would be nice & convenient to add a trash receptacle in the west parking lot (near portable toilet)
- 214) Great trails/could have a few more porta potty stations
- 215) Eisenbahn is a beautiful bike trail - thanks for maintaining it so well
- 216) I walk/run on the Eisenbahn nearly daily – may others use the trail year round. It was really nice having the trail plowed last year. The section between Decorah School and Paradise Dr. Hope it will be plowed again this year. Thanks
- 217) Please, no more destruction such as occurred at the southwest corner of Ridge Run.
- 218) I appreciate the fact that your excellent county park system is available to all at no charge. Though the county parks are not the reason, we do shop and dine regularly in Washington County.
- 219) Continue to develop restroom facilities in the parks; it will only become costlier to do so in the future. Keep up the good work; these parks are a great legacy to our children & grandchildren. These parks enhance our quality of life.
- 220) Maybe provide one dog waste station with waste bags at each park because most people are too lazy or not smart enough to bring their own. Sad but true!
- 221) I think it is a mistake to chop down trees at Lizard Mound - no shade and is ugly
- 222) I think the County Park System makes our community healthier for us (walking, playground areas, the scenery). Kudos for doing a good job and wanting to keep on improving and hopefully adding to the number of parks. Thank you for asking for our input in this survey.
- 223) Very proud of our parks. Keep up the good work.
- 224) I have golfed at the WC Golf Course since it has opened & love it! One of the professional aspects of the course were the yardage markers which have diminished – would like to see them updated!
- 225) The Family Park is not that great. Needs better playground equipment - for toddlers and older kids.
- 226) Keep trails clean of overhanging brush -(Ridge Run West, Ackerman’s Grove and where needed) keeping poison ivy off the side of trails –(Ackerman’s Grove for one)
- 227) I love the Eisenbahn Trail and would definitely use additional similar trails in the area.
- 228) We used the barn 8-4-2013. Reserved by Herbert Wolf. Inside of refrig was a mess when we arrived.
- 229) More mulch on trails.
- 230) Keep up the good work!
- 231) Thanks for all you do to give us great places to visit and facilities to use
- 232) Am very upset about the condition of the Schoen Laufen Park! First time I have seen such unique trees. I want to see this park cleaned up & the trees saved. The debris on the ground is terrible
- 233) What about some parks in the NW section of the County. Some very nice lowlands located there.
- 234) There needs to be more pet friendly parks. We enjoy taking our dog, but some just don’t allow or are not pet friendly. The one dog park in Hartford is too small seems like no one picks up after their dogs and so many of the dogs should not be socialized, they are vicious. The one dog park in West Bend is very big, with trails, wooded areas have benches on teak, w/ bowls for water, it’s very pet friendly; Our grandchildren enjoy going to the parks with us. But to keep them interested in the outdoors and away from all their electronics is somewhat difficult at times. Play equipment (and well maintained) is fun for them for awhile, hiking on the trails is good, but maybe have names of trees, plants, etc., would be very educational which they would enjoy. Or something fun along the trails would keep them out there longer and they would want to come

back. Thank you for listening to the people and for all the enjoyment we have received over the years visiting these great parks.

Attachment 7 – Q17

How Respondents Heard About the Survey

Q17 – How did you hear about this survey? (check all that apply)

Written responses are listed as they were submitted.

- 1) Picking up recycling info
- 2) At the parks information board.
- 3) Business Card left at Ackerman, by entrance to soccer fields
- 4) Facebook
- 5) Soccer club
- 6) Germantown Soccer club
- 7) I took a small survey card home that I found on the Eisenbaum Trail.
- 8) Thru are soccer club WCFC
- 9) soccer club email
- 10) Germantown Soccer Club newsletter
- 11) Germantown Soccer Club
- 12) WCFC website
- 13) G.E.A.R.S. - Glacial Edge Area Riding Society Facebook page
- 14) WCFC soccer
- 15) Trenton website
- 16) Washington County FC web site
- 17) Soccer meeting
- 18) WCFC Soccer club
- 19) From Washington County Soccer Club
- 20) WCFC website
- 21) Washington County Football Club website
- 22) Via Washington County Soccer Club
- 23) WCFC
- 24) WCFC member
- 25) WCFC
- 26) WCFC informational email.
- 27) Geocaching mega event.
- 28) Cash bash
- 29) from the athletic dept. of our high school (email)
- 30) Kin Krest saddle club website
- 31) Washington County web site directed me here
- 32) walking at Homestead Hollow
- 33) Brochure along trail
- 34) Town of Trenton Website
- 35) Bridge on the Eisenbahn had info.
- 36) found the business card, on the Eisenbahn Trail (near Vine St) in a clear plastic box, on a post.
- 37) Posting at county park.
- 38) employer made me aware
- 39) Please contact me for more info and/or volunteer help and facilitation of a dog park/area in Glacier Park, if it can be considered. I live across the street and would be very happy to help out, volunteer and provide input. Thanks! Mari Rao (*Contact information deleted.*)
- 40) Express

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- 41) saw it on the website
- 42) *left blank*
- 43) cards placed at the Eisenbahn Trail near Hwy. 33 next to signage. I commute to work on the trail.
- 44) Survey Business size card on Eisenbahn Trail
- 45) received it in the mail after renting one of the county park facilities
- 46) I am County supervisor John Bulawa
- 47) Postcard in the mail
- 48) Germantown Chamber of Commerce
- 49) On the Eisenbaum bike trail
- 50) Mail received from the Planning & Parks Dept.
- 51) West Bend bike trail by E. Paradise Dr.
- 52) On the Eisenbahn Trail it was in the holder
- 53) On bridge of Eisenbahn Trail - saw while I was biking
- 54) Through work (Burt Newberg)
- 55) I work for the Cty
- 56) Received in mail
- 57) The Eisenbahn Trail

Survey Instrument

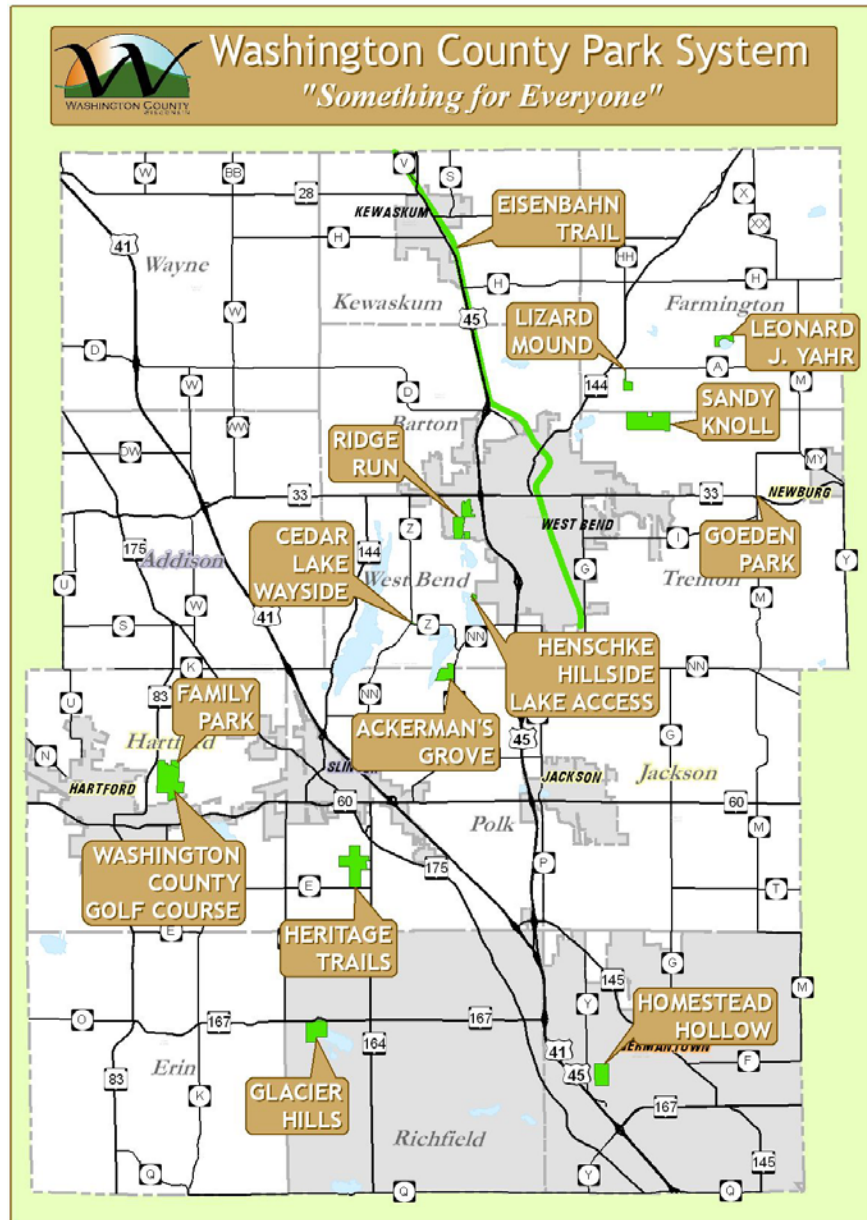
Washington County Park System Survey



The Washington County Park System includes 12 parks with amenities (Ackerman's Grove, Cedar Lake Wayside, Family Park, Glacier Hills, Goeden, Henschke Hillside Lake Access, Heritage Trails, Homestead Hollow, Leonard J. Yahr, Lizard Mound, Ridge Run, and Sandy Knoll), the Washington County Golf Course, and the Eisenbahn State Trail.

Your opinion is important to the future of the County Park System! The Washington County Planning and Parks Department is conducting this survey to help determine future funding priorities for improvements to the Washington County Park System. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

By completing this survey, you are welcome to participate in a drawing to win one of seven prizes. Drawing will take place in November 2013.



1. By proceeding with this survey, you are indicating that:

- You voluntarily agree to participate
- You are at least 18 years of age
- You agree to submit only one survey

2. Indicate the frequency in which you and/or your children visited the County Park System in the past year. (check all that apply)

	0 visits	1-5 visits	6-10 visits	>10 visits
Ackerman's Grove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cedar Lake Wayside	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eisenbahn State Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glacier Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goeden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henschke Hillside Lake Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homestead Hollow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leonard J. Yahr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lizard Mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ridge Run	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandy Knoll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington County Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Indicate the activities you and/or your children participate in when you visit the County Park System. (check all that apply)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological study | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic events (examples: cross country meet, organized soccer games) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing on playgrounds/playfields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxation/stress relief |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (trailer)ed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote control activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (carry-in/canoe) | <input type="checkbox"/> School group visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable fundraisers | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter rental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross country skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding/rollerblading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking/pet exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding/tubing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family gathering | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing – ice | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing – open water | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golfing | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Using fitness equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/running/jogging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kite flying | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Wacky 4-H – summer youth camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch/work break | <input type="checkbox"/> Work-related function |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature viewing/study | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify): | |

**4. What additional recreational activities/amenities would you like to see in the County Park System?
(check all that apply)**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional benches along trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional bike trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional outdoor fitness equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature playgrounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional trail markers | <input type="checkbox"/> Paved / ADA accessible trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery ranges | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet waste stations along Eisenbahn Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf courses | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler playgrounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational sessions for school groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail signage displaying slopes, distances
and trail surfacing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groomed cross country ski trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Water trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse trails | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved ice skating areas | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lookout towers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify): | |

5. Do you think the County should invest in additional countywide trails similar to the Eisenbahn State Trail?

- Yes (if you select "Yes", proceed to Question 6)
 No (if you select "No", skip Questions 6-8)

6. Should new trails connect cities and villages throughout the County?

- Yes
 No

7. Should new trails connect major existing parks and trails throughout the County?

- Yes
 No

8. Should new trails connect to existing trails in adjacent counties?

- Yes
 No

Currently, the Washington County Park System provides flush restrooms with running water at Ridge Run, Homestead Hollow, Ackerman's Grove, the north side of Sandy Knoll, Glacier Hills, Henschke Hillside Lake Access and Leonard J. Yahr County Parks. Porta potties with no running water are available at Heritage Trails, Lizard Mound, Goeden, Cedar Lake Wayside, Family Park and the south side of Sandy Knoll.

For the County to build a flush restroom with running water, including the building, septic system, well, and site work, it costs approximately \$155,000 for a small flush restroom (1 stall each side) and about \$200,000 for a large flush restroom (6 stalls each side). Flush restroom construction is funded through the 1/2% County Sales Tax (not property tax). It costs approximately \$876 to rent and service one porta potty (no running water) for one year. The following question relates to access to flush restrooms with running water in the Washington County Parks System.

9. Does having a heated flush restroom with running water impact your decision on which park you visit? (check one response)

- No impact on which park I visit
- I prefer to visit a park with a flush restroom

10. How important to you is having access to a heated flush restroom with running water during your visit to a county park? (check one response)

- Not important
- Somewhat important
- Very important

11. If Washington County were to construct one or more new heated flush restroom(s) with running water to replace current porta potties, what park(s) do you think would benefit from the addition of the new flush restroom? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front part (south side) of Sandy Knoll | <input type="checkbox"/> Lizard Mound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goeden | <input type="checkbox"/> Porta potties are sufficient in these parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front part - east side (near entrance and soccer fields) of Ackerman's Grove | |

12. How important are parks and trails to your quality of life in Washington County? (check one response)

- Not important
- Somewhat important
- Very important

13. What benefits have you experienced by visiting the County Park System? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved physical health | <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoying nature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> Social interaction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family time | <input type="checkbox"/> Commuting (to work, school, shopping, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational fulfillment | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

14. What do you like most about the Washington County Park System?

15. Please indicate if any of the following factors would influence you to visit the County Park System more frequently in the future. (check all that apply)

- Washington County developing a County park or trail in closer proximity to my residence
- Adding or improving specific nature-based recreational amenities at existing County parks
- Adding or improving shelter facilities at existing County parks
- Adding or improving restroom facilities at existing County parks
- Others (please describe):

16. If you'd like to provide any other comments regarding the County Park System, please provide them here:

17. How did you hear about this survey? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Fair display | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County staff member | <input type="checkbox"/> Postcard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County website | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Signage within County park system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard copies distributed within County park system | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

18. What is the 5-digit zip code of your home address? _____

19. What is your age?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> 56-65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ |

20. What is your gender?

- Male
 Female

**Thank you for completing the Washington County Parks Survey!
Your input is extremely valuable and appreciated!**

By completing this survey you are welcome to participate in a drawing to win one of seven prizes.
See page 7 for more information.



DRAWING ENTRY

By providing contact information below, you will be entered into a drawing. **Your name and phone number are required for a valid drawing entry as winners will be contacted by phone.** Provide your email address if you'd like to receive informational emails from the Planning and Parks Department regarding projects, programs, and events.

A total of seven prizes will be awarded. Prizes include one 2-person 18-hole golf package or one of five coupons for a bucket of range balls at the Washington County Golf Course, or one \$25 gift card for Amazon.com. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 8:15 a.m. You do not have to be present to win. (Washington County Planning and Parks Department employees and Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee members are not eligible to win the drawing.)

Good luck!

Provide your contact information to be entered into the drawing (name and phone number required for a valid drawing entry):

* Name: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City/Village/Town: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Email address: _____

* Phone number: (_____) _____ * Required for valid drawing entry.

To submit your survey and drawing entry forms:

Completed survey and drawing entry forms may be mailed to or dropped off at the Washington County Planning & Parks Department office.

Washington County Planning & Parks Department

333 E. Washington St., Suite 2300

P.O. Box 2003

West Bend, WI 53095-2003

Phone: 262-335-4445

Email: webplan@co.washington.wi.us

Thank you for your time!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us.



