

Renew the Legacy... Fulfill the Vision

Renton Parks, Recreation, Open Space
and Natural Resources Plan



Community-Wide Telephone Survey

FINAL Summary

May 2011

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I. INTRODUCTION

Research Northwest LLC offers for your review the results of the community-wide survey conducted for the City of Renton, Washington. The resident survey was conducted as part of the preparation of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan. The purpose of the survey was to obtain statistically valid, community-wide input on a variety of issues related to the Plan.

The community-wide survey is one of several methods being undertaken to involve the community in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan process. Other methods include focus groups, stakeholder interviews, community workshops, and a self-administered on-line questionnaire. The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is to ensure that the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreating patterns of Renton residents.

This document is presented in seven sections and two appendices. Sections four through seven include analysis and tables for each of the survey subject areas.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary includes a review of key findings from the survey.

Methodology

The Methodology section details the methods used to design and implement the survey.

Renton's Best Feature

This section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for the following subject area:

- Feature that Makes Renton a Desirable Place to Live

Recreation Activity

The Recreation Activity and Satisfaction section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- Recreation Activity Most Often Conducted In Renton
- Recreation Activities Participation (Seven Activities)
- Frequency of Recreation Program Participation
- Program Participation Provider
- Reasons for Not Participating in Recreation Programs
- Frequency of Community Events Attendance
- Reasons for Lack of Community Events Attendance

- Satisfaction with Distribution of Recreation Opportunities

Recreation Preferences

The Recreation Preferences section presents a detailed analysis of each survey inquiry. This discussion includes analysis and graphics for each of the following subject areas:

- One New Recreation Facility Desired
- Preferred Plan for Improved Sports Fields
- Preferred Type of Park
- One New Recreation Program Desired
- Propensity to Use Proposed Recreation Opportunities
- Support for A Menu of Recreation Improvements
- Amount Willing to Pay to Support Improvements
- Level of Support for A Menu of Funding Sources

Demography

The Respondent Demography section presents the results of the following demographic questions included in the survey:

- Age Distribution of Population
- Tenure in Renton
- Ethnicity
- Household Composition
- Household Income

Appendices

Included in the Appendix to this report are two Appendices:

- The survey questionnaire
- The tabulations of the responses to the survey

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights

After a careful review of the responses to the Renton resident survey, Research Northwest LLC has gleaned the following highlights excerpted from responses provided by those respondents confirmed to reside in the City of Renton.

Renton's Best Feature The survey revealed that 16% of residents polled stated that they like the "Location" in Renton. More than one of every ten respondents (11%) reported "Close to Work" as the one feature that makes Renton desirable. An additional 10% cited a collection of recreation features that included responses such as "Parks/Recreation/Sports Facilities and Programs" (6%), "Lake Washington and Cedar River" (2%), "Open Space/Natural Resources" (1%), and "Trails to Walk, Bike, Hike, or Jog" (1%). Residents reporting "Affordable Housing" as the one feature for them comprised 7% of the responses as did those citing "Near Shopping." The response category "Close to Everything/Tukwila/Seattle/Bellevue" garnered a 6% response rate while response categories "Freeway Access" and "Quiet/Peaceful" were volunteered by 5% of those polled. Finally, 4% of residents cited "Small Town Atmosphere" and an additional 3% valued "Feeling a Part of Community." Remaining responses garnered less than a 3% response rate.

Most Frequent Activity More than one of every four members of the resident households (27%) reported their most frequent activity to be walking/hiking/jogging/running. The next most often received response category was "no activity," reported by 17% of the population surveyed in the City. Use of Playgrounds or Tot Lots was reported as the most frequent activity of 8% of resident household members. "City Park Activities," "Bicycling," and "Swimming in a Pool," were activities most conducted by 4% of the surveyed population in the City. "Basketball" was volunteered by 3% of Renton household members.

Reasons for Inactivity The survey found that 27% of those who reported no recreation activity in the prior inquiry stated the reason was "No Time." An additional 22% of those not recreating expressed the reason "Do Not Need to Use Facilities/Not of Interest." Moreover, 18% of City residents who had not recreated in the past year volunteered the reason "Age." Health-related reasons were cited by 8% of residents polled while 4% stated that they "Don't Know What is Available." "Financial Reasons" were identified by 3% of the respondents.

Recreation Activities The tested activities cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Renton residents surveyed were “Use of Trails for Walking/Jogging/Running/Hiking/Bicycling/etc.” (75%), “Swim in Public Pools” (32%), “Use of Softball/Baseball/Soccer Fields for Youth League Games” (18%), “Use of Dog Park Facilities” (17%), “Use of Softball/Baseball/Soccer Fields for Adult League Games” (14%), “Use of Non-Motorized Boating Facilities” (12%), and “Use of Skate Park Facilities” (11%).

Programs Use The survey found that 12% of the resident respondents described their household as a “Frequent User” of recreation programs (patrons of programs at least three times per month.) One of every four residents (25%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons of programs at least two to twenty-four times annually) of recreation programs during the past year.) The remainder (66%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of programs once per year and non-users.)

Program Provider More than half (58%) of residents polled who reported participating in recreation programs stated they had signed up for those programs most often with the City of Renton. The remaining program users (42%) stated they had signed up for their programs most often with someone other than the City of Renton.

Reason for Lack of Use The survey revealed that 32% of those who reported no recreation program use in the Program Use inquiry stated the reason was “No Time/Too Busy.” An additional 18% expressed the reason “Do Not Need to Use Programs/Not of Interest.” Moreover, 11% of City residents stated that they “Don’t Know What is Available.” “Age Reasons” and “Not Convenient Timing” were each volunteered by 9% of non-users of programs. Health-related reasons were cited by an additional 6% of residents polled. “Specific Programs I Want Are Not Available” was volunteered by 5% of residents polled who reported no program use. “Financial Reasons” and “Programs not Conveniently Located” were each identified by 4% of the respondents. The remaining responses each received less than 3% of the total responses.

Events Participation Less than one in ten residents (8%) reported attending Renton community events “Frequently” in the past year (patrons of events at least three times per month.) Four of every ten residents (40%) attended Renton community events with “Moderate” frequency (users of events at least two to twenty-four times annually). The remainder (52%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (community events attendees once per year and non-users). It is important to note that many of Renton’s special events are one-day and held only once per year.

Reason for Lack of Use The survey revealed that 30% of those who reported no attendance at community events in the prior inquiry stated the reason was “No Time.” An additional 18% expressed the reason “Do Not Need to Attend/Not of Interest.” Moreover, 11% of City residents stated that they are “Not Aware of What is Available.” “Age” and “Not Convenient Timing” were each volunteered by 9% of those who had attended no community events. Health-related reasons were cited by an additional 5% of residents polled. “Poor Parking,” “Limited Mobility,” and “Programs not Conveniently Located” were each identified by 3% of the respondents. The remaining responses each received less than 3% of the total responses.

Recreation Satisfaction Over one of every three households (35%) stated they are “Very Satisfied” with the geographic distribution of recreation opportunities in the City and an additional 53% stated they are “Somewhat Satisfied.” Together, the total of these two positive ratings is 88%. In contrast, 9% of residents stated they are “Not Very Satisfied” and 3% reportedly are “Not At All Satisfied.”

One Desired Facility When asked for their one desired recreation facility, 26% of City residents polled stated they seek no additional recreation facility while the remaining 74% of respondents offered a suggested facility type. The top eleven recreation facilities most desired by Renton residents surveyed were “Trails for Walking/Jogging/Running” (8%), “Trails for Bicycling” (7%), “Indoor Swimming Pool for Recreation” (5%), “Tot Lots/Playgrounds” (3%), “Dog Park” (3%), “Soccer Fields” (3%), “Outdoor Swimming Pool for Recreation” (2%), “Community Center” (2%), “Indoor Basketball Courts” (2%), “Indoor Swimming Pool (unspecified use)” (2%), and “Tennis Courts” (2%).

Preferred Fields Plan Nearly three of every four resident households polled (73%) stated they prefer to “improve the sports fields that are now distributed across the City.” An additional 18% preferred the plan to “build new sports fields located at one City sports complex.” The remaining residents, 9%, volunteered the response that they have no preference.

Preferred Type of Park The Community Park description was best suited to the needs of 44% of residents polled while the Neighborhood Park type was best suited to the needs of 40% of residents. The Mini-Parks type was selected as best suiting the needs of 9% of households. The remaining residents, 7%, volunteered the response that they have no preference.

One Desired Program When asked for their one desired recreation program, 22% of City residents polled stated they seek no additional recreation programs while the remaining 78% of respondents offered a suggested program type. The top seven recreation programs most often volunteered included “Aerobics, Spinning, or Fitness” (6%), “Arts or Crafts” (5%), “Community Events” (4%), “Swimming Lessons” (3%), “Yoga, Meditation, or Stress Relief” (3%), “Baseball or Softball” (3%), “Martial Arts” (3%). Remaining responses accrued less than 3% of the total responses.

New Opportunities The tested improvement garnering the largest share of supportive responses (91%) is “Improving Existing Facilities.” Approximately eight of every ten resident households cited support for “Creating a connected trails system” (81%) as well as for “Providing recreation access to natural areas in Renton that are currently inaccessible” (80%). “Acquiring new land for parks, recreation, open space or natural resources” was supported by 74% of residents surveyed while “Developing a unique new facility such as an environmental education center” posted the least positive support at 63%.

Financial Support The survey found that 17% of residents polled stated they would pay nothing for system improvements. The tested dollar range receiving the largest number of responses (34%) was the \$1.00 to \$5.00 monthly amount, followed by 28% support for the range of \$6 to \$10 monthly, 10% support for a monthly range of \$11 to \$15, 5% support at \$16 to \$20 and 4% at \$21 to \$25. The average amount residents were willing to pay was calculated at \$7.50.

Funding Sources The level of support for each of the three tested funding approaches was nearly equal, at three of every four residents polled.

III. METHODOLOGY

Purpose of the Survey Research Northwest LLC was retained to design and implement a community-wide telephone survey among households living in the City of Renton to assess resident attitudes and opinions relevant to the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan. The subject areas of interest within the resident telephone survey included:

- Feature that Makes Renton a Desirable Place to Live
- Recreation Activity Most Often Conducted In Renton
- Recreation Activities Participation (Seven Activities)
- Frequency of Recreation Program Participation
- Reasons for Lack of Recreation Program Participation
- Program Participation Provider
- Satisfaction with Distribution of Recreation Opportunities
- One New Recreation Facility Desired
- Preferred Plan for Improved Sports Fields
- Preferred Type of Park
- One New Recreation Program Desired
- Frequency of Community Events Attendance
- Reason for Lack of Community Events Attendance
- Propensity to Use Proposed Recreation Opportunities
- Level of Support for A Menu of Recreation Improvements
- Amount Willing to Pay to Support Improvements
- Level of Support for A Menu of Funding Sources
- Age Distribution of Population
- Tenure in Renton
- Ethnicity
- Household Composition
- Household Income

Sample Design A total of 509 interviews were completed with adult household heads who reported living in the City of Renton. Of this total, 87% of the respondents were reached via land line and 13% were reached on their cell phones. These respondents were contacted primarily through the use of a random digit dial sample with additional sample provided for cell phone users. When contact was made with a respondent, the interviewer confirmed eligibility for participation in the survey with a question confirming that their home was located within the City of Renton.

Since the City had advised that addresses existed with a Renton mailing address that were not within the boundaries of the City, during the course of the interviews, the address for each respondent was requested. Addresses received were submitted to the City for comparison with a database of known City addresses to determine those respondents who lived

within the boundaries of the City. The City review of addresses also identified in which of three geographic subareas each City address was located (map of subareas on next page). This process determined that 375 of the 509 interviews were addresses located within City boundaries. During this analysis, these 375 respondents will be referred to as residents and all others will be identified as non-residents.

These twelve-minute interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers during the April and May 2011 fielding of the resident telephone survey using direct-entry computer technology. Skilled supervisors of the field organization edited all interviews conducted and 10% were validated for accuracy. Recognizing the diversity of Renton residents and in an effort to be inclusive, the interviewers were prepared to complete the survey in three languages: English, Vietnamese, and Spanish. While many additional languages are spoken by residents of Renton, these three are reported as the largest first language groups in the Renton School District.

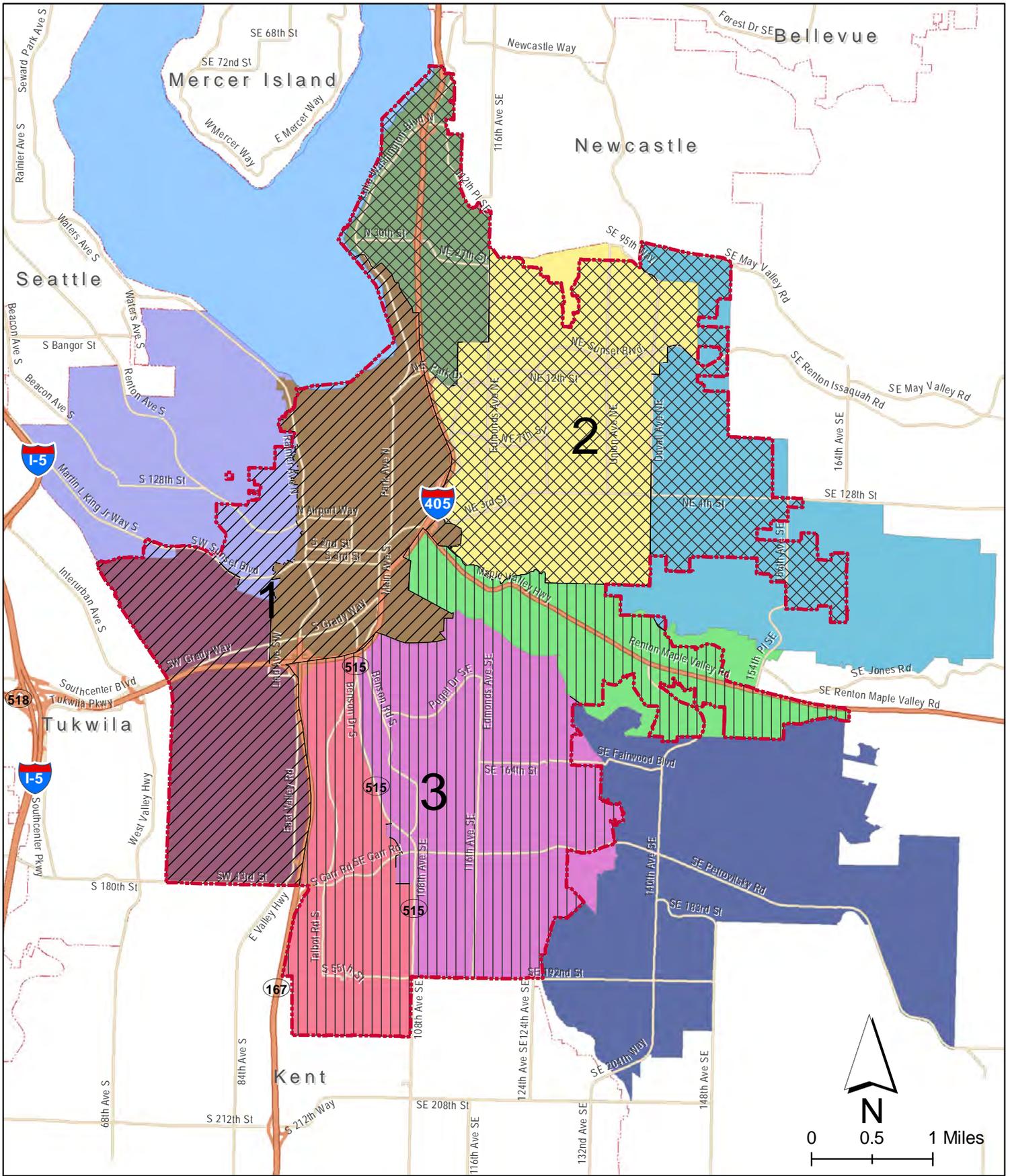
Margin of Error

A random sample survey is designed to interview a fraction of the households in a community with the desired outcome being that this survey group represents the opinions of those who were not surveyed. Such a random sample may, however, produce results that differ from those responses that would have been received if all households were interviewed. These differences are primarily generated as a result of what is known as "sample error." The degree of sample error is primarily determined by:

- The total number of completed interviews
- The number of possible responses to each question
- The distribution of responses to each question

The sample error for a sample size of 375 ranges from $\pm 2.2\%$ (for a question with two response categories, distributed 5%/95%) to $\pm 5.0\%$ (for a question with two response categories, distributed 50%/50%) at the 95% confidence level. This means that if we were to survey every household in the City of Renton, we are confident that, 95% of the time, the results for a question (with two potential responses and a 50%/50% response distribution) would differ by less than 5.0 percentage points from the results derived from this sample.

The margin of error accrues to produce an answer range. For example, if a question derives a "blue" response from 50% of those asked the question, a random sample assumes that, 95% of the time, the actual percent of the entire population



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 May 13, 2011

Community & Economic Development

Alex Pietsch, Administrator

Adriana Abramovich, Planning Technician II

Community - Wide Telephone Survey Subareas

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| City Limits | Fairwood | Survey Subarea 1 |
| Community Planning Areas | Highlands | Survey Subarea 2 |
| Benson | Kenndale | Survey Subarea 3 |
| Cedar River | Talbot | |
| City Center | Valley | |
| East Plateau | West Hill | |



from which the sample is taken who would respond “blue” is between 45.0% and 55.0%.

It should be kept in mind that the margin of error may increase when subgroups of the full sample are being considered. This becomes important when comparing data for population subgroups based on categories such as sub-area, age, presence of children, or income. For example, the 95% confidence interval for a subgroup of 100 respondents yields an error range from $\pm 4.4\%$ to $\pm 10\%$.

Data from the survey have been tabulated based on 61 different variables or sub-groups of the 375 households polled. The intent of this “cross-tabulation” is to examine response rates to determine if the answers received varied for any sub-group. However, the number of households represented in each sub-group, as stated in the prior paragraph, impacts the error range for the response data. In conducting our analysis, we have reviewed the responses to all survey inquiries cross tabulated by the 61 sub-groups or variables by examining those tables included in the Appendix. Our examination identified those responses by sub-group that differed from the City-wide responses by more than the error range of the sub-group. For instance, in examining a sub-group that contains 100 respondents, subgroups are only highlighted in our analysis when we determined that the response rate differed by more than 10%, the error range on the sub-group.

Questionnaire Design

The objectives of the design of the questionnaire not only accommodated those subject areas discussed previously. The questionnaire design also included question wording and question order or rotation to mitigate bias in the inquiries. For example, the order of questions in a series can influence the responses given. To mitigate this, the order or position of such questions in a series was rotated.

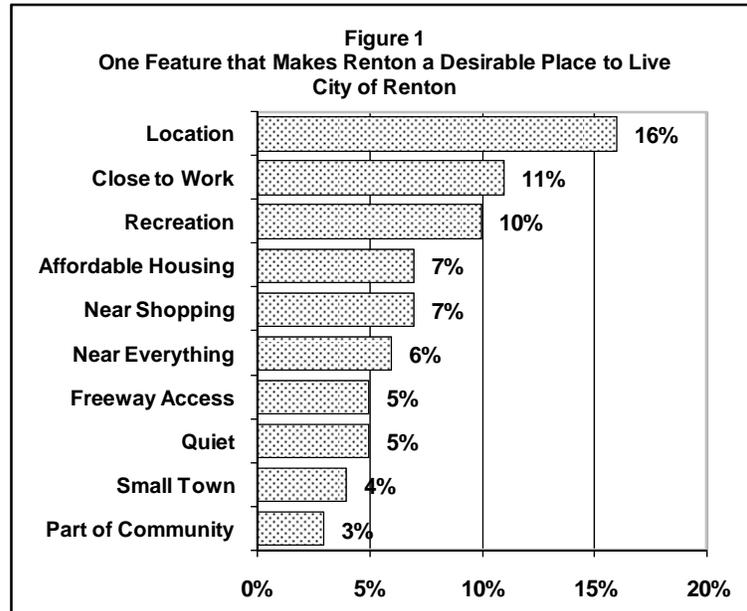
All responses collected during the interviews were computer-processed and tabulations between question answers and selected subgroups were made. These tabulations are included in the Appendix to this report.

Within the following analysis, the responses to each question by the sample of confirmed residents will be discussed and presented. In addition, the analysis will provide insight into those subgroups of the resident sample that provided responses that differed significantly. Only those subgroups with response differences that are deemed statistically significant will be highlighted.

IV. RENTON'S BEST FEATURE

ONE FEATURE THAT MAKES RENTON DESIRABLE (Appendix Table 10)

To develop an understanding of the characteristics that residents value in the City of Renton, residents were asked to volunteer what one feature makes the City of Renton a desirable place to live. This question was open-ended; no prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 1.



As Figure 1 reveals, 16% of residents polled stated that they like the “Location” in Renton. More than one of every ten respondents (11%) reported “Close to Work” as the one feature that makes Renton desirable. An additional 10% cited a collection of features that, in aggregate, are referred to in Figure 1 as “Recreation.” These features included responses such as “Parks/Recreation/Sports Facilities and Programs” (6%), “Lake Washington and Cedar River” (2%), “Open Space/Natural Resources (1%), and “Trails to Walk, Bike, Hike, or Jog” (1%). Residents reporting “Affordable Housing” as the one feature for them comprised 7% of the responses as did those citing “Near Shopping.” The response category “Close to Everything/Tukwila/Seattle/Bellevue” garnered a 6% response rate while response categories “Freeway Access” and “Quiet/Peaceful” were volunteered by 5% of those polled. Finally, Figure 1 illustrates that 4% of residents cited “Small Town Atmosphere” and an additional 3% valued “Feeling a Part of Community.” Remaining responses garnered less than a 3% response rate.

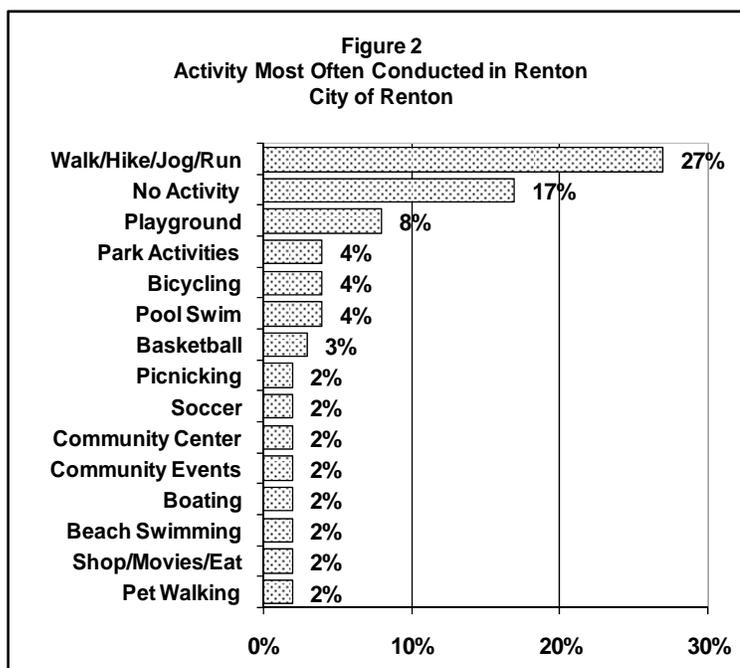
V. RECREATION ACTIVITY AND SATISFACTION

RECREATION ACTIVITY

Most Frequent Recreation Activity (Appendix Table 11)

Parks and recreation activity participation characteristics were explored in a general framework based upon a question probing the one recreation activity most often conducted in Renton during the last year. One activity was reported for every household member. This question was open-ended; no prelisted responses were provided. The recreation activities reported to be most often conducted by the members of the resident sample of households is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2 illustrates that 27% of the members of the resident households reported their most frequent activity to be walking/hiking/jogging/running. The next most often received response category was “no activity,” reported by 17% of the population surveyed in the City. Use of Playgrounds or Tot Lots was reported as the most frequent activity of 8% of resident household members. “City Park Activities,” “Bicycling,”



and “Swimming in a Pool,” were activities most frequented by 4% of the surveyed population in the City. “Basketball” was volunteered by 3% of Renton household members and Figure 2 illustrates seven additional recreation activities each defined by approximately 2% of the population surveyed.

The text table on the following page compares the recreation response rate from Renton residents to statistics derived from thirty-seven other surveys of municipalities.

Recreation Activity Renton vs. Thirty-seven Selected Municipalities				
	Renton	Thirty-seven Selected Municipalities		
		Lowest Response	Highest Response	Median
Activity Reported	83%	60%	94%	86%
No Activity	17%	6%	40%	14%

As the table illustrates, the share of residents polled in Renton who reported a recreation activity was somewhat below average (83% vs. 86% on average among other cities surveyed) while the share who reported no recreation activity in the past year was somewhat above the average (17% vs. 14% median.) In our experience, these recreation activity use patterns reflect the unique demographic, climate, and recreation opportunities in each community.

An examination of reported recreation facility use among Renton residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*¹ in the share of residents reporting no recreation activity among examined subgroups of the total sample:

- ✓ Households with one person only (29% did not recreate vs. 15% among remaining residents surveyed.)
- ✓ Respondents who reported household incomes of less than \$50,000 (25% did not recreate vs. 12% among those earning \$50,000 or more.)
- ✓ Those polled who live in Subarea 3² (24% did not recreate vs. 11% in Subarea 2³.)
- ✓ Residents of the City for more than thirty years (33% did not recreate vs. 14% among remaining residents polled.)

¹ This analysis compares the total sample of 375 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

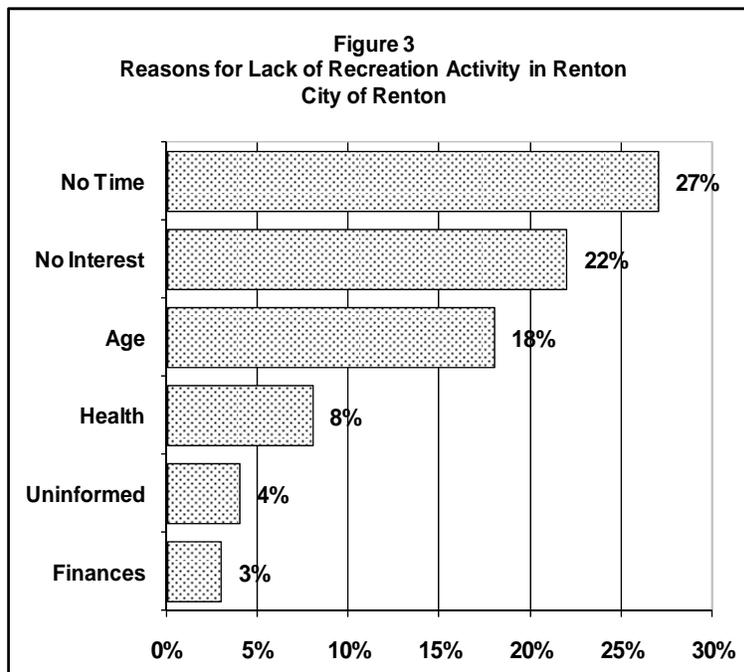
² Subarea 3 is Southeast Renton, defined as the area east of Highways 167 and 405, approximately southerly of Maple Valley Highway.

³ Subarea 2 is Northeast Renton, defined as the area east of Highway 405, approximately northerly of Maple Valley Highway.

Reasons Reporting No Recreation Activity in Renton (Appendix Table 12)

Among residents reporting no recreation activity in Renton in the last year, a question probing the reasons for their lack of activity was posed. This question was open-ended; no prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3 illustrates that 27% of those who reported no recreation activity in the prior inquiry stated the reason was “No Time.” An additional 22% of those not recreating expressed the reason “Do Not Need to Use Facilities/Not of Interest.” Moreover, 18% of City residents who had not recreated in the past year volunteered the reason “Age.” Health-



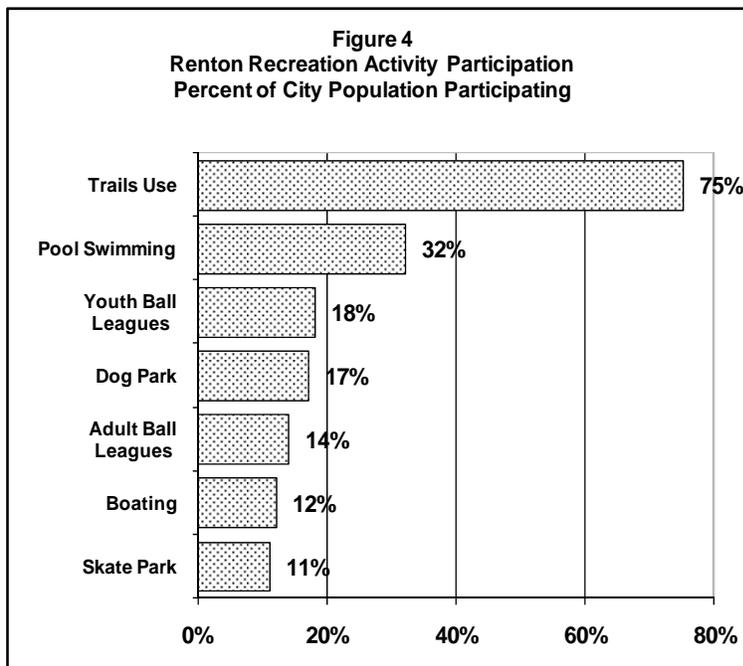
related reasons were cited by 8% of residents polled while 4% stated that they “Don’t Know What is Available.” “Financial Reasons” were identified by 3% of the respondents. The remaining response categories each received less than 3% of the total responses.

Percent of Population Participating in Recreation Activities (Appendix Tables 13 – 19)

The activities in Figure 4 are ranked by the share of the population surveyed that reported participation in each of seven tested recreation activities in Renton. As Figure 4 reveals, the tested activities cited as being undertaken by the largest portion of Renton residents surveyed were “Use of Trails for Walking/Jogging/Running/Hiking/Bicycling/etc.” (75%), “Swimming in Public Pools (excluding homeowners’ association facilities or school program activities)” (32%), “Use of Softball/Baseball/Soccer Fields for Youth League Games (excluding school program activities)” (18%), “Use of Dog Park Facilities” (17%), “Use of Softball/Baseball/Soccer Fields for Adult League Games”

(14%), “Use of Non-Motorized Boating Facilities” (12%), and “Use of Skate Park Facilities” (11%).

In reviewing the response volumes outlined in Figure 4, it is relevant to note that, to some degree, the age distribution of the population in Renton has an impact on the activity participation figures. For example, the reported 18% participation in youth ball league activities must be cognizant of the fact that the share of Renton population under 18 years is estimated at 24%.



Therefore, even if every resident under the age of 18 was involved in youth ball league activities, the participation figure could not exceed 24%. On the other hand, activities such as Trails Use, Pool Swimming, Dog Park Use, etc. are activities available for all age groups and, in particular, may reflect participation of the adult population in Renton, which represents 76% of the population.

An examination of reported participation in the tested activities among Renton residents revealed the following *statistically significant differences*⁴ in the share of residents reporting participation among examined subgroups of the total sample:

- ✓ Households reporting one or more children under the age of 18 years (60% reported swimming in public pools vs. 20% among households without children.)
- ✓ Households reporting one or more children under the age of 18 years (22% reported use of skate park facilities vs. 7% among households without children.)

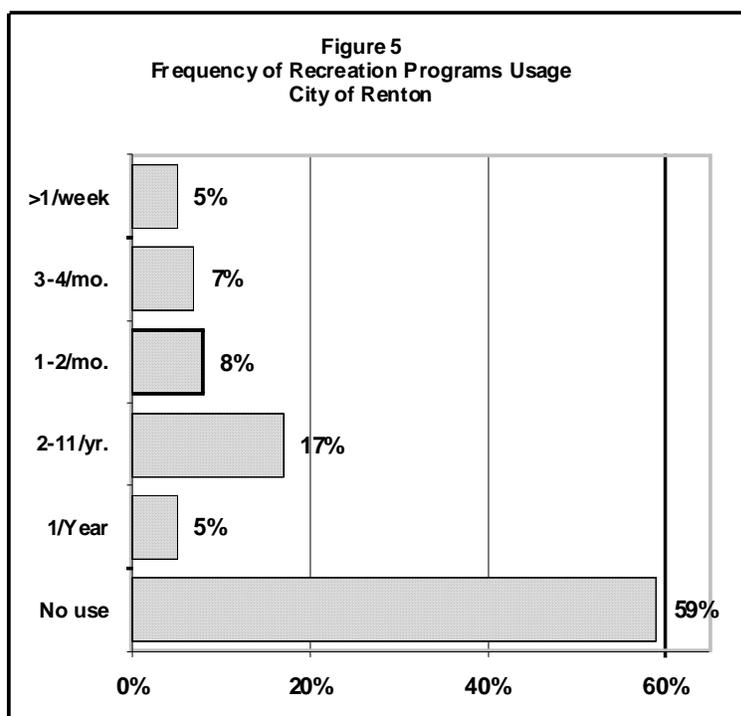
⁴ This analysis compares the total sample of 375 households to subgroups of the total and highlights those differences in the response patterns that are statistically significant based upon the number of interviews in each subgroup analyzed.

Frequency of Recreation Program Participation (Appendix Table 23)

Recreation program usage characteristics were explored in a general framework in the resident telephone survey based upon a question probing overall usage of recreation classes or programs. The usage frequency of the sample of residents is presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5 illustrates that 12% of the resident respondents described their household as a “Frequent User” of recreation programs (patrons of programs at least three times per month; top two bars in Figure 5).

One of every four residents (25%) was a “Moderate User” (patrons of programs at least two to twenty-four times annually) of recreation programs during the past year. The remainder (66%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (patrons of programs once per year and non-users).



The text table below compares these program usage responses from

Renton residents to statistics derived from twenty other surveys of municipalities.

Frequency of Recreation Programs Usage Renton vs. Twenty Selected Municipalities				
	Renton	Twenty Selected Municipalities		
		Lowest Response	Highest Response	Median
Frequent Users	12%	13%	30%	23%
No Use	59%	31%	82%	49%

As the table illustrates, the share of residents polled in Renton identifying themselves to be frequent users of recreation programs was below average (12% frequent users vs. 23% on average among other cities surveyed) while the share who reported no recreation program use in the past year was above average (59% vs. 49% norm.)

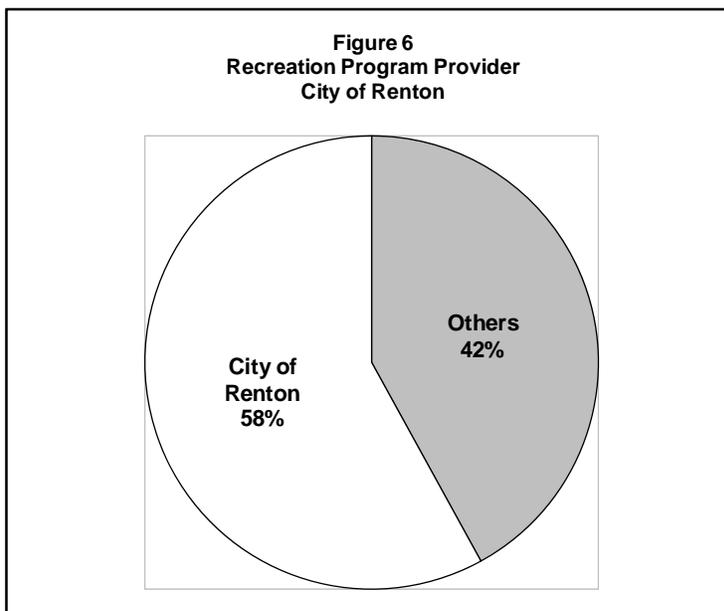
Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

- ✓ The share of respondents reporting no use of recreation programs in the past year increased with the age of the household head (from 45% among those with a head under 35 years to 68% among those with a head 65 years or older.)
- ✓ Households with no children under 18 years were more likely to report no use of recreation programs (66% vs. 42% among those with children.)
- ✓ Residents of the City for less than five years as well as those who had lived in the City more than 15 years were most likely to have reported no use of recreation programs (66% and 67%, respectively vs. 46% among those living in the City 5 to 15 years.)

Recreation Program Provider (Appendix Table 24)

In addition to the portion of the residents participating in recreation programs, the survey queried respondents regarding what provider was used most often for such programs: the City of Renton or someone else.

Figure 6 itemizes the share of reported recreation programs use that is reported to have been



provided by the City of Renton. As Figure 6 illustrates, 58% of the residents who reported participating in recreation programs during the last year stated they had signed

up for those programs most often with the City of Renton. The remaining program users (42%) stated they had signed up for their programs most often with someone other than the City of Renton.

Reasons Reporting No Recreation Program Use (Appendix Table 25)

Among residents reporting no recreation program use in the last year, a question probing the reasons for their lack of activity was posed. This question was open-ended; no prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 7.

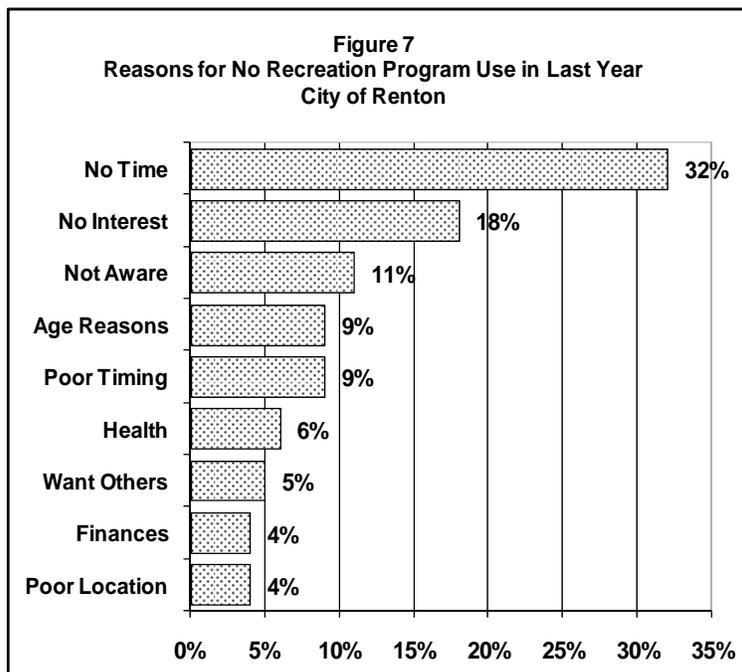
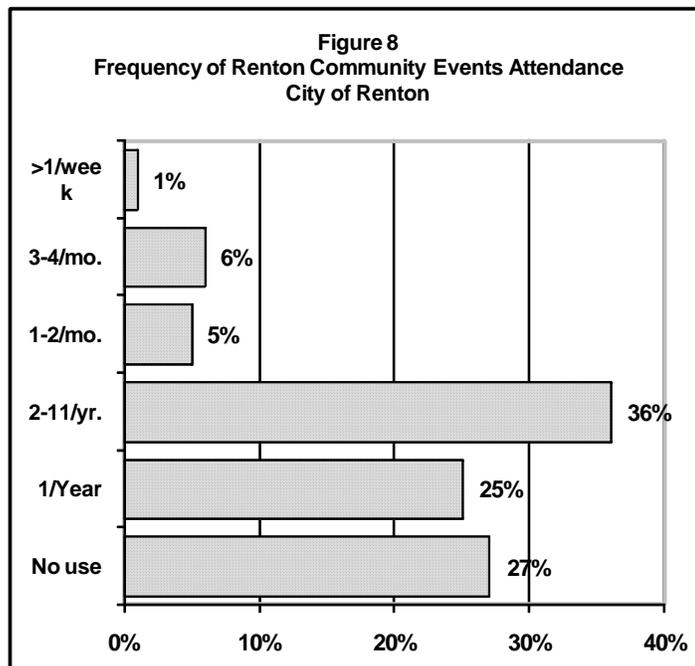


Figure 7 illustrates that 32% of those who reported no recreation program use in the program use inquiry stated the reason was “No Time/Too Busy.” An additional 18% expressed the reason “Do Not Need to Use Programs/Not of Interest.” Moreover, 11% of City residents stated that they “Don’t Know What is Available.” “Age Reasons” and “Not Convenient Timing” were each volunteered by 9% of non-users of programs. Health-related reasons were cited by an additional 6% of residents polled. “Specific Programs I Want Are Not Available” was volunteered by 5% of residents polled who reported no program use. “Financial Reasons” and “Programs not Conveniently Located” were each identified by 4% of the respondents. The remaining responses each received less than 3% of the total responses.

Renton Community Events Attendance (Appendix Table 26)

Attendance at Renton Community Events (for example IKEA Renton River Days, 4th of July, Clam Lights, or Renton Farmers Market) was explored based upon a question probing overall attendance by household members during the past year. The attendance frequency of the sample of residents is presented in Figure 8.

Figure 8 illustrates that 8% of the resident respondents attended Renton community events “Frequently” in the past year (patrons of events at least three times per month; top two bars in Figure 8).



Four of every ten residents (40%) attended Renton community events with “Moderate” frequency (users of events at least two to twenty-four times annually). The remainder (52%) was labeled “Light/Non Users” (community events attendees once per year and non-users).

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted:

- ✓ Households without children under 18 years were most likely to report not attending Renton community events in the past year (31% vs. 17% among households with children.)
- ✓ Respondents reporting a household income under \$25,000 were more likely to report not attending Renton community events in the past year (45% vs. 27% among all residents.)
- ✓ Residents of the City for less than five years and those living in the City for more than 30 years were more likely to report not attending Renton community events in

the past year (36% and 34%, respectively, vs. 21% among those residents of the City for 5 to 30 years.)

Reasons Reporting No Renton Community Events Attendance (Appendix Table 27)

Among residents reporting no attendance at Renton community events in the last year, a question probing the reasons for their lack of attendance was posed. This question was open-ended; no prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in Figure 9.

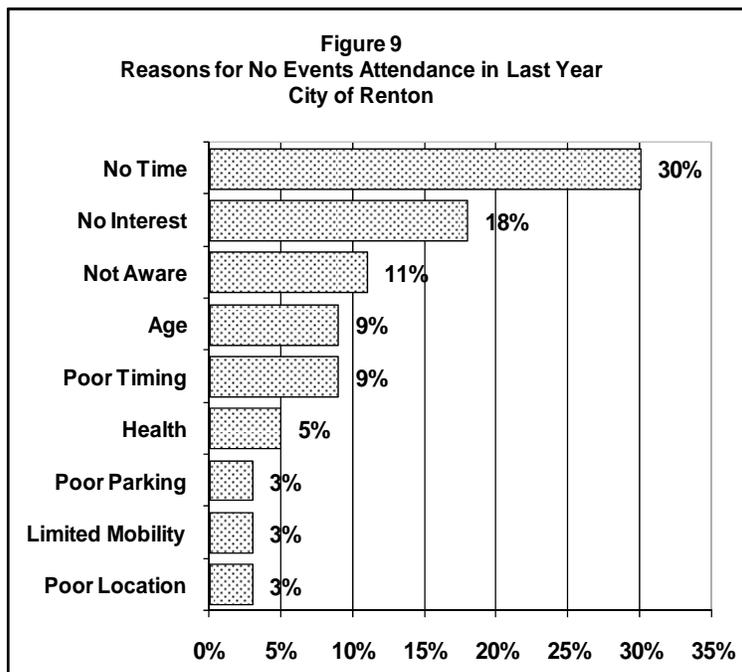


Figure 9 illustrates that 30% of those who reported no

attendance at community events in the prior inquiry stated the reason was “No Time.” An additional 18% expressed the reason “Do Not Need to Attend/Not of Interest.” Moreover, 11% of City residents stated that they are “Not Aware of What is Available.” “Age” and “Not Convenient Timing” were each volunteered by 9% of those who had attended no community events. Health-related reasons were cited by an additional 5% of residents polled. “Poor Parking,” “Limited Mobility,” and “Programs not Conveniently Located” were each identified by 3% of the respondents. The remaining responses each received less than 3% of the total responses.

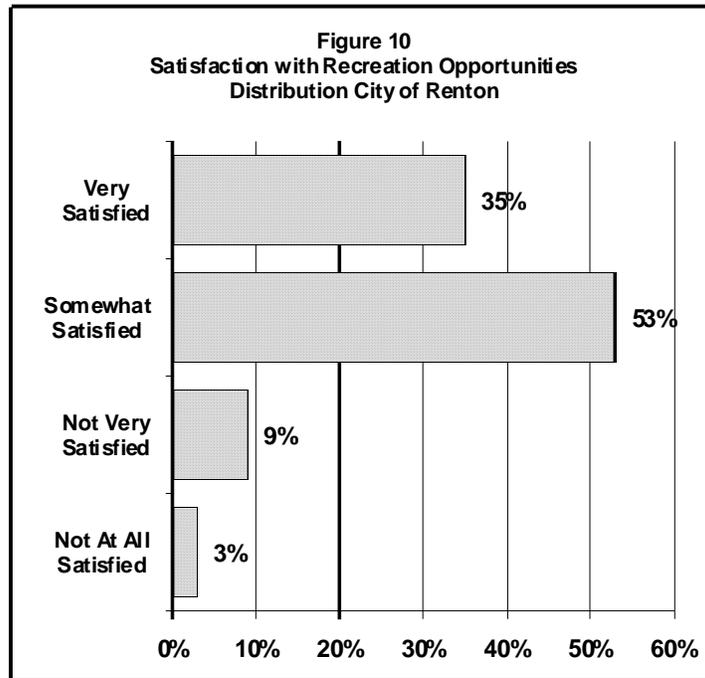
SATISFACTION

Satisfaction with Distribution of Recreation Opportunities (Appendix Table 32)

To gauge community priorities for potential facility or program improvements, a question was posed to solicit the overall satisfaction of residents with the geographic distribution of recreation opportunities in the City of Renton, using a scale of “Very satisfied,” “Somewhat Satisfied,” “Not Very Satisfied,” and “Not At All Satisfied.” The frequency of

responses of the sample of residents for each response category is presented in Figure 10.

Figure 10 illustrates that 88% of the resident respondents reported being very or somewhat satisfied with the geographic distribution of recreation opportunities in the City of Renton (top two bars in Figure 10).



The remaining 12% of residents stated they are not very or not at all satisfied.

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, no significant differences in response patterns were noted.

Reasons Not Satisfied with Distribution of Recreation Opportunities (Appendix Table 33)

Among the 12% of residents polled who stated they are not very or not at all satisfied with the geographic distribution of recreation opportunities in the City of Renton, a question probing the reasons for their lack of satisfaction was posed. This question was open-ended; no prelisted responses were provided. The response categories with the largest share of responses are presented in

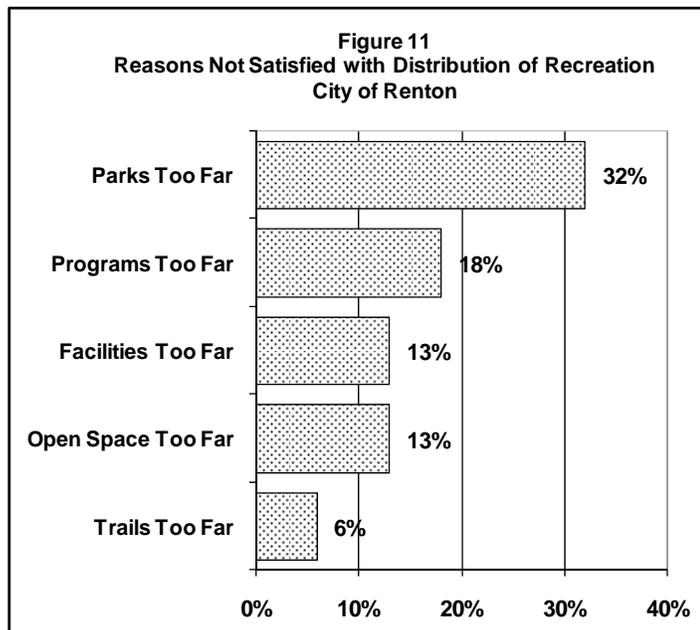


Figure 11. A word of caution regarding the Figure 11 data is in order. It is important to keep in mind that the percentages on Figure 11 are applied to the 12% of residents who were not satisfied with the geographic distribution of recreation opportunities. Thus, even the largest response category on Figure 11, "Parks Too Far," represents the opinions of only 13 resident households in the City.

In addition to those five response categories outlined in Figure 11, remaining responses each received less than 1% of the total responses.

VI. RECREATION PREFERENCES

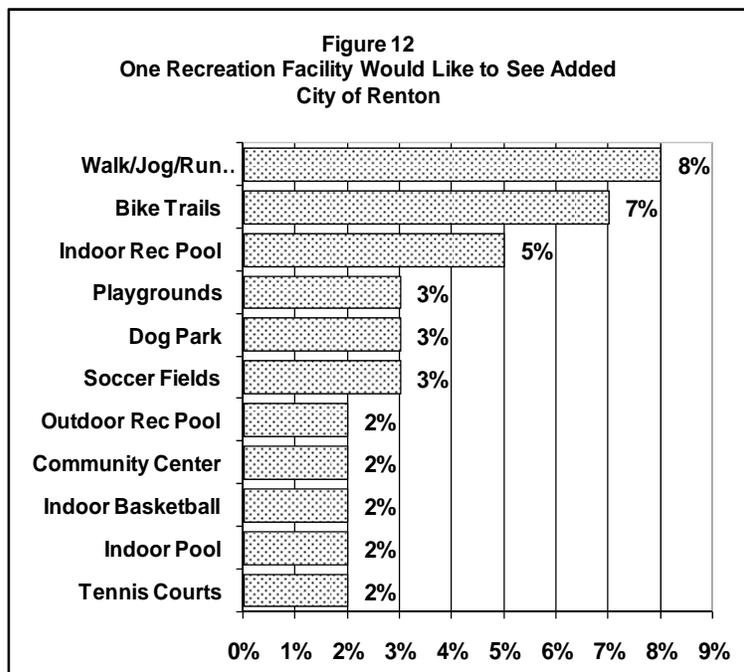
ONE RECREATION FACILITY RESIDENTS WANT (Appendix Table 20)

Respondents were asked to volunteer **one** recreation facility their household would **MOST** like to see added in the City to meet the needs of their household. This inquiry was asked in an unprompted form with all responses being volunteered by respondents. The intent of the question was not a referendum of priority on what recreation facilities should be added. Rather, this probe was intended to provide community-wide context to recreation desires identified earlier in the public involvement process and to identify any other facility types desired that might not have been previously addressed in the process.

One of the important outcomes of this area of inquiry is to define the share of Renton households who have a desire for parks, recreation, open space, or natural resources additions. When asked for their one desired recreation facility, 26% of City residents polled stated they seek no additional recreation facility while the remaining 74% of respondents offered a suggested facility type. Examining the 26% who desired no new facility by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted.

- ✓ Households with a head 55 years and older were most likely to have reported desiring no new recreation facilities (41% vs. 15% among those with a younger head.)
- ✓ Residents reporting no children under the age of 18 years (31% vs. 17% among those with children.)
- ✓ Those polled who reported living in the City for more than 15 years (41% vs. 17% among those with a shorter tenure.)
- ✓ Respondents who stated they had not used recreation programs in the past year (32% vs. those who had used recreation programs at 20%.)
- ✓ Surveyed households who had not attended recreation events (40% vs. 22% among those who were event attendees.)

Figure 12 presents the types of recreation facilities most often volunteered by the 74% of residents who desired new recreation facilities. As Figure 12 reveals, the top eleven recreation facilities most desired by Renton residents surveyed were “Walking/Jogging/Running Trails” (8%), “Trails for Bicycling” (7%), “Indoor Swimming Pool for Recreation” (5%), “Tot Lots/Playgrounds” (3%), “Dog Park” (3%), “Soccer Fields” (3%), “Outdoor Swimming Pool for Recreation” (2%), “Community Center” (2%), “Indoor Basketball Courts” (2%), “Indoor Swimming Pool (unspecified use)” (2%), and “Tennis Courts” (2%). All remaining mentions received a response volume less than 2%.

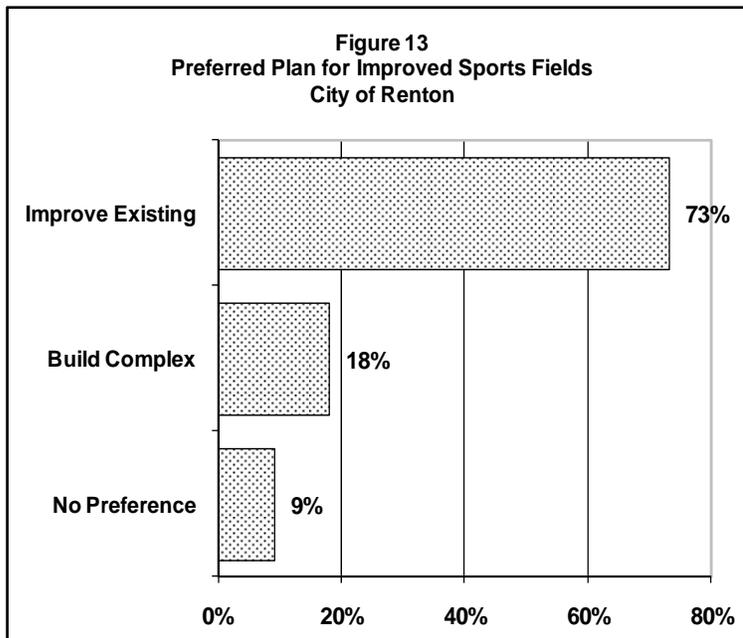


PREFERRED PLAN FOR IMPROVED SPORTS FIELDS (Appendix Table 21)

Respondents were asked which of two approaches to improving sports fields in the City best meets the needs of their household. The following two approaches were read to each respondent:

- “Improve the sports fields that are now distributed across the City”
- “Build new sports fields located at one City sports complex”

Figure 13 presents the response volumes received from residents evaluating these two alternatives. As Figure 13 reveals, nearly three of every four resident households polled (73%) stated they prefer to “improve the sports fields that are now distributed across the City.” An additional 18% preferred the plan to “build new sports fields located at one City sports complex.” The remaining residents, 9%, volunteered the response that they have no preference.



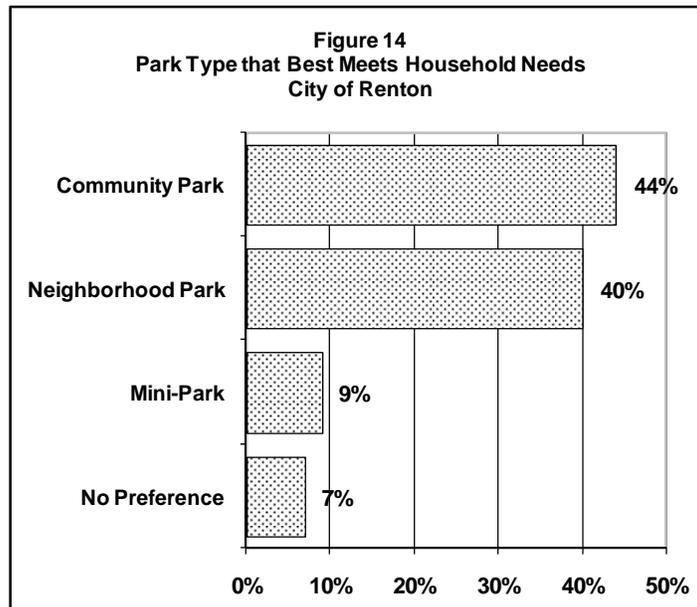
Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, no significant differences in response patterns were noted.

TYPE OF PARK THAT BEST MEETS HOUSEHOLD NEEDS (Appendix Table 22)

Respondents were asked which of three types of parks best meets the needs of their household. The following three park type descriptions were read to each respondent (with the order being rotated to mitigate order bias):

- “Mini-parks located within ¼ mile with benches and a play structure for toddlers.”
- “Neighborhood parks located within 1/2 mile with a playground, picnic tables and a large grass area.”
- “Large community parks located within 1 mile with sports fields and courts, restrooms, picnic shelter, and playground.”

Figure 14 presents the response volumes received from residents evaluating these three alternatives. As Figure 14 reveals, the Community Park description was best suited to the needs of 44% of residents polled while the Neighborhood Park type was best suited to the needs of 40% of residents. The Mini-Parks type was selected as best suiting the needs of 9% of households. The remaining residents, 7%, volunteered the response that they have no preference.



Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted.

- ✓ Households with children under 18 years were more likely to prefer community parks (53% vs. 41% among those without children.)
- ✓ Respondents identifying themselves as Asian were more likely to prefer community parks (57% vs. 40% among those who identified their race as White.)
- ✓ Residents of Subarea 3 (Southeast Renton) were more likely to prefer community parks (51% vs. 40% among remaining Renton residents.)
- ✓ Residents of Subarea 2 (Northeast Renton) were more likely to prefer neighborhood parks (46% vs. 33% among remaining Renton residents.)
- ✓ Respondents determined to be living outside of City boundaries were more likely to prefer a community park (56% vs. 44% among City residents) and less likely to prefer a neighborhood park (24% vs. 40% among City residents.)

ONE RECREATION PROGRAM RESPONDENTS WANT (Appendix Table 28)

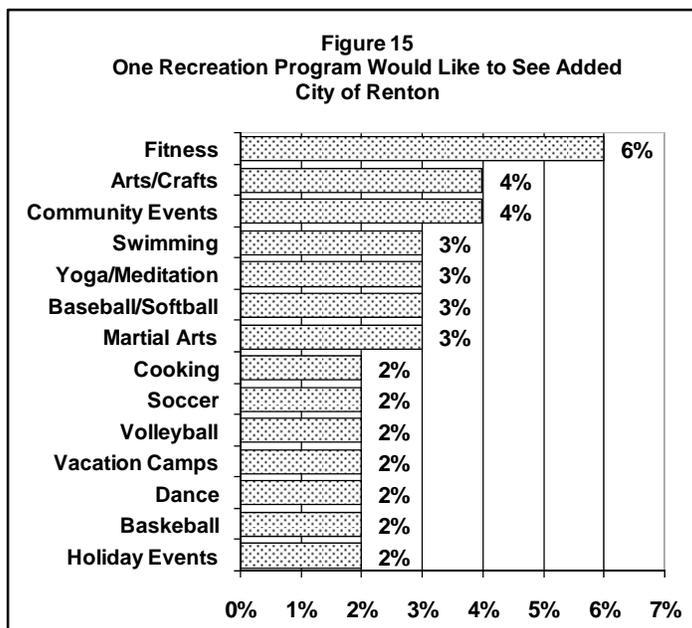
Respondents were asked to volunteer **one** recreation program, class or activity their household would MOST like to see added in the City to meet the needs of their

household. This inquiry was asked in an unprompted form with all responses being volunteered by respondents and recorded verbatim. The intent of the question was not a referendum of priority on what recreation programs should be added or improved. Rather, this probe was intended to provide community-wide context to recreation program desires identified earlier in the public involvement process and to identify any other program types desired that might not have been previously addressed in the process.

One of the important outcomes of this area of inquiry is to define the share of Renton households who have a desire for recreation program additions. When asked for their one desired recreation program, 22% of City residents polled stated they seek no additional recreation programs while the remaining 78% of respondents offered a suggested program type. Examining the 22% who desired no new programs by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted.

- ✓ Households reporting an annual income of less than \$50,000 were more likely to desire no new recreation programs (31% vs. 14% among those with higher incomes.)
- ✓ Residents of the City for more than 7 years were more likely to desire no new recreation programs (29% vs. 11% among those with shorter tenure.)

Figure 15 presents the types of recreation programs most often volunteered by the 78% of residents who desired new recreation programs. As Figure 15 reveals, the top seven recreation programs most often volunteered included “Aerobics, Spinning, or Fitness” (6%), “Arts or Crafts” (4%), “Community Events” (4%), “Swimming Lessons” (3%), “Yoga, Meditation, or Stress Relief”



(3%), “Baseball or Softball” (3%), “Martial Arts” (3%). Seven additional categories of programs are also listed on Figure 15, each having garnered approximately 2% of the responses received. Remaining responses accrued less than 2% of the total responses.

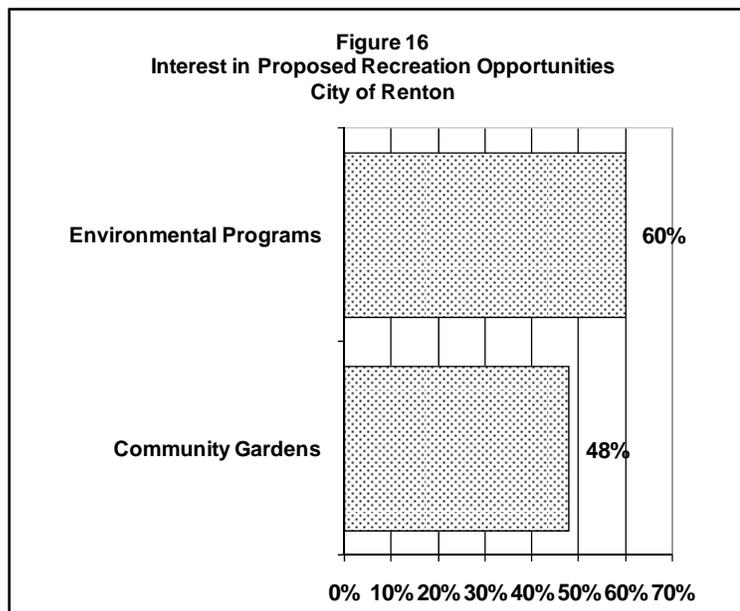
INTEREST IN PROPOSED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (Appendix Tables 29 - 30)

In an effort to identify community support for two proposed recreation opportunities in the City of Renton questions were posed each soliciting residents level of interest using the response choices “Very Interested,” “Somewhat Interested,” “Not Very Interested,” and “Not At All Interested.”

The two proposed opportunities were described as:

- “Environmental programs such as natural resources and wildlife education and interpretation.”
- “Community garden opportunities.”

Figure 16 illustrates the two tested proposed recreation opportunities along with the share of residents who stated they are somewhat or very interested. The tested opportunity garnering the largest share of positive responses (60%) is “Environmental Programs such as Natural Resources and Wildlife Education and Interpretation.” Near half of resident households cited interest in “Community Garden Opportunities” (48%).



Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, no significant differences in response patterns were noted.

SUPPORT FOR RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS (*Appendix Tables 34 - 38*)

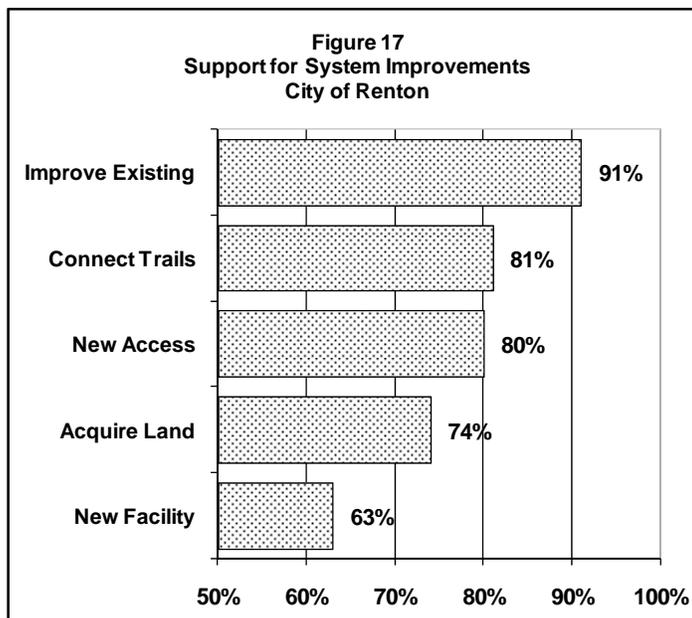
In an effort to identify community support for a list of potential improvements to the City of Renton parks, recreation, open space, and natural resources system, a series of five questions were posed each soliciting residents level of support using the response choices “Definitely Supportive,” “Somewhat Supportive,” “Probably Don’t Support,” and “Definitely Don’t Support.”

The five potential improvements descriptions included:

- “Improving existing facilities.”
- “Acquiring new land for parks, recreation, open space or natural resources.”
- “Developing a unique new facility such as an environmental education center.”
- “Creating a connected trails system.”

- “Providing recreation access to natural areas in Renton that are currently inaccessible.”

Figure 17 illustrates the five tested potential improvements along with the share of residents who stated they are somewhat or definitely supportive of the City using financial resources to pursue each option. As Figure 17 reveals, all tested potential improvements received positive support from more than half of the resident households polled. The tested improvement garnering the largest share of



supportive responses (91%) is “Improving Existing Facilities.” Approximately eight of every ten resident households cited support for “Creating a connected trails system” (81%) as well as for “Providing recreation access to natural areas in Renton that are currently inaccessible” (80%). “Acquiring new land for parks, recreation, open space or natural resources” was supported by 74% of residents surveyed while “Developing a unique new facility such as an environmental education center” posted the least positive support at 63%.

Examining these responses by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted.

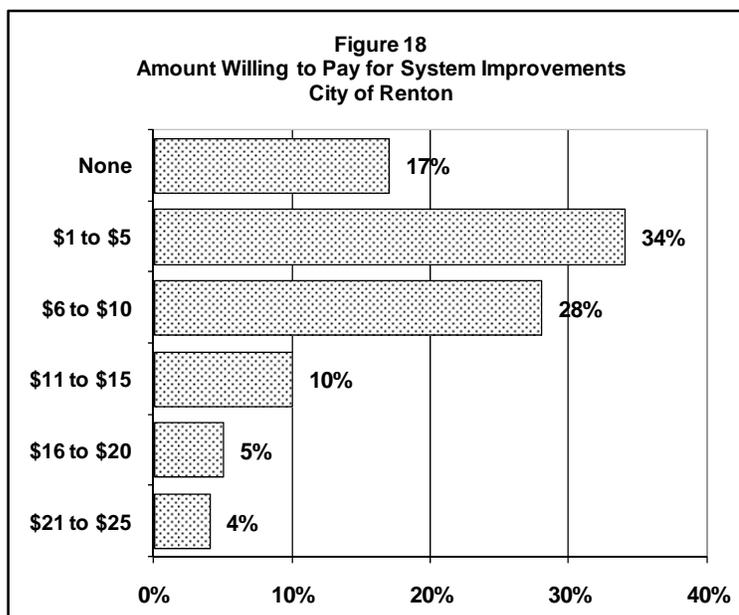
- ✓ Respondents identifying themselves as Asian were most likely to be supportive of developing a unique new facility such as an environmental education center (72% somewhat or definitely supportive vs. 59% among residents describing their race as White.)

WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS (Appendix Table 39)

To gauge community financial support for improvements to the City of Renton parks, recreation, open space, and natural resources system, residents were asked to select from a series of five monthly dollar range amounts. To mitigate order bias, the five were read in a rotating order and included the following.

- \$1.00 to \$5.00 monthly
- \$6.00 to \$10.00 monthly
- \$11.00 to \$15.00 monthly
- \$16.00 to \$20.00 monthly
- \$20.00 to \$25.00 monthly

In Figure 18, the five tested monthly support ranges and the share of residents who chose each are presented. In addition, Figure 18 illustrates that 17% of residents polled stated they would pay nothing for such system improvements. As Figure 18 reveals, the tested dollar range receiving the largest number of responses (34%) was the \$1.00 to \$5.00 monthly amount, followed by 28% support for the range of \$6 to \$10 monthly, 10% support for a monthly range of \$11 to \$15, 5% support at \$16 to \$20 and 4% at \$21 to \$25. The average amount residents were willing to pay was calculated at \$7.50.



Examining those who stated they would not pay anything by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted.

- ✓ Households with a head 65 years or older were most likely to be unwilling to pay (31% vs. 13% among remaining residents.)
- ✓ Respondents reporting an income of less than \$50,000 were more likely to be unwilling to pay (24% vs. 8% among remaining residents.)
- ✓ Residents of the City for more than 30 years were most likely to be unwilling to pay (38% vs. 13% among remaining residents.)

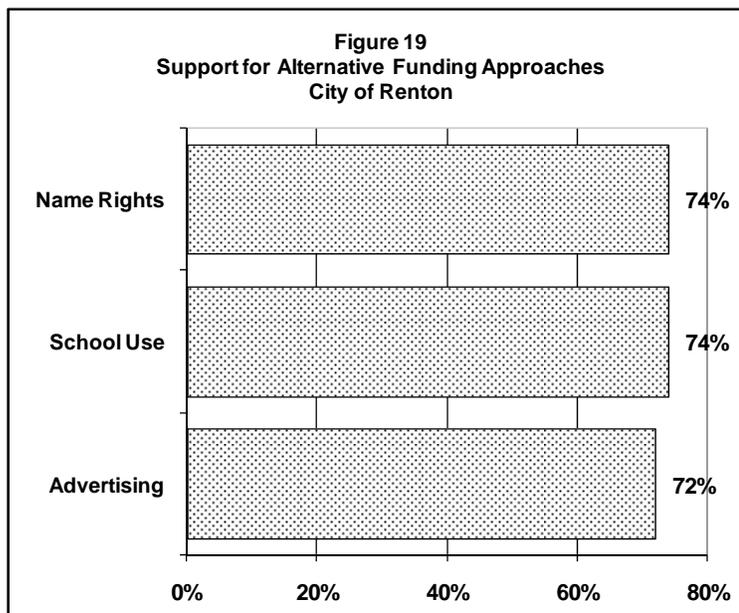
ALTERNATIVE IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING SUPPORT (*Appendix Tables 40 - 42*)

To identify community support for the City using three alternative methods to pay for improvements to the City of Renton parks, recreation, open space, and natural resources system, residents were asked to describe their level of support using the answer categories “Definitely Supportive,” “Somewhat Supportive,” “Probably Don’t Support,” and “Definitely Don’t Support.” The tested funding alternatives included:

- “Promote advertising in recreation areas or facilities.”
- “Sell naming rights to recreation areas or facilities.”
- “Increase opportunities for use of Renton School District Facilities.”

In Figure 19, the three tested alternative funding approaches and the share of residents who chose each are presented. As Figure 19 reveals, the level of support for each of the three tested funding approaches was nearly equal, at three of every four residents polled.

Examining the share of residents who supported each funding alternative by selected subgroups of respondents, the following significant differences in response patterns were noted.



- ✓ Respondents more likely to support naming rights included residents of Subarea 2 (78% support vs. 67% from Subarea 3 residents); households with a head under 35 years of age (84% vs. 68% among remaining residents); residents with children under 18 years (81% vs. 70% among those without.)
- ✓ Residents more likely to support an increase in the use of school facilities also included residents of Subarea 2 (78% support vs. 67% from Subarea 3 residents); households with a head under 45 years of age (84% vs. 68% among remaining residents); residents with children under 18 years (81% vs. 70% among those without.)
- ✓ Those polled who were most likely to support promoting advertising in recreation areas or facilities included households with a head under 35 years (95% vs. 72% City-wide); residents with children under 18 years (82% vs. 67% among those without); respondents describing themselves as Asian (83% vs. those identifying their race as White.)

VII. RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHY

A collection of related demographic inquiries was also included in this survey of Renton residents. The following table presents selected demographic characteristics of Renton residents polled during this survey compared with 2010 Federal Census data.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON 2010 CENSUS AND 2011 COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY CITY OF RENTON, WA		
	CENSUS 2010	SURVEY 2011
Percent of Population by Age:		
Under 5 years	8%	7%
5 to 14 years	12%	13%
15 to 19 years	5%	6%
20 to 24 years	7%	5%
25 to 34 years	18%	12%
35 to 44 years	16%	15%
45 to 54 years	14%	14%
55 to 64 years	10%	12%
65 years and over	10%	17%
Median Age	35.2	40.0
Ethnicity (Census data is for population; survey data is for respondents):		
Non-Hispanic White	49%	55%
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	22%	22%
Hispanic/Latino	13%	6%
Non-Hispanic Black/African American	10%	11%
Non-Hispanic Other (includes multiple races reported)	6%	6%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010; Research Northwest LLC, 5/11		

An examination of the table above reveals that there are two significant differences noted when comparing the data by age range. While the survey respondents reported 12% of the household members surveyed to be 25 to 34 years of age, the 2010 Census catalogued that 18% of City residents were in this age group. Conversely, the current survey found that 17% of household members polled were 65 years and over compared with 10% of the residents identified during the 2010 Census. In both cases, these differences exceed the 5% margin of error on the sample of 375 resident households. It has been our experience that the population aged 25 to 34 years of age can be more

challenging to contact and survey, primarily due to lifestyles that are less demanding in the population 65 years or over. The design of the survey included surveys conducted via cell phone as it was also anticipated that those 25 to 34 years of age would be more likely to be cell-phone users.

The table above also presents a comparison of reported race/ethnicity data for the City from the 2010 Census and the current survey findings. It is important to note that the 2010 Census data presented is for population while the survey data is for respondents alone⁵. Thus, these data are not directly comparable. To understand the differences typically seen in these two different measures of race/ethnicity, a review of the City of Renton data from the 2000 Census has been prepared in a table below.

The following table presents race/ethnicity data for the City of Renton as of the 2000 Census, examining the population and just householders by race/ethnic group.

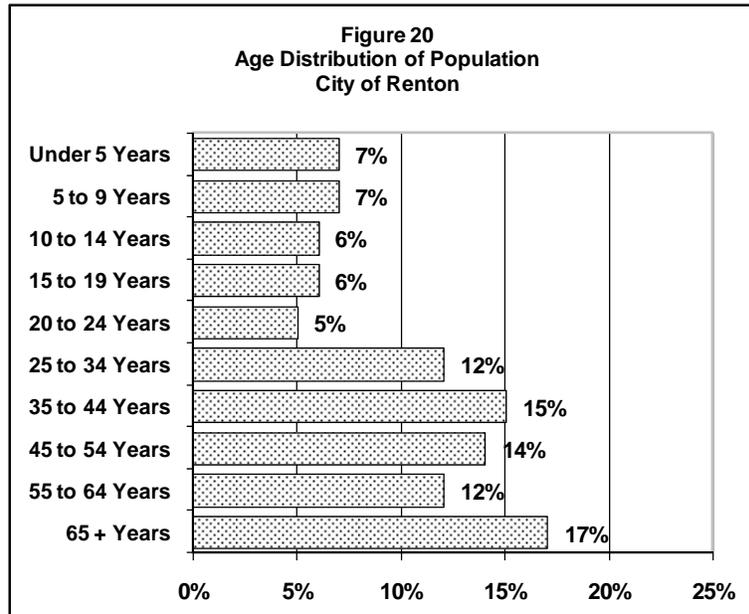
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS 2000 CENSUS CITY OF RENTON, WA		
	Population	Householders
Non-Hispanic White	65%	73%
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	14%	11%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	5%
Non-Hispanic Black/African American	8%	8%
Non-Hispanic Other (includes multiple races reported)	5%	3%

A review of this table concludes that those race/ethnic groups traditionally known to have lower population per household averages (Non-Hispanic White) represent a larger share of the householders than of the population, due to their smaller household sizes. Conversely, those race/ethnic groups with larger than average household sizes (Asian or Hispanic) represent a larger share of the population than their share of householders. We believe this explains much of the differences in the figures for Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic/Latino groups presented in the table on page 35.

⁵ Householder data is not available from the 2010 Census at this time.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION (Appendix Table 6)

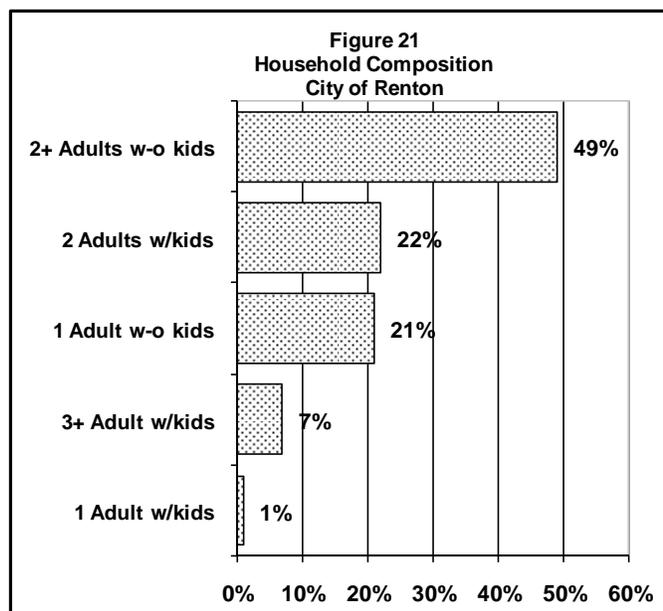
In the context of this Renton community-wide survey, we collected the age of each of the members of households polled to facilitate an understanding of recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to age. Figure 20 presents the age distribution of residents of those Renton households interviewed.



A review of Figure 20 reveals the following highlights regarding the Renton population. As of the time of this survey, 13% of the population is reportedly in the key age groups for organized youth sports activities (ages 5 to 14). Currently, 17% of the surveyed population in Renton is aged 65 and over.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION (Appendix Table 8)

Through our historical project experience, we have documented the relationship between parks and recreation usage and age and number of members of the household. In the context of the Renton community-wide survey, we collected the age of each member of resident households polled to understand recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to the composition of the household. Figure 21 presents the



distribution of resident households polled based upon the number and age of the household members.

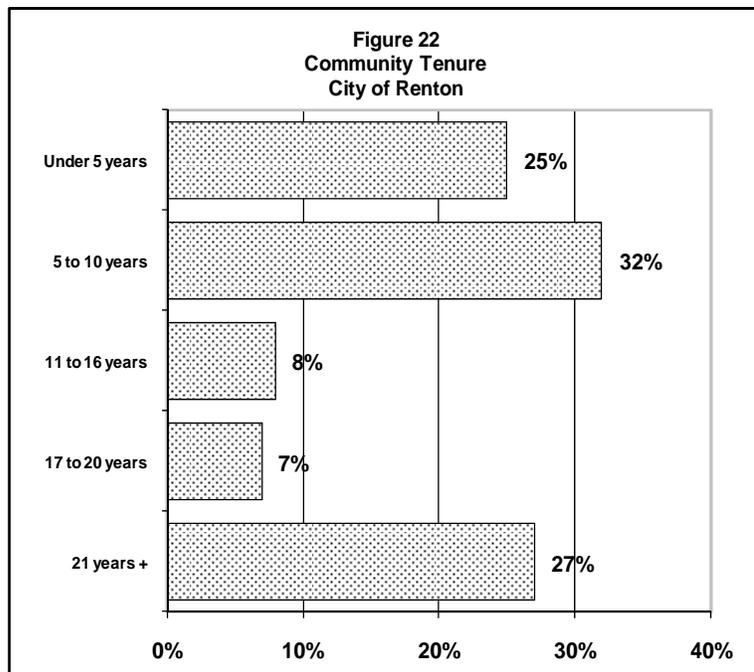
Figure 21 highlights the fact that 70% of resident households polled reported having no children less than 18 years present in their household. The types of households with the largest shares reported included a household with two or more adults without children (49%), a household comprised of two adults with one or more children under 18 years (22%), and a household comprised of one adult without children less than 18 years of age (21%).

TENURE IN RENTON (*Appendix Table 9*)

To amplify our understanding of recreating patterns in the City, a question was posed to identify the length of residence of those residents polled. In this way, we are able to evaluate recreating pattern differences that may be attributable to length of tenure in the community. Figure 22 reveals the distribution of current Renton households surveyed based upon the length of time they have been a resident in the community.

As Figure 22 reveals, 25% of resident households are newcomers to the City, having lived there for four years or less. The largest share of residents, however, reported being a resident of the City for 5 to 10 years (32%).

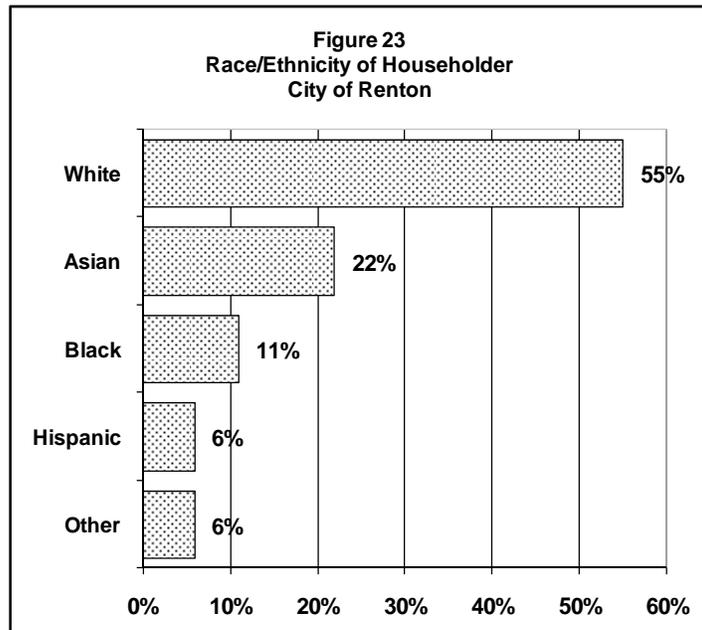
An examination of reported residence tenure in the City revealed that residents who had lived in the City less than five years were more often found among:



- ✓ households polled who live within Subarea 1⁶ (37% vs. 24% among those living elsewhere in Renton),
- ✓ respondents who reported a household head less than 35 years of age (41% vs. 22% among remaining households),
- ✓ those polled who identified themselves as White (28% vs. 13% among those who described their race as Asian.)

HOUSEHOLDER RACE/ETHNICITY (*Appendix Tables 43 - 44*)

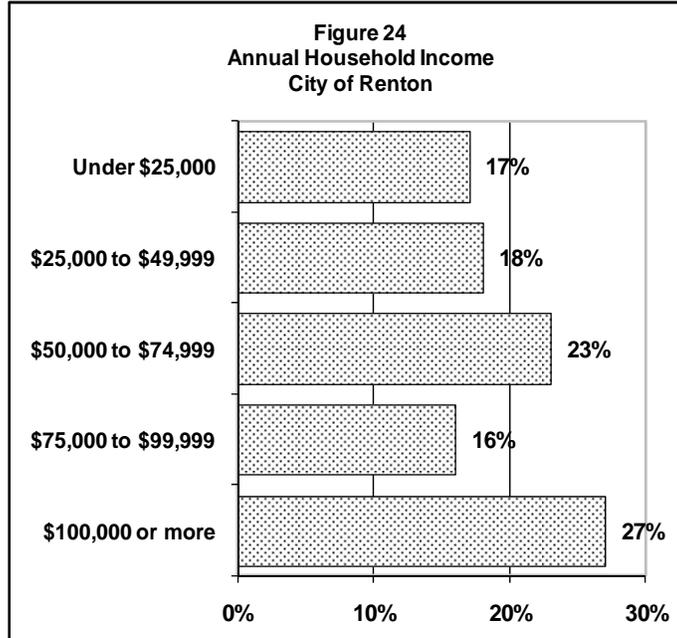
In the context of this Renton community-wide survey, we collected the race of the respondent for each of the households polled as well as identifying whether their ethnicity was Hispanic, using the question approach from the 2010 Federal Census. Figure 23 presents the distribution of householders of those Renton households interviewed by the race or ethnic group they reported.



⁶ Subarea 1 includes the area of Renton west of Highways 405 and 167.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (Appendix Table 45)

In the community-wide survey, we collected the annual household income of households polled to facilitate an understanding of recreation preferences in this community that might be attributable to household income. Figure 24 presents the annual household income distribution of those Renton households interviewed. The median income reported by respondents to the survey is \$62,500.



APPENDIX