



# Parks Trails & Natural Areas Plan

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## Acknowledgements

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## Executive Summary

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Developed through a collaborative effort and interactive process, the Ilwaco Parks, Trails & Natural Areas Plan (Plan) builds on the unique character of Ilwaco and the opportunities near the mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. This plan integrates evaluation and planning for parks, trails, and natural areas, to reflect the community's ambitions and potential.

The Plan represents a six-year vision for parks, trails, and natural areas, describes the current and future needs, examines existing conditions, reflects upon the public involvement in the process, assesses the community needs, and identifies strategies and an investment program to enhance the parks, trails, and natural areas to improve community livability. The Plan fulfills the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) planning requirements, making Ilwaco eligible for state and federal funding through the RCO for a six-year period.

### Planning Process

The Plan was developed through the active participation of Ilwaco residents, businesses, interest groups, stakeholders, park users, City staff, and public and non-profit agency representatives. The planning process included use of many different types of public involvement activities to ensure that different cultural groups, ages and interests all provided valuable feedback. The open houses, community-wide questionnaire, interviews, Park & Recreation Commission, and City Council meetings all aided in the development of this Plan. The layering of results and the analysis of key themes ensures that this plan reflects the diverse priorities and interests of the community. The final version of this plan was adopted by the Ilwaco City Council.

### Recommendations

The Plan includes recommendations for parks, trails and natural areas across the entire City as well as projects outside city limits in the near vicinity. The Plan also draws from existing adopted plans, such as the Ilwaco Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinance and the Pacific County Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan.

Parks create opportunities for recreation, connecting people and building community, protecting natural resources, and offering places for quiet reflection and experiencing nature. Best practice is to strive to have a developed park within a half-mile of all residences, the distance most pedestrians are willing to walk to reach a destination. Recommendations highlight how to make the most out of publicly owned park sites.

Trails encourage people to exercise outdoors, tie together neighborhoods, and reduce vehicle usage. The Plan recommends improvements to current trails to make them more user-friendly and accessible. It also recommends new connections and trails, especially through city street wayfinding.

Natural areas provide a variety of public benefits including natural resource education and volunteer opportunities. City residents feel strongly about conserving natural resources. The Plan recommends continuing to protect natural areas to protect clean water, enhance salmon habitat and other natural resources. Adding natural areas to existing parks and trails, creating additional natural areas, and providing interpretive signage are also recommended.

Parks and trails can connect people, build community, foster volunteerism and create long term partnerships. Collaborations of public and private entities have allowed Ilwaco to benefit from additional, non-City-owned parks, trails and natural areas. The Plan recommends strengthening these relationships and developing new alliances to sustain existing facilities and expand recreational opportunities.

## **Implementation Plan & Funding Sources**

The Plan notes specific strategies to implement and fund improvements in the park system. It includes cost estimates and potential funding sources for each recommended project. It also includes a list with short summaries of major grant and other funding sources from which implementers can draw when completing projects.

## **Next Steps**

The community's vision for the future of parks, trails and natural areas has been the foundation for this entire planning effort. Consequently, the recommendations built on the vision should serve Ilwaco well, providing guidance to the end of this decade and beyond. The document is designed to be an informative guide to the park system, a reference for future projects and a tool box for implementing recommendations and taking advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. These projects will help the City to renew the investment in these critical community assets, and achieve the vision laid out by the community. The Parks & Recreation Commission will work with City Council, staff and community volunteers to implement the final recommendations over time. The Plan will be updated in six years so as to remain relevant and useful in strategic park, trail and natural area work, and for Ilwaco to remain eligible for state grants.

# Introduction

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The Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Plan is the result of a collaborative effort between community members, staff, agency and non-profit organization representatives, and elected officials with the goal of creating a unified community vision for the future of Ilwaco's parks, trails and natural areas.

## Purpose of the Plan

Initiated in early 2013, the Plan:

- Presents a long-term vision and goals for the City and community for the next six years;
- Describes current and future needs, interests and community preferences for parks, trails and natural areas;
- Identifies implementation strategies to enhance and sustain parks, trails and natural areas as critical elements of a livable community;
- Provides a framework to guide the City in setting priorities, making decisions and funding improvements and operations for Ilwaco's parks, trails and natural areas; and
- Addresses the needs of the community as well as the requirements of the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for grant funding eligibility. The plan will maintain this eligibility for six years from the date of adoption.

## Relationship to other Planning Efforts

This document is structured to align with three levels of planning: county park and trail planning, the city-wide park, trail and natural area system and the individual park, trail and natural area sites.

Pacific County has a park and trails plan (2010-15). It lays out numerous county park and trail improvements throughout the county. Washington State Parks also has a Long Beach Area Parks Management Plan (2009) that outlines potential park expansion boundaries and improvements within the area parks. The Cape Disappointment State Park Master Plan focused on the detailed plans for that park, adjacent to Ilwaco. The Port of Ilwaco Master Plan guides that agency's efforts at the Port, including recommended projects in this Parks Plan.

Ilwaco's plan complements these regional, county, and local plans and projects, especially the county-wide trails efforts. On the city-level, this Plan reinforces the policies presented in the Ilwaco's Comprehensive Plan. Land Use Goals include:

9. Open Space and Recreation: Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks. (GMA)
10. Environment: Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water. (GMA)

While the City's Comprehensive Plan presents overarching guidance and direction for city-wide planning including natural resource protection and land use, the Ilwaco Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Plan provides specific strategies and actions to enhance, maintain and grow City parks, trails and natural areas. In turn, these system-wide actions and implementation strategies will guide the individual park, trail and natural area planning efforts. For example, one recommendation is to re-design and develop

City Park and information in this plan will help guide that effort. To the extent possible, Ilwaco's system will connect to projects being developed on the regional and county-wide scale, especially regarding multi-use trails.

## Plan Development

The Plan was developed through the active participation of residents, interest groups, park users, City staff and agency representatives who provided feedback through a variety of open houses, workshops, interviews, and a questionnaire. These diverse outreach activities were designed to collect feedback from a variety of people, including different cultural groups, ages and interests.

In addition to the many public involvement activities, the Parks Commission met regularly during the planning process to provide direction and coordination with other City policies and goals. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended the Plan and the City Council adopted it.

## Community Setting

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Ilwaco is an incorporated city in Pacific County, southwest Washington, United States. It covers approximately 950 acres of land in the southwest corner of the county. It is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Columbia River to the south. Nearby communities include unincorporated Seaview and Chinook and the City of Long Beach.

Ilwaco was founded as and continues to be in many ways a fishing town. It has a significant working waterfront with numerous commercial and recreational fishing and crabbing businesses. It is also the home of the area's key health facility, the Ocean Beach Hospital and the Ocean Beach School District's middle and high schools. Both are big employers and help shape Ilwaco. Like many of the nearby coastal communities, Ilwaco has attracted retirees from throughout the northwest, contributing to a higher-than-normal older population with distinct recreation needs. Finally, Ilwaco attracts tourists many who come for the fishing, historic attractions, Cape Disappointment State Park, the Lewis & Clark Discovery Trail, and the beach.

The population was 936 as of the 2010 census. Since the 2000 census, the population decreased by 14 people, a 1% decline. In 2010, there were 936 people, 443 households, and 257 families residing in the city. The population density was 445.7 inhabitants per square mile (172.1 /km<sup>2</sup>). There were 567 housing units at an average density of 270.0 per square mile (104.2 /km<sup>2</sup>). Most of the population lives within a half mile of downtown and the city parks. However, the eastern end (Vandalia) is disconnected and is 1.6 miles from downtown and the closest park.

The racial makeup of the city was 89.9% White, 0.3% African American, 2.1% Native American, 0.5% Asian, 3.6% from other races, and 3.5% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 5.7% of the population.

Of the 443 households, 21.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them (93 households), 46.7% were married couples living together, 8.4% had a female householder with no husband present, 2.9% had a male householder with no wife present, and 42.0% were non-families. 35.7% of all households were made up of individuals and 13.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.11 and the average family size was 2.68 people.

The median age in the city was 50.2 years. 16.7% of residents were under the age of 18; 5.2% were between the ages of 18 and 24; 21.2% were from 25 to 44; 35.3% were from 45 to 64; and 21.6% were 65 years of age or older. In comparison, Ilwaco's population is older than many communities in Washington. Statewide 23.2% of the population is under 18 and 12.7% is over 65.

## **Existing Parks, Trails, Natural Areas**

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The City owns and manages two city parks and a water source protection property. In addition, there are several parks, trails, and natural areas managed by state agencies and private parties. Maps and an inventory of the facilities are also available in Appendices 1 and 2.

### **Ilwaco City Park**

Owned and managed by the City, Ilwaco City Park is located on Lake and Spruce Streets and is approximately three acres in size. There is an additional 0.35 acre city-owned parcel on the eastern side of the park. It is located within the downtown core and thus, within a half mile of the most dense neighborhoods. The City has owned and managed the park since 1973. It has a softball field with bleachers, an undersized soccer field, swings and playground equipment, a tennis court and an undersized basketball court. It also has a building with restrooms and covered picnic areas. There are no trash cans available. Posted rules are no camping, overnight parking, or pets are allowed.

Generally, the park's condition is mediocre to poor. The play equipment has graffiti carved into it. The permanent bathrooms are in poor condition and the portable toilet is only cleaned every other month. There is regularly some litter.

### **Black Lake Park**

Owned and managed by the City, Black Lake Park is approximately 47 acres in size and is located on the shore of Black Lake and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North/Sandridge Road. This acreage does not include the lake itself, which is approximately 30 acres and, as navigable waters of the state, is controlled by Washington Department of Natural Resources. On the southwest corner of the lake, there is developed paved parking including handicapped parking, bathrooms, a doggie station and a covered picnic area just off of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. This area was historically called Provo Park and was a state park at one time. A multi-use trail runs along the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and Sandridge Road on the western shore of the lake. The city owns four parcels along the road with several overlooks and twelve benches. There is a Coast Guard memorial on this western edge of the lake with a high overlook and fishing platform. The public can also access the lake from the north. A gravel road runs along the northern and northeastern edges of the lake with primitive, unmarked parking. There are three docks in the lake. There is also a simple boat launch.

There is a 1.5 mile trail that circles the lake. The Black Lake Trail is a primitive, gravel trail on the south and east sides of the lake; it is on the road along the northern edge of the lake and is the multi-use, paved trail on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North/Sandridge Rd on the west side of the lake. The trail connects to the Ocean Beach School District property to the south. Two additional primitive loop trails have been developed on the east side of the lake. Josh's Trail is 0.3 miles and runs along the northeastern city property boundary. Salamander Trail is 0.8 miles and is on the neighboring, privately owned property. There is no legal easement for the Salamander Trail.

There are some established and posted rules for Black Lake Park. Boats are allowed, but with electric motors only. Dogs are allowed on leash only and park users must pick up dog waste (bags are provided). Trash cans are not available. Signs state that no camping, fires or vegetation cutting is allowed.

Generally, the park's condition is good. The west portion with the benches, bathroom, covered picnic tables and parking lot is excellent. The gravel road to the east side of the lake has pot holes and parking at the boat launch could be better delineated.

### **Indian Creek Water Source Protection Area**

Ilwaco owns approximately 690 acres in the upper Bear Creek watershed, six miles northeast of Ilwaco. It contains the City's water source reservoir and facilities. Due to the sensitivity of the water source, no public access is allowed. The area's condition is good. However, there is a reserved timber right held by a private timber company. They plan to log 170 acres within 4 years. This could add sediment and negatively impact the City's water source. Also, the forest was historically planted for timber production. Trees are planted close together and do not represent natural diversity. From a habitat and forest health perspective, it would benefit from forest restoration.

### **Ocean Beach School District Athletic Fields**

The Ocean Beach School District High & Middle Schools sit on 20 acres just south of Black Lake. The Boys & Girls Club of the Long Beach Peninsula is also in the old high school building, now called Black Lake Community Center. These properties are owned and managed by the Ocean Beach School District. They have almost 6 acres of athletic (soccer, football) fields and a full sized track. They also have an outdoor basketball hoop. The schools offer students baseball and fast pitch, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, track and field, volleyball, wrestling and soccer. Students practice baseball and softball in Long Beach. Golf practice is held at the Peninsula Golf Course, north of Long Beach. Cross country practices on the track, on Black Lake park trails, Ilwaco City Park, and the Discovery Trail. The other sports are practiced at the school. The condition of the school facilities is excellent. There is significant paved parking, including handicapped parking. However, there is no signage welcoming or outlining regulations around general public usage of the outdoor facilities.

### **Port of Ilwaco Waterfront**

The Port of Ilwaco owns most of Ilwaco's waterfront. They have a variety of amenities of benefit to recreational users. The waterfront has a 2.5 acre, quarter mile long area with pedestrian walkway and grassy shoreline. This area hosts the Saturday Market and other events during the summer. There is a covered picnic pavilion available for public use. There are numerous uncovered picnic tables and benches along the waterfront. There are two permanent bathrooms, one in the pavilion and another at the east end of the parking lot. There is also a simple roofed building with two portable toilets at the west end of the waterfront. There are more than 300 off-road parking spaces, including numerous handicap-accessible spaces. There is a covered bus stop at the Port.

There is 800-slip marina used by for both recreational boaters and commercial fishermen. There is a back in boat launch, guest moorage, two small boat hoists and two fuel docks. The marina has shower facilities for tenants only. Additionally, the Port of Ilwaco has a 50-ton travel lift, a self/full service work yard and dry boat storage facilities.

The condition of the port facilities is mediocre to good. The waterfront park area is excellent. The boat launch area is mediocre.

## **Cape Disappointment State Park**

Cape Disappointment State Park (formerly Fort Canby State Park) is a 1,882-acre park, on the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean. It is owned and managed by Washington State Parks & Recreation. It is part of a collection of sites that make up the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks. A Discovery Pass is required to park a vehicle in the park.

The park offers four miles of ocean beach, three miles of Columbia River frontage, two lighthouses, an interpretive center and museum, 6.5 miles hiking and bicycling trails, and camping. A portion of the Discovery Trail runs through the park. Common activities include beach combing, ship watching, wildlife watching, learning about cultural history, hiking, bicycling, and camping. There are numerous picnicking areas and benches. There are two volleyball courts, three baseball fields and an amphitheater. Access is clear and parking is plentiful with handicapped parking at most sites. The condition of the park is excellent.

## **Discovery Garden & Mariners Memorial**

This city lot sized pocket park (0.11 acres) is managed by the Columbia-Pacific Heritage Museum. It contains a short meandering path, a bench, a mariner memorial monument, Lewis & Clark interpretive signage, and a native plant demonstration garden. The condition of the park is excellent.

## **Lewis & Clark Discovery Trail**

The Lewis & Clark Discovery Trail runs for 8.2 miles from Ilwaco to North Long Beach. It is a multi-use trail dedicated to pedestrian and bicycle use. Its southern end begins at the condor sculpture at the Port of Ilwaco Pavilion on the waterfront, just off Howerton Avenue. The Port waterfront area offers free parking, public restrooms and covered picnic area. The trail runs for a half mile on Ilwaco city streets to the primitive trail entrance at the top of Main Street. However, there is limited signage guiding people from the waterfront to Main Street. There are no bike lanes and sidewalks are not in place along the entire route.

The top of Main Street has an entry with signage. It has room on the side of the road for up to four cars. However, there is a "No Parking" sign next to two potential parking spaces. From there the trail follows an easement through private property and then enters Cape Disappointment State Park. The trail comes into the Park at North Head Road next to the Beards Hollow Overlook. There is parking and interpretive signage at the Overlook and a map the Discovery Trail. However, there are no directional signs from the parking lot to the trail. There is no overpass, cross-walk, or cautionary signage warning drivers about the Discovery Trail crossing the road. West of North Head Road, the trail then drops down to Beards Hollow, where there is additional parking and a bathroom. After the parking area, the trail goes down to the beach, and finally runs north through the beach dunes up to 26<sup>th</sup> Street North, north of Long Beach. There are no picnic tables or benches along the trail from Ilwaco to Beards Hollow. There are no directional bathroom signs.

Management is shared between State Parks and the cities of Ilwaco and Long Beach. The condition of the trail is generally good. One section in Cape Disappointment State Park between the Overlook and Beard Hollow is very steep and therefore has not been paved, resulting in uneven terrain. Also, falling

leaves and debris as well as wet conditions can make the paved trail slippery for hikers and bicycles. Long Beach has a sweeper that has been used in Ilwaco previously, but may not visit the Ilwaco portion of the trail often enough.

## **Ilwaco Cemetery & Natural Area**

The non-profit Ilwaco Cemetery Association owns 37 acres east of downtown Ilwaco. The Catholic Archbishop of Seattle owns an additional 10 acres to the north containing significant wetlands. The cemetery takes up 10 acres and the remaining is natural. However, the level of protection of this natural area is unknown. The cemetery has paved roads, parking (no handicapped spots), and a portable toilet. There are no benches or picnic tables. The condition is good.

## **Wallicut River Natural Area**

A private non-profit organization, Columbia Land Trust owns this 117-acre property at the east end of Ilwaco, across from the Vandalia subdivision. The property is conserved for wildlife habitat. The Land Trust is in the process of restoring the property, focusing on juvenile salmon habitat (intertidal wetlands). It has several deed restrictions on it, limiting any activity that might impact its wildlife values. At the time of writing, the buildings had just been removed and the gorse mowed, resulting in a good condition.

## **Public Involvement**

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Public involvement and input were essential to the success and validity of this document. The public was notified of each part of the process through print and news media as well as through email lists and online social media.

## **The Planning Process**

The planning process for the Ilwaco Parks, Trails and Natural Area Plan has incorporated a variety of methods to ensure that the public was well informed throughout the process. The steering committee throughout the process was the Ilwaco Parks & Recreation Commission. Representatives from partners, the Columbia Land Trust and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program were brought on board the steering committee to help guide the planning process and community involvement.

## **Open House #1**

The first open house was held at the Ilwaco Community Building to gain initial feedback from the public as well as introduce the questionnaire and the scope, timeline, and purpose of the project. The open house format consisted of a 20 minute presentation explaining the purpose and goal of the plan and the timeline for the planning process. The presentation also provided descriptions and explanations of the existing conditions in Ilwaco and the surrounding region regarding parks, trails, and open space. Photos and graphics were shown of each known park, trail and natural area in the city and local area to give context to the discussion throughout the open house. After the presentation, the public was given the opportunity to lead discussions in groups or one-on-one with different members of the public or planning committee. Three stations were set up each with a map and flip chart to write down solutions and ideas for each topic section. The topics for each table were Parks, Trails and Natural Areas. At each

table, members of the steering committee asked attendees to describe or draw their ideas for each topic. The complete list of comments, project ideas, and suggestions can be found in Appendix 4.

## Questionnaire

The questionnaire was a key tool to gain public input and feedback from Ilwaco residents and park/trail users. The questionnaire was distributed in multiple ways. The questionnaire was given to all attendees at the first open house to be returned either by mail or dropped off at the city hall or post office. The questionnaire was also sent with the utility bill to all Ilwaco utility customers. The public could also access the questionnaire through an online link, sent out through a variety of social media sites and email lists from local community organizations. The survey was open from August 1 to September 15, 2013. A total of 105 questionnaires were completed, 72 via hard copy and 33 through the “SurveyMonkey” website. Questionnaire results were presented at the following public meetings and are available for public viewing through this plan. They may also be used for future parks and recreation planning efforts. Listed below is a description of the types of questions found in the questionnaire. The complete questionnaire and results can be found in Appendix 3.

**Respondent Demographic Information:** Questions 1-5 collected information about respondent’s age, sex, city of resident, and length of residence.

**Respondent Activity Participation:** Questions 6-7 collected information about respondent’s frequency participating in a variety of recreational activities. Question 7 was open response asking what top 3 activities respondents for which they would like to see improvements.

**Satisfaction and Quality levels of Local Park, Trail, and Open Space:** Questions 8-16 collected information on the satisfaction levels concerning facilities at the following parks and trails: Ilwaco City Park, Black Lake Park, Port of Ilwaco Waterfront, and Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail.

**Importance of Natural Areas and Recreation:** Questions 17-18 collected information on the value of natural areas and why outdoor recreation is important to respondents.

**Additional comments:** Question 19 gave respondents opportunity for additional comment. Out of the 105 surveys 41 gave comment.

## Stakeholder Interviews

The Parks Commission led the stakeholder interview effort. The steering committee developed a comprehensive list of key stakeholders, including park and trail users, sport team coaches and coordinators, local leaders. They also created a document outlining information to be shared with interviewees and questions. This document, a complete list of interviewed stakeholders, and a summary of the results is in Appendix 6.

## Working Meeting

A working meeting was held on September 25, 2013 at the Ilwaco Community Building. The meeting’s purpose was to report on the findings from the questionnaire, first open house, inventory, and interviews, and build a comprehensive list of recommendations based on the public’s input and need shown through the questionnaire and meetings.

## Open House #2

The second open house was held on November 20, 2013 at the Ilwaco Community Building. There were 24 attendees and 20 filled out the survey provided at the meeting. The purpose was to give an overview of recommendations found in the public participation and to give the public opportunity to give input on and prioritize the recommendations. The open house format consisted of a 30 minute presentation that was an overview of the inventory, questionnaire, and stakeholder interview results. The presentation also provided an overview of the recommendations found through a variety of public participation methods. After the presentation, the public was given the opportunity to give comment on projects and ask questions regarding the recommendations survey. Attendees were then given a Potential Recommendations Survey, where they were able to give their level of support for each potential project. They turned it in prior to departure. See Appendix 5 for notes on this meeting, the survey and results.

## City Council Adoption

The Plan was presented to City Council on \_\_\_\_\_. It was adopted through resolution. See Appendix 7 for the resolution.

## Demand & Needs Analysis

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The demand and needs analysis and results are based on a range of data, including the questionnaire, stakeholder interviews, public meetings, and inventory conducted as part of this Plan. The following summarizes this data and provides context for the recommendations made in the rest of this plan. More complete results and data are in the appendices.

### How Ilwaco citizens recreate

- Questionnaire respondents were asked in question 6 of the questionnaire about the frequency they participate in certain activities on a scale of daily, weekly, few times a year, and never.
- On a daily/weekly basis, Ilwaco citizens frequently participate in walking/jogging (71 people), nature/wildlife observation or photography (52), and hiking/trail running (30).
- The most infrequent activities are Frisbee golf, skateboarding, football, fishing or crabbing by boat, off a dock or shore, baseball/softball, and horseback riding.
- Ilwaco High School sports teams recreate on a daily basis and some teams regularly use Ilwaco Park facilities and trails.

### Satisfaction, quality levels and usage of parks, trail, and natural areas

In the questionnaire, respondents were asked their level of satisfaction with park and trail facilities on a scale of Excellent - Very Good - Satisfactory - Not Good - Inadequate - No Opinion.

#### Ilwaco City Park

- Generally, the quality of Ilwaco City Park and its amenities was rated as Satisfactory by respondents. They do not find the facilities as Excellent and see room for improvement in the park.
- Out of the 105 respondents to the questionnaire, only 1% rated the City Park's Overall Experience as Excellent, 15% rated it Very Good, and 47% rated it Satisfactory. 14% thought it

was Not Good or Inadequate and 22% had No Opinion, possibly due to their not knowing the site.

- Amenities the park provides, such as sporting fields, playground, restrooms and parking area, were generally also rated Satisfactory.
- When asked to give suggestions on the park, residents responded suggested the park should have better maintenance and cleanliness, be redesigned and configured, and have better signage. See full comment list in appendix.
- Usage of the park was recorded through the questionnaire with 47 percent of questionnaire respondents saying they used the park a few times a year. 13% use it daily or weekly.
- During the season, the Ilwaco High School cross country team uses the city park for workouts about once or twice a week. The park is also used for the team as a place to host team dinners.
- The Ilwaco schools softball coach would be in favor of moving the softball program to Ilwaco City park because drainage is better than in Long Beach, however there is a need for better facilities.

### **Black Lake Park**

- On average, the quality of Black Lake Park and its amenities were rated from Very Good to Satisfactory by Ilwaco respondents. 7% rated it Excellent, 40% rated it Very Good, and 37% rated it Satisfactory. Only 2% thought it was Not Good or Inadequate and 14% had No Opinion.
- The park is used daily/weekly by a small group of citizens (17%) and 56% of questionnaire respondents had never visited the park.
- When asked to give suggestions for the park, residents suggested the park should make improvements to and have better access to bathrooms, trails, and shoreside fishing areas. See full comment list in appendix.

### **Port of Ilwaco Waterfront**

- On average, the quality of the Port of Ilwaco Waterfront and its amenities were rated from Excellent to Satisfactory by respondents. 58% find the overall experience to be Excellent or Very Good. 34% find it Satisfactory and only 4% rate it as Not Good or Inadequate.
- According to the questionnaire, the waterfront is the most used park. It is used heavily on a daily and weekly basis (41%).
- When asked to give suggestions on the waterfront, respondents suggested the park should be made more accessible to non-locals, have better signage for Discovery Trail users, and be used to attract new business to the area. See full comment list in appendix.

### **Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail**

- On average, the quality of the Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail and its amenities were rated from Excellent to Very Good by respondents. 66% rate the overall experience as Excellent or Very Good. 20% rate it Satisfactory and no one rated it Not good or Inadequate.
- The trail is used daily/weekly by 40% of citizens.

- When asked to give suggestions on the trail, respondents suggested the trail have better signage, including interpretive signage as well as way-finding, and that there be more connections to other natural areas from the trail. See full comment list in appendix.

## Importance of Natural Areas and Recreation

- Ilwaco residents feel strongly about protecting natural areas.
- Questions 17-18 collected information on the value of natural areas and why outdoor recreation is important. 72% of respondents felt very strongly about protecting drinking water, and 61% felt strongly about protecting wetlands, streams, salmon habitats and other natural areas.
- 27% of questionnaire respondents felt that play for children, exercise, and experiencing nature were the most important recreation opportunities to have nearby.

## Goals & Objectives

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The following goals and objectives were developed from the public involvement results, the demand and need analysis.

### **Goal 1: Provide high quality parks, trails and natural areas with facilities that serve residents and visitors of all ages, abilities and interests.**

Objective 1A: Provide a system of parks facilities and assets within walking and easy bicycling distance of all Ilwaco residents.

Action: Identify park opportunities in developing and re-developing areas.

Action: Identify park opportunities in underserved areas.

Objective 1B: Provide a mix of park facilities that provide for a diversity of interests.

Action: Provide a mix of court and field activity facilities, such as basketball, tennis, soccer, baseball/softball, and volleyball.

Action: Host covered picnic areas in parks.

Action: Provide play structures that serve children of all ages and abilities.

Action: Develop and maintain water access at multiple locations.

Action: Work with the hospital, schools and other youth programs to create and improve park facilities to meet their needs.

Action: Develop a new park facility specifically to draw new visitors to Ilwaco.

### **Goal 2: Provide an interconnected system of high quality, accessible multi-use trails that offer diverse, healthy and informative outdoor experiences and link downtown, schools, parks, other facilities and neighborhoods.**

Objective 2A: Connect and unify the community with a multi-use trail system.

Action: Ensure current trails are legally secured (easements or fee simple ownership).

Action: Create and mark new trails to connect downtown, schools, parks, other facilities and neighborhoods.

Action: Where possible, design for and permit multiple non-motorized uses of trails, such as walking, jogging, and bicycling.

Action: Connect and mark trails to transit stops, bike routes and sidewalks.

Action: Link Ilwaco's trails to other community, county, and statewide trails.

Objective 2B: Expand usage of the trails through safety improvements, amenities and education.

Action: Improve trails safety through signage, trail surface improvements, lighting, and monitoring.

Action: Provide some trails that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Action: Furnish trailheads with signage, including maps, mileage information, interpretive features and rules and regulations.

Action: Provide trailhead amenities, such as clearly marked parking, bicycle racks, benches, dog waste stations and trash containers.

Action: Provide opportunities for rest and picnicking.

Objective 2C: Protect natural resources along trails and provide opportunities for nature and cultural heritage education.

Action: Site trails to protect natural resources, especially water quality and maintain or restore native vegetation, streams, and wetlands where possible.

Action: Provide interpretive signage about natural and cultural heritage.

**Goal 3: Conserve and steward healthy natural areas to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and migration corridors, sensitive ecosystems, open space, outdoor education opportunities and scenic views.**

Objective 3A: Conserve key streams, rivers and wetlands to protect water quality, provide wildlife habitat and maintain migration corridors.

Objective 3B: Conserve natural forests in and adjacent to parks and trails to maintain views and the nature experience, provide wildlife habitat, and maintain migration corridors.

Objective 3C: Conserve key ecosystems that host Endangered Species Act-listed wildlife and plant species.

Objective 3D: Restore natural area habitats to improve water quality, manage stormwater, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Objective 3E: Steward natural areas to persist for future generations.

Action: Monitor, provide signage, and maintain natural areas to minimize dumping, invasive species and other issues.

**Goal 5: Create a distinct identity that celebrates the natural, cultural and historic character of Ilwaco through park and facility design and education.**

Objective 5A: Create a "brand" for Ilwaco's park system, including design standards for signage and amenities that reflects Ilwaco's natural, cultural and historic character.

Action: Adopt graphic and language standards before major efforts are underway.

Action: Identify natural partners in presenting our parks identity to visitors and seasonal residents

Objective 5B: Integrate natural, cultural and historic interpretation and education into the park system.

Objective 5C: Host events that celebrate Ilwaco's character.

**Goal 6: Cultivate strong, positive partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations to support the park system.**

Objective 6A: Develop, strengthen and facilitate strong partnerships with individuals, service groups, non-profits, agencies, and other organizations to increase park system use, improve and grow park facilities, and operate them.

Action: Identify potential partners and invite them to become involved.

Action: Host periodic partner coordination meetings focusing on the park, trails and natural areas system.

Objective 6B: Coordinate planning between organizations, especially government agencies, local school districts, youth programs, and the hospital, to increase the availability and accessibility of outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

Objective 6C: Increase communication and coordination between city staff, elected officials and committees to support the park system.

Objective 6D: Facilitate community involvement and stewardship.

Action: Develop volunteer opportunities such as volunteer work parties and Adopt-A-Park or Trail programs.

Action: Work with high school students, service organizations, 4-H, and other youth programs to complete projects.

Action: Attract and involve local companies and their staff in projects.

Action: Host community events at the different parks and trail sites.

**Goal 7: Ensure long term economic sustainability in park system planning, design, and operation.**

Objective 7A: Identify and pursue funding from a wide variety of sources for park acquisition, facility development and maintenance.

Objective 7B: Provide adequate park and trail maintenance funding in annual budgeting.

Objective 7C: Create community partnerships and encourage volunteerism to contribute to the development and maintenance of the system.

Objective 7D: Consider long-term management and cost of new park sites or facilities prior to their development.

## **Recommendations**

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The following recommendations concerning parks, trails and natural areas in Ilwaco are based on extensive research and stakeholder involvement completed as part of this Plan. The recommendations outline the vision developed for the park system over the next six years (2020).

The recommendations, proposals and projects outlined in this plan are conceptual and subject to further study, feasibility and funding. It is not the intention of this plan that any recommendations included here limit the city's ability to act on an opportunity that may arise provided the opportunity supports

the Plan's goals and objectives. Coordination with other public and/or private participants that may be affected by or interested in the final outcome of any particular project, such as adjacent residents or funding partners, will also affect the final outcome or overall validity of any particular recommendation. As a result, all recommendations presented here are done with the understanding that they will only be implemented as opportunity, funding, and feasibility allow.

The projects identified in the list below were prioritized through the public process and the recommendations from the Parks & Recreation Commission. The criteria for these were based on the following criteria:

- Reflects the community needs and values as identified through the public process.
- Expands recreation opportunities.
- Improves existing recreation resources.
- Protects natural or cultural resources.
- Enhances partnerships and volunteerism.
- Strengthens the community.

Short term and day-to-day recommendations are intended to be completed in the shorter term more easily with little or no funding by staff and/or volunteers. Longer term recommended projects are more involved and would require time and larger funding amounts. Tier 1 projects are higher priority and are intended to be completed prior to Tier 2 projects. Tier 2 projects may not be completed within the six year Plan period, but would be re-visited in the 2020 Plan update. Any projects on properties not owned or controlled by the City of Ilwaco would be cooperative and would necessitate landowner consent.

## **Ilwaco City Park**

Short term and day-to-day recommendations:

- Clean portable toilets more often and leave them open during the day, every day.
- Pick up litter more often.
- Remove graffiti regularly.
- Add at least one to two trash receptacles. Explore signage and receptacle design to deter dumping.
- Hold more city-sponsored events in the Park.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Connect City Park to downtown, the Port and the Discovery Trail through signage, sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Improve access roads and develop parking area, including sidewalks, bike lanes, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-Accessible parking.
- Add and improve Park amenities, including new signage, drinking fountains, dog waste bag stations, bicycle racks.
- Remove invasive plants and add native plants to natural area hillside (NE corner).
- Look at re-designing and re-developing park layout and facilities. As part of this re-development:
  - Replace restrooms.
  - Replace covered picnic areas.
  - Update the play equipment.
  - Renovate the tennis and basketball courts.
  - Improve field to host high school softball team. Possible improvements: new fencing, scoreboard, improved infield surface, bleachers, backstop, batting cage, gear storage, pitching machine and bull pen.

- Explore the addition of a community garden.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 2:

- Create waterfront access south of City Park to overlook Yellow Bluff. Improve entry, access path, add a bench and interpretive signage. Look at adding a kayak/canoe put in.

## **Black Lake Park**

Short term and day-to-day recommendations:

- Leave toilets open during the day, every day
- Add at least one to two trash receptacles. Explore signage and receptacle design to deter dumping.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Add and improve Park amenities, including new and increased signage, drinking fountains, dog waste bag stations, bicycle racks, and trash cans.
- If possible, acquire more of Black Lake hill and expand park.
- If acquisition not possible, secure upper (easternmost) Salamander Trail easement.
- Improve and expand trails for mountain biking.
- Explore making the core trail around Black Lake ADA-accessible.
- Improve parking at the boat launch.
- Add more picnic areas.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 2:

- Improve the northern end of Quaker Ave NE to create additional, safe access to the southeast corner of Black Lake Park.
- Redevelop the old shop building at southeast corner into a covered picnic area with developed parking.
- Create a shallow entry beach at southeast corner near old shop.
- Work with county partners to explore the connection of Black Lake to Chinook Valley Rd via the old railroad corridor.

## **Indian Creek Water Source Protection Area**

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Develop water source protection plan.
- Buy out the two remaining timber harvest rights to protect water source.

## **Ocean Beach School District Athletic Fields**

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Work with District to determine allowable public usage at site.
- Provide signage outlining allowable public usage and regulations.

## **Port of Ilwaco Waterfront**

Short term and day-to-day recommendations:

- Clean portable toilets more often.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Connect the Port waterfront to Main Street Discovery Trail trailhead through designated parking, welcome kiosk, signage, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.
- Build pedestrian and bicycle trail from waterfront to boat launch.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 2:

- Add bathrooms at the boat launch.

## **Lewis & Clark Discovery Trail & Cape Disappointment State Park**

Short term and day-to-day recommendations:

- Work with city staff and partners to better maintain the trail, including making the bridge less slippery, fixing loose boards, cutting brush and sweeping the trail more often.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Add a bench and thin some shrubs to improve the view at north Holman Lake overlook.
- Add interpretive signage along the trail.
- Add mileage and restroom location signage along the trail.
- Work with State Parks and other partners to explore the re-contouring of the steep section of trail between the Beard Hollow Overlook and Beard Hollow to allow slower bike speeds and pave.
- Work with State Parks to explore a better connection between the Beards Hollow overlook to the Discovery trail with signage and paved, safe trails.
- Work with State Parks and Washington Department of Transportation to explore adding a crosswalk or pedestrian bridge where the Discovery Trail crossed North Head Road.
- Extend the Discovery Trail north from Port, past City Park over Cooks Hill to Cooks Hill Overlook and Highway 101.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 2:

- Improve Cooks Hill Overlook property for park and trail usage.
- Work with state, regional and county partners to connect the Discovery Trail to Vandalia, Chinook Fort Columbia, and Station Camp/Middle Village through a multi-use trail along Highway 101.

## **Natural Areas**

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Protect Lake Holman east of Discovery Trail.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 2:

- Work with Columbia Land Trust to explore adding a primitive trail along the Columbia on the Wallicut River Natural Area property.
- Explore the acquisition of Obon Vista RV Park.
- Protect wetland/creek south of the High School between the highway and Brumbach Avenue
- Protect wetland/creek north of Ilwaco's northern boundary, between Willows Road (Eagle's Rest RV Park) and Hwy 101/Pacific Way.

## **Other Projects**

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 1:

- Develop comprehensive park/trail signage style and use throughout the city.
- Connect all parks and trails to downtown through wayfinding signage, trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

- Promote Ilwaco's parks, trails and natural areas system, i.e. signs, brochure/map, website, social media, smart phone tours.

Longer term recommended projects – Tier 2:

- Develop park facilities to draw people here (as well as for locals), i.e. Frisbee golf course, mountain bike terrain park.
- Meet with Vandalia homeowners and residents to explore their needs in terms of park facilities, such as a play structure, dog park or community garden.
- Explore adding a community garden downtown.

## Implementation Plan

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Implementing this Plan advances the community-wide vision and guides long-term decision making. The critical balance is to provide enough direction to create action toward the community's vision while retaining a high degree of flexibility to adapt to opportunities created by development and redevelopment, changes in political priorities, new partnerships and the availability of outside resources. Given that the operating and capital budget for the city are limited, looking towards these alternative funding strategies and opportunities is critical to the Plan's success.

In the following Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the recommended projects are presented by Tier and they are then ranked into categories, High, Medium or Low priority. Potential general funding sources and estimated costs are also provided. Costs are derived from other local park district budget information and are meant for general guidance only. Planning should include more detailed cost information. The following CIP is intended to help guide the City to strategically implement the plan.

## Capital Improvement Plan 2014-2020

Tier 1							
Project Type	Site	Project Description	Funding Source	Activity	Priority	Projected Year	Estimated Cost
Park	Ilwaco City Park	Connect City Park to downtown, the Port and Discovery Trail through signage, sidewalks and bike lanes	G	D	M	2016	\$20,000
Park	Ilwaco City Park	Improve access roads and develop parking area, including sidewalks, bike lanes, ADA-accessible parking	G	D	H	2014	\$80,000
Park	Ilwaco City Park	Add and improve Park amenities, including new signage, drinking fountains, dog bag stations, bicycle racks.	G	D	H	2016	\$5-10,000
Park	Ilwaco City Park	Remove invasive plants and add native plants to natural area hillside (NE corner).	D	R	M	2016	\$500
Park	Ilwaco City Park	Look at re-designing and re-developing park layout and facilities.	D	D, R	H	2014	\$25,000
Park	Black Lake Park	Add and improve Park amenities, including new and increased signage, drinking fountains, dog bag stations, bicycle racks, and trash cans.	G	D	H	2015	\$10,000
Park	Black Lake Park	If possible, acquire more of Black Lake hill and expand park.	G	A	H	2016	\$200-350,000
Park	Black Lake Park	If land not acquired, secure upper (easternmost) Salamander Trail easement.	G	A	H	2016	\$30,000
Park	Black Lake Park	Improve and possibly expand trails for mountain biking.	D	D	M	2017	\$50,000
Park	Black Lake Park	Explore making the core trail around Black Lake ADA-accessible.	G, D	D	M	2017	\$10,000
Park	Black Lake Park	Improve parking at the boat launch.	G	D	M	2019	\$50,000
Park	Black Lake Park	Add more covered picnic areas.	G, D	D	M	2018	\$15,000

### Activity Key:

A = Acquisition

D = Development

R = Renovation/Restoration

### Funding Key:

GF= General Fund

G = Grant

D = Donation/Volunteer

### Priority Key:

H = High Priority

M = Medium Priority

L = Low Priority

Project Type	Site	Project Description	Funding Source	Activity	Priority	Projected Year	Estimated Cost
Natural Area	Indian Creek	Develop water source protection plan.	G	D	H	2014	\$50,000
Natural Area	Indian Creek	Buy out the two remaining timber harvest rights to protect water source.	A	A	H	2015	\$350,000
Park	Ocean Beach school District	Work with District to determine allowable public usage at site. Provide signage and do public outreach outlining allowable public usage and regulations.	D	D	H	2015	\$1,000
Trail	Discovery Trail/Port of Ilwaco	Connect Port waterfront to Discovery Trail through designated parking, welcome kiosk, signage, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.	G	D	H	2016	\$500,000
Trail	Port of Ilwaco	Build pedestrian and bicycle trail from waterfront to boat launch.	G	D	M	2015	\$20,000
Trail	Discovery Trail	Add a bench and thin some shrubs to improve the view at north Holman Lake overlook.	D	D	M	2015	\$1,500
Trail	Discovery Trail	Add mileage and restroom location signage along the trail.	G	D	M	2016	\$7,500
Trail	Discovery Trail	Add interpretive signage along the trail.	G	D	M	2016	\$4,000
Trail	Discovery Trail/ Cape Disappointment State Park	Work with State Parks and other partners to explore the re-contouring of the steep section of trail between the Beards Hollow Overlook and Beard Hollow to allow slower bike speeds and pave.	G	D	H	2015	\$10,000
Trail	Discovery Trail/ Cape Disappointment State Park	Work with State Parks to explore a better connection between the Beards Hollow overlook to the Discovery trail with signage and paved, safe trails.	G	D	H	2015	\$20,000
Trail	Discovery Trail/ Cape Disappointment State Park	Work with State Parks and WSDOT to explore adding a crosswalk or pedestrian bridge where the Discovery Trail crossed North Head Road.	G	D	H	2018	\$500

**Activity Key:**

A = Acquisition

D = Development

R = Renovation/Restoration

**Funding Key:**

GF= General Fund

G = Grant

D = Donation/Volunteer

**Priority Key:**

H = High Priority

M = Medium Priority

L = Low Priority

Project Type	Site	Project Description	Funding Source	Activity	Priority	Projected Year	Estimated Cost
Trail	Discovery Trail	Extend the Discovery trail north from Port, past City Park over Cooks Hill to Highway 101.	G	A, D	H	2015	\$273,400
Natural Area	Holman Lake	Protect Lake Holman east of Discovery Trail.	G, D	A	M	2018	\$25-100,000
All	All Sites	Develop comprehensive park/trail signage style and use throughout the city.	G, D	D	H	2015	\$40,000
All	All Sites	Connect all parks and trails to downtown through wayfinding signage, trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.	G	D	H	2018	\$500,000
All	All Sites	Promote Ilwaco's parks, trails and natural areas system, i.e. signs, brochure/map, website, social media, smart phone tours.	G, D	D	H	2015	\$50,000
<b>Tier 2</b>							
Park	Cooks Hill Overlook	Improve Cooks Hill Overlook property for park and trail usage.	G, D	D	L	TBD	TBD
Park	Ilwaco City Park	Create waterfront access south of City Park to overlook Yellow Bluff. Improve entry and access path, add a bench and interpretive signage. Look at adding a kayak/canoe put in.	G, D	D	L	TBD	TBD
Park	Black Lake Park	Improve the northern end of Quaker Ave NE to create additional, safe access to the southeast corner of Black Lake Park.	G	D	L	TBD	TBD
Park	Black Lake Park	Redevelop the old shop building at southeast corner into a covered picnic area with developed parking.	G	D	L	TBD	TBD
Park	Black Lake Park	Create a shallow entry beach at southeast corner near old shop.	G	D	L	TBD	TBD
Park	Black Lake Park	Work with county partners to explore the connection of Black Lake to Chinook Valley Rd via the old railroad corridor.	D	D	L	TBD	TBD
Park	Port of Ilwaco	Add bathrooms at the boat launch.	G	D	L	TBD	TBD

**Activity Key:**

A = Acquisition

D = Development

**Funding Key:**

GF= General Fund

G = Grant

**Priority Key:**

H = High Priority

M = Medium Priority

## **Funding Strategies**

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A variety of funding and volunteer sources are available for park construction and operation. The following pages present existing and potential financing and funding sources for acquiring, developing and maintaining parks, natural areas, trails and recreational programs.

### **General Fund**

This is the City's primary source for operating revenue. Most of this revenue comes from taxes levied on property, the sale of merchandise and utilities within the City's boundary. Fees collected through the park system, such as boat launch fees, picnic shelter or other facilities rental are also returned to the general fund. These revenues are generally thought to return to the parks budget, but in practice the revenue number is only a point of justification of the annual budget and has no direct connection to the level of funding.

### **Volunteer & Community-Based Action**

Throughout the public process in developing this plan, the public has identified projects and shown an interest in being involved in the improvement of park facilities through volunteer groups and events.

The donation of labor, land, or cash by service agencies, religious groups, youth groups, private groups or individuals is a popular way to acquire land, complete projects, and/or raise small amounts of money for specific projects. One common example of soliciting such support is going through a service club, such as Kiwanis, Lions or Rotary to fund picnic or playground improvements. The local high school has senior projects through which some fundraising and/or actual projects might be completed. Also there are active Boy and Girl Scouts in the area, who often complete volunteer projects.

### **Exchange or Sale of Property**

If the City has an excess parcel of land with some development value, it could be traded for private land more suitable for park use. Alternatively, it could be sold to purchase park/trail property or develop park facilities.

### **Joint Public/Private Partnership**

The City could enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives a public agency can offer are free land to place a facility (usually a park or other parcel of public land), certain tax advantages, and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.

### **Public or Non-Profit Partnerships**

The City could consider developing partnerships with other jurisdictions, agencies or non-profit service providers to implement projects identified in the plan. In the creation of this document assistance was received from the Columbia Land Trust and the National Park Service. Similar assistance can be acquired through those entities as well as others. Some potential partners include the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club,

private sport groups, neighborhood organizations, the County and neighboring city governments. For acquisition, private land trusts, such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency.

## **Shared Facilities**

In some situations other services provided in the city, or in private utilities, may be able to share the cost of improvements that would benefit the parks, recreation and natural areas system. One example is utility corridors; in many cases land used for sanitary sewer, water or power lines may make an excellent trail corridor. In this situation, the utility may pay to develop a service road that can also serve as a trail.

## **Grant Programs**

Beyond the City's own resources, the largest funding source for park and recreation projects is grants from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO is responsible for administering a wide variety of public funds and provides technical assistance and policy development in addition to preparing statewide plans on trails, boating facilities, habitat preservation and off-road vehicles. This section outlines the major RCO programs as well as several other relevant granting agencies. It is important to note that most grant programs require a portion of the project cost to be provided by a local partner as match funding. In most cases granting agencies will not fund more than 75 percent of a project's cost. These programs also require training, tracking and other staff attention throughout the year to maximize success.

### **RCO Boating Facilities Program (BFP)**

This grant program is funded by boaters' gasoline taxes and administered by the RCO. Projects eligible under this program include acquisition, development, planning and renovation projects associated with launching ramps, transient moorage and upland support facilities. RCO allocates up to \$200,000 for planning projects and up to \$1,000,000 for acquisition, development or projects that combine planning with acquisition or development. Grants require a minimum of 25 percent matching funds by a local agency.

### **RCO Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

This is a federal grant program that receives its money from offshore oil leases. The money is distributed through the National Park Service and is administered locally by the RCO. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and require a 50 percent match.

### **RCO Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**

This program is administered by the RCO. There are two accounts under this program: 1) Habitat Conservation; and 2) Outdoor Recreation. Projects eligible under this program include acquisition and development of parks, water access sites, trails, critical wildlife habitat, natural areas and urban wildlife habitat. Applicants must provide a minimum of a 50 percent non-RCO match. Local park projects have maximum requests of \$300,000 for development and \$500,000 for acquisition costs. There are no maximum request levels in the following categories: urban wildlife habitat, trails and water access.

## **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)**

The Youth Athletic Facilities is a grant program designed to provide funding for new, improved and better maintained outdoor athletic facilities serving youth and communities. This program was established by State Statute (RCW 79A.25.800-830) as part of the State Referendum 48, which provided funding for the Seattle Seahawks Stadium. The program is administered by the RCO and applicants must provide matching funds of at least 50 percent. The grant amounts vary by use from a minimum of \$5,000 for maintaining existing facilities to a maximum of \$150,000 for developing new facilities.

## **RCO Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA)**

This program is administered by the RCO and supports the purchase, improvement or protection of and access to aquatic lands for public purposes. Grant applications are reviewed once every two years for this program. Applicants must provide a minimum of a 50 percent match.

## **RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)**

Salmon recovery grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, from state and federal sources, to protect and restore salmon habitat. The board funds projects that protect existing, high quality habitats for salmon and that restore degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity. The board also awards grants for feasibility assessments to determine future projects and for other salmon related activities. Projects may include the actual habitat used by salmon and the land and water that support ecosystem functions and processes important to salmon. The program funds acquisition, restoration, design and non-capital projects with no project limit. Local agencies are required to match 15% of grant funds. The local granting organization is the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

## **RCO Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)**

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grants also may be used for boater education. This program is funded by the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund and administered by the RCO. The local agency match requirement is 25% and projects are split into two categories for projects under \$95,000 and over \$100,000.

## **RCO Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

The Recreational Trails Program, funded by federal gas taxes and administered by RCO, provides funds to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails and facilities. These grants support a backcountry experience, which means that the trail's physical setting, not its distance from a city or road, should be predominately natural. Under limited circumstances, new "linking" trails, relocations, and education proposals are also eligible. Grants top out at \$75,000 per project and require a 20% match for local agencies.

## **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**

These grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of projects. Most are used for projects in lower income areas of the community because of funding rules. Grants can cover up to 100 percent of project costs.

## **Surface Transportation Program**

Washington has received considerable revenue for trail-related projects from this source. Projects eligible for STP funding includes (federal-aid non-NHS) highway and bridge construction and repair; transit capital projects; bicycle, pedestrian, and recreational trails; construction of ferry boats and terminals. The Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) administers the funding through Pacific County. Currently, the county gets \$300,000 per year for projects.

## **Transportation Alternatives Program**

Eligible projects for this federal grant include: on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and improved mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental remediation; recreational trail program projects; and federally funded safe routes to school projects. This program is locally administered by the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments that runs grant rounds every three years. They last held a round in 2013. So, the next round is most likely in 2016.

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

USFWS may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects related to water quality improvement through debris and habitat/vegetation management, watershed management and stream bank erosion, and sediment deposition projects. Their Coastal Wetland and NAWCA grant programs also provide wildlife habitat acquisition and restoration funding focused on wetlands. Due to their complexity, partnering with an experienced partner, such as Columbia Land Trust or Ducks Unlimited, is recommended

## **National Park Service**

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects through technical assistance. Conservation and recreation planning professionals partner with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities. They can help: define project vision and goals; inventory and map community resources; identify and analyze key issues and opportunities; engage collaborative partners and stakeholders; design community outreach and participation strategies; develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas; set priorities and build consensus; identify funding sources; and develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project. Applications for assistance are due annually in August.

## **Private Grants and Foundations**

Private corporations and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects, targeted to the organizations' mission. Some foundations do not provide grants to governments, but will often grant to partner organizations.

## **Future Funding Opportunities**

If Ilwaco chooses to pursue it in the future, there are several other potential funding sources commonly used by cities to fund parks, trails and natural areas.

### **Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)**

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) is a tax on all real estate sales and is levied against the full value of the property. The City is allowed under the statutes to levy 0.5% in addition to the State of Washington tax. These funds can only be used for projects identified in the Capital Facilities Plan Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Since this funding is dependent on real estate transfers, the current slow economic recovery will constrain resources.

### **Park Impact Fees**

Park Impact Fees are fees imposed on new development to pay for capital projects required to accommodate the impacts of development on the City's infrastructure.

### **Exactions**

Costs of necessary public improvements are passed onto designated landowners through the development agreement process.

### **Park and Recreation Service Area**

A type of special tax district that can levy regular property tax up to \$0.60 / 1,000 property value. It is authorized under RCW36.68.400.620, when voter approved by special levy.

## **Conclusion**

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The community's vision for the future of parks, trails and natural areas has been the foundation for this entire planning effort. Consequently, the recommendations built on the vision should serve Ilwaco well, providing guidance to the end of this decade and beyond. The document is designed to be an informative guide to the park system, a reference for future projects and a tool box for implementing recommendations and taking advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. These projects will help the City to renew the investment in these critical community assets, and achieve the vision laid out by the community. The Parks & Recreation Commission will work with City Council, staff and community volunteers to implement recommendations over time. This Plan will be updated in six years so as to remain relevant and useful in strategic park, trail and natural area work, and in order for Ilwaco to remain eligible for state grants.

## Appendices

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Appendix 1: Maps

Appendix 2: Parks, Trails & Natural Area Inventory

Appendix 3: Questionnaire & Results

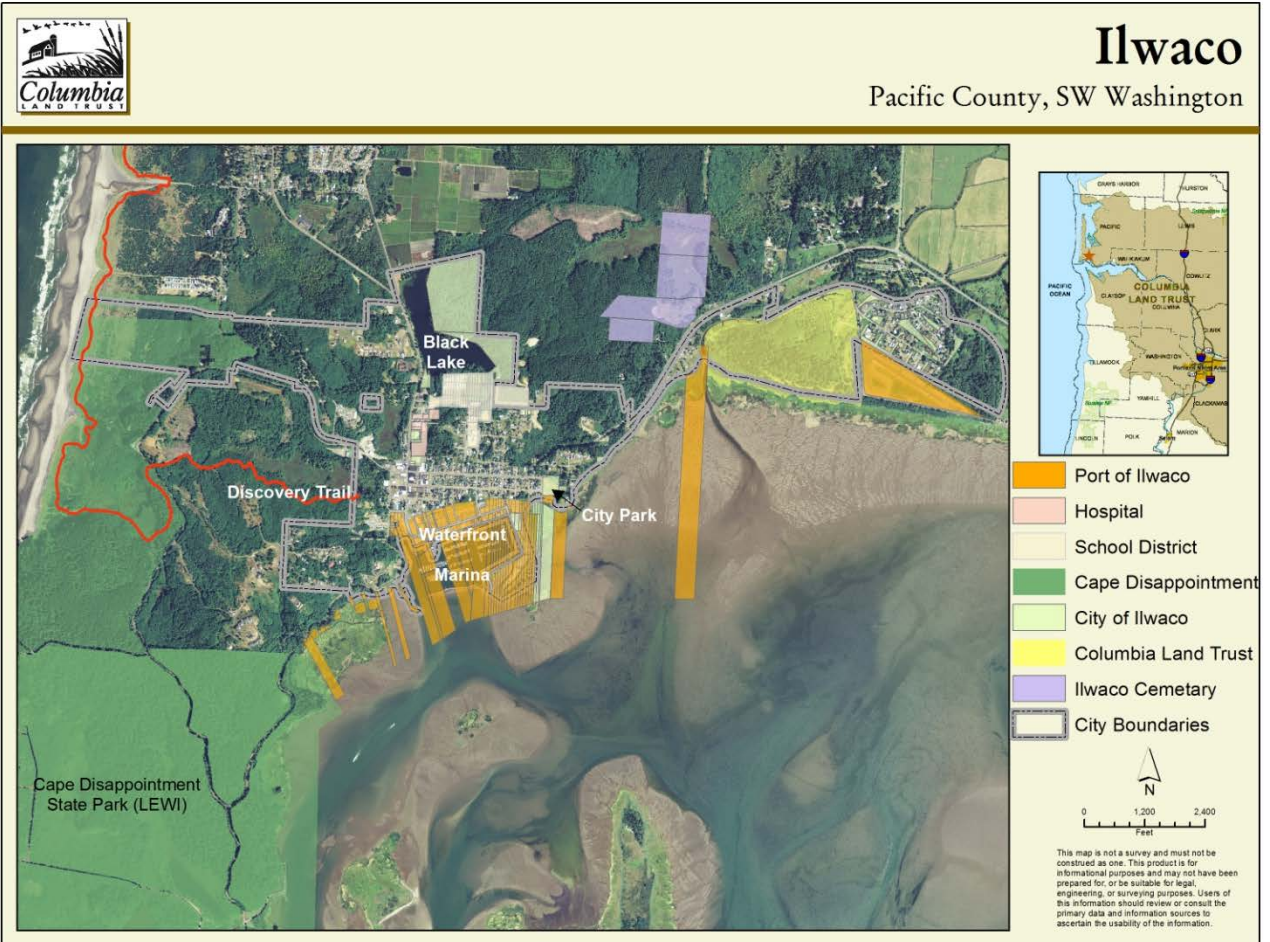
Appendix 4: Open House #1

Appendix 5: Open House #2 (including Potential Recommendations Survey)

Appendix 6: Stakeholder Interviews

Appendix 7: City Council Resolution

## Appendix 1: Maps





# Cape Disappointment State Park



## Appendix 2: Ilwaco Park, Trails, & Natural Area Inventory

	Ilwaco City Park	Black Lake Park	Indian Creek Water Source	Ocean Beach School District Athletic Fields	Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail	Port of Ilwaco Waterfront	Cape Disappointment State Park	Ilwaco Cemetery	Wallcut River Natural Area
<b>Acreage</b>	3.3	47	690	8	3	3	1882	47	117
<b>Acreage of Natural Areas</b>	0.7	45	680	2.5	0	0	1860	37	117
<b>Access Roads</b>	2	2	1	2	2	4	2	1	1
<b>Miles of Paved Trails</b>	0	0	0	0	2.25	0.25	1.5	0	0
<b>Miles of Un-Paved Trails</b>	0	2.8	0	0	0.25	0	6.5	0	0
<b># Basketball Courts</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b># Baseball /Softball fields</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
<b># Volleyball courts</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b># Soccer/football fields</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b># Tracks</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b># Docks</b>	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b># Boat Launches</b>	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b># Benches</b>	0	12	0	0	0	14	15	0	0
<b># Uncovered Picnic tables</b>	6	2	0	0	0	14	25	0	0
<b># Covered Picnic Tables</b>	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
<b># Amphitheaters</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b># Youth Playgrounds</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b># Signs</b>	2	3	0	2	3	4	N	2	0
<b># Permanent Bathrooms</b>	1	1	0	1	1	1	11	0	0
<b># Portable Toilets</b>	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
<b># Paved Onsite Parking Spots</b>	0	6	0	97	30	300+	166	0	0
<b># Handicapped Accessible Parking Spots</b>	0	2	0	3	2	12	15	0	0

N = numerous

## Appendix 3: Questionnaire & Results

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# Ilwaco Parks, Trails, & Natural Areas Community Priorities Questionnaire

The City of Ilwaco's Parks & Recreation Commission is developing a "Parks, Trails, & Natural Area's Plan". This survey, several community meetings, and community leader interviews will gather local knowledge and opinions to be integrated into the plan. It will be complete by March 2014.

Questions to be answered by the plan:

- What parks, trails and natural areas does Ilwaco have now?
- What would local people like to see in the future?
- How can we make that happen over time?

The plan will result in a list prioritized possible parks, trails and natural areas projects. It will also make Ilwaco eligible for state grants to help fund those projects.

***Please take 10 minutes to complete this questionnaire and make your voice heard! Thank you.***

By August 15, please drop this questionnaire off at Ilwaco City Hall (120 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Ilwaco) or mail to:

City of Ilwaco  
Attn: Parks Commission  
PO Box 548  
Ilwaco, WA 98624

Parks, trails, & natural areas:

- Improve community livability & health,
- Facilitate new/improved recreational opportunities,
- Protect clean water, natural resources & wildlife, and
- Contribute to economic development.

1. Which category below includes your age?

- a. 10-19
- b. 20-29
- c. 30-39
- d. 40-49
- e. 50-59
- f. 60 or older

2. What is your gender?

- a. Male
- b. Female

3. Do you have any children under 18 living with you?

- a. Yes
- b. No

4. Do you consider yourself a resident of:

- a. Ilwaco
- b. Seaview
- c. Long Beach
- d. Chinook
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. How long have you lived in Ilwaco?

- a. Less than a year
- b. 1-5 years
- c. 6-10 years
- d. 11-20 years
- e. 21+ year

6. How frequently do you participate in the following activities?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Few times a year	Never
Nature/wildlife observation or photography					
Outdoor concerts, festivals and other events					
Walking/jogging					
Hiking/trail running					
Road biking					
Mountain biking					
Kayaking/canoeing/standup paddle boarding					
Sailing					
Surfing					
Fishing/crabbing from boat					
Fishing/crabbing from shore					
Tennis					
Baseball/softball					
Basketball					
Skateboarding					
Football					
Soccer					
Frisbee Golf					
Playground (visit/play)					

Swimming					
Camping					
Horseback riding					
Other _____					

1. From the previous list or other recreational activities, what are your top 3 activities you would like to see improvements for?  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. How frequently do you or a member of your household use the following recreational facilities?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Few times a year	Never
Ilwaco City Park					
Black Lake Park					
Ilwaco Middle/High School Athletic Fields					
Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail					
Port of Ilwaco Waterfront					
Cape Disappointment State Park					

3. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Ilwaco City Park:

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Not very good	Totally inadequate
Overall experience					
Baseball/softball field					
Soccer Field					
Playground equipment					
Tennis court					
Basketball court					
Covered picnic area					
Parking area					
Bathrooms					
Other _____					

9a. Do you have any suggestions to improve or develop at this facility?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Black Lake Park:

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Not very good	Totally inadequate
Overall experience					
Parking area					
Bathrooms					
Trails					
Docks					
Boat launch					
Fishing access					
Other _____					

10a. Do you have any suggestions to improve or develop at this facility?

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5. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Port of Ilwaco Waterfront:

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Not very good	Totally inadequate
Overall experience					
Boat Put in facilities					
Waterfront sidewalks					
Access to market					
Other _____					

11a. Do you have any suggestions to improve or develop at this facility?

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6. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail:

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Not very good	Totally inadequate
Overall experience					
Parking					
Signage					
Trail					
Trail Connections to other trails (Cape Disappointment, Black Lake, Bike					

lanes, etc.)					
Other_____					
_____					

12a. Do you have any suggestions to improve or develop at this facility?

7. What recreation opportunities are most important to have nearby? (Circle most important two)
- a. Play for children

b. Experiencing nature

c. Social gatherings, picnics, neighborhood events

d. Exercise fitness, walking

e. playing sports

f. Learning opportunities

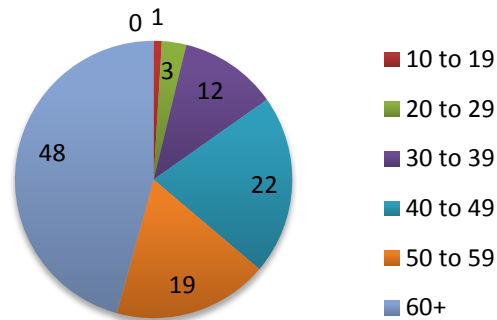
g. other\_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you have and additional comments or recommendations?

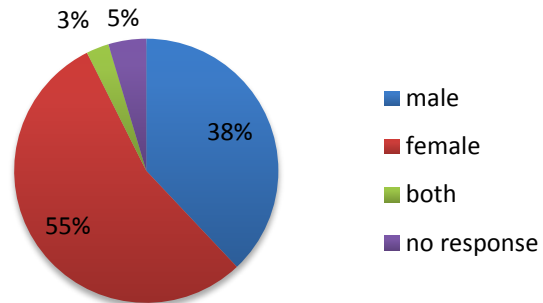
# Questionnaire Results

Total respondents: 105

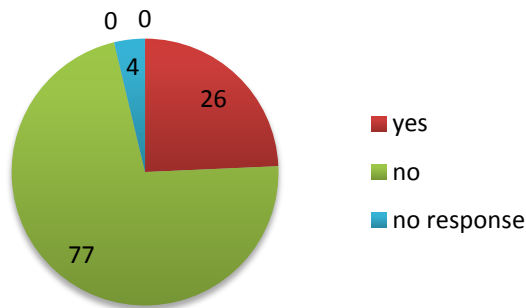
## 1. Age of Respondents



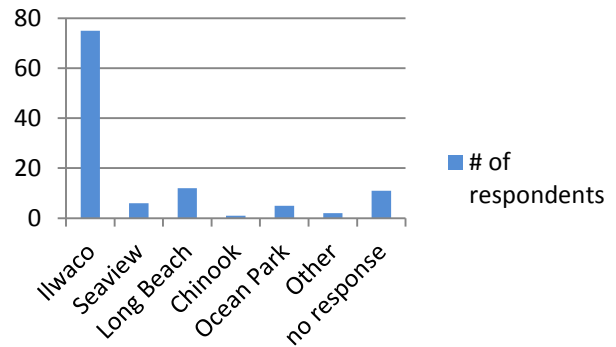
## 2. Gender



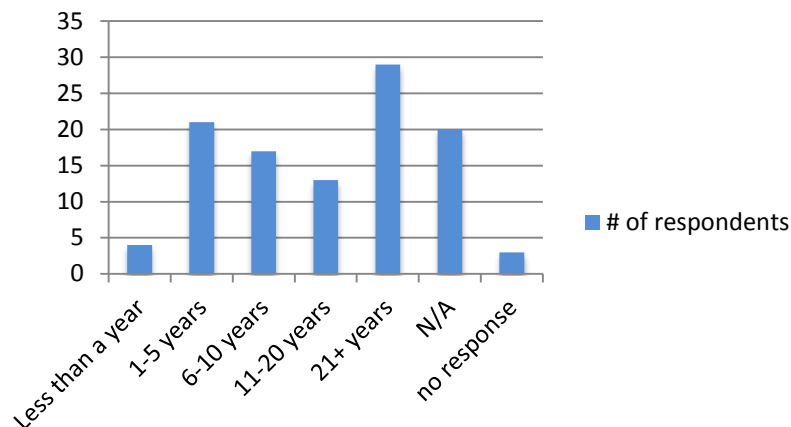
## 3. Have kids under 18



## 4. Do you consider yourself a resident of:



## 5. How long have you lived in Ilwaco?



**6. How frequently do you participate in the following activities?**

Activity	daily	weekly	monthly	few times a year	never
Nature/Wildlife observation or photography	31	21	10	25	8
Outdoor Concerts, Festivals, and other Special Events		7	17	64	10
Walking/jogging	47	24	15	13	1
Hiking/trail running	10	20	25	25	14
Road biking	2	9	3	15	41
Mountain biking	2	2	2	11	41
Kayaking/canoeing/standup paddle boarding	1	1	5	20	32
Sailing			1	3	46
Surfing		2	1	1	54
Fishing/crabbing from boat	4	5	6	31	59
Fishing/crabbing from shore/docks/jetties	1	1	5	39	48
Tennis	1	2	2	18	67
Baseball/softball		1	5	17	70
Basketball	2	4	6	8	72
Skateboarding	1	1	0	2	87
Football	1	1	3	4	84
Soccer	1	3	4	8	74
Frisbee golf		1	6	20	72
Playground	2	7	10	25	50
Swimming	1	6	15	34	34
Camping	1		11	50	32
Horseback riding	1	1	3	14	72

Other activities mentioned: motorcycling, archery, picnics, drag racing, golf, hunting, rollerskating

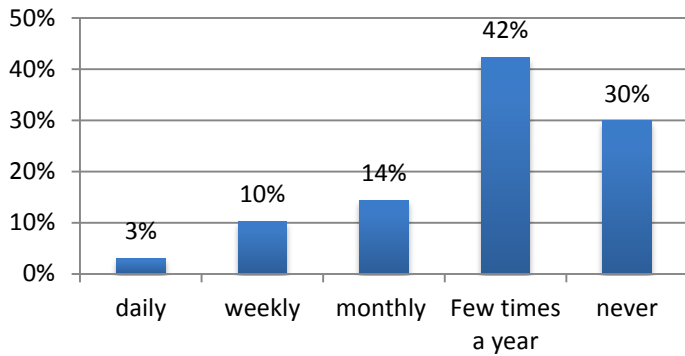
**7. From the above list or other recreational activities, what are your top 3 activities you would like to see improvements for?**

Activities	One of top 3
Walking/hiking/jogging	44
Biking	21
Festivals/Events	16
Playgrounds	12
Fishing from shore/dock	12
Kayaking/boating/paddleboarding	10
Swimming	7
Basketball	6
Tennis Courts	5
Nature Observation	5
Horse Trails	4
Camping	3
Soccer Fields	3
Skateboarding	1
Golf	1

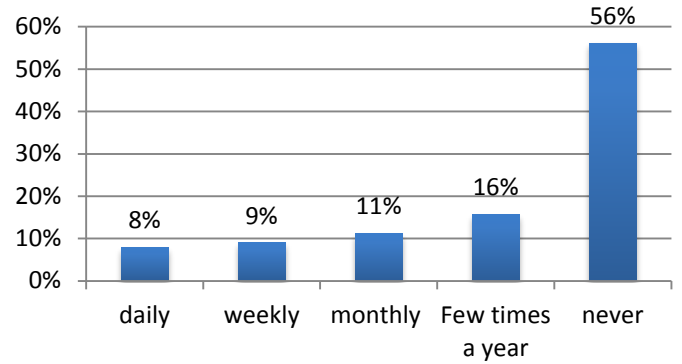
Other things mentioned but were not recreation items from the above list were: Farmers market, Large indoor rec/swim center, fish cleaning station, croquet tournament, more businesses downtown, signage for trails, no discovery pass for locals, historic interpretation, wifi at CDSP, crabbing rental equipment, aquaculture accessibility, racquetball

## 8. How frequently do you or a member of your household use the following recreational facilities?

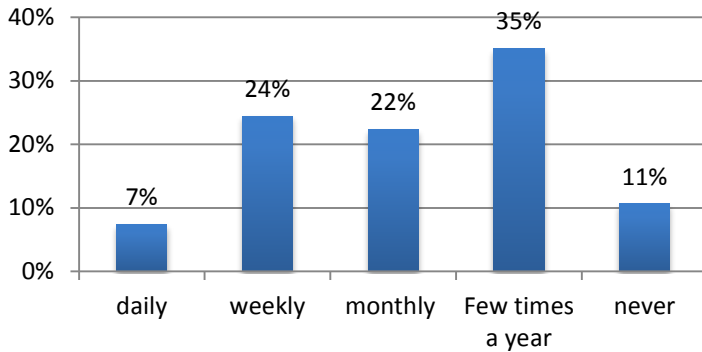
Ilwaco City Park



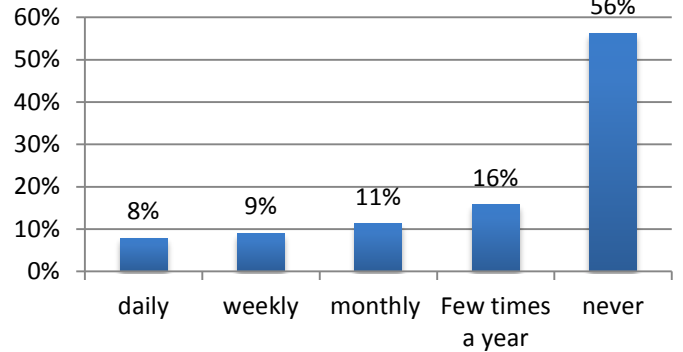
Ilwaco Middle/High School Athletic Fields



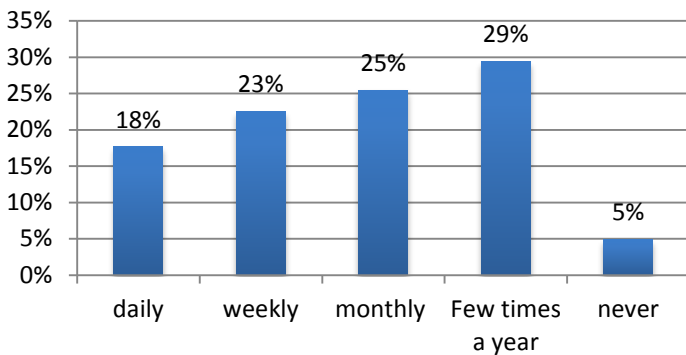
Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail



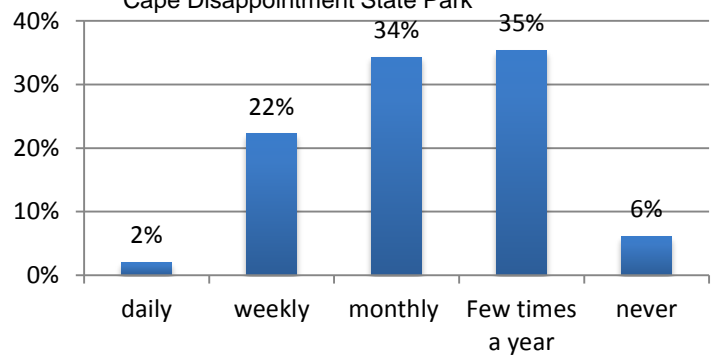
Black Lake Park



Port of Ilwaco Waterfront



Cape Disappointment State Park



## 9. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Ilwaco City Park

	excellent	very good	satisfactory	not good	inadequate	no opinion
Overall experience	1%	15%	47%	12%	2%	22%
Baseball/softball	1%	5%	44%	9%	1%	39%
Playground	3%	6%	42%	10%	8%	32%
Tennis courts	0%	3%	23%	15%	12%	47%
Basketball	0%	3%	28%	18%	11%	41%
Picnic area	0%	10%	42%	17%	6%	25%
Parking area	1%	7%	51%	17%	1%	23%
Restrooms	0%	5%	27%	24%	14%	24%

## 10. Suggestions:

- Keep restrooms open longer. Kids have to potty after and very frustrating when locked
- To avoid skin damage and sunburn, a covered picnic area would be great
- Regular maintenance
- Bathrooms were locked. Playground equipment could use updating or expansion. Parks is out of the way from center of town.
- Patch or repave/resurface tennis court
- Pretty much everything needs to be updated!
- I would take my kids there more if not for the lack of maintenance. For at least 3 years there has been graffiti carved in the slides that is rather inappropriate. Wouldn't be that hard for someone to check on things like this and fix the problem.
- No change. Please stop over development.
- Not always that clean.
- Better parking. City sponsored activities.
- Clean bathrooms. Put in merry-go-round.
- Get rid of graffiti, maintain more often. Dog bag station. More community events (rather than just tourist activities)
- Other than apparent maintenance, improved signage/wayfinding. Bathrooms and facilities need to be open consistently.
- General overhaul of the facility.
- Don't spend money.
- Cleanliness
- Tear down and rebuild something the city can be proud of. Like you did with the City of Ilwaco Fire House, it looks awesome.
- Close it down put all your money to get Black Lake developed into a facility for your community.
- Needs updated, more to do. Kept clean and inviting and need better signage to let people know where it is at...better picnic options.
- Clean restrooms and a much needed restroom at the boat ramp. Vandalism control.
- Clean the restrooms
- Fix the road to the park
- Redo tennis court
- Anything would be an improvement
- Tear down covered picnic area and bathrooms, replace. Build outdoor amphitheater. Replace play structure with 2, one for young children and one for older children

- Would be nice to have the picnic area and bathrooms fixed up.
- Start with a clean slate and reorganize the location of the playground, basketball court, tennis court (if continued), look at possibility of pickleball court, frisbee golf, even if just 3 holes to start.
- Instead of the tennis court, have a nice basketball court and four square and tetherball. Seems like the age of kids going down there 0-15 need options.
- Work with the Port of Ilwaco to improve it. Connect a trail between there and the Port.
- Lights covered area BBQ
- Keep it a City Park, we got lots of kids. Not a tourist destination!
- better signage and lighting, better parking and access to playground and picnic area, access to water, access to Discovery Trail
- What about the old hiking trail east of the city park to Baker Bay and Wallacut river
- Complete overhaul
- Not sure I even know where it is.
- Where is it?

#### 11. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Black Lake Park

	excellent	very good	satisfactory	not good	inadequate	no opinion
Overall experience	7%	40%	37%	1%	1%	14%
Parking	4%	26%	41%	9%	3%	17%
Restrooms	2%	11%	45%	11%	6%	24%
Trails	4%	28%	37%	10%	4%	16%
Docks	2%	22%	40%	9%	1%	26%
Boat launch	1%	15%	44%	6%	5%	30%
Fishing access	3%	21%	37%	8%	0%	25%

#### 12. Suggestions:

- Some culverts overflow in winter, trails are impassable.
- Sanitation and garbage receptacles.
- We have not used. Not seen much use by others.
- I don't have a lot of experience with the park.
- Would like to say the new dock at the back of the lake is a very nice addition.
- Need to have trail around lake accessible from parking lot and improved for biking.
- No change, please no more.
- It would be nice to have better access to fishing holes from trail. We old people have a little trouble getting down water and more access spots.
- Clear out more places to fish.
- Bathrooms need to be open consistently. Need signage for people to know trail exists also signage with outdoor classroom...so much potential.
- More docks.
- Don't spend money.
- Complete the trail and signage.
- Boat launch is no good, location is not good either...need better ramp with room to park a few trucks/boat trailers.
- Develop parking and boating on East side of lake. Takes money - the community of Ilwaco is dead and dying due to overharvesting of fish, crabs, clams, etc. Look at the businesses in town (dead).

- Need more access points.
- Trails paved would be nice. More picnic areas and more fishing access. Maybe rental for paddle boats, canoes, etc.
- Stock Black Lake with more fish.
- Need garbage cans there.
- Improve bathroom access, fishing access and trails.
- Unlock the bathroom, improve trail around the lake.
- I kayak here when novice paddlers visit. The parking is limited and the restrooms on the side of the lake are barely adequate.
- A portapotty or restroom structure should be provided at the dock at the NE side of Black Lake.
- Buy the property behind the park and expand hiking trails as well as restore forest to more natural old growth. No horses and limit mountain bikes to a couple of trails.
- Keep the bathrooms cleaner.
- Make trail completely go around without going onto the old school property. Make it good enough for a mountain bike to travel the entire circumference.
- More informational, historical relevant signs along the main road where they won't get damaged.
- Canoe rentals, education
- Improved signage would be good. If you don't actually know how to get to the other side, you'd miss it. There's restrooms? Oh over by the main road, right?

### 13. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Port of Ilwaco Waterfront

	excellent	very good	satisfactory	not good	inadequate	no opinion
Overall	15%	43%	34%	3%	1%	4%
Boat put-in	4%	29%	24%	5%	0%	35%
Sidewalks	12%	47%	31%	5%	0%	5%
Restrooms	6%	26%	43%	10%	3%	12%
Access to market	2%	20%	27%	10%	8%	32%

### 14. Suggestions:

- Bring more business to the port.
- Make more inviting and accessible for tourist to improve local economy.
- There's not always enough parking at boat ramp. Maybe make more room where the boat trailers are stored at. More parking means more people.
- Improve old bathrooms.
- There really isn't direct connection with Discovery Trail. Need to walk down past the boatyard and Don's Portside. Would be nice if there were at least better signage if not access.
- Better signage for Discovery Trail.
- Better signage and wayfinding. Have no clue how it links to Discovery Trail.
- Discovery Trail needs better signs.
- Don't spend money.
- You must bring in business to generate money for improvements. Build large mega store to compete with the crook Sid and local pharmacy monopoly. You don't even have a gas station in Ilwaco.
- Cleaner bathrooms.
- Restrooms are needed at the boat ramp and fish cleaning station.

- Haven't found Discovery Trail access, better signage to direct as we love walking it.
- Need to keep lawn watered in summer. Sidewalks need bi-weekly sweeping. Signs to indicate DOGS should be on leash and their refuse needs to be picked up. Too much auto traffic on sidewalk due to barriers at each end not in place.
- No just better
- Discovery Trail needs better signs
- Connect waterfront to boat launch with sidewalk. Create kayak/canoe put in area closer to parking. Create park space with an outdoor amphitheater near proposed new brewery or out where the dredge spoils are. Remove dredge spoils!
- No, it looks good and is easy to use.
- Encourage more family-oriented activities, such as arcade, indoor play park.
- Informational kiosk. Flyers letting tourists know what's going on in our area including maps to simple amenities like Ilwaco Park.
- Trail around the whole marina and waterfront.
- Fish cleaning station
- Sidewalk to boat launch
- Permanent concert or amphitheater
- Connect the Bay/Waterfront to Discovery Trail with signage.
- better visibility of storefronts from a driving passer by
- Better business along the port
- More outside sitting areas. Folks need to sit and look. So more benches near the waterfront.

#### 15. Rate your satisfaction with the facilities at Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail

	excellent	very good	satisfactory	not good	inadequate	no opinion
Overall experience	30%	36%	20%	0%	0%	14%
Parking	9%	26%	32%	9%	4%	20%
Signage	10%	32%	24%	12%	5%	15%
Trail	25%	35%	25%	1%	0%	26%
Trail connections	13%	29%	31%	10%	5%	16%

#### 16. Suggestions:

- Needs sign "Beware of bears."
- Needs better signage like Portland/Vancouver area and Sunriver.
- Draw attention to "dogs on leash" requirements for the trail.
- Bridge is slippery when wet.
- There are other things that I believe would help the people that actually live here more than the trail. For the use it receives, it shouldn't be a priority.
- Hillside to Lewis/Clark Trail from Beards Hollow steep - need to improve for bikes.
- No change - stop development.
- There are a few loose and dangerous step boards along the Northhead Trail.
- No connection between Discovery Trail and port, better signage and access.
- Have signage for bathrooms. More bathrooms.
- Free parking at Cape D.
- Better signs and parking.
- This is fine; nothing more needed.

- Signage to locate, maybe post identify signs helpful for visitors unfamiliar with plants and view sites.
- Would like to see trail connect with Stringtown Road and to Station Camp.
- Better signs and parking
- Connect the trail to the city of Ilwaco and the Port of Ilwaco through a historical walking tour.
- Connect Discovery Trail to Port Waterfront with a kiosk, road signage, and designated parking. Allow 2-3 cars to park at top of Main St Discovery Trail entry (right now labeled "No Parking")
- I don't know how to do it, but it would be great to connect the Discovery Trail with the Blake Lake trail, also, bike lanes in Ilwaco would be awesome!
- Difficult for a bike since it's so steep in places, but other than that a pretty nice trail.
- The trail is fragmented and totally loses fluidity when it hits Ilwaco. There should be recognizable signage from start to finish with trail head indicators at the one major intersection in Ilwaco and the street to turn on.
- Connect Discovery Trail to the isthmus area of Cape D
- Longer
- Need better connectivity after coming off the dunes.
- Signage
- Horse access
- Connect to other areas through signage.
- Continue to connect with other parks
- Connect to highway so we can get to ilwaco without going through very hilly park. Expand north to lead better also develop a bayside bike path to accentuate the diversity of ecosystems
- I love the trail! What a fantastic resource right in our back yard. Wish it was a little longer!

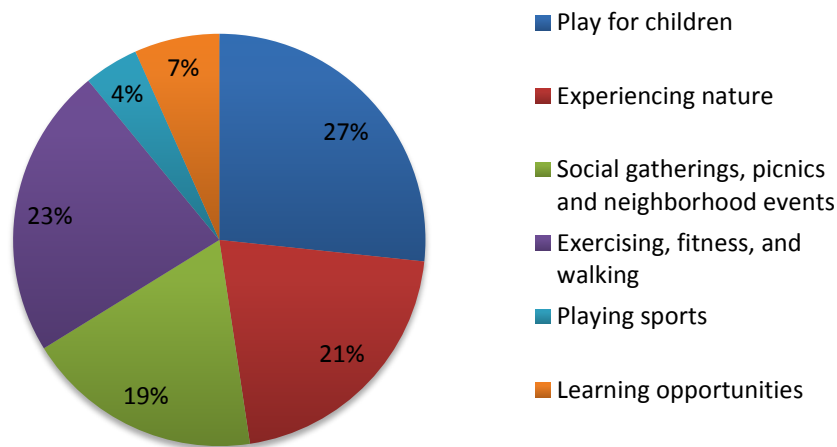
**17. Please indicate your level of agreement on following statements about natural areas: I think it is important to...**

Level of agreement	strongly	support	neutral	object	strongly	no opinion
Protect clean drinking water	72%	24%	3%	1%	0%	0%
Protect lakes, streams & wetlands	61%	30%	8%	0%	1%	0%
Protect/restore salmon habitat	61%	28%	9%	0%	1%	0%
Protect natural forest	61%	29%	8%	1%	0%	0%
Protect scenic views	59%	31%	9%	0%	0%	0%

**Other:**

- promote other access besides car access to cut down on traffic, pollution to global warming
- no development
- stop spraying weed killers next to roads water run off kills frogs and fish
- This community has the poorest drinking water of any city or town I have been in. My wife and I drink bottled water only. Weyerhaeuser owns them all - who are we kidding. i.e. exception: Cape Disappointment State Park or North tip of spit.

**18. What outdoor recreation opportunities are important to have nearby?** (choose two most important)



**19. Additional Comments:**

- Thank you for your leadership.
- Lower water rates 20% so people can afford to live here.
- The Ilwaco waterfront park need a wooden boardwalk with dips, curves, elevated areas, picnic tables and gathering areas. This would help hide the unsightly tide area at the water side of the bank. The large ugly empty lot in the center of town should be made into a town park for gathering until a proper retail project can be found.
- City expenses are too high. Does not support the people.
- Support and strongly support for #13. How are you talking? When the support interferes with personal livability. I want to save trees but also be able to cut and use as needed. Same with laws near wetlands. How much salmon habitat can we repair with a dam in place and sea lions protected?
- Cut the grass along the roads on Sahalee Hill and Hiaqua Dr.
- Ilwaco needs to improve its downtown core. Too many abandoned or run-down buildings. City does not enforce codes. Ilwaco needs more recreation and appeal!
- Improve the dock maintenance. I keep a moorage slip N-19 the finger dock for mooring the boat is unsafe due to tipping. Very risky for disabled and children.
- Lower water/sewer rates 20% so we can afford to live here.
- Don't spend money you don't have.
- Repave street with potholes, sidewalks.
- Work to bring in business and the rest of your improvements will follow. No money - no improvements.
- More activities geared for the youth.
- Would like to see a neighborhood park in Vandalia.
- I hate to see Ilwaco so downhill. I wish more business could come in.
- A bike trail (not with automobile traffic and not with steep inclines) is necessary in Ilwaco for all ages.
- No Discovery Pass for locals.
- Sanitary facilities are very needed on the East side of Black Lake at the boat launch. We live at

Lakeview Drive and see the volume of people fishing there with NO facilities.

- Once the tennis court was be resurfaced and a new net installed, it would be a low maintenance facility.
- Link Ilwaco Parks & Nature to main road to promote local economy which in turn could fund further conservancy.
- The condition of the equipment and lack of maintenance at the City Park, especially the graffiti on the toys really bothers me. Somebody should have noticed this long ago and its an easy fix. Beef up the basketball hoops so they last more than a month.
- Great to have people involved in improving parks, etc.
- The old high school - start brainstorming - don't waste an opportunity.
- Thank you for all your passion, hard work and dedication.
- Ilwaco is a vacation spot for us, over all it's a great place to visit.
- Cape Disappointment is a beautiful area. Wish it was more public transit and walking accessible seems like you have enter the park by car only.
- We used to have an Ilwaco potluck at the City Park. It was lots of fun and new comers got meet old timers.
- Ilwaco has little money to spend on frivolities, so don't spend any more than is needed for maintenance.
- Some of your activities need more advanced publicity.
- Black Lake Hill needs to be preserved before it gets developed. Protect the remaining forest from clear cutting.
- Look at buying more of the wetlands areas to protect - important for fish and bird habitat and water quality. Look at buying property at corner of Sandridge and N end of Black Lake for fishing derby parking overflow.
- Creek than runs from the Discovery Trail lake, just east of 2nd down to the waterfront is totally messed up. Need to restore the creek with riparian planting and bring it back above ground, from underneath the Port buildings. Fish friendly tide gate at the outlet.
- Also, the new culvert under Main St seems terribly put in. Replace with a larger, fish friendly box culvert or bridge. Connect Discovery trail/waterfront to historical museum/discovery garden with a sidewalk/bike lane "trail" with signage.
- It would be great to have more signage on the black lake trail.
- Also, it would be great to have more of those anchors on the road leading to the middle/high school.
- Would be nice to have more signage at the port directing people toward the discovery trail and black lake trail
- I like the idea of starting with the City Park as a showcase for what could be....I think also some way to attract tourists like a nice hotel or something would be a good adjunct to a nice park.
- Thank you for conducting the survey and keep up the great work you are doing. Parks have a long way to go but just knowing we have a committed team working on it is wonderful!
- More trails in the woods
- Outdoor pickleball court
- Few times a year' actually means . . . 'seasonal'. Can't hardly do much every month.
- Thanks!

## Appendix 4: Open House #1 Notes

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**July 25, 2013**

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>
Shawn Stern	Ilwaco
Vinessa Mulinix	Ilwaco
Rick Schimelpfenig	Ilwaco
Jon Ducharme	Ilwaco
Robyn Schneider	Long Beach
Kim Cutting	Ilwaco
Guy Glenn	Ilwaco
Gary Forner	Ilwaco
Frank Wolfe	Nahcotta
Jon Chambreau	Ilwaco
Gale Thompson	Ilwaco
Kelly Frech	Ilwaco
Phil Oman	Long Beach
Cynthia Jones	Long Beach
Rich Marshall	Ilwaco
Jean Fisher	Ocean Park
Mike Cassinelli	Ilwaco
Melanie Hills	Ilwaco
Laila Brown	Seaview
Julian Orr	Seaview

TOTAL #: 20

**Big Paper & Overheard Notes**

Trails

- Clear signage for visitors to locate parks/trails
- NEED diversity in trails Separate: mountain bike trails/horse trails
- Bridges on Black Lake Trail
- Frisbee Golf Course at Ilwaco City Park + Black Lake Park
- Dog agility station along trails, individual dog recreate trail
- Exercise stations along Black Lake Trail
- Pave the Beards Hollow to Overlook section of Discovery Trail
- Monitor the Discovery Trail within Ilwaco better and more frequently
- Bike trail Vandalia area and/or Ilwaco Park to Port along water
- Connect to Discovery Trail to station camp and Dismal Nitch (MC)
- Zero elevation trail connecting Discovery Trail to Black Lake

Natural Areas

- Trails through Wallicut Natural Area
- Walkway across Holman Lake at existing old Dike! Maybe north end connect to St. Fork Maintenance area
- Reservation system for City Park/Black Lake Park picnic shelters

- Website for visitors/community with park and trail details amenities
- Native plant interactive area/demonstration Garden/Community Project
  - Demonstration Heritage Museum being revitalized by WSU Master Gardeners

#### Parks

- Well maintained tennis/basketball courts (lighted would be ideal)
- Mountain Bike stunt park for young kids @ Ilwaco city park
- Allow dodge ball in tennis courts and/or post rules to encourage
- “Skyline Park” – Minimal park structure to maximize access to the view of harbor, river, bar, cape D, etc. Best if people could be 1-story up on a minimal structure, this would be in the vicinity of present city water tanks on top of hill east of school.
- Covered play area with wind breaks include basketball, tetherball, 4-square and a play structure. “Port of Play” is very popular; we could try to provide some sort of inside play area for our kids.
- MP3 based self-guided tours of.... Maybe in conjunction with a volunteer historical/resource docent program
- Renewal of murals project (from early 90’s?)
- Develop Black Lake Park as a natural area.
- White board at outdoor classroom
- Community sporting events i.e. kickball league
- Inventory of park amenities, picnic tables...
- Better signage for visitors to locate parks
- Bring back boat/kayak rentals at Black Lake
- Wind break for picnickers
- Archery Range against Cooks Hill
- Park host at City Park
- Disc Golf Course
- Grow current Parks first, then expand
- Disc Golf is great
- Move picnic/pavilion area at Ilwaco Park closer to road! (where tennis currently is) have concession stands as well
- With the weather here, racquetball courts somewhere would be great
- I like the idea of mountain bike/off road course
- What about motorized off-road sports/ ATV, dirt bikes etc.
- Make little league field functional as softball and little league, which in combination with long beach can help draw larger tournaments
- Redo playground at Ilwaco Park. This could be huge for families deciding where to live
- Indoor areas of play for kids
- Finish trails in Cape Disappointment S.P.

#### **Maps Notes**

##### Parks

- Community garden in Vandalia on City land and/or Ilwaco City Park
- Black Lake Park:
  - Road to Black Lake Park on SE corner is No Trespassing. Need better legal access from neighbors there.
  - Dog park in NW corner

- Buy Black Lake Group property, at least to the Salamander trail, but best to buy it all. Link to cemetery
- Buy Ocean Beach School east property. Skyline Park
- Ilwaco City Park:
  - Add mountain bike stunt park for young youth.
  - Improve basketball and tennis courts
  - City has applied for funding for street paving and sidewalks for roads around park

### Trails

- Many people talked about creating Clamshell RR trail – link Black Lake Park to Chinook Valley Rd. Due to houses, the most practical link may be to China Hill Ln.
- 2 related people said that the Discovery Trail and a Clamshell RR Trail, if developed should be open to horses. Link to DNR lands open to riders.
- There is a simple, foot trail along the salt marsh from Ilwaco City Park area north. Need stairs up to the highway at the northern end (towards Obon RV Park).
- Establish trails on Columbia Land Trust's Wallicut River natural area.
- Discovery Trail: Need better signage. Make Discovery Trail parking legal at trail head. Link trailhead to Port property with sidewalks/bike lanes, signage, signed parking, kiosk with maps.
- Need picnic area/bench at sharp turn ½ way to Cape D and clear trees for a better view of Lake Holman. May be able to use old dike to link Discovery trail to north, Park property on N Head Rd.
- Pave section of Discovery Trail in Cape D (St Parks doesn't want to).
- Connect Discovery Trail north end of Cape D across Willows Road/Eagle's Rest Resort to Black Lake, or make 30<sup>th</sup> safe for pedestrians/bikes to loop trail to Black Lake.

### Natural Areas

- Buy old Obon Vista RV Park at the mouth of the Wallicut River and create natural area park with scenic overlook and kayak/canoe launch.
- Protect wetlands and creeks around Ilwaco, specifically:
  - wetland/creek south of Ocean Park Schools between Hwy and Brumbach Ave
  - wetland/Lake Holman east of Discovery Trail
  - wetland/creek north of Ilwaco's northern boundary, between Willows Rd (Eagle's Rest RV Park) and Hwy 101/Pacific Way (triangle shaped)
  - tidal marsh between Port and Ilwaco City Park
- Fix creek that comes from Holman Lake down to Main St and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW. It has been ditched, no natural vegetation, long culvert under Port buildings and then a non-fish friendly tidegate links it to Bakers Bay. Lake Holman used to host salmon.

## Appendix 5: Open House 2 Notes & Survey Results

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11/20/2013

### Attendees

Name	City
Cooper Stevenson	Portland
Robyn Schneider	Long Beach
Fred Marshall	Ilwaco
Vinessa Mulinix	Ilwaco
Ann and Loren	Ilwaco
Bruce Peterson	Ilwaco
Sherri Buckel	Ilwaco
Clint Carton	Ilwaco
J D	Ilwaco
Jim Soupe	Seaview
Mike Cassinelli	Ilwaco
David Jensen	Ilwaco
Dave Johnson	Ilwaco
Steven Furo	Ilwaco
Justin Schenk	Ilwaco
John Luke Marcus	Ilwaco
Amy Chadwick	Ilwaco
Nick Haldeman	Ilwaco
Rick Schimelpfenig	Ilwaco
Jon Ducharme	Ilwaco
Noah Pylvainen	Seattle
Nadia Gardner	Portland
Danielle Haldeman	Ilwaco

Total #: 23

After the presentation, there was some discussion. Notes:

- Need to present the project to the Planning Commission.
- When possible, put utilities underground when completing sidewalks/trails.
- Add street trees downtown when installing multi-use trails (sidewalks, bike lanes).
- For ADA accessibility, paving is not necessary. Consider just improving (leveling) and putting small size rock on Ilwaco loop trail rather than paving. Also better for water quality and stormwater retention.
- Need to form a citizen committee to complete smaller tasks.

After the presentation and discussion, attendees completed a survey, which follows.

## Open House #2 Survey

**Ilwaco Parks, Trails & Natural Areas  
Open House #2  
Potential Recommendations Survey  
11/20/2013**

**Directions:** For each project in the following categories, pick one: Like - Don't Like - No Opinion. Then, put a star to the left of three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus from each table/section.

### **Ilwaco City Park**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
Re-design and re-develop park layout and facilities.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Hold more city-sponsored events in Park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add and improve Park amenities, including new signage, drinking fountains, dog bag stations, bicycle racks.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Replace restrooms.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Replace covered picnic areas.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Update play equipment.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Renovate tennis courts.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Build roofs over and install lights for basketball, tennis courts, and/or play equipment.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Improve access roads and develop parking area, including sidewalks, bike lanes, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessible parking and park trail.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Improve field to host high school softball team, possibly including new fencing, scoreboard, infield surface, bleachers, backstop, batting cage, pitching machine and bullpen, places for teams to put their gear in the dugouts, and a snack bar.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add an amphitheater.			
Add mountain bike stunt park for young kids.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add a skate park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add tetherball and 4-square.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add community garden.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Remove invasive plants and add native plants to natural area hillside (NE corner).	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create waterfront access south of City Park to Yellow Bluff.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

***In the above list, put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.***

**Black Lake Park**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
Add and improve Park amenities, including new and increased signage, drinking fountains, dog bag stations, bicycle racks, and trash cans.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
If possible, acquire more of Black Lake hill and expand park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Secure upper (easternmost) Salamander Trail easement.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Improve and expand trails for mountain biking.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Pave all or a portion of the core trail around Black Lake.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add exercise stations along lakefront trail.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Cover some of the benches.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Provide better fishing access from trail.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Improve outdoor classroom with signage and a white board.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Re-evaluate and possibly change locations of docks and boat launches for parking and accessibility.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Improve parking at the boat launch.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add rental for paddle boats, canoes, etc.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add more picnic areas.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add a dog park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add bathrooms on east side of lake.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Buy property at NE corner from Ocean Beach School District.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create a "Skyline Park" in Ocean Beach School District property or at water tanks.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Improve the northern end of Quaker Ave NE to create additional, safe access to SE corner of Black Lake Park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Redevelop old shop building at SE corner into a covered picnic area with developed parking.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create shallow entry beach at SE corner near old shop.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Connect Black Lake to Chinook Valley Rd via old railroad corridor.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

***In the above list, put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.***

**Port of Ilwaco Waterfront**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
Add parking for the boat launch	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add bathrooms at boat launch and fish cleaning station.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Connect waterfront to Discovery Trail through designated parking, welcome kiosk, signage, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Build pedestrian and bicycle trail from waterfront to boat launch.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add an amphitheater.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

*In the above list, put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.*

### **Discovery Trail**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
Work with State Parks and Long Beach to better maintain the trail, including making the bridge less slippery, fixing loose boards, cutting brush and sweeping the trail more often.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add and improve trailhead amenities at Port Pavilion/condor area and top of Main St, including better signage, designated parking, dog bag stations, bicycle racks, and trash cans.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add bench and clear some shrubs to improve the view at north Holman Lake overlook.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add interpretive signage (views, plants, wildlife).	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Re-contour steep section of trail between the Beard's Hollow Overlook and Beard's Hollow to allow slower bike speeds and pave.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Better connect Beard's Hollow overlook to the Discovery trail with signage and paved, safe trails.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add crosswalk where Discovery Trail crossed North Head Rd.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Extend Discovery trail north from Port, past City Park over Cooks Hill to Highway 101.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Connect Discovery Trail to Vandalia, Chinook and Station Camp/Middle Village through a multi-use trail along Highway 101.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create a loop trail by linking the Discovery Trail at the north end of Cape D to Black Lake and downtown Ilwaco though bike lanes on 30 <sup>th</sup> St and Sandridge Road.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

*In the above list, put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.*

### **Ilwaco Water Source – Indian Creek**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
Develop water source protection plan.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Buy out the two remaining timber harvest rights to protect water source.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

### **Natural Areas**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
If possible, buy the old Obon Vista RV Park at the mouth of the Wallicut River and create natural area park with scenic overlook and kayak/canoe launch.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Protect wetlands and creeks around Ilwaco, specifically:	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• wetland/creek south of Ocean Park Schools between Hwy and	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

Brumbach Ave			
• wetland/Lake Holman east of Discovery Trail	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• wetland/creek north of Ilwaco's northern boundary, between Willows Rd (Eagle's Rest RV Park) and Hwy 101/Pacific Way (triangle shaped)	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• tidal marsh between Port and Ilwaco City Park	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Fix creek that comes from Holman Lake down to Main St and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave SW. It has been ditched, no natural vegetation, long culvert under Port buildings and then a non-fish friendly tidegate links it to Bakers Bay. Lake Holman used to host salmon.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create "Yellow Bluff Park" south of City Park with a boardwalk out to viewing platform with benches and interpretive panels.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Work with Columbia Land Trust to explore a primitive trail on their property at the mouth of the Wallicut River.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

***In the above list, put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.***

### **Other Projects**

<b>Potential recommendation</b>	<b>Level of Support</b> <i>(circle 1 for each potential project)</i>		
Connect all parks and trails to downtown through wayfinding signage, trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Develop historic multi-use trail connecting Dismal Nitch/Station Camp/Yellow Bluff/Cape D.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add dog agility station along trails	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Develop comprehensive park/trail signage style and use throughout the city	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add a neighborhood park in Vandalia. Possible facilities:	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a play structure.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a dog park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a community gardens.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add a community garden downtown.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Develop park facilities to draw people here (as well as for locals). Possible facilities:	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a Frisbee golf course.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a mountain bike terrain park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a bicycle pump track.			
• Add a Go-kart track.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add a skate park.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
• Add other: _____	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Promote Ilwaco's parks, trails and natural areas system, i.e. signs,	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

brochure/map, website, social media.			
Create native plant interactive area/demonstration gardens.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create MP3 based self-guided tours of parks, trails, etc., maybe in conjunction with a volunteer historical/resource docent program.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Renew murals project (from early 90's).	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Create community sporting events, i.e. kickball league.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Add archery range.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Allow horses on trails.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion
Provide area for motorized off-road sports - ATV, dirt bikes etc.	Like	Don't Like	No Opinion

***In the above list, put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.***

## Open House #2 Survey Results

The “Results from Potential recommendations Survey” is the primary outcome of Open House 2. The projects that were liked by more than 10 people are highlighted below. Many respondents did not complete the task to “put a star to the left of the three top projects on which you think Ilwaco should focus.” The projects which 4-6 people identified as highest priority are highlighted.

	Likes	Don't Likes	No opinion	* High Priority
<b><u>Ilwaco City Park</u></b>				
<b>Potential recommendation</b>				
Completely, re-design and re-develop park layout and facilities.	9	4	2	4
Hold more city-sponsored events in Park.	10	1	4	5
Add and improve park amenities, including new signage, drinking fountains, dog bag stations, bicycle racks.	14	0	1	5
Fix or replace restrooms.	12	2	1	4
Replace or improve covered picnic areas	9		6	2
Update play equipment.	8	1	6	
Renovate tennis courts.	8	1	7	2
Build roofs over and install lights for basketball, tennis courts, and/or play equipment	5	5	5	
Improve access roads and develop parking area, including sidewalks, bike lanes, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessible parking and park trail.	10	3	2	1
Improve field to host high school softball team, possibly including new fencing, scoreboard, infield surface, bleachers, backstop, batting cage, pitching machine and bullpen, places for teams to put their gear in the dugouts, and a snack bar.	7	4	5	2
Add an amphitheater	4	2	9	3
Add mountain bike stunt park for young kids.	2	7	6	
Add a skate park.	2	6	7	
Add tetherball and 4-square.	7	1	7	
Add community garden.	8	3	4	
Remove invasive plants and add native plants to natural area hillside (NE corner).	10	0	5	
Create waterfront access south of City Park to Yellow Bluff.	9	1	5	2
<b><u>Black Lake Park</u></b>				
<b>Potential recommendation</b>				
Add and improve Park amenities, including new and increased signage, drinking fountains, dog bag stations, bicycle racks, and trash cans.	11	0	4	3
If possible, acquire more of Black Lake hill and expand park.	12	1	2	3
Secure upper (easternmost) Salamander Trail easement.	10	2	3	1
Improve and expand trails for mountain biking.	11	2	2	2
Pave all or a portion of the core trail around Black Lake.	7	3	5	2

Add exercise stations along lakefront trail	4	5	7	
Cover some of the benches	8	4	4	
Provide better fishing access from trail	8	2	5	
Improve outdoor classroom with signage and a white board.	5	2	8	
Re-evaluate and possibly change locations of docks and boat launches for parking and accessibility.	4	2	9	
Improve parking at the boat launch.	11	2	3	
Add rental for paddle boats, canoes, etc.	8	2	5	2
Add more picnic areas	14	0	1	1
Add a dog park.	8	4	3	
Add bathrooms on east side of lake	9	1	5	1
Buy property at NE corner from Ocean Beach School District	7	1	7	1
Create a "Skyline Park" in Ocean Beach School District property or at water tanks	3	2	10	
Improve the northern end of Quaker Ave NE to create additional, safe access to SE corner of Black Lake Park.	11	0	4	
Redevelop old shop building at SE corner into a covered picnic area with developed parking.	10	0	5	2
Create shallow entry beach at SE corner near old shop.	7	2	6	
Connect Black Lake to Chinook Valley Rd via old railroad corridor.	10	0	5	1
	0	0	0	
<b><u>Port of Ilwaco Waterfront</u></b>				
<b>Potential recommendation</b>				
Add parking for the boat launch	2	3	10	
Add bathrooms at boat launch and fish cleaning station	8	3	4	1
Connect waterfront to Discovery Trail through designated parking, welcome kiosk, signage, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.	13		2	6
Build pedestrian and bicycle trail from waterfront to boat launch	12	1	2	4
Add an amphitheater	7	2	6	3
<b><u>Discovery Trail</u></b>				
<b>Potential recommendation</b>	0		0	
Work with State Parks and Long Beach to better maintain the trail, including making the bridge less slippery, fixing loose boards, cutting brush and sweeping the trail more often.	14		1	2
Add and improve trailhead amenities at Port Pavilion/condor area and top of Main St, including better signage, designated parking, dog bag stations, bicycle racks, and trash cans.	14		1	1
Add bench and clear some shrubs to improve the view at north Holman Lake overlook.	9		6	2
Add interpretive signage (views, plants, wildlife).	6		9	2
Re-contour steep section of trail between the Beard Hollow Overlook and Beard Hollow to allow slower bike speeds and pave.	10	1	5	2
Better connect Beards Hollow overlook to the Discovery trail with signage and paved, safe trails.	12		3	1

Add crosswalk where Discovery Trail crossed North Head Rd.	11		4	1
Extend Discovery trail north from Port, past City Park over Cooks Hill to Highway 101.	11		3	3
Connect Discovery Trail to Vandalia, Chinook and Station Camp/Middle Village through a multi-use trail along Highway 101.	11		3	3
Create a loop trail by linking the Discovery Trail at the north end of Cape D to Black Lake and downtown Ilwaco though bike lanes on 30 <sup>th</sup> St and Sandridge Road.	10		5	2
<b><u>Ilwaco Water Source – Indian Creek</u></b>				
<b>Potential recommendation</b>				
Develop water source protection plan	11	1	2	1
Buy out the two remaining timber harvest rights to protect water source	11	2	1	2
<b><u>Natural Areas</u></b>				
<b>Potential recommendation</b>				
If possible, buy the old Obon Vista RV Park at the mouth of the Wallicut River and create natural area park with scenic overlook and kayak/canoe launch.	9	3	2	2
Protect wetlands and creeks around Ilwaco, specifically:	12		2	2
• wetland/creek south of Ocean Park Schools between Hwy and Brumbach Ave	10		14	
• wetland/Lake Holman east of Discovery Trail	11		3	1
• wetland/creek north of Ilwaco's northern boundary, between Willows Rd (Eagle's Rest RV Park) and Hwy 101/Pacific Way (triangle shaped)	10		14	
• tidal marsh between Port and Ilwaco City Park	12		2	
Fix creek that comes from Holman Lake down to Main St and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave SW. It has been ditched, no natural vegetation, long culvert under Port buildings and then a non-fish friendly tidegate links it to Bakers Bay. Lake Holman used to host salmon.	10		4	1
Create "Yellow Bluff Park" south of City Park with a boardwalk out to viewing platform with benches and interpretive panels.	9	1	4	1
Work with Columbia Land Trust to explore a primitive trail on their property at the mouth of the Wallicut River.	7		8	1
<b><u>Other Trail Projects</u></b>				
Connect all parks and trails to downtown through wayfinding signage, trails, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.	12		3	3
Develop historic multi-use trail connecting Dismal Nitch/Station Camp/Yellow Bluff/Cape D.	11		4	3
Add dog agility station along trails	3	4	8	
Develop comprehensive park/trail signage style and use throughout the city	12		3	2

Add a neighborhood park in Vandalia. Possible facilities:	6	1	8	
• Add a play structure.	7		8	
• Add a dog park.	4	3	8	
• <input type="checkbox"/> Add a community gardens.	7	3	5	1
Add a community garden downtown.	10	3	2	2
Develop park facilities to draw people here (as well as for locals).	11		4	1
Possible facilities:	8	1	6	
• Add a Frisbee golf course.	8	1	6	2
• Add a mountain bike terrain park.	8	3	4	
• Add a bicycle pump track.	3		12	
• Add a Go-kart track.		12	4	
• Add a skate park.	3	7	5	
• Add other: _____	2		12	
Promote Ilwaco's parks, trails and natural areas system, i.e. signs, brochure/map, website, social media.	13		2	2
Create native plant interactive area/demonstration gardens.	8		7	
Create MP3 based self-guided tours of parks, trails, etc., maybe in conjunction with a volunteer historical/resource docent program.	11	2	2	
Renew murals project (from early 90's).	6	1	8	2
Create community sporting events, i.e. kickball league.	6	1	9	2
Add archery range.	1	4	9	
Allow horses on trails.	3	7	5	
Provide area for motorized off-road sports - ATV, dirt bikes etc.	3	10	2	

## Appendix 6: Stakeholder Interviews

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Park & Recreation Commission members completed interviews with the following:

Robyn & Bryan West - WSU Master Gardeners

Janet Waterstrat - Landscape Architect

Sarah Taylor - MS/HS Cross Country Coach

Randy Bloom - Softball Coach

Geri Marcus - OBH Public Relations & Education Director

Steve Wood - Cape Disappointment State Park Ranger

Mark Whitman - Lakeview Estates President

David George - New Life Church Pastor

Notes were shared with the group and were used to develop the needs analysis and recommendations.

# Stakeholder Interviews Guide

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## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

### *For the Ilwaco Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan*

The purpose of community stakeholder interviews for the Ilwaco Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan is to engage the public in a meaningful discussion about the long-range issues and opportunities the community will face over the next 10-20 years as well as identify the needs of community groups and stakeholders. This interview format is an effective method of obtaining a large volume of public opinion from key stakeholders and community members during a short period of time, and can help both the community and the consultant team pinpoint some of the key issues and concerns that will need to be addressed in the plan. The Parks Commission members identified key community stakeholders that should be interviewed as part of this public participation process. The interviewees include town committee members, owners and employees of town businesses, active and interested residents, landowners, and recreation groups.

#### **Interviewers will describe the project to the interviewees:**

The Ilwaco Parks & Recreation Commission was established as a citizen advisory board in 2010. We've been tasked with studying the recreation needs of the citizens of Ilwaco, champion Black Lake invasive species eradication efforts and improve recreational opportunities. Since the inception, the Ilwaco Parks & Recreation Commission has been dedicated to improving parks, trails, and natural areas around Ilwaco but also we've successfully hosted two 5k fun runs and a triathlon. As we go forward we need feedback from our community to guide our projects and ideas.

The Parks & Recreation Commission is developing a "Parks, Trails, & Natural Area's Plan". This survey, several community meetings, and community leader interviews will gather local knowledge and opinions to be integrated into the plan. It will be complete by March 2014.

Questions to be answered by the plan:

- What parks, trails and natural areas does Ilwaco have now?
- What would local people like to see in the future?
- How can we make that happen over time?

The plan will result in a list prioritized possible parks, trails and natural areas projects. It will also make Ilwaco eligible for state grants to help fund those projects.

#### **The interviewees will be asked to answer the following questions in their interview session:**

- Please identify how many people your group/organization/land/etc impacts, and in what way? Approximately what percentage of them are from Ilwaco?
- What are you/your group's needs regarding parks and recreation, are they currently being met? If not, what can the Parks & Rec do to meet those needs?

- Do you have any planned recreation projects/developments in the Ilwaco area? (this could be land or even programming)
- What issues does Ilwaco face today and in the future regarding parks, trails, natural areas, and outdoor recreation?
- What do you like about the current Ilwaco parks, trails, and natural areas?
- What improvements to Ilwaco parks, trails, and natural areas would you like to see?
- If money were no object, what recommendations would you have for the City of Ilwaco regarding parks, trails, and natural areas?
- Money is actually limited. So, if given the choice, what would be the top most important parks, trails or natural area projects on which the City should focus?
- Do you have any interest in partnering with Parks & Rec on specific projects? What resources do you have or know of that could benefit Ilwaco parks, trails, and natural areas?
- Any additional comments?

## Stakeholder Interviews Results

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Geri Marcus – Public Relations & Education Director, Ocean Beach Hospital

1. OBH potentially impacts everyone on the Long Beach Peninsula.
2. Primary need is healthy lifestyle alternatives (promoting). Pre Type II diabetes education classes, activities, start at youth. City of Astoria is model for recreation programming for kids.
  - a. Would like to see a covered area built for walking. Encourage more people to move be active.
3. Chronic disease education, diabetes education, diabetes support group, cardiac rehab department.
4. Funding and maintenance. Need more growth in Ilwaco.
5. Educational classes, rejuvenation in City Park. Black Lake is getting better but still need works.
6. Retractable dome stadium to act as a covered walking area, Rec Center for fitness/education classes, racquetball/pickle ball court and daycare.
7. Rejuvenation of City Park, educational/nutritional courses for general public, NAMI and smoking cessation.
8. Connection facilitation, need to present to OBH Board of Directors and get permission for partnership with Ilwaco Parks & Rec. Contact Tami Jeffery (360) 642-6304.
9. Contact EDC for demographic mining because City of Ilwaco is a member.
  - a. Millage funds are a small grant source available for projects directed toward mental health and mental disability.

Steve Wood – Interpretive Ranger, Cape Disappointment State Park

1. Visitors to Long Beach Peninsula number more than 1 million, the connection to LEWI National Park make is even larger. 750,000 campers at Cape Disappointment campground annually.
  - a. Campers actively searching for opportunities outside the park.
2. Yellow Bluff Park
  - a. Yellow Bluff was addressed in Clark's journal.
  - b. Boardwalk out to viewing platform with interpretive panels.
3. Infrastructure improvements at North Head Lighthouse in the next 5 years.
  - a. New parking lot
  - b. New kiosk welcome area with 6 large interpretive panels
  - c. Actual toilet (plumbed) with 2 stalls.
  - d. Multi-use trail extension along North Head road.
  - e. Restoration of lighthouse
  - f. All projects intended to elevate North Head to National Parks Service Status.
4. City of Ilwaco should develop Yellow Bluffs area and promote bike travel in the area.
5. Black Lake is great, really good resource.
6. Trails, Skate parks, market to cruise ship visitors
  - a. Mountain bike trails at Black Lake
  - b. Trail connecting Dismal Nitch/Station Camp/Yellow Bluff/Cape D
7. Build a gateway center above Beard's Hollow overlook. Gateway center is an adventure/visitor center run by City in cooperation with State Park. Similar to Squamish Adventure Center.
8. Black Lake land acquisition is priority number one! Way finding and signage are secondary.
9. Partnership
  - a. Software to create signs

- b. Cape D has the Black Lake signs in digital format
    - i. Created by Evan LaPlattney for his senior project
    - ii. NEED TO BE UPDATED
- 10. Closing trails at Fort Columbia due to lack of staff to maintain trails.

Mark Whitman – President, Lakeview Estates HOA

- 1. All homeowner are Ilwaco residents
  - a. Currently 15-18 homes
  - b. Approximately 24 total lots
- 2. Needs are currently being met. Parks are adequate and trails are good.
  - a. Trail improvements and parking improvements for Discovery Trail currently parking at Beard's Hollow parking lot. City Park needs improvements.
- 3. Donate locally through Shell Station, very community oriented. Potential partner.
- 4. The future of Ilwaco is bleak. Population based improvement and improve business core. Families improve schools lead to development. Government intervention on logging, salmon industry, etc. have lead to less resources.
- 5. The wild and rustic aspects of the trail. Not recognized. Black Lake is a great trail system.
- 6. Parking/access to Discovery Trail and encourage young people to help out and stay local.
- 7. Something to draw people here, i.e. Great Wolf water park/lodge or new high-end go-kart track. Need a DRAW! Talk to Bend for ideas.
- 8. Promote trail and provide better signage and advertising for trail.
- 9. Potential monetary support.

David George – Pastor, New Life Church

- 1. Congregation is 60-65 people, about 10 families are Ilwaco residents
- 2. Access and availability, trashcans at City Park/Black Lake or the possibility of having trashcans available for special events, bring City Park into forefront because currently City Park doesn't look inviting.
- 3. Pancake breakfast for Fishing Derby, Picnic in the Park in August and potentially Pioneer Club to Black Lake for general us in the spring.
- 4. Making City Park more visible and making Discovery Trail more visible with better signage.
- 5. City Park is a hidden jewel and the pavilion at Black Lake is well used and well kept.
- 6. See City use City Park more for events, activities, etc. Potentially promote through merchants.
- 7. Remove fence at City Park and fix tennis court or get rid of it.
- 8. Signage, maintenance, and fix fence.
- 9. Lots of people for projects
  - a. No campaign based projects – no adoption of trails. Too little follow through after the first 2 years.

Janet Waterstrat – Landscape architect

Recently has become a Peninsula resident, does volunteer work for TRL, would be involved in planning [in order to get her name out], both contract and pro bono would be discussed.

Community gardens- Apparently there have been a restart of P-Patch efforts in the last couple of years. Robyn West & Bryan West were suggested as stakeholders.

Shawn Stern – Master Gardener

Believes MGs would love to assist a community gardens effort and definitely consult on landscape/ bio issues surrounding the P&R plan. Additionally, he would personally use P-Patch type effort for his family, primarily because lack of solar exposure at his home, believes there are many others in that category.

Sarah Taylor – High School Cross-Country Coach

'For XC we use the lake trail almost every day. We use the city park about once or twice a week. Sometimes we use it for practice. Other times we use it to host team dinners. We use the Ilwaco portion of the Discovery Trail about once a week, maybe a little less. Track season uses BL trail some for practice, occasional city park use as well.' [3mo XC, 3 mo spring track].

Suggested improvements-water and lav access, level area behind playground @ city park; grooming new BL connector. Sarah as coach is a natural partner to P&R [XC team already does some trail maintenance] and a valued ambassador given her contact, not only w/ students but also the families.

Randy Bloom – High School Softball Coach

Drainage is much better in Ilwaco park than LB, would be in favor of moving the whole [school] softball program to Ilwaco for a number of reasons. Fence, scoreboard, maybe infield surface, bleachers, backstop would require upgrade for such a partnership. Wish list - Batting cage, pitching machine and bullpen, places for teams to put their gear in the dugouts, snack bar, and reliable restrooms.

## **Appendix 7: City Council Resolution**

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