



2019 Park and Trail Amenity Survey

Introduction

Washington County is in the process of updating the Parks and Trails 2020-2022 Sustainability Plan and conducted an online survey to gather public opinion on existing and proposed amenities for five of the County's Priority Parks: Ackerman's Grove, Glacier Hills, Homestead Hollow, Sandy Knoll, and Leonard J. Yahr. The survey was conducted to ensure that proposed amenities identified in the Sustainability Plan truly reflect the needs and desires of Washington County residents and park users.

The online survey was conducted utilizing Survey Monkey between May 6 and May 21, 2019. An email announcing the survey was sent to over 6100 individuals and there were 781 survey respondents.

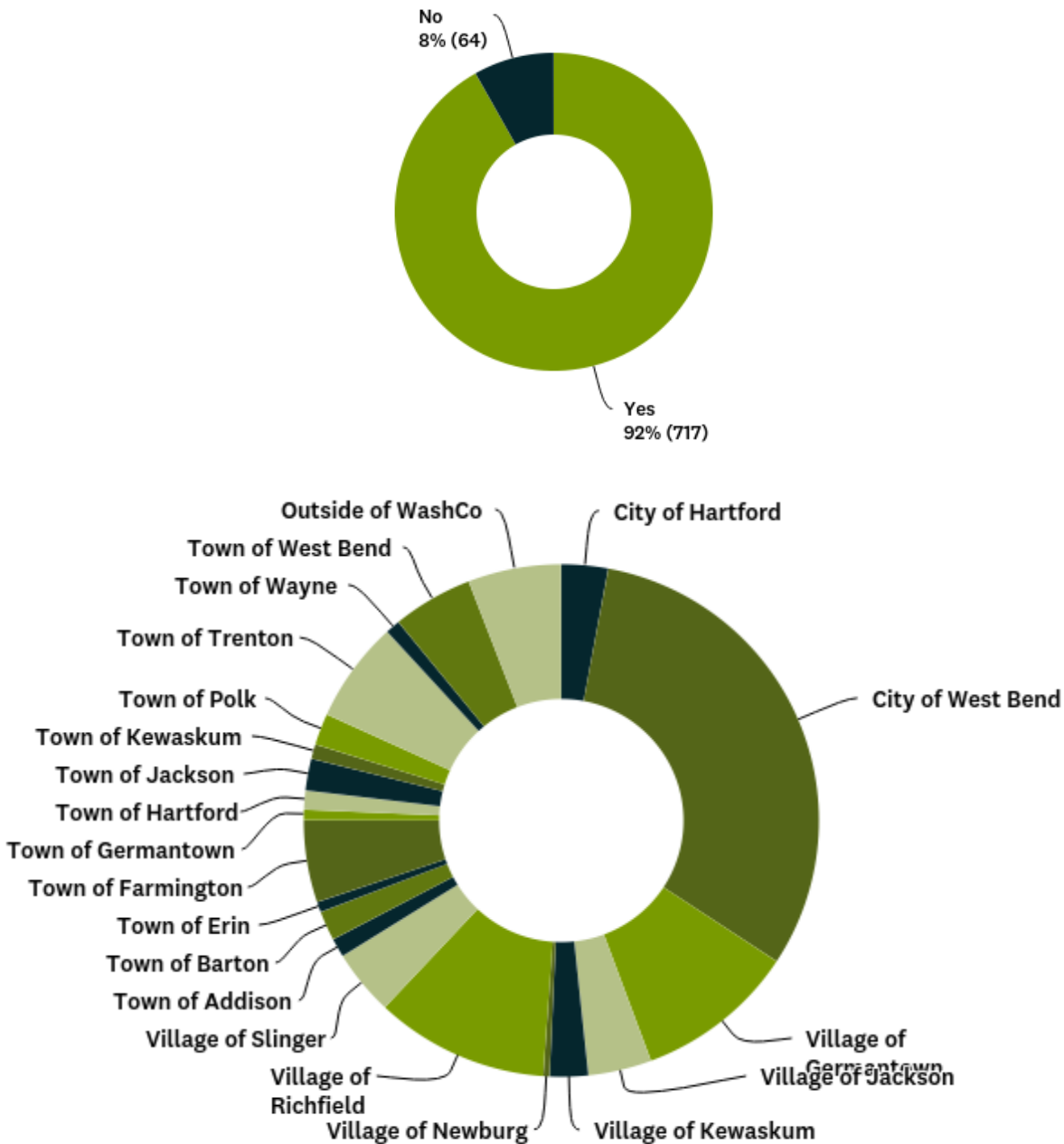
The results of the survey are summarized throughout this document.



Background Information

When asked if respondents were Washington County residents, 92% (717) indicated they were a resident of the County. The majority of the respondents reside in the City of West Bend, Village of Richfield, and the Village of Germantown. The full breakdown is as follows:

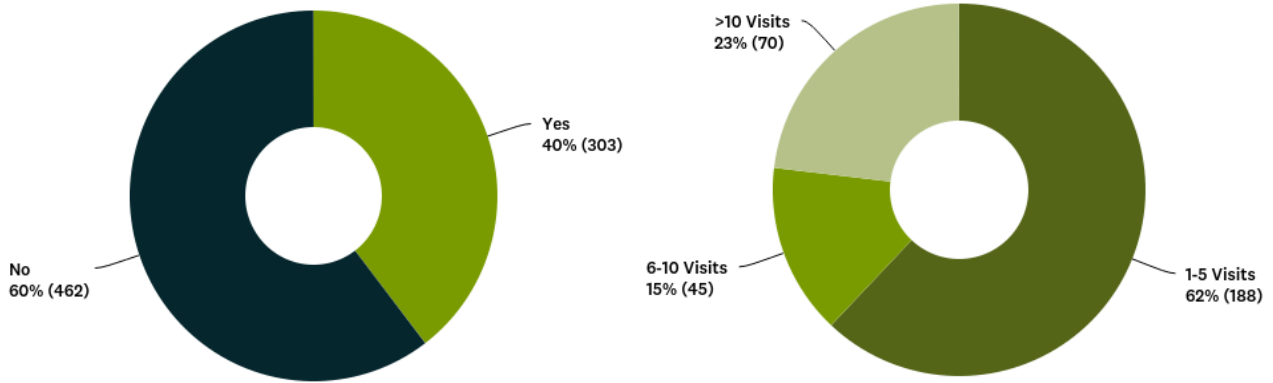
Are you a Washington County Resident? Which municipality?



Ackerman's Grove County Park

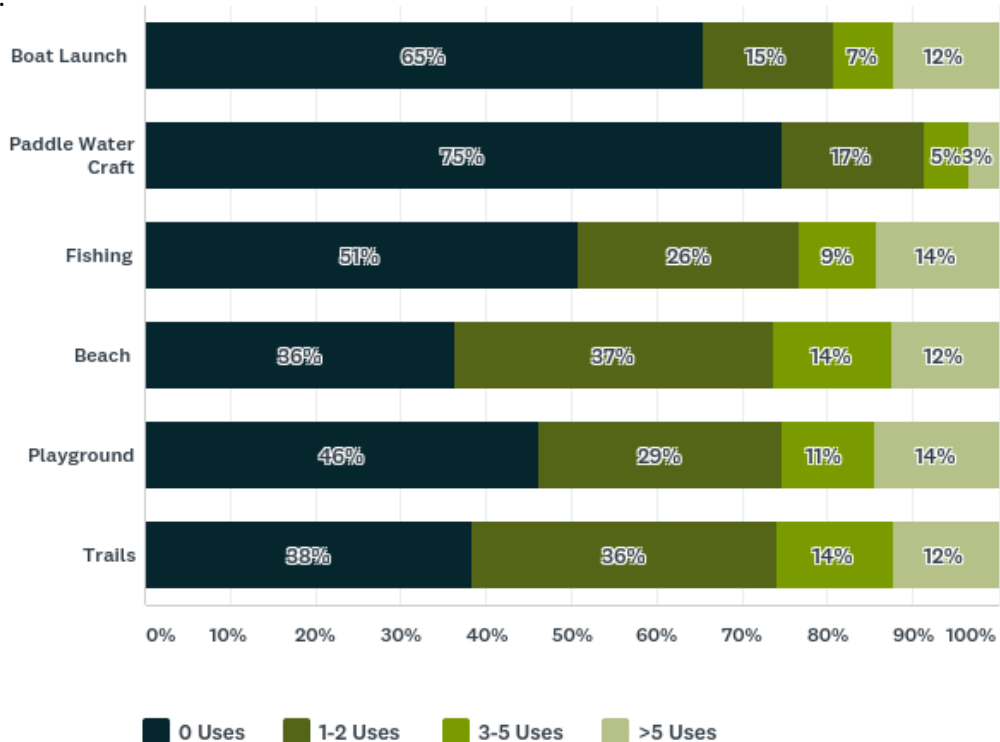
Use Frequency:

Over 300 (40%) respondents indicated they had **visited Ackerman's Grove in the past 2 years** with the majority indicating they had visited the park 1-5 times within the two-year timeframe.



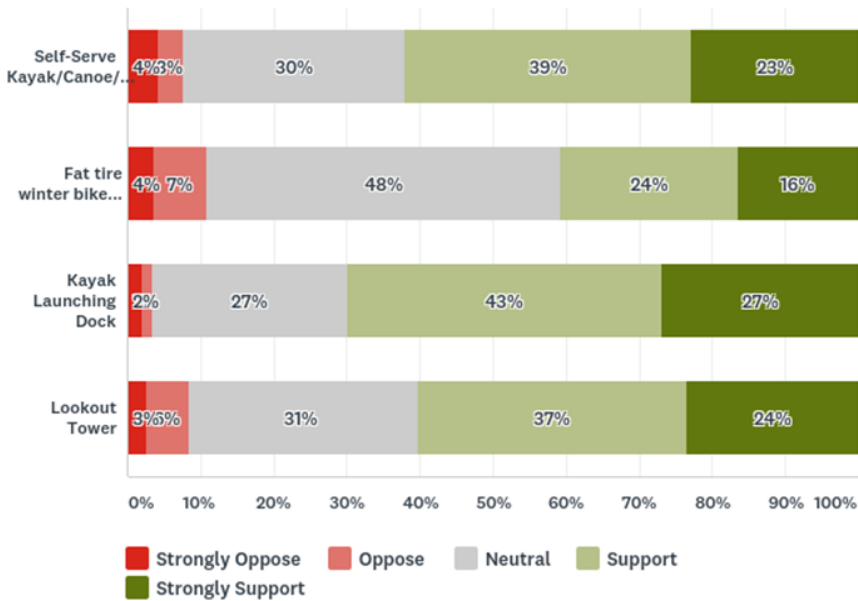
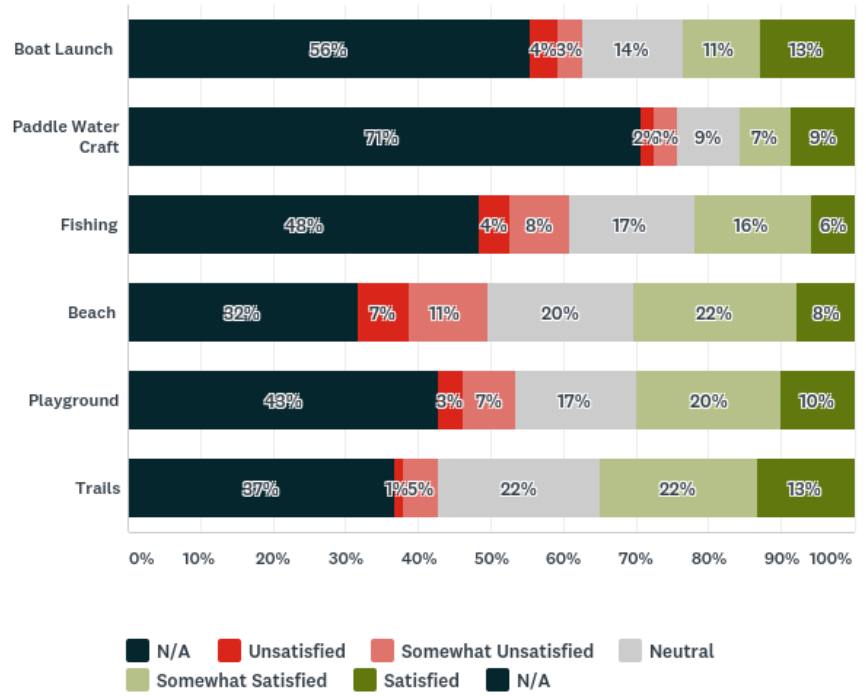
Use Frequency of Existing Amenities:

When asked to indicate the frequency in which they used existing amenities while visiting Ackerman's Grove over the past two years, respondents indicated they used the beach, trails, playground and fishing the most.



Use Satisfaction of Existing Amenities:

When asked to **rate the level of satisfaction of existing amenities while visiting Ackerman's Grove over the past 2 years**, those respondents that utilized existing amenities expressed they were more satisfied or somewhat satisfied than unsatisfied with the amenities.



Support for Potential Amenities:

When asked to **indicate the level of support for the County investing in potential amenities**, respondents supported or strongly supported a self-serve kayak/canoe rental, a kayak launching dock and a lookout tower within Ackerman's Grove.

The following common themes emerged when respondents were asked to indicate **one improvement or one new amenity that should be added to Ackerman's Grove**:

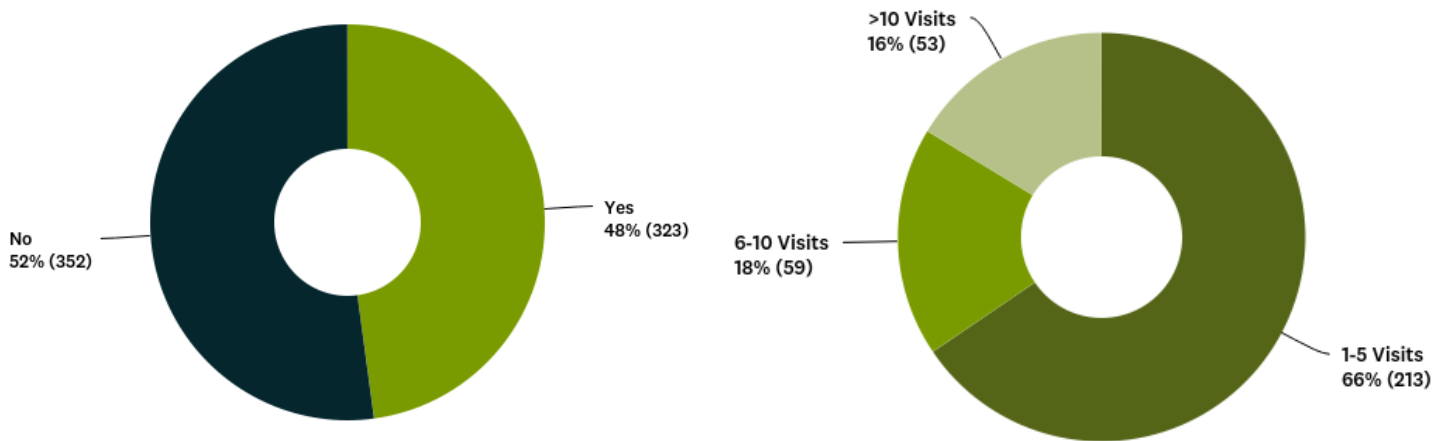
- Eliminate county park pass fee
- Add a dog park
- Improve existing trails / add more trails
- Improve boat launch
- Increase parking
- Enlarge beach area
- Provide restrooms closer to the beach
- Add a disc golf course



Glacier Hills County Park:

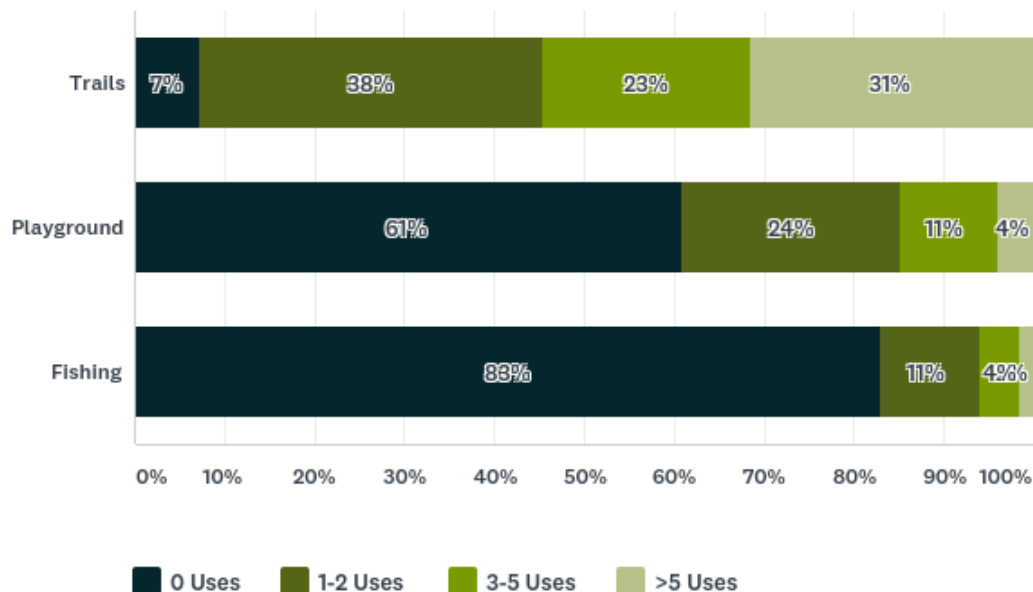
Use Frequency:

Over 320 (48%) respondents indicated they had **visited Glacier Hills in the past 2 years** with the majority indicating they had visited the park 1-5 times within the two-year timeframe.



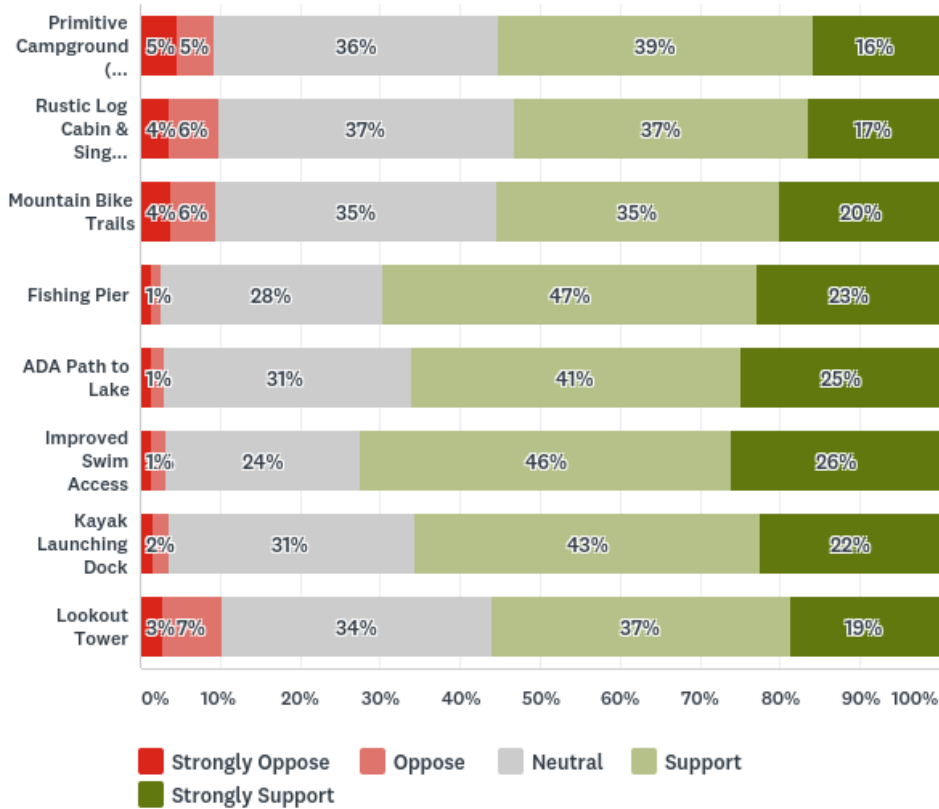
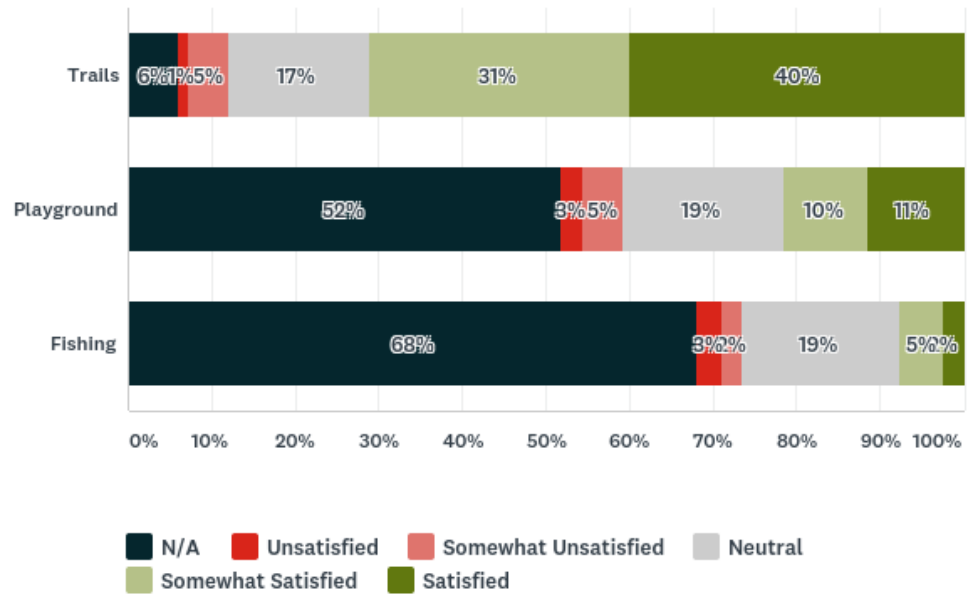
Use Frequency of Existing Amenities:

When asked to indicate the frequency in which they used existing amenities while visiting Glacier Hills over the past two years, respondents indicated they used the trails the most.



Use Satisfaction of Existing Amenities:

When asked to rate the level of satisfaction of existing amenities while visiting Glacier Hills over the past 2 years, those respondents that utilized existing amenities expressed they were more satisfied than unsatisfied with the trails.



Support for Potential Amenities:

When asked to indicate the level of support for the County investing in potential amenities, the majority of respondents supported or strongly supported all potential amenities. The potential amenities with the strongest support included a fishing pier, improved swimming access, an ADA path to the lake and a kayak launching dock.

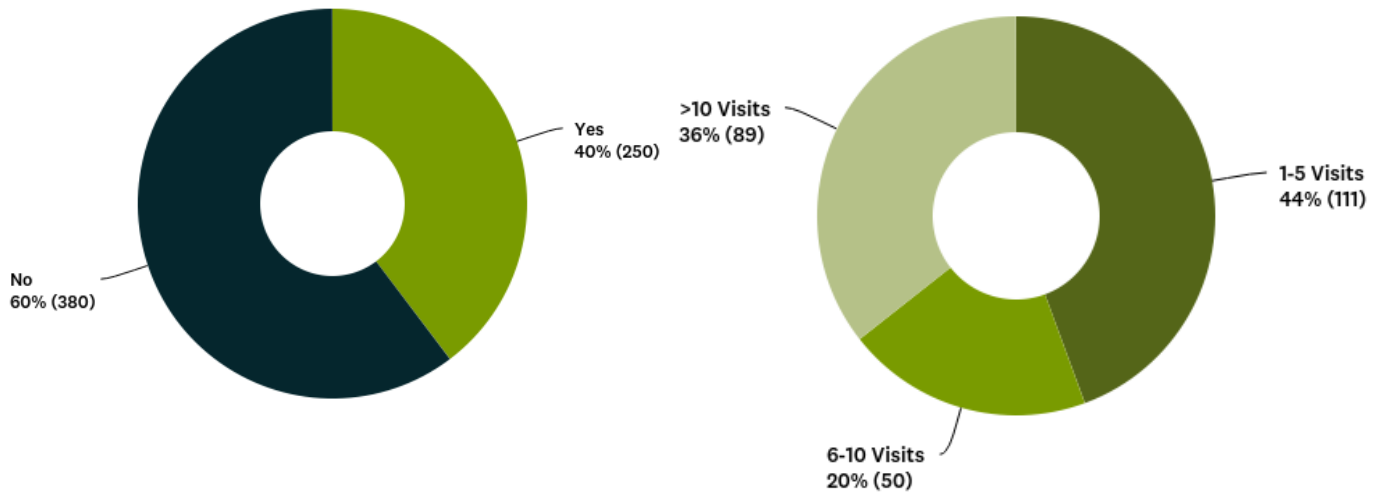
The following common themes emerged when respondents were asked to indicated **one improvement or one new amenity that should be added to Glacier Hills:**

- Eliminate county park pass fee
- Add mountain bike trails
- Add a warming shelter by the sledding hill
- Improve access to swimming area
- Add a new playground
- Add a dog park
- Add a boat launch/fishing pier

Homestead Hollow County Park:

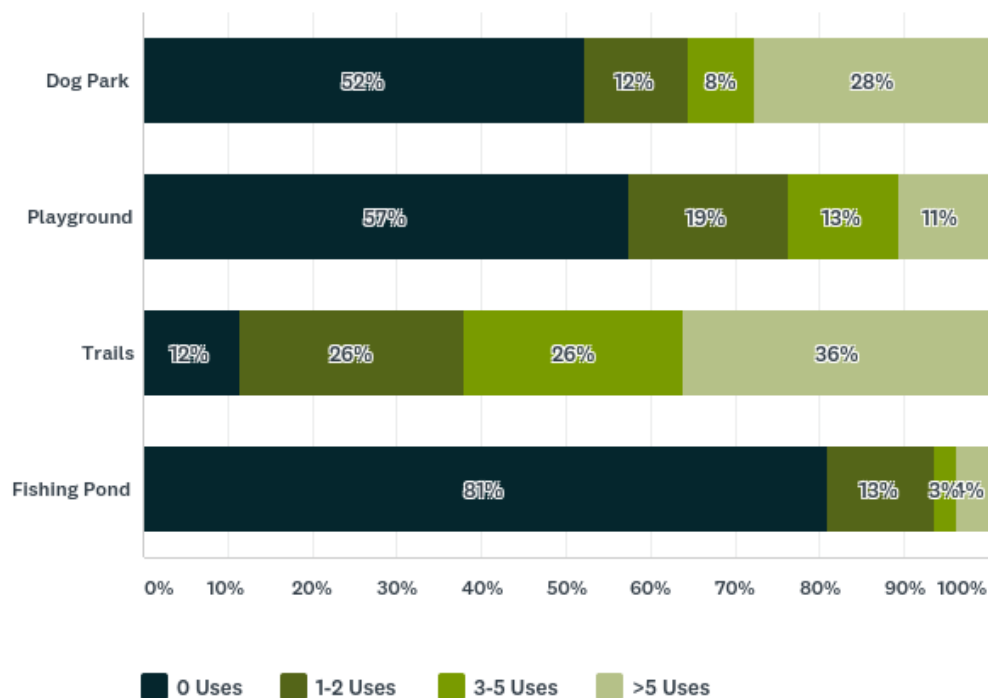
Use Frequency:

Over 200 (40%) respondents indicated they had **visited Homestead Hollow in the past 2 years** with the majority indicating they had visited the park 1-5 times within the two-year timeframe.



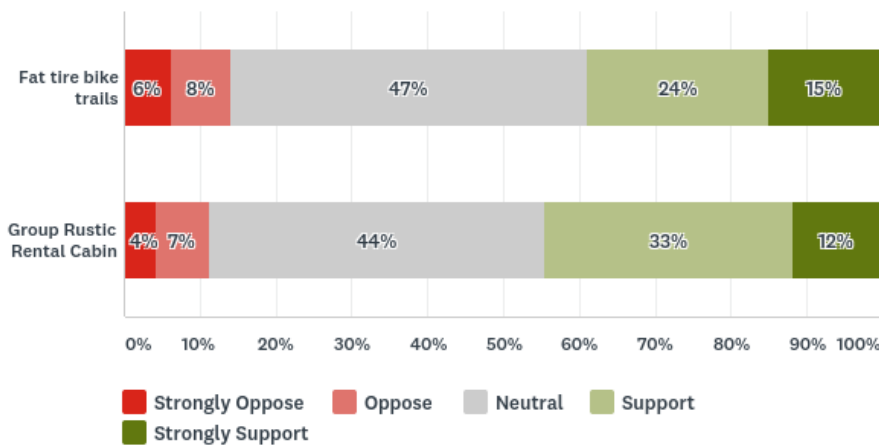
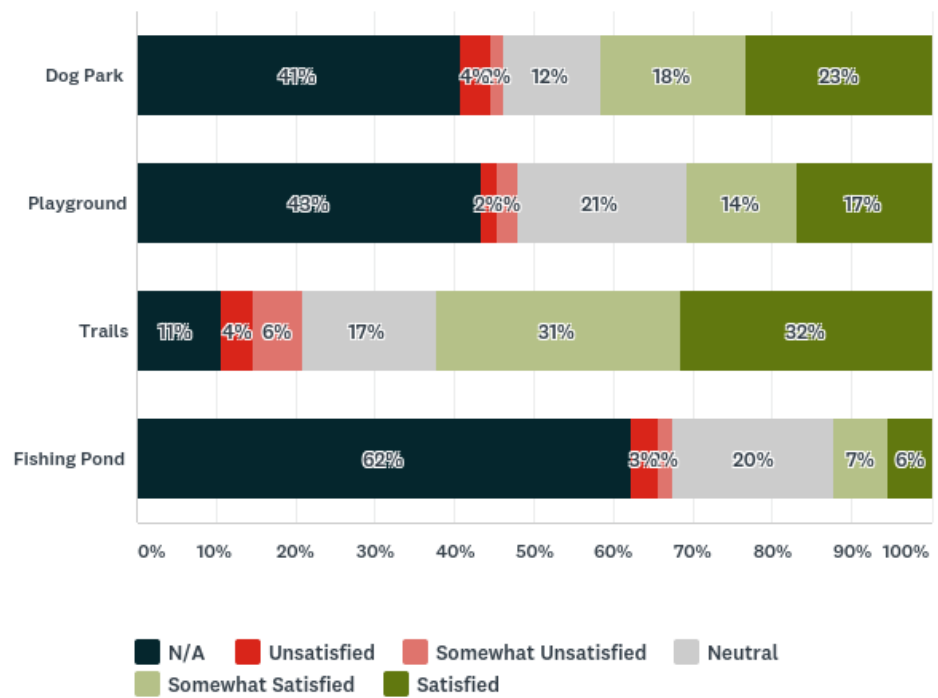
Use Frequency of Existing Amenities:

When asked to indicate the frequency in which they used existing amenities while visiting Homestead Hollow over the past two years, respondents indicated they used the trails the most.



Use Satisfaction of Existing Amenities:

When asked to **rate the level of satisfaction of existing amenities while visiting Homestead Hollow over the past 2 years**, those respondents that utilized existing amenities expressed they were more satisfied or somewhat satisfied than unsatisfied with the amenities. Respondents were most satisfied with the trails.



Support for Potential Amenities:

When asked to **indicate the level of support for the County investing in potential amenities**, 45% of respondents either supported or strongly supported a group rustic cabin rental.

The following common themes emerged when respondents were asked to indicate **one improvement or one new amenity that should be added to Homestead Hollow**:

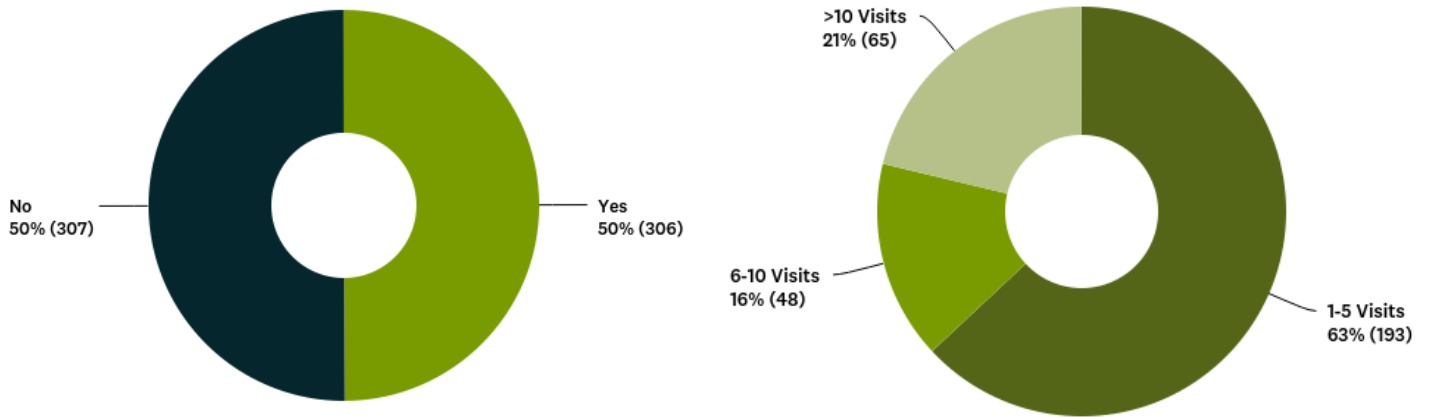
- Eliminate county park pass fee
- Improve drainage on trails
- Add more paved trails and boardwalks
- Add fat tire bike trails for winter
- Make the dog park less muddy
- Add a disc golf course
- Add more lighting



Sandy Knoll County Park:

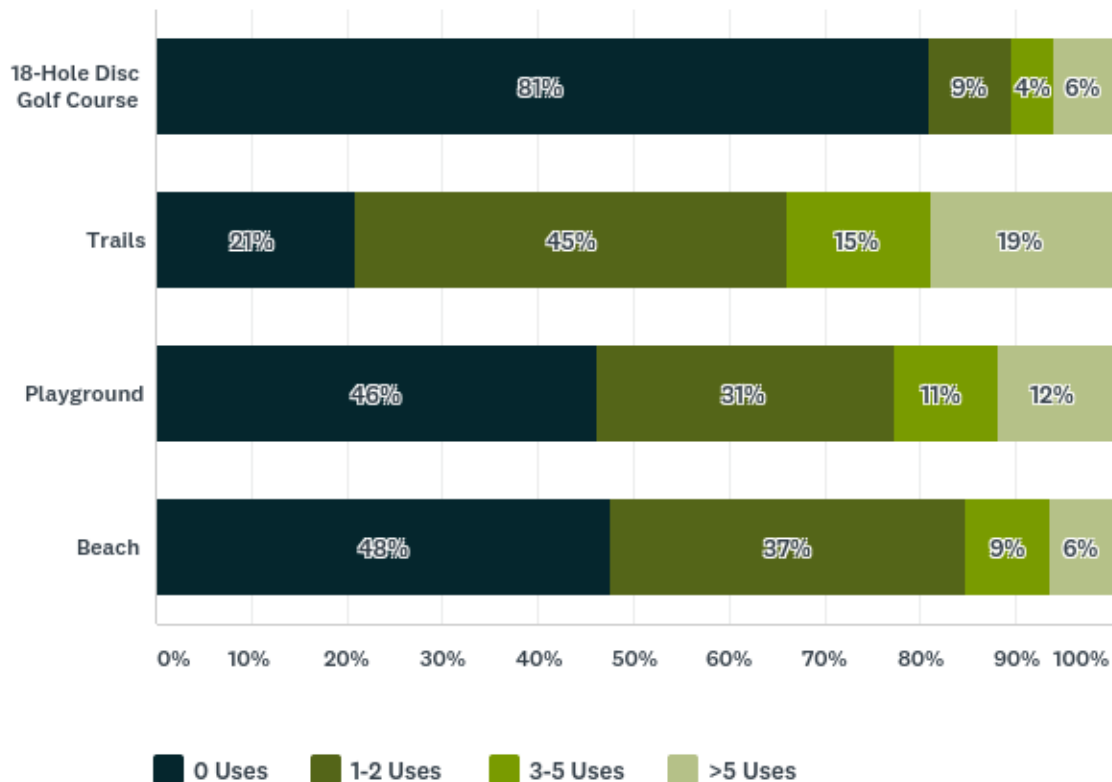
Use Frequency:

Half of respondents indicated they had **visited Sandy Knoll in the past 2 years** with the majority indicating they had visited the park 1-5 times within the two-year timeframe.



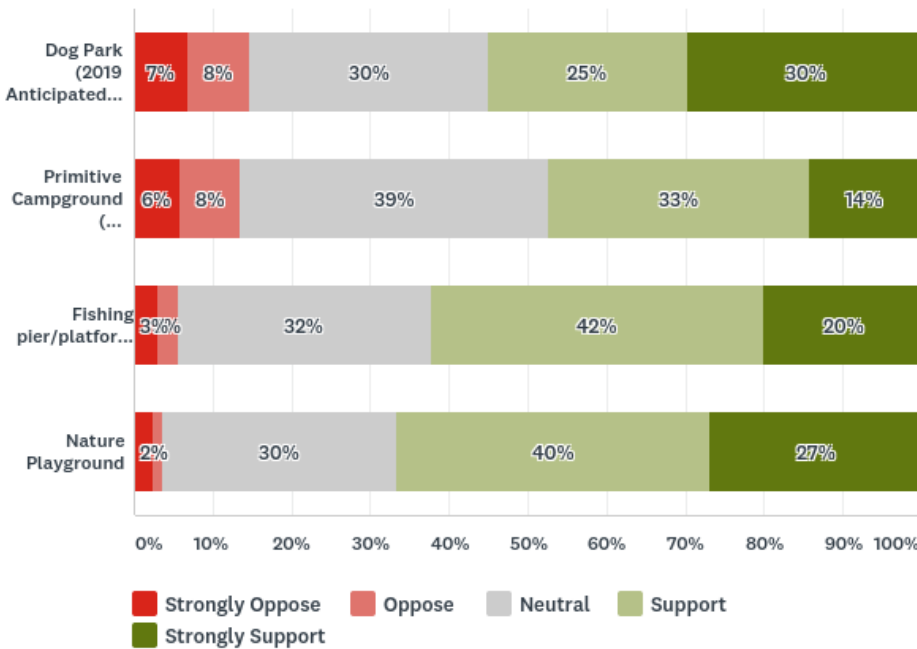
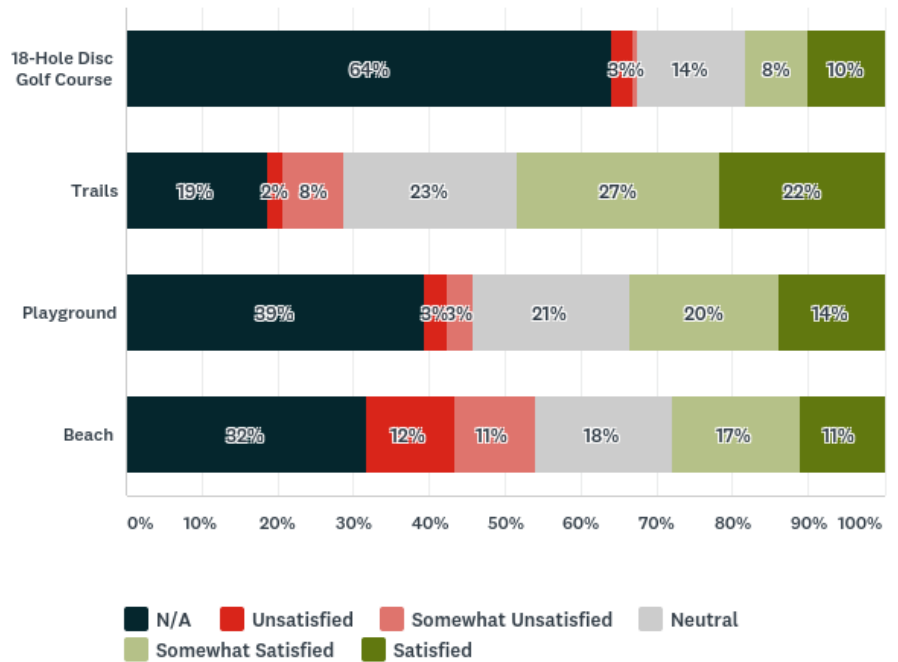
Use Frequency of Existing Amenities:

When asked to indicate the frequency in which they used existing amenities while visiting Sandy Knoll over the past two years, respondents indicated they used the trails, playground and beach the most.



Use Satisfaction of Existing Amenities:

When asked to rate the level of satisfaction of existing amenities while visiting Sandy Knoll over the past 2 years, those respondents that utilized existing amenities expressed they were most satisfied with the trails.



Support for Potential Amenities:

When asked to indicate the level of support for the County investing in the following potential amenities, the majority of respondents either supported or strongly support a dog park, fishing pier / platform and a nature playground.

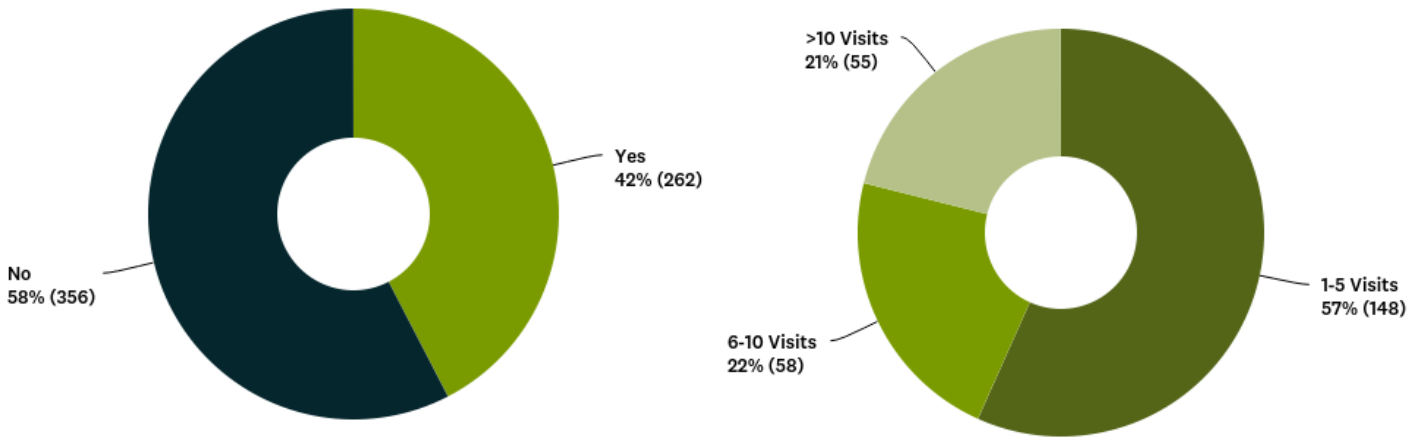
The following common themes emerged when respondents were asked to indicated **one improvement or one new amenity that should be added to Sandy Knoll**:

- Eliminate county park pass fee
- Fix the boardwalks
- Provide better trail maintenance
- Incorporate mountain bike trails
- Increased security
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Expand and clean up the swimming area
- Replace broken playground equipment
- Expand the disc gold course

Leonard J. Yahr County Park:

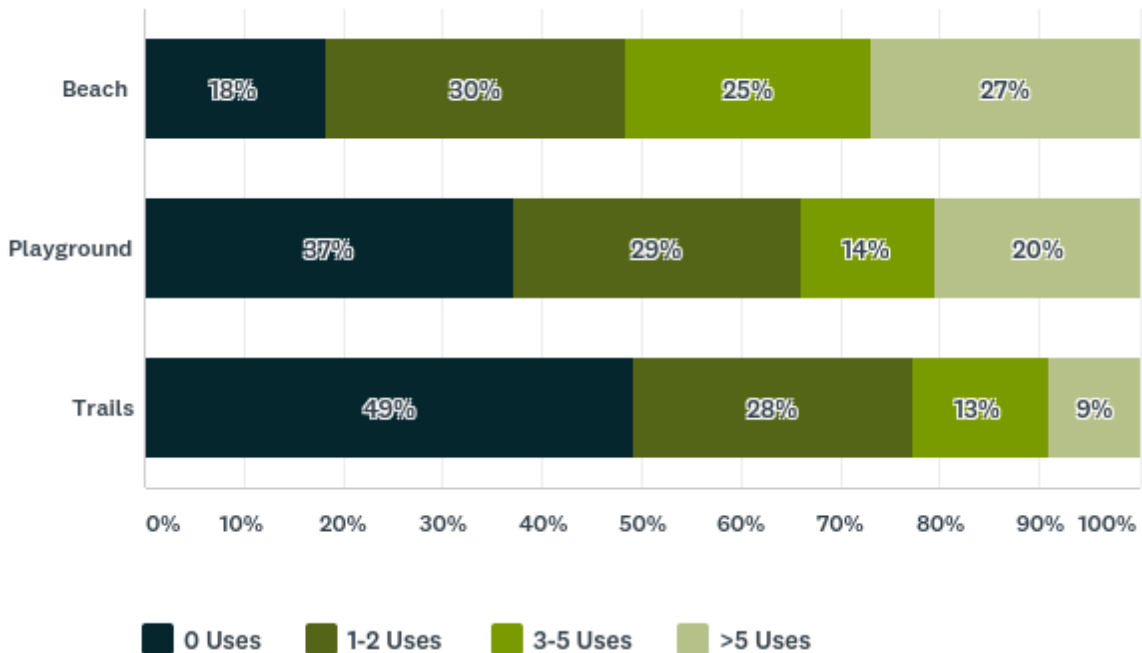
Use Frequency:

Over 260 (42%) respondents indicated they had visited Leonard J. Yahr County Park in the past 2 years with the majority indicating they had visited the park 1-5 times within the two-year timeframe.



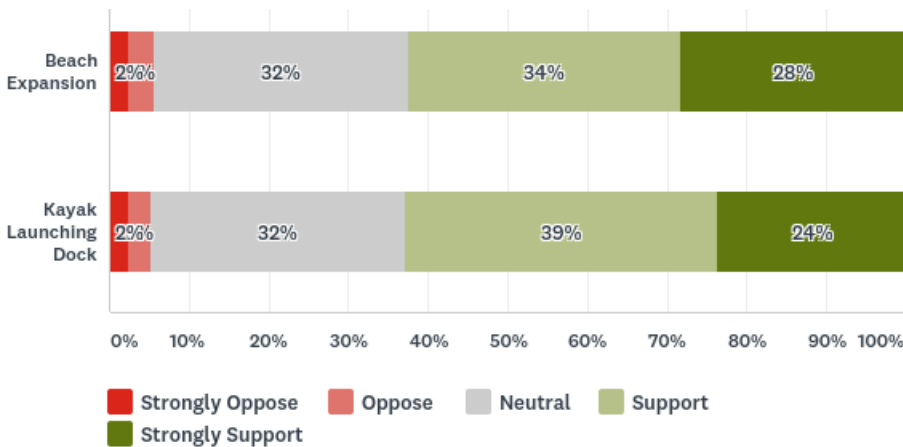
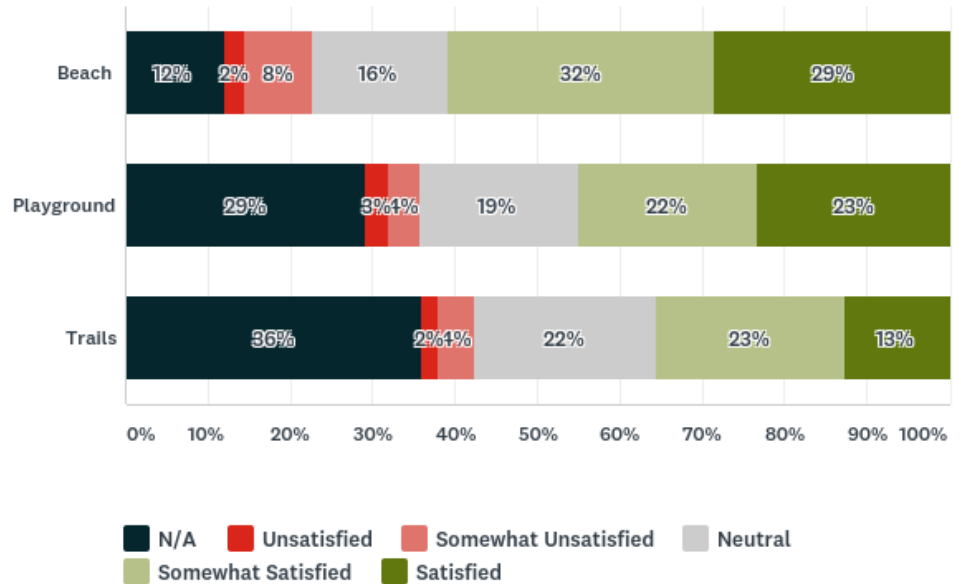
Use Frequency of Existing Amenities:

When asked to indicate the frequency in which they used existing amenities while visiting Yahr park over the past two years, respondents indicated they used the beach and playground the most.



Use Satisfaction of Existing Amenities:

When asked to **rate the level of satisfaction of existing amenities while visiting Yahr park over the past 2 years**, those respondents that utilized existing amenities expressed they were most satisfied with the beach and playground.

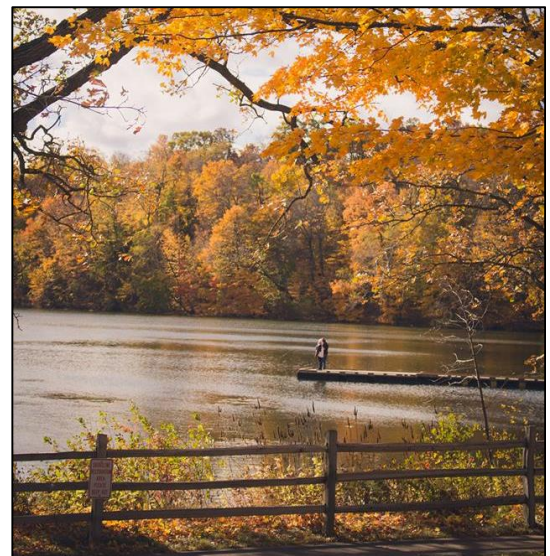


Support for Potential Amenities:

When asked to indicate the level of support for the County investing in the following potential amenities, the majority of respondents supported or strongly supported both the beach expansion and a kayak launching dock.

The following common themes emerged when respondents were asked to indicate **one improvement or one new amenity that should be added to Leonard J. Yahr County Park**:

- Eliminate county park pass fee
- Incorporate mountain bike trails
- Better separate swimming area from fishing area
- Lengthen the trail network
- Provide more parking closer to the beach
- Expand beach area
- Provide more picnic tables
- Increase security



Final Comments:

Respondents were provided an opportunity to **add any comments, concerns, or additional information about the Washington County Parks and Trails System**. Some of the common themes that emerged are as follows:

- Eliminate county park pass fee
- Improve muddy trails
- Pave walking trails
- Add bike and mountain bike trails
- Increase the number of dog parks
- Keep dogs and dog parks out of county parks
- Do not mine Heritage Trails county park
- Happy with improvements to disc golf courses
- Support for the parks system
- Appreciation for asking public opinion

“Thank you for asking the public their opinion. Parks are such a valuable part of a community and I'm happy with what is currently available and excited for future expansion ideas.”

“Love the parks. Dislike the fee.”

“I love Washington County parks. I buy an annual pass every year - something I don't even do in the county I live in!”