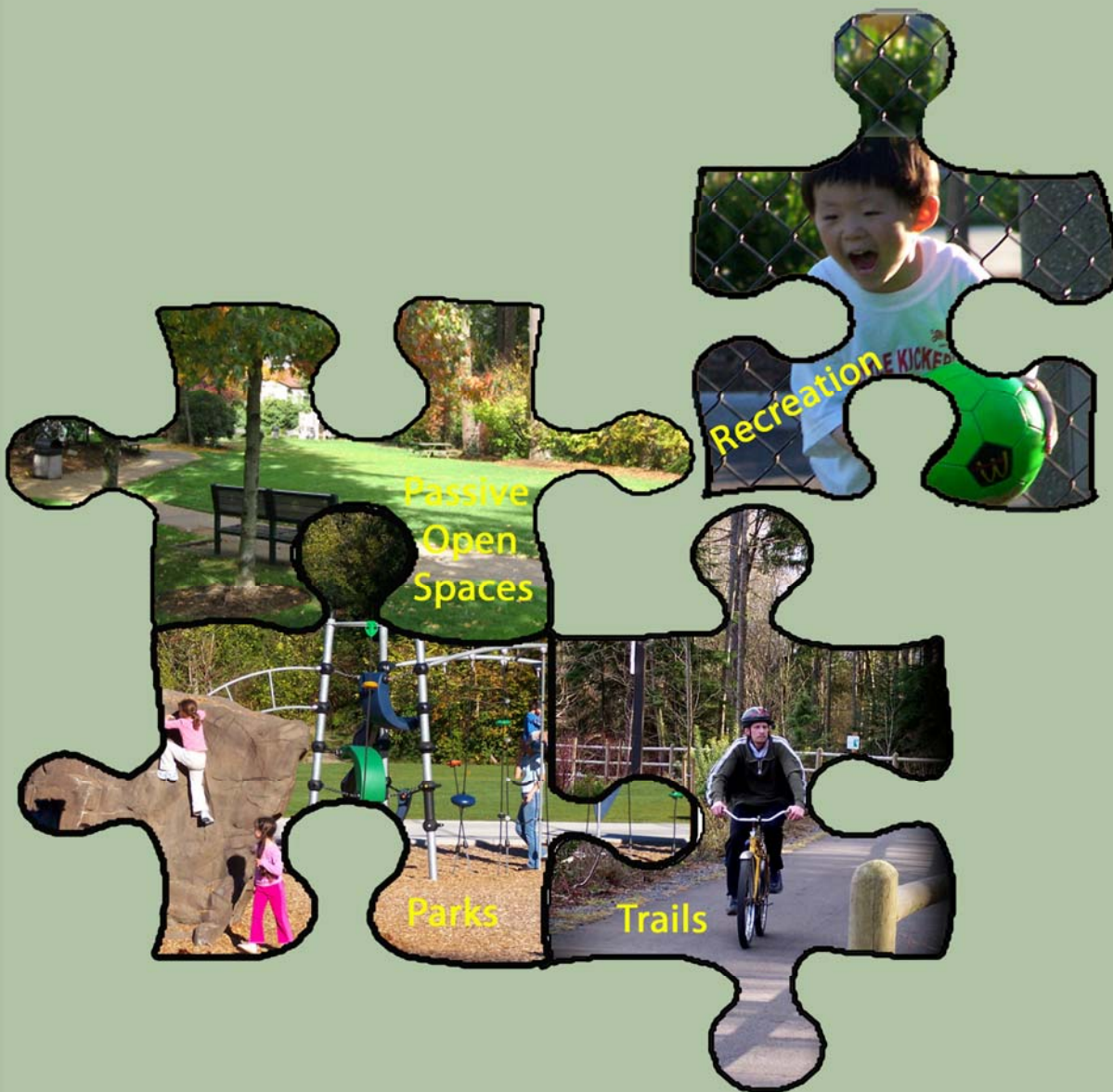


# Park and Open Space Needs Assessment



Conducted November - December 2009

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**City of Mill Creek  
Department of Community Development  
Parks and Open Space  
Needs Assessment Survey**

**Conducted November – December 2009**

**INTRODUCTION**

***Purpose of the Study***

The City of Mill Creek is preparing an update of its Needs Assessment for Parks and Recreation. As part of this process, the Department of Community Development wanted to learn more about the usage patterns and attitudes of Mill Creek area residents, and to better understand who is using the Mill Creek Parks facilities and services. To assess the community's needs, a survey was prepared for the general public. In addition, representatives of organized sports groups that operate in the vicinity of the City were interviewed to determine their needs. The General Public Survey is presented first in this Needs Assessment report followed by the User Group Survey.

**GENERAL PUBLIC SURVEY**

***Design & Methodology***

The survey for the general public was based on a needs assessment survey conducted by Carolyn Browne Associates, a local community involvement and marketing research consulting firm, in 2005. The survey was updated to be relevant for 2009 and placed on the City's web site using SurveyMonkey. People were contacted primarily via email and asked to visit the City's web site and take the survey. The people invited to take the survey were from existing City-maintained email contact lists including representatives of the Homeowners Associations (asking them to share the information with their neighborhood), parties of record list for the East Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment in 2007 and 2008, parties of record list for the 2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendment, City Board and Commission members, parks and recreation program participants, and the Mill Creek Seniors Group. The invitation included a request to forward the information to other members of their group. In addition, a representative from the Mill Creek Business Association and a representative from the Town Center Business Association were asked to send out the invitation to their memberships. To get word out to the larger community, an invitation to take the survey was published in the Everett Herald, The Enterprise, the Mill Creek View, and the Mill Creek Journal and a notice was posted on the Everett School District Community E-Link flyers. 205 people completed the survey.

***Definitions and Report Organization***

The tables in this report contain the data for the 205 respondents. Data is also provided comparing the responses from households with "Children" and "No children," because of the occasional differences in the responses of these two segments. In addition, comparisons of the responses of "seniors" and between "residents" and "non-residents" is provided. In this report, survey respondents refers to everyone who took the survey. Occasionally the responses were filtered to include only Mill Creek residents and in that case the term Mill Creek residents is used rather than survey respondents.

Responses to a majority of the questions were based on a five point scale with five being the most important and one the least important. For purposes of the graphs, the data was collapsed into three groups: five and four combined for good, three for average, and one and two combined for poor.

The Detailed Survey Results include tables that document the information contained in each section. Detailed Survey Tabulations, which include cross-tabulations of the survey questions, are in a separate bound volume at the City of Mill Creek. Individual responses to the open-end questions and a copy of the survey questionnaire are in the Appendix.

## USER GROUP SURVEY

### *Design and Methodology*

There are primarily two user groups that currently utilize Freedom Field at Mill Creek Sports Park: Silver Lake Soccer Association, who uses the field in the fall and winter, and Mill Creek Little League, who uses the field in the spring and summer. In addition to the two current user groups, staff has been contacted by other local groups requesting the opportunity to rent athletic fields in the City of Mill Creek. The existing field is utilized by Silver Lake Soccer and Mill Creek Little League a majority of the year and the City does not currently have additional field space to rent. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Division utilizes the field for summer camps and adult co-ed softball.

In an effort to quantify the need for athletic fields in our community, the existing user groups as well as two other user groups, who have contacted the City in the past, and who primarily serve the Mill Creek area were contacted and asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding their need for athletic fields. Following is a brief description of the user groups:

**Silver Lake Soccer Association (SLSA)** serves youth within the Everett School District boundaries, which encompass all of Mill Creek. SLSA is a recreation league with approximately 1,700 children from ages 6 to 18 years of age. SLSA has been in Mill Creek for 12 years as an established organization. They expect to maintain their size with the current facilities, but do have the potential to grow to a larger organization. Growth is limited by the available space to practice and play games. The season starts in August and runs through November with some post season games in December and January. The field is used predominately in the evenings, 4 to 9 p.m. during the week, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekends for games and clinics. They would also like to do several weeks of clinics and tournaments in June and July. SLSA would use additional and or larger facilities such as a full sized soccer field if they were available. Evergreen Soccer is a select soccer league associated with Silver Lake Soccer, who primarily uses the field following the regular soccer season in December through February.

**Mill Creek Little League (MCLL)** serves the greater Mill Creek area with close to 1,000 players ages 5-18 years old. MCLL's season is March through July, 4-10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the weekends. Currently MCLL is using Snohomish County Parks in addition to Freedom Field, which are located outside their boundaries. If another Little League field was available they would be able to use it in addition to Freedom Field.

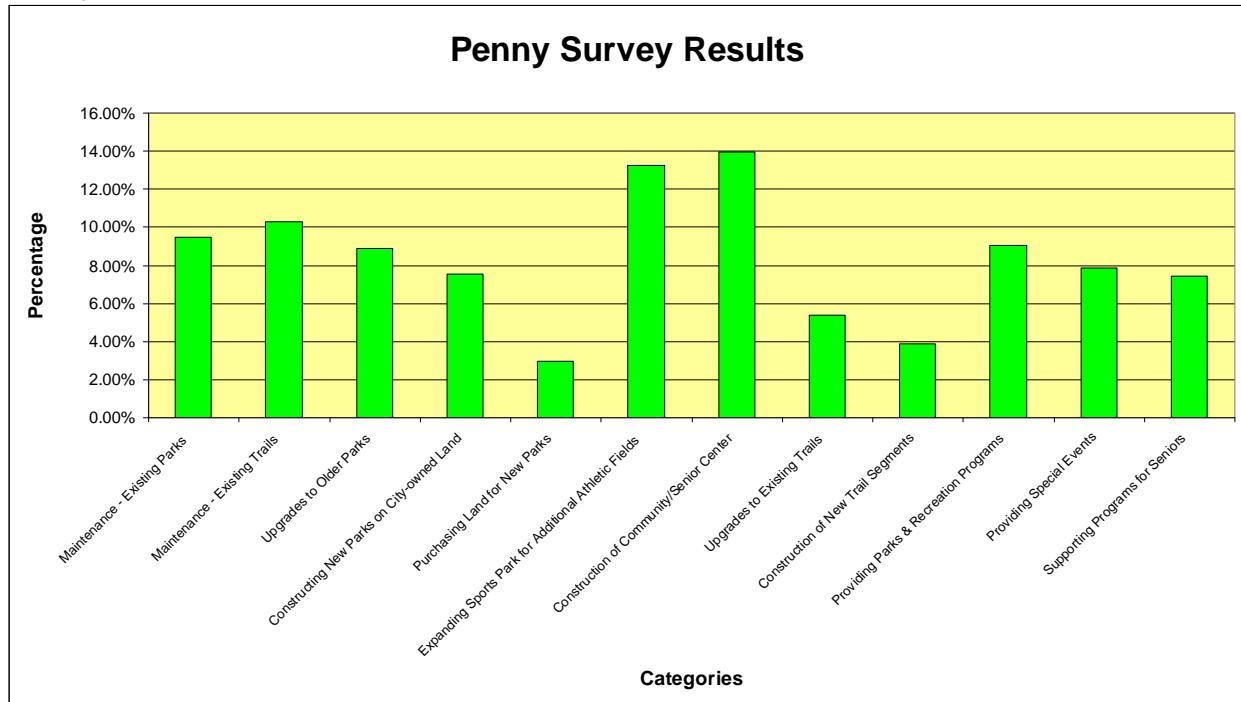
**Silver Lake Athletic Association (SLAA)** serves primarily the SE Everett/Mill Creek area. Programs are provided for youth football in the fall (6-14 year olds), youth lacrosse in the spring and arena football in the spring. Formerly the Silver Lake Football Association, SLAA has been in existence nearly 15 years. They would like to expand into youth wrestling and girl's lacrosse. SLAA could keep one full size soccer field programmed all year, with the exception of the holidays.

**TyneCastle FC (TC)** is a select soccer league. They have approximately 275 participants (both boys and girls) who are about 50% Mill Creek residents, ranging in age from 7 years old to 18 years old. Select teams play all year from 4 to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. They would prefer a full size soccer field and say they would be able to keep it programmed for a majority of the year. TC is predicting significant growth in their relatively new Lacrosse program.

### OPEN HOUSE

The Parks and Recreation Board and the Community Development staff conducted an Open House on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Mill Creek City Hall. This informal gathering featured displays showing current parks and open space facilities, information on issues regarding development of new facilities, and copies of the Park Needs Survey. The Parks and Recreation Board and staff were available to answer questions about the City's current plan and visit with the public to get their ideas to ensure that the City's plan addresses their priorities. The open house was well attended with approximately 80 people in attendance and a broad cross section of the community represented with many different age groups and specific interests.

One element of the Open House was a Penny Survey, designed to get participants thinking about budgeting and setting priorities. Following is a table that shows the results of the Penny Survey:



Open House participants were asked to submit written comments on the materials and issues that had been presented. In brief, the comments were consistent with the information received from the General Public Survey and the User Group Survey. Some highlights of the comments are as follows:

- The adopted Parks and Open Space Goals are still relevant.
- Some participants support a community/senior center, while others do not.

- Some neighborhood parks need to be upgraded.
- Partnerships with other nearby recreation providers (i.e., the YMCA, Super Range, Everett School District) should be explored.
- New parks should be provided in under served areas of the City.
- Trees should be preserved.
- The Sports Park should be expanded, but could also include an area for a farmers market or community center.
- The City should start or facilitate a Community Garden program.

The full text of the written comments from the open house is included in the Appendix.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **MAJOR THEMES – GENERAL PUBLIC SURVEY**

- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the households surveyed have children under 19 living at home. People in households with children: 1) represent a greater share of Park Users (62% vs. 46% of those without children), 2) were more likely to attend a recreation class or program (40% vs. 30%), and 3) were more likely to attend Mill Creek sponsored concerts or events (52% vs. 40%).
- Households with children, compared to those without children, have an equal interest in most of the suggestions presented for new facilities and new programs, and an equal proportion say they are willing to pay additional taxes to support what is important to them. The one area where they differ is that a greater proportion of those without children expressed an interest in development of a community/senior center (76% vs. 49%).
- 97.8% of the respondents are users of the Mill Creek Parks facilities and services.
- Park Users are generally very satisfied with Mill Creek Parks and Open Space Facilities, and give high ratings to maintenance, quantity, quality and variety of parks, with most of the respondents giving a rating of 4 out of a possible 5.
- 36.5% of the Park Users have a household member who has attended a recreation class, arts program or recreation activity sponsored by Mill Creek Parks and 65.4% rank the overall quality of the existing Mill Creek recreational programs as very good with a ranking of 4 or 5 out of a possible 5.
- 53.9% of the respondents have been on the North Creek Trail in the past year.
- 47.9% of the respondents have attended a concert, event or exhibition in the last year sponsored by the City of Mill Creek.
- Walking trails and trails for bicycles and skaters, restrooms, preservation of natural areas, athletic fields and children's playgrounds are the most appreciated features of the City of Mill Creek parks.
- Youth organized sports, teen programs and activities, youth classes and activities, preschool age activities and classes and activities for seniors are rated the highest in importance among park programs and activities.
- The Mill Creek Recreation Guide is the primary source of information for people learning about Mill Creek Parks activities and programs, with seventy-eight percent (78%) of the survey respondents naming it as a primary source.
- A much higher percentage of residents are looking at the City's web site for information about Mill Creek Parks than were using the City's web site in 2005 (37.3% vs. 3%).

- Preservation of major greenways and open spaces is, by far, the most popular choice for new or expanded park facilities with ninety percent (90%) of the respondents ranking it as a high priority.
- 85% of the survey respondents walk or run for leisure and almost 40% use the City's paths, trails and sidewalk system to walk to local businesses.
- The majority (75.4%) of Mill Creek residents are willing to pay additional taxes for the new park and recreation improvements they believe are most important.
- The results of the 2009 General Public Survey were primarily consistent with the results of the 2005 Parks and Open Space Needs Assessment Survey.

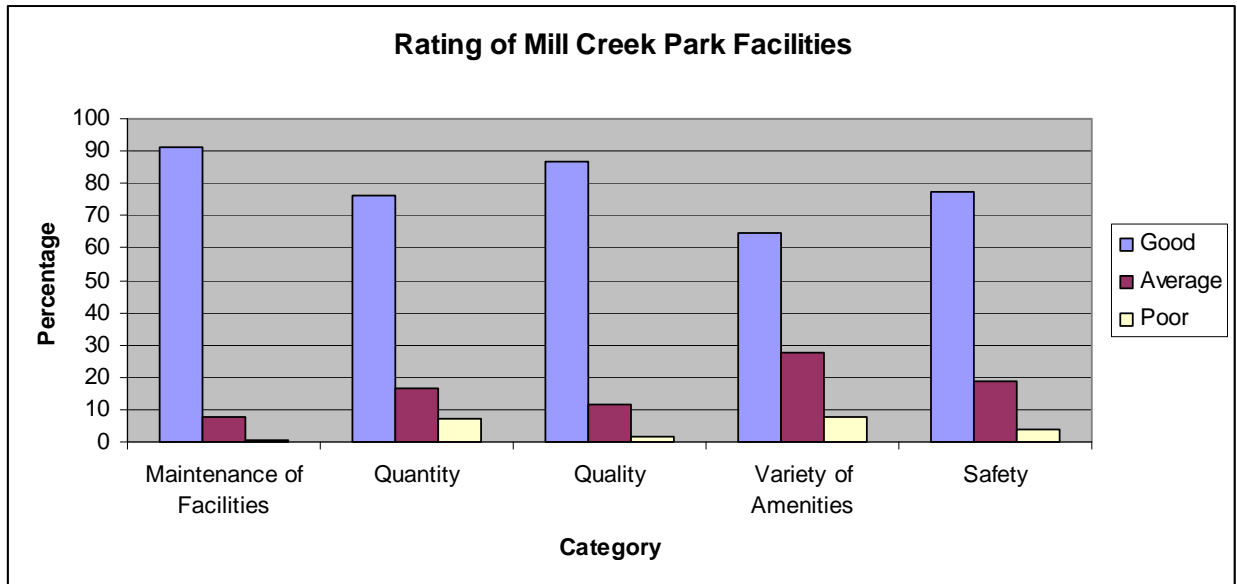
**MAJOR THEMES – USER GROUP SURVEY**

- Overwhelmingly we heard from the user groups about the need for full sized soccer fields, which could be utilized for soccer, lacrosse and football. An additional three soccer fields could be utilized full time for a majority of the year.
- Most user groups said their programs would be likely to grow if the fields were available to rent.
- Mill Creek Little League said they could use an additional Little League field if one were available.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**Park Users**

- Sixty-nine percent (69%) of the survey respondents indicate that in the last year someone from the household visited a City park at least once a month.
- When asked to rate the City of Mill Creek's existing park facilities, the overwhelming response was very positive, with more than 90% giving the quality of the maintenance a rating of 4 or 5 (on a five point scale). While still having a good rating overall, one of the categories that rated lower was Variety of Amenities.

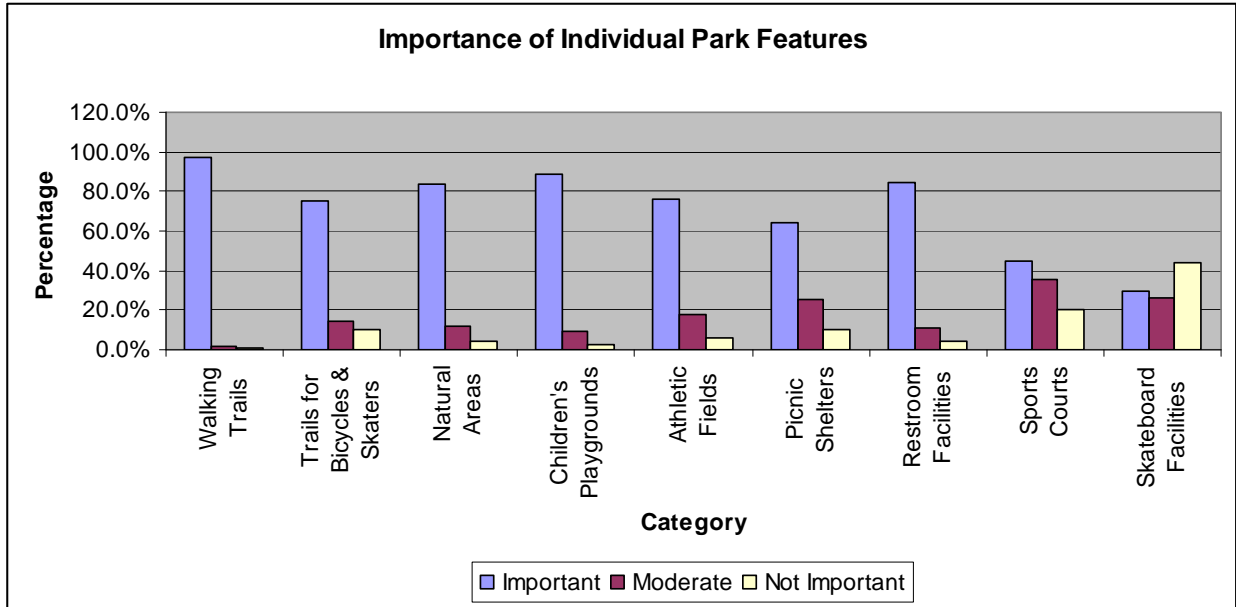


- Thirty-six (36%) of the survey respondents had someone in the household who attended a recreation class or an activity sponsored by Mill Creek Parks.

- Thirty-six percent (36%) had a household member who attended a concert sponsored by Mill Creek Parks.
- Forty-eight percent (48%) attended a community event sponsored by Mill Creek Parks.

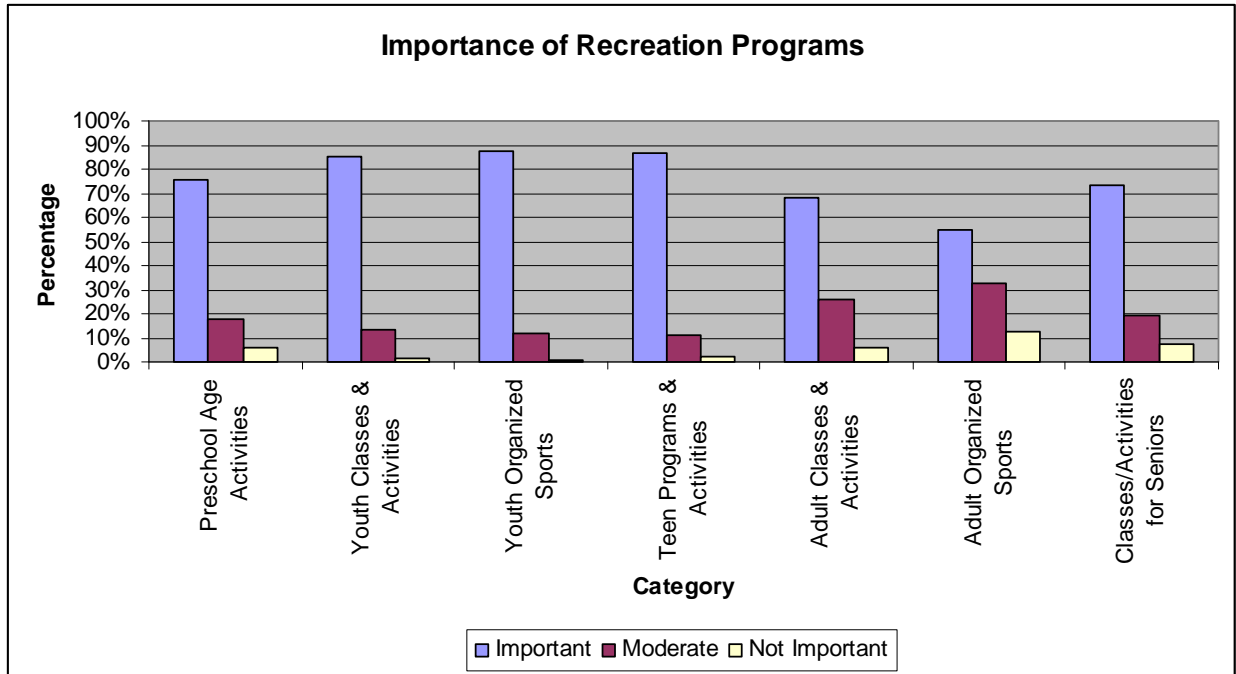
**Park Features Considered Most Important**

Six of the nine suggested park features rank high in importance (with a rating of five from most of the respondents). The features that did not receive a ranking of five were picnic shelters, which had more respondents give a ranking of four; and sports courts and skateboard facilities, which had more respondents give a ranking of three.



**Desired Recreation Programs and Activities**

Of seven recreation programs and activities suggested, all but two (adult classes and activities and adult organized sports) were considered very important (i.e., given a 5 rating) by a majority of those surveyed.



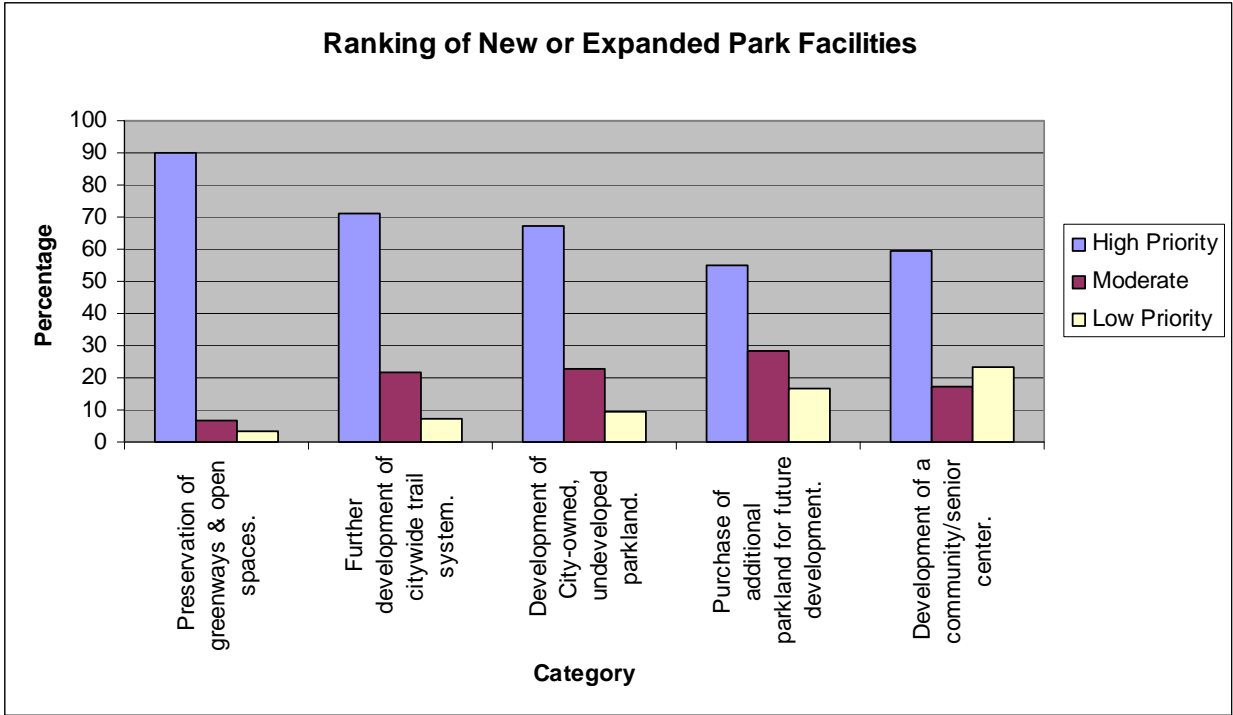
### **Sources of Information About Mill Creek Parks and Recreation**

The Mill Creek Recreation Guide is the primary source (78% of the respondents) of information for people wanting to learn about Mill Creek Parks facilities and programs. A considerably smaller proportion mentioned the *Mill Creek Living* (39%), *Enterprise Newspaper* (35%), friends and neighbors (26%), and *Mill Creek View* (20%). Use of the City's web page for information has increased significantly since the last parks and recreation survey was conducted in 2005. In 2005, only 3% of the respondents said they use the City's web site. In the 2009 survey, thirty-seven percent (37%) of the respondents indicated they use the City's web site.

### **Interest in New Park Facilities**

Preservation of greenways and natural open spaces ranks highest on a list of five choices for possible new park facilities. Following are the percentage of survey respondents who ranked the five suggested new facilities as a high priority (4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale):

- 90% Preservation of greenways and open spaces
- 71% Further development of the citywide trail system
- 67% Development of existing vacant parkland
- 60% Development of a recreational facility for activities and events
- 55% Acquisition of additional parkland for future development



**Willingness to Pay for New Park Facilities**

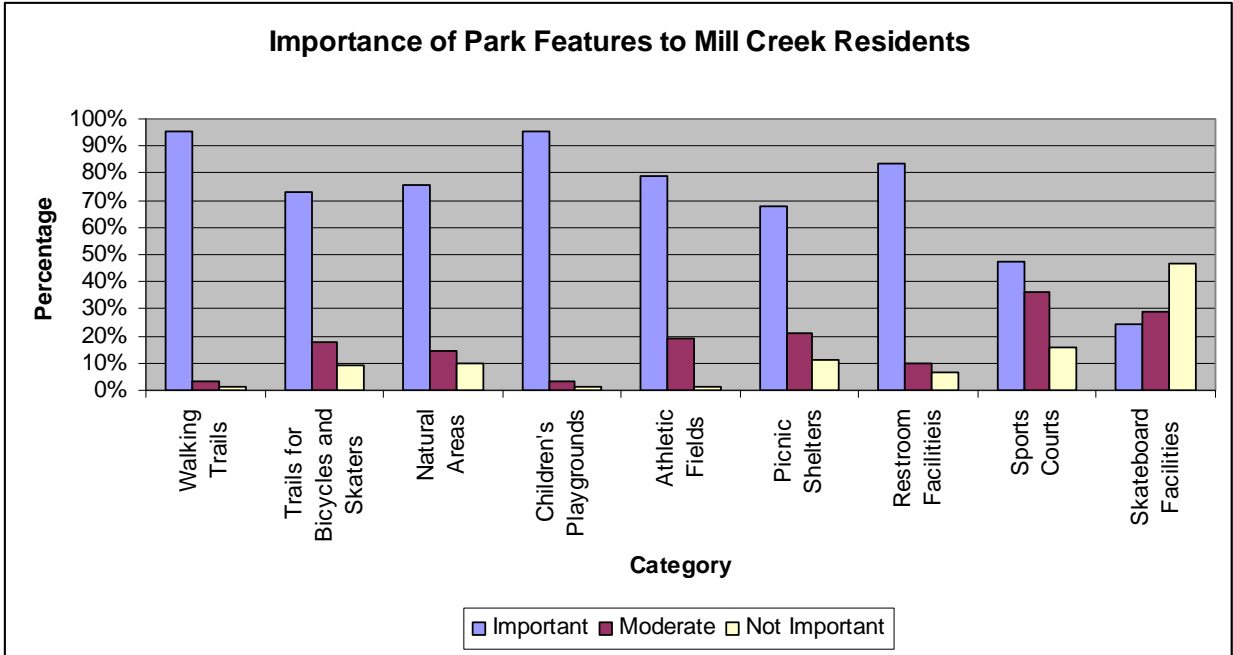
Significantly (75%) of Mill Creek residents surveyed said they would be willing to pay additional taxes for improvements they believe are important. Only 10% said they would not be willing to pay any more taxes for park and recreation facilities and improvements, and 15% were unsure.

Households with children and households without children were equally willing to pay for new park facilities and improvements (65% households with children vs. 69% households without children).

Mill Creek residents who are willing to pay additional taxes to support the facilities and improvements they deem most important are especially interested in:

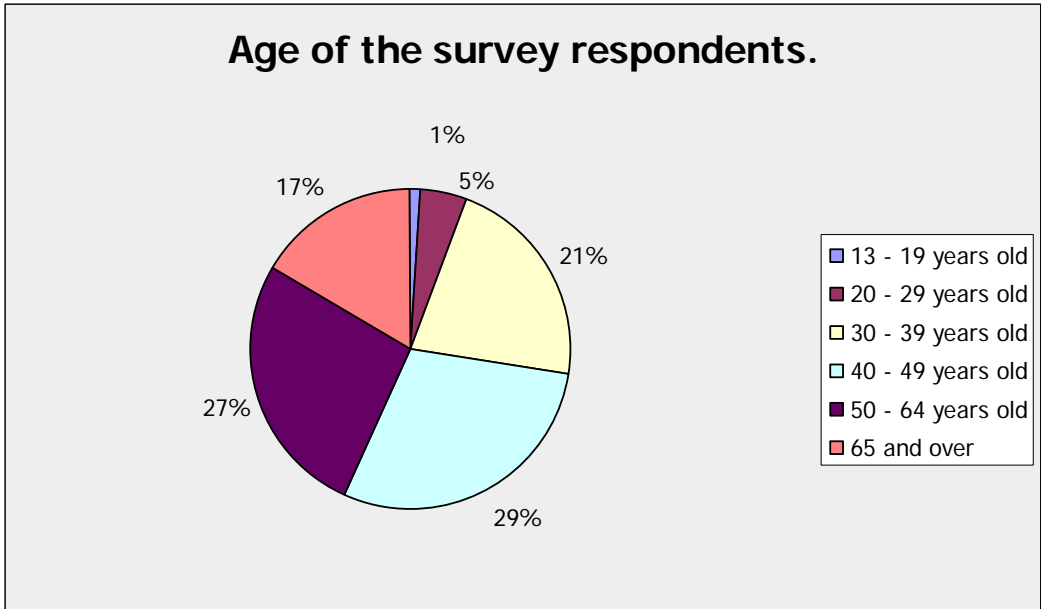
Park Amenity	Percentage*
Walking Trails	97.2%
Children's Playgrounds	88.6%
Natural Areas	82.1%
Restroom Facilities	81.7%
Athletic Fields	75%
Trails for Bicycles and Skaters	72.9%
Picnic Shelters	61.5%
Sports Courts	45.2%
Skateboard Facilities	31.4%

- Percentage of Residents Who Consider the Amenity a High Priority (ranking of 4 or 5).



**Demographics of Survey Respondents**

**Age**



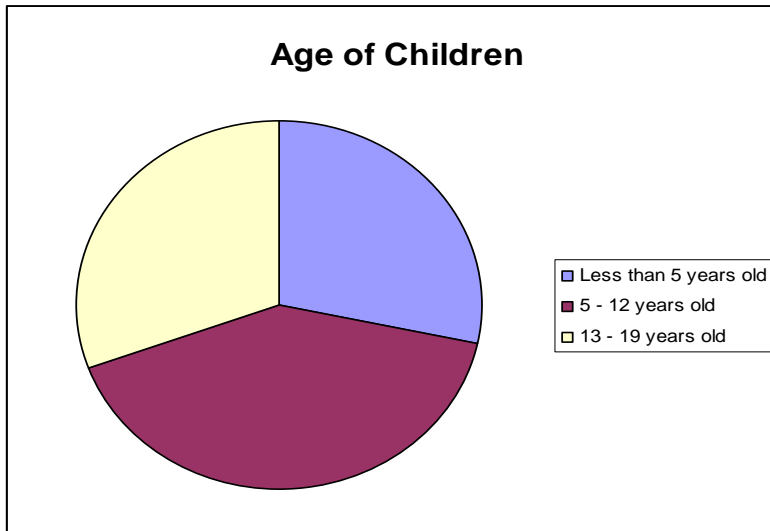
The largest group of respondents was the 40 – 49 year old group (29%), followed by the 50 – 64 year old group (27%), 30 – 39 year olds (21%), 65 and over (17%), 20 – 29 year olds (5%) and under 19 years old (1%).

**Number in Household**

Nine percent (9.3%) live in one-person households; 29.3% live in two-person households; 16.6% have three; 28.8% have four; 13.2% have five; and 2.9% have six in the household.

**Households with Children**

Just over 58% of the survey respondents have children under 20 in the household.



**Type of Residence/Owner-Renter**

Of the survey respondents, 95.1% own their home and 4.9% are renting.

**Sex of Respondents**

Of those who responded to the survey, 39.7% are male and 60.3% are female.

**Consistency of Themes with 2005 Park Needs Survey**

Residents of the City of Mill Creek and the surrounding community utilize the City's parks and recreation programs frequently. Overall, respondents believe that the City provides a high level of quality of both facilities and programs. In addition, respondents also identified additional facilities that could improve the City's Parks and Open Space systems. Further, consistent with the 2005 Survey, a majority of the City residents that responded to the survey are willing to fund these additional facilities at some level.

**DETAILED  
GENERAL PUBLIC SURVEY  
RESULTS AND SUPPORTING TABLES**

## EXPERIENCE WITH, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD, MILL CREEK PARKS BY PARK USERS

### ***Park Users Surveyed***

The definition of “Park User” throughout this report is based upon the respondents who answered “Yes” to the question: “Have you or a member of your household used any of the services or facilities provided by the City of Mill Creek including visits to a city park, participation in a class or activity, or use of the trail system?” Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the survey respondents qualified as “Park Users.”

One hundred percent (100%) of households with children were park users, compared to those without children in the household (94.4%).

### ***City Park Usage/Attitudes Toward Mill Creek City Parks***

Almost one-third (31%) of the respondents said someone in their household had visited a Mill Creek park at least once a week in the previous year; 25% went to a park two or three times a month; 13% went once a month; 13.6% went every two or three months, once or twice a year 8.7% and only visit in the summer 4.9%. Less than 4% did not visit a City Park.

When asked about Mill Creek parks visited by members of the household, the ones named most often included: Mill Creek Sports Park (55.4%), Heron Park (52%), Library Park (40%), and Cougar Park (37.7%). McCollum Park, which is owned by the County, was named by 61.1% of the survey respondents.

Question/Response	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b><i>Have you, or a member of your household, used any of the services or facilities provided by the City of Mill Creek, including visits to a city park, participation in a class or activity, or use of the trail system?</i></b>						
Yes	97.8	96.7	100	100	94.4	100
<b><i>In the last year, about how frequently did someone from your household visit a City park?</i></b>						
At least once a week	31	36.7	20.6	31.3	30.6	42.3
Two or 3 times a month	25	25.8	23.8	31.3	15.3	15.4
Once a month	13	13.3	12.7	9.8	18.1	23.1
Every two or three months	13.6	8.3	23.8	15.2	11.1	7.7
Once or twice in the year	8.7	6.7	12.7	9.8	6.9	3.8
Only visit in the summer	4.9	3.3	6.3	1.8	9.7	7.7
No one visited a City park	3.8	5.8	0	.9	8.3	0
<b><i>City and County Parks visited.</i></b>						
Cougar Park	37.7	45.5	24.2	45.5	24.6	23.1
Heron Park	52	64.3	30.6	51.8	52.3	61.5
Highlands Park	32.6	35.7	27.4	33.6	30.8	30.8
Hillside Park	12.6	16.1	6.5	12.7	12.3	11.5
Library Park	40	34.8	50	40.9	38.5	46.2
Mill Creek Sports Park	55.4	53.6	59.7	57.3	52.3	42.3
Nickel Creek Park	9.7	12.5	4.8	7.3	13.8	11.5
Pine Meadow Park	26.3	30.4	19.4	37.3	7.7	7.7
Silver Crest Park	.6	.9	0	0	1.5	0
McCollum Park (County)	61.1	58	66.1	58.2	66.2	76.9
North Creek Park (County)	28.6	23.2	38.7	30	26.2	23.1

**Overall Attitudes Toward Facilities and Services**

All groups were generally satisfied with the park and recreation facilities and services provided. All five categories rated (maintenance, quality, quantity, variety and safety) received a rating of 4 or 5 on the 5-point scale, where 5 is "Excellent" and 1 is "Poor". More Mill Creek residents gave a rating of five to quantity, indicating that they believe the City provides an adequate number of parks and trails.

Question/Response	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>How would you rate Mill Creek City parks in general?</b>						
<b>Maintenance of Facilities</b>						
Five (Excellent)	42.5	40.9	46.6	41.3	44.6	42.3
Four	<b>48.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>50</b>
Three	8.0	10.4	3.4	7.3	9.2	7.7
Two	.6	.9	0	.9	0	0
One	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Quantity (adequate number of parks/trails)</b>						
Five (Excellent)	34.3	<b>40.9</b>	22.0	30.90	40	<b>46.2</b>
Four	<b>41.7</b>	38.3	<b>47.5</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>43.1</b>	42.3
Three	16.6	14.8	20.3	17.3	15.4	11.5
Two	5.7	4.3	8.5	8.2	1.5	0
One	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.7	0	0
<b>Quality</b>						
Five (Excellent)	34.7	38.1	28.8	29.4	<b>43.8</b>	<b>42.3</b>
Four	<b>52</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>59.6</b>	39.1	<b>42.3</b>
Three	11.6	14.2	6.8	9.2	15.6	15.4
Two	1.7	2.7	0	1.8	1.6	0
One	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Variety of Amenities</b>						
Five (Excellent)	20.1	23.7	13.6	17.4	24.6	30.8
Four	<b>44.8</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42.3</b>
Three	27.6	23.7	35.6	27.5	27.7	23.1
Two	6.3	8.8	1.7	6.4	6.2	3.8
One	1.1	1.8	0	.9	1.5	0
<b>Safety (lighting, visibility, etc.)</b>						
Five (Excellent)	25.7	25.2	27.1	23.6	29.2	34.6
Four	<b>51.4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>50</b>
Three	18.9	21.7	13.6	21.8	13.8	11.5
Two	4	6.1	0	.9	9.2	3.8
One	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **Preferred park features and improvements**

A list of nine specific park features was presented. Respondents were asked to rate each of the park features on a 5-point scale where “5” was “Very important” and “1” was “Not at all important.”

### **Ratings of Nine Park Features**

Six items on the list received a rating of 5 from most of the respondents:

- 70.4% Walking trails
- 60.3% Children’s playgrounds
- 54.0% Restroom facilities
- 53.7% Natural areas
- 44.2% Athletic fields
- 42.4% Trails for Bicycles and Skaters

All but two of the suggested park features was considered important (received a rating of 4 or 5) by a majority of the respondents. Two features received a rating of 3 from most of the respondents:

- 35.3% Sports courts
- 26.3% Skateboard facilities

Question/Response	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>How would you rate the importance of the following features?</b>						
<b>Walking Trails</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>70.4</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>65.4</b>
Four	26.8	24.8	31.1	29.7	22.1	34.6
Three	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.7	0	0
Two	.6	.9	0	.9	0	0
One	.6	.9	0	0	1.5	0
<b>Trails for Bicycles and Skaters</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>42.4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37.9</b>	17.4
Four	32.8	29.6	39.3	33.3	31.8	<b>47.8</b>
Three	14.7	18.3	8.2	13.5	16.7	13
Two	5.6	6.1	4.9	3.6	9.1	13
One	4.5	6.1	1.6	4.5	4.5	8.7
<b>Natural Areas</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>53.7</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>50</b>
Four	29.9	27.6	35	32.1	26.5	38.5
Three	11.9	13.8	8.3	12.8	10.3	11.5
Two	3.4	4.3	1.7	4.6	1.5	0
One	1.1	1.7	0	1.8	0	0
<b>Children’s Playgrounds</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>60.3</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>54.5</b>
Four	28.2	28.3	26.7	25.5	32.8	40.9
Three	9.2	9.7	8.3	5.5	15.6	4.9
Two	1.1	.9	1.7	0	3.1	0
One	1.1	1.8	0	.9	1.6	0

Question/Response	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>How would you rate the importance of the following features?</b>						
<b>Athletic Fields</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>44.2</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>51.8</b>	30.6	28.6
Four	32	28.6	37.3	30	<b>35.5</b>	<b>52.4</b>
Three	18	21.4	11.9	15.5	22.6	9.5
Two	5.2	6.3	3.4	2.7	9.7	9.5
One	.6	0	1.7	0	1.6	0
<b>Picnic Shelters</b>						
Five (Very Important)	26.3	31.6	16.7	29.1	21.5	17.4
Four	<b>37.7</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>
Three	25.7	23.7	30	22.7	30.8	30.4
Two	9.1	9.6	8.3	8.2	10.8	4.3
One	1.1	1.8	0	1.8	0	0
<b>Restroom Facilities</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>54</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>47</b>	36
Four	30.1	30.7	29.5	28.2	33.3	<b>52</b>
Three	11.4	12.3	9.8	10	13.6	12
Two	2.8	3.5	1.6	2.7	3	0
One	1.7	2.6	0	.9	3	0
<b>Sports Courts</b>						
Five (Very Important)	22.4	21.8	23.7	27	13.6	5.6
Four	22.4	19.1	<b>27.1</b>	23.4	20.3	22.2
Three	<b>35.3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>55.6</b>
Two	12.4	11.8	13.6	9.9	16.9	5.6
One	7.6	7.3	8.5	7.2	8.5	11.1
<b>Skateboard Facilities</b>						
Five (Very Important)	6.6	8.3	3.4	7.3	5.2	5.9
Four	23.4	21.3	<b>25.9</b>	20.2	<b>29.3</b>	<b>35.3</b>
Three	<b>26.3</b>	24.1	31	<b>29.4</b>	20.7	23.5
Two	19.2	19.4	19	17.4	22.4	11.8
One	24.6	<b>26.9</b>	20.7	25.7	22.4	23.5

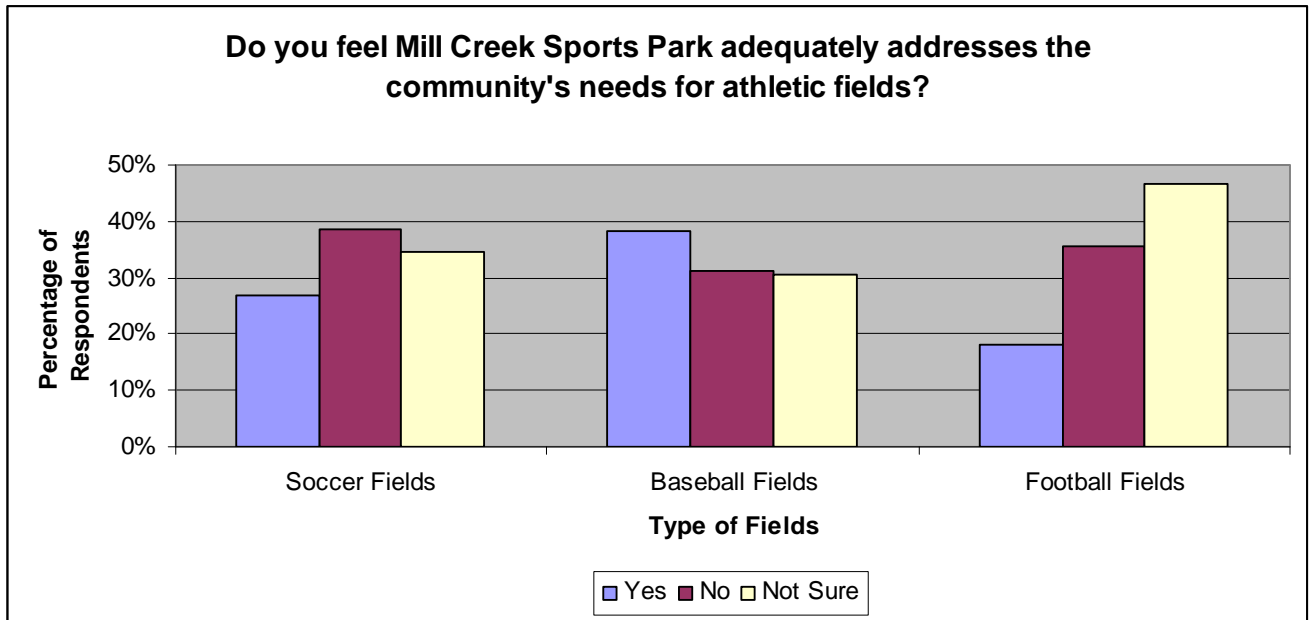
**Walking Trails**

When asked to rank the importance of park features, 98% gave a ranking of 4 or 5 to walking trails. Fifty-four (54%) have been on the North Creek Trail, 79.6% have used the sidewalk system, and 52.1% use the private trails. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the respondents walk or run for leisure and 40% walk to local businesses. and 40% walk to local businesses.



**Need for Athletic Fields Adequately Addressed**

When asked if Mill Creek Sports Park adequately addresses the community's needs for athletic fields, the response was No for soccer fields (38.7%) and Yes for baseball fields (37.8%) and most were unsure whether the City was meeting the community's needs for football (46.8%).



Question/Response	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>Do you feel Mill Creek Sports Park adequately addresses the community's needs for athletic fields?</b>						
<b>Soccer Fields</b>						
Yes	26.6	31	16.9	24.1	<b>30.8</b>	<b>30.4</b>
No	<b>38.7</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>44.4</b>	29.2	21.7
Not Sure	34.7	33.6	37.3	31.5	40	47.8
<b>Baseball Fields</b>						
Yes	<b>37.8</b>	<b>42</b>	28.8	34.6	<b>43.1</b>	<b>47.8</b>
No	31.4	28.6	<b>37.3</b>	<b>36.4</b>	23.1	17.4
Not Sure	30.8	29.5	33.9	29	33.8	34.8
<b>Football Fields</b>						
Yes	17.5	19.8	11.9	14	23.4	22.7
No	35.7	34.2	39	40.2	28.1	27.3
Not Sure	<b>46.8</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>50</b>

### ***Participation in Organized Sports***

When asked if anyone in the household participates in organized sports (i.e., Little League, Soccer, Adult softball, etc.) 43.3% responded Yes and 56.8% responded No.

### ***Sports Courts Considered Important***

When asked to select all outdoor sports courts that were important, basketball courts were considered the most important with 87% of the respondents selecting them and tennis courts were second with 66.9%. Skateboard facilities received a lower ranking with 39%.

### **PREFERRED PARK PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

Seven programs and activities were suggested to the respondents, who were asked to rate the relative importance of these programs on the same 5-point scale.

Five of the seven received high importance (rating of 5) from more of the respondents:

- 58.5% Youth organized sports
- 50.9% Teen programs and activities
- 46.3% Youth classes and activities
- 43.8% Preschool age activities
- 41.5% Classes and activities for seniors

Two other suggested programs received a rating of 4 by more of the respondents: 39.5% gave a 4 rating to adult classes and activities, and 36.4% to adult organized sports

Interestingly, over 85% of households without children gave a high ranking of either a 4 or 5 to youth classes and activities, youth organized sports and teen programs and activities.

Question/ Response	Total	Resident	Non- Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>How would you rate the importance of each of the following programs and activities?</b>						
<b>Preschool Age Activities</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>43.6</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>47.7</b>	36.4	<b>42.1</b>
Four	31.9	34.3	26.8	29	<b>38.2</b>	36.8
Three	18.4	12.4	28.6	16.8	20	15.8
Two	3.1	4.8	0	2.8	3.6	5.3
One	3.1	2.9	3.6	3.7	1.8	0
<b>Youth Classes and Activities</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>46.1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>50</b>
Four	38.8	41.1	33.9	38.3	40.4	45
Three	13.3	14	12.5	14	12.3	5
Two	0.6	0	0	0	0	0
One	1.2	1.9	0	0.9	1.8	0
<b>Youth Organized Sports</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>58.2</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>50</b>
Four	28.5	31.8	21.4	26.9	32.1	40
Three	12.1	11.2	14.3	12	12.5	10
Two	0.6	0	0	0	0	0
One	0.6	.9	0	0	1.8	0
<b>Teen Programs and Activities</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>50.6</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>47.4</b>
Four	35.8	39.6	27.8	32.1	43.6	<b>47.4</b>
Three	11.1	10.4	13	13.2	7.3	5.3
Two	1.2	0	1.9	0.9	0	0
One	1.2	1.9	0	0.9	1.8	0
<b>Adult Classes &amp; Activities</b>						
Five (Very Important)	28.6	30.9	25	25.5	34.4	<b>39.1</b>
Four	<b>39.3</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39.1</b>
Three	26.2	22.7	32.1	29.2	19.7	21.7
Two	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.7	1.6	0
One	2.4	3.6	0	1.9	3.3	0
<b>Adult Organized Sports</b>						
Five (Very Important)	18.4	17	21.8	17.3	20.7	23.8
Four	<b>36.2</b>	<b>38.7</b>	30.9	<b>37.5</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>33.3</b>
Three	32.5	30.2	<b>38.2</b>	32.7	32.8	28.6
Two	8.6	7.5	9.1	8.7	6.9	14.3
One	4.3	6.6	0	3.8	5.2	0
<b>Classes and Activities for Seniors</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>41.3</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>40.7</b>	33.3	<b>55.6</b>	<b>69.6</b>
Four	31.4	28.8	35.6	<b>35.2</b>	25.4	26.1
Three	19.8	18.9	20.3	22.2	14.3	4.3
Two	2.9	3.6	1.7	3.7	1.6	0
One	4.7	6.3	1.7	5.6	3.2	0

**Participation in Recreation Classes, Programs and Activities**

Of the total Park Users, 36% said that someone in their household had attended a recreation class, an arts program or presentation, or participated in a recreation activity provided or sponsored by Mill Creek Parks.

Households with children were considerably more likely to have participated in a recreation class or program than households without children (40% vs. 30%).

Most people that took a recreation class went to City Hall (53%), the Mill Creek Sports Park (25%), other City park (33%) or a local school (33%) for this activity.

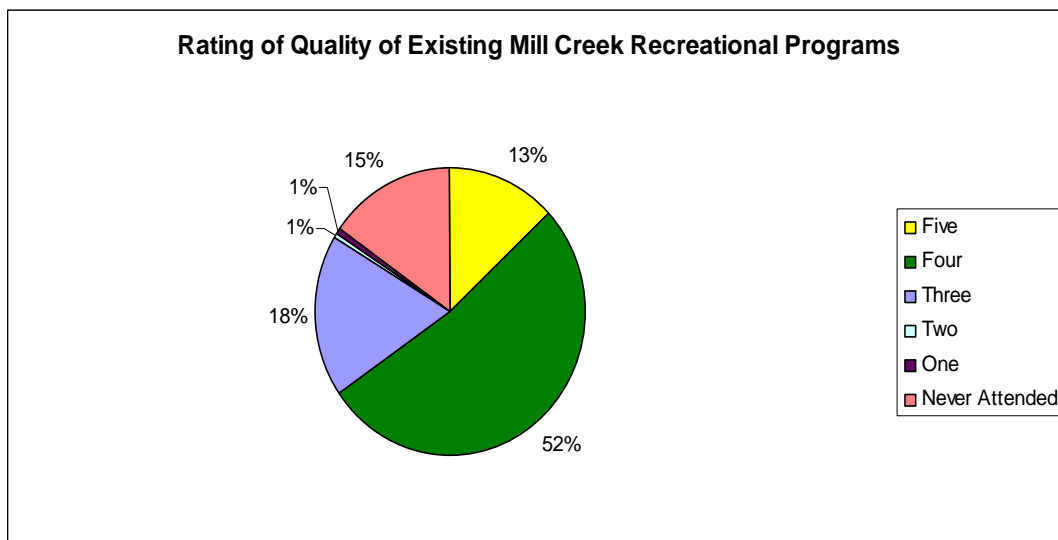
Three-fourths of the Park Users gave high marks to the existing Mill Creek recreation programs (13% rated it a 5 and 52% rated it a 4).

54% of the Park Users had a household member who used the North Creek Trail.

Just over one-third (36%) of respondents had a household member who attended a concert, event or exhibition sponsored by the City of Mill Creek in the past year.

When asked to rate the overall quality of the existing Mill Creek recreational programs, a majority of the respondents (65%) gave a rating of four or five.

Question/ Response	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>Attended a recreation class.</b>						
Yes	36.5	33.9	42.1	40.4	30.2	45.8
No	63.5	66.1	57.9	59.6	69.8	54.2
<b>Attended a concert.</b>						
Yes	36.4	37.7	34.5	35	38.7	47.8
No	63.6	62.3	65.5	65	61.3	52.2
<b>Participated in a community event.</b>						
Yes	47.9	49.1	46.7	52.3	40	45
No	52.1	50.9	53.3	47.7	60	55



## SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR MILL CREEK PARKS AND RECREATION

The Mill Creek Recreation Guide is the primary source of information for learning about the programs and activities of Mill Creek Parks. More than three-fourths (78%) selected the guide, while 37% utilize the City's web site and 35% use The Enterprise Newspaper. Other sources included: friends/neighbors (27%), Mill Creek View (21%), and visits to City Hall (10%).

Households with children were somewhat more inclined to check the City's web site for information (43.5% vs. 27.5% for those without children). Seniors were the least likely to use the City's web site (11.5%).

Question/ Response	Total	Resident	Non- Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<i>What are your primary sources of information for learning about Mill Creek Parks and Recreation programs and activities?</i>						
Mill Creek Recreation Guide	<b>78</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>65.2</b>	57.7
Mill Creek Living	39	42.7	30.5	30.6	52.2	<b>65.4</b>
Mill Creek Enterprise	35	38.5	28.8	26.9	47.8	50
The Herald	22.6	21.4	23.7	16.7	31.9	42.3
Mill Creek View	20.9	26.5	10.2	13	33.3	46.2
City's Web Site	37.3	35	42.4	43.5	27.5	11.5
Neighbors and Friends	26.6	28.2	23.7	30.6	20.3	26.9
Visits to City Hall	9.6	11.1	6.8	5.6	15.9	23.1
Flyers	21.5	19.7	23.7	23.1	18.8	26.9
Posters / Banners	14.1	13.7	15.3	14.8	13	7.7

## INTEREST IN NEW OR EXPANDED PARK FACILITIES

### *New Park Facilities Wanted*

Given a list of five possible choices for new park facilities, survey respondents, by a considerable margin, rate preservation of the natural greenways and open spaces as the most desired. Fifty-five percent (55.6%) of those surveyed rated this option as a "5" on the 5-point scale where "5" is "Very important" and "1" is "Not at all important," and (34.5%) gave this a "4" rating. Other facilities that received "5" rating by most of those surveyed included: further development of citywide trail system (38.8%), and development of a facility for recreational activities and events with rooms for large meetings, such as a community center or senior center (44%). A rating of 4 was given by most of the respondents to development of existing parkland (38%); and acquisition of additional parkland for future development (29.2%).

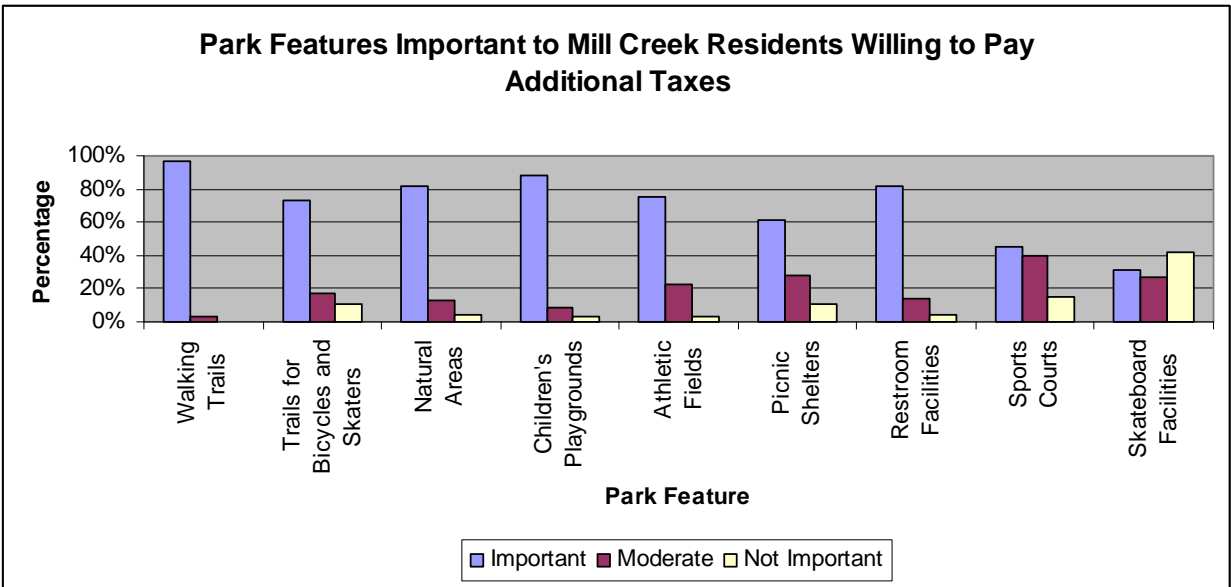
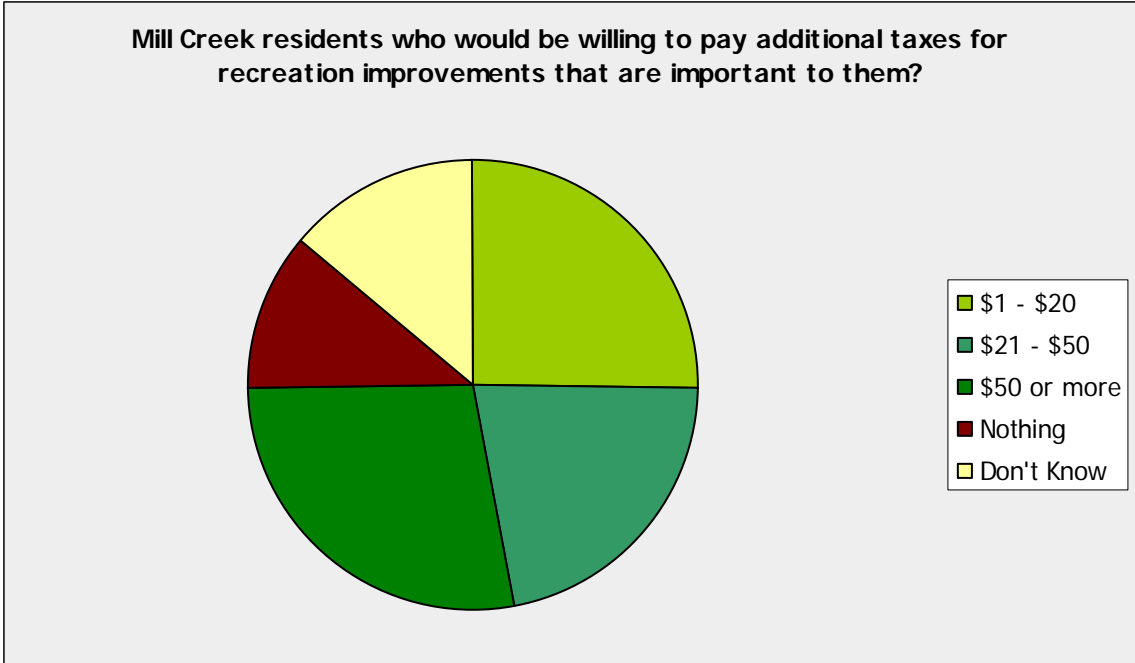
All groups (resident, non-resident, children, no children, and seniors) ranked preservation of greenways and open spaces as their highest priority. All groups, with the exception of one group (those with children) ranked a community/senior center as their next highest priority. The group with children ranked further development of city-owned, undeveloped parkland as their second priority.

Question/ Response	Total	Resident	Non- Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>Ranking of suggested new or expanded park and recreation facilities.</b>						
<b>Preservation of greenways and open spaces.</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>55.6</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>72.7</b>
Four	34.5	38.1	28.1	39.3	26.6	27.3
Three	6.1	8	3.5	6.5	6.3	0
Two	2.9	1.8	5.3	3.7	1.6	0
One	.6	0	1.8	.9	0	0
<b>Further development of citywide trail system.</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>38.8</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>43.8</b>	33.3
Four	32.4	<b>32.7</b>	32.1	<b>35.8</b>	26.6	19
Three	21.8	25.7	14.3	18.9	26.6	<b>42.9</b>
Two	3.5	3.5	3.6	5.7	0	0
One	3.5	5.3	0	3.8	3.1	4.8
<b>Development of City-owned, undeveloped parkland.</b>						
Five (Very Important)	29.5	27.9	33.3	33.7	22.6	30
Four	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>38.7</b>	20
Three	22.9	25.2	18.5	19.2	29	<b>35</b>
Two	4.2	4.5	3.7	4.8	3.2	10
One	5.4	6.3	3.7	4.8	6.5	5
<b>Purchase of additional parkland for future development.</b>						
Five (Very Important)	25.6	24.1	29.1	<b>28.8</b>	20.3	18.2
Four	<b>29.2</b>	26.8	<b>32.7</b>	27.9	<b>31.3</b>	18.2
Three	28.6	<b>31.3</b>	23.6	<b>28.8</b>	28.1	<b>27.3</b>
Two	8.9	8	10.9	8.7	9.4	18.2
One	7.7	9.8	3.6	5.8	10.9	18.2
<b>Development of a facility for recreational activities and events with rooms for large meetings, such as a community center or senior center.</b>						
Five (Very Important)	<b>44</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>70.8</b>
Four	15.2	15	15.8	16.3	13.4	8.3
Three	17	15.9	19.3	23.1	7.5	4.2
Two	11.7	14.2	7	17.3	3	4.2
One	11.7	14.2	7	10.6	13.4	12.5

### ***Willingness to Pay for New Facilities***

When asked about their willingness to pay for new park improvements or additions they believe are important, 66.5% of survey respondents said they would be willing to pay something, and 22.7% were willing to pay more than \$50 per year in additional taxes to fund what they wanted. Only 9.7% said they were not willing to pay anything, while 23.9% said they did not know.

Question/ Response	Total	Resident	Non- Resident	Children	No Children	Seniors
<b>Willing to pay additional taxes for park and recreation or trail improvements or additions.</b>						
\$1-20	21.6	25.4	14.8	18.5	<b>26.5</b>	<b>29.2</b>
\$21-50	22.2	21.9	23	25	17.6	20.8
\$50 or More	<b>22.7</b>	<b>28.1</b>	13.1	21.3	25	16.7
Nothing	9.7	10.5	8.2	9.3	10.3	8.3
Don't Know	23.9	14	<b>41</b>	<b>25.9</b>	20.6	25



**DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS**

***Age of Respondent***

In general the survey respondents represent a fairly balanced cross section with 21.5% in the 30-39 year old group; 29.3% in the 40-49 year old group; 26.8% in the 50-64 year old group and 16.6% in the 65 and over group. In addition, 5.9% of the respondents were under 29 years old.

In keeping with these age groups, 81.3% of those in the 30 to 49 age range have children in the household, compared with just 9.1% in this age range who have no children.

### **Number in Household**

Some 9.3% of the respondents are in one-person households; 29.3% have two people; 16.6% have three; 28.8% have four, and 16.1% have five or more.

### **Children in Household**

Numbers in the household usually reflect children in the household. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the No Children households are in one or two person households. Fifty percent (50%) of households with Children have four individuals in the household.

Of the households with children, 38% have at least one child under 5; while 54.7% have a child in the 5 to 12 age range; and 40.9% have at least one teenager.

### **Type of Residence/Own or Rent**

Nearly all (95.1%) of those surveyed own their residence.

### **Sex of Respondent**

Of those surveyed, 39.7% were male and 60.3% were female.

<b>Question/ Response</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Non- Resident</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>No Children</b>	<b>Seniors</b>
<b>Age of Respondent</b>						
13-19 years old	1	.8	1.4	1.7	0	0
20-29 years old	4.9	5.4	4.1	3.4	6.9	0
30-39 years old	21.5	17.7	28.4	34.7	3.4	0
40-49 years old	<b>29.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>46.6</b>	5.7	0
50-64 years old	26.8	<b>27.7</b>	24.3	13.6	<b>44.8</b>	0
65 and over	16.6	20.8	9.5	0	39.1	<b>100</b>
<b>Number in Household</b>						
One	9.3	10.	6.8	0	21.8	32.4
Two	<b>29.3</b>	<b>34.6</b>	20.3	3.4	<b>64.4</b>	<b>64.7</b>
Three	16.6	14.6	20.3	20.3	11.5	2.9
Four	28.8	23.1	<b>39.2</b>	<b>50</b>	0	0
Five	13.2	14.6	10.8	21.2	2.3	0
Six	2.9	3.1	2.7	5.1	0	0
<b>Children Under 19</b>						
Yes	<b>57.6</b>	49.2	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	0	0
No	42.4	<b>50.8</b>	27	0	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex of Survey Respondent)</b>						
Male	39.7	42.6	35.1	36.8	43.7	29.4
Female	<b>60.3</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>70.6</b>
<b>Type of Residence (own or rent)</b>						
Home Owner	<b>95.1</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>94.1</b>
Renter	4.9	4.6	5.5	5.1	4.6	5.9
<b>Live Within Mill Creek City Limits</b>						
Yes	<b>63.7</b>	100	0	<b>54.2</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>79.4</b>
No	36.3	0	100	45.8	23.3	20.6

## PREFERENCES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MILL CREEK RESIDENTS WILLING TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS

Responses were tabulated sorting Mill Creek residents only into two categories: those who indicated they were willing to pay something in additional taxes to fund park improvements they thought were important (“Willing to Fund” – 75%), compared with those who indicated they were not willing, or did not know if they were willing, to pay additional taxes to fund park improvements (“Not Willing to Fund” – 25%, with only 10% saying that they were not willing to pay anything).

### **Rating of Park Features**

Both groups, “Willing to Fund” and “Not Willing to Fund,” trended along the same lines with walking trails the most important to both groups and skateboard facilities the least important. In general the Willing to Fund group had a slightly higher percentage giving a high ranking of importance for almost all park features (4 or 5 rating).

<b>Park Features</b>	<b>Willing</b>	<b>Not Willing</b>
Walking Trails	97.6%	93.1%
Trails for Bicycles and Skaters	69.1%	67.8%
Natural Areas	81%	78.6%
Children's Playgrounds	89.1%	85.7%
Athletic Fields	73.2%	67.9%
Picnic Shelters	63.4%	62.1%
Restroom Facilities	81.7%	82.1%
Sports Courts	40.3%	42.3%
Skateboard Facilities	30%	26.9%

*Percentage who gave a 4 or 5 rating.*

### **Rating of Programs and Activities**

Those willing to fund, in contrast to those unwilling to fund improvements, gave a significantly higher importance to every program and activity listed:

<b>Program or Activity</b>	<b>Willing</b>	<b>Not Willing</b>
Preschool Age Activities	84.4%	62.9%
Youth Classes & Activities	88.6%	66.6%
Youth Organized Sports	91%	75%
Teen Programs & Activities	96.1%	64.3%
Adult Classes & Activities	73.8%	53.6%
Adult Organized Sports	62.4%	33.3%
Classes & Activities for Seniors	75.1%	53.6%

### **Rating of New Projects**

Those who say they are willing to fund the projects they most care about, compared to those who are unwilling to pay more taxes, are more inclined to give high importance ratings to every suggested new project. In all cases the difference between the two groups was significant with the exception of preservation of greenways and open spaces, which received a high ranking from both groups.

<b>New Projects</b>	<b>Willing</b>	<b>Not Willing</b>
Importance of? Preservation of greenways & open spaces	90.7%	85.7%
Further development of citywide trail system	70.9%	46.4%
Development of City-owned, undeveloped parkland.	72.6%	35.7%
Purchase of additional parkland for future development.	55.3%	35.7%
Development of a facility for recreational activities & events	62.4%	32.1%

### **Demographics of Those Willing to Fund Projects**

Those who said they were willing to be taxed, compared with those who were not willing to be taxed to fund park projects they care about, tended to be:

- The age group with the most respondents of those willing to fund projects was the 40-49 year old group (31% of the respondents) and in the Not Willing to fund group the age group with the most respondents was the 50-64 year old group (34.5%)
- Households with children had 64.8% of the respondents willing to fund vs. households without children who had 69.1% of the respondents willing to fund.

### **Open Ended Questions**

Following are additional responses from the open-end questions. The number of responses, beyond one, is shown in parenthesis.

#### **What Mill Creek parks have you and your family visited this year?**

1. MCCA Pocket Parks (8)
2. Willis Tucker (7)
3. North Creek Trail (2)
4. The Park by Martha Lake Off 164th
5. Not Sure Which One it is. Has Trails That Take You Near Intersection of Bothell-Everett Hwy and Seattle Hill Road
6. Tambark Creek Park (2)
7. North Pointe Circle

**Does anyone in your family participate in organized sports?** (It is important to note that this question was added after the survey was underway – only about half of the survey respondents had the opportunity to respond to this question. It is logical to assume that the response would have been about double.)

1. Not currently but did for YEARS!!!
2. Grandsons who live in Mill Creek, 15 & 11, Soccer, Baseball, Basketball
3. Little League (T-Ball, Softball, Farm), Soccer, Basketball
4. Soccer Age 3.5 - 5 Year Olds

5. Soccer
6. Basketball
7. Little League
8. LL Baseball - 7 Years Old
9. Soccer, 9 Year Old Girls
10. U7 & U11 Silverlake Soccer Teams
11. Soccer U16, Adult Soccer
12. Soccer -5-7, Softball -7
13. Soccer (U12), Lacrosse (High School), Baseball (U12)
14. Soccer U-12, U-13
15. Little League & Soccer; Age Group 8 - 10
16. Mill Creek Little League, Majors
17. Youth Soccer
18. Soccer Boys U14
19. Soccer, Baseball and Basketball
20. Little League, Soccer
21. Youth Soccer, Youth Baseball/Softball, Youth Basketball
22. Soccer 8-16
23. Recreational Soccer
24. Little League and Soccer (Ages 13 And 11)
25. Tennis At Mill Creek Tennis Club
26. Little League
27. Adult Softball
28. Youth Soccer
29. Baseball, Other
30. Baseball (T-Ball, Coach Pitch), Soccer (Adult, U9, U7), Basketball (1st Grade)
31. We Did When the Kids Were Younger.
32. Soccer (Ages K-3rd Grade); Flag Football (K-3rd Grade)
33. Soccer 12 And Up
34. Not Yet, But Will.
35. Baseball, Swimming, Basketball, Figure Skating

**What kinds of sports courts do you believe are important?**

1. Multi-use sports courts are great - tennis court with a basketball court within, 4 square, hopscotch, etc.
2. Why don't you first ask "IF" the community believes sports are important NOT assume? Loaded questions to get the answers/results you want rather than asking open questions. Not good.
3. Baseball/Softball (4),
4. Football (3)
5. Skateboard is important, but seems to be nicely covered now.
6. Pickleball (4)
7. Sports courts unnecessary; existing sports areas are adequate.
8. I am a senior so I cannot tell
9. Any and all are great for the children in the community. SOCCER, more options for preschool age. Schedules that fit working parent's schedules.
10. I recognize the fiscal problem with swimming facilities (2); however, I think this needs to be addressed for kids
11. Soccer (4),
12. Squash,

13. Racquetball (3)
14. It's all good for the community.
15. Open fields for a variety of games, pickup soccer, football, baseball, kites, etc.
16. Plenty of Tennis courts are available at Heatherwood & Jackson.
17. Don't need anymore skate parks.
18. Track for runners, racquetball courts, and horseshoe/shuffleboard areas for seniors
19. These are important to have available - but the schools and the City skate park already have this covered adequately.
20. A pocket park with Pickleball would be fun. You could ride your bike there and play.
21. In the summer it is often hard to find an open tennis court.
22. Soccer (indoor?)
23. Swimming, indoor recreation for Volleyball, Racquetball etc.

**Where did you go for the class or event?**

1. Mill Creek Town Center (10)
2. Library Park (4)
3. Senior Center (6)
4. Mill Creek Public Library
5. Lively Environmental Center
6. 4th of July Parade on Main Street
7. My daughters are enrolled in gym and ballet at City Hall Annex off Main Street. We do the Town Center festival(s), Trunk or Treat, Library summer concerts, Library story times, Easter in Mill Creek (don't remember the location).
8. Community Building
9. Can't Remember!
10. 4th of July Parade & Mill Creek Festival
11. Concert by Blazing Onion (2)
12. McCollum Park (2)
13. Swimming Pool Center

**What are your primary sources of information for learning about Mill Creek Parks and Recreation programs and activities?**

1. Library
2. Finding Out on Our Own by Visiting the Areas.
3. News From the Senior Center
4. E-mails From City Parks Dept. (2)
5. Mill Creek View Should not be Used For Any Newsworthy Information.
6. Visiting the Parks

**DETAILED  
USER GROUP SURVEY RESULTS**

In an effort to quantify the need for athletic fields in our community, the existing user groups (Silver Lake Soccer Association and Mill Creek Little League) as well as two other user groups, who have contacted the City in the past requesting field rental, and who primarily serve the Mill Creek area (Silver Lake Athletic Association and TyneCastle Select Soccer) were contacted and asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding their need for athletic fields.

### ***Age Groups Served***

- Silver Lake Soccer serves 6 to 18 year olds.
- Silver Lake Athletics serves 6 to 14 year olds
- TyneCastle Soccer serves 7 to 18 year olds.
- Mill Creek Little League serves 5 to 18 year olds.

### ***Area Served***

- Silver Lake Soccer serves youth within the Everett School District boundaries.
- Silver Lake Athletics serves southeast Everett and the Mill Creek area
- TyneCastle's participants are about 50% Mill Creek residents.
- Mill Creek Little League serves the greater Mill Creek area.

### ***Number of Years Organization has Served the Mill Creek Community***

- Silver Lake Soccer – 12 years.
- Silver Lake Athletics 15 years.
- TyneCastle's established in 2008.
- Mill Creek Little League – 15 years.

### ***Sport – Type of Field and Time of Year Needed***

- Silver Lake Soccer would use up to two or three full sized soccer fields – full time August through November then Evergreen Soccer (the select soccer league associated with Silver Lake Soccer) could use one or two full sized soccer fields in December through February. Silver Lake has also stated that if fields were available they would potentially start a spring soccer program.
- Silver Lake Athletics would use one full sized soccer field for youth football in the fall (August through October), and for lacrosse in the spring (February through May).
- TyneCastle's would use one full sized soccer field full time for most of the year.
- Mill Creek Little League has stated that they could use an additional Little League field during the Little League season (March to June) with additional time in July and possibly August for tournaments.

Following are the individual responses from the User Group Questionnaire:

## Silver Lake Soccer Association

### **Does your organization primarily serve Mill Creek residents or, is it part of a larger county or state entity?**

*Serve within the Everett School District boundaries which encompass all of Mill Creek. Club reaches many children from the surrounding cities such as: Lynnwood, South Everett, Everett (proper), Snohomish, Clearview, Edmonds, Mukilteo, Bothell, Mountlake Terrace*

### **Local membership in 2009? What age groups?**

*Our soccer club is a recreation league and is roughly 1,700 +/- children from ages 6 to 18 years of age for the players. The coaching staff of 120 +/- of those players ranges from 18 to 60 years of age. We also support Referees from ages 12 + as well as the parents, referees, and coaches.*

### **How many years has your organization existed in the Mill Creek area?**

*We have been in Mill Creek for 12 years as an established organization. We are proud to be in a city that recognizes our organization as one of their city's Community organizations.*

### **Over the next five years do you expect your membership to grow or reduce in size?**

*We expect to maintain our size with the current facilities, but we do have the potential to grow to a larger organization. Our growth is limited by the available space to practice and play games on.*

### **Which months is your group most active?**

*We start in Aug. and run through Nov. for the majority of schedule. We also do several weeks of clinics and tournaments in June and July.*

### **What times are your activities scheduled?**

*Predominately evenings, 4 PM until 9 PM during the week, Monday through Friday. We run 8AM to 8PM on the weekends for games and clinics. Because of the age of our players we are slotted to this schedule.*

### **What recreation sites, parks or other facilities does your organization currently use?**

*We use the Mill Creek Sports Park as an active partner with the City. We provide soccer goals and nets at our cost to help support this location. We'd like to explore the use of McCullom Park or other locations, but MCSP is an exceptional facility.*

### **Does your organization have a need for additional facilities?**

*We'd relish additional and or larger facilities such as a full sized soccer field. Our group is very interested in supporting more and larger facilities. Our organization would support any efforts to get behind an effort to increase the number of soccer fields. **See attached email for additional details.***

### **What type of outdoor facility does your group require? Dimensions, artificial turf, etc.**

*We'd require a full size soccer field, 330 x 180 ft, on artificial turf would be the dream field. We also have the need for smaller fields, 240 x 140 ft on artificial turf as well. We'd be very willing to provide input on layout, design, and support for a soccer facility.*

Our current fall season is Aug-November.

Currently we use fields for practice and games. We use fields from City of Mill Creek and Everett School District for practice and games and some space from City of Everett Kasch Park for games. Games are on weekends Sep-November. Games are 1-2 hours depending on age group. In addition, we are required to practice within our boundaries so fields like the new Lynnwood high school or Glacier Peak are not available to us.

We currently have 1600 kids in the program and this continues to grow each year. Breakdown by age is approx

boys grade k-5 573 participants  
girls grade k-5 533 participants  
boys grade 6-8 153 participants  
girls grade 6-8 188 participants  
girls and boys high school 150 participants

Kids in our program live in the southern half of the Everett School District with the highest concentration in Mill Creek and the surrounding area, all of which is east of Bothell Everett Highway.

Ages 7-18 get 1 game per week and 2 hours per week of practice (approx 1250 kids on 110 teams).  
Ages 5 and 6 get 1 hour per week total (approx 350 kids). There is currently a need for soccer at age 4 but we don't offer it due to field space.

We use MCSP for 5 hours per night, M-F for practices and on weekends for games. Teams are allowed 2 hours per week at MCSP which is T/Th (1 hour per night), M/W (1 hour per night) or Friday (2 hours). We are fully scheduled each year with approx 22 teams at MCSP. Due to the high demand, we only allow 10 year old teams (U11) and older to use MCSP and it's on a first come / first serve / lottery basis.

We have approx 60 teams at the U11 and older age group and I would assume at least 80% would like to use synthetic grass surfaces for practice and games. That means at least 48 teams would like to use the synthetic grass surface of which we currently accommodate 22 teams at MCSP. More teams would probably like to use the synthetic grass surface except their games are on grass (Everett school district) so they want to practice on the same surface they play on. If we had full sized fields that could accommodate their games we might have close to 100% requesting synthetic surfaces. Therefore at the U11 and older age group I can see our needs being 2 to 2.5 times what they are now at MCSP.

In addition, we have approx 50 teams at the U8-U10 age groups that only play on grass and are packed very tightly onto the limited fields we get from the Everett School District (ESD). A few years ago we allowed the U9 players to use MCSP for games only and they all loved it and requested time on MCSP for practices. The other advantage to using synthetic surfaces for the younger ages is the wear. Due to the smaller size of the fields and the tendency for kids to play around the goal mouth, as well as lots of parents on the sidelines, we have to rotate the fields for these age groups to keep them from wearing completely out. I would estimate that we could use at least a full size field for each age group (there are 5 age groups) up to U10 for both practice and games.

Since the synthetic surface fields (with lights) could be used twice as much for practices (due to wear and lighting) we could probably fill approx 3 full size fields with our U6 to U10 age groups. This would include up to 9 teams (of 8 or 9 players) at one time for practices on a large full size field and up to 6 fields at a time for games at some age groups. These are our mod age groups that have fields from 25x30yds to 50x80yds. The number of teams we could fit would depend on the size of the surface area. A small 55x100yd field would only get 1-3 game fields whereas a 80x110yd field could accommodate the higher density of mod fields.

Although the Everett School District is still our primary source of fields and on the surface they are inexpensive, they are actually quite expensive and difficult to use for a program like ours. We are not allowed any access to ESD High School fields. We have limited access to ESD Middle Schools and only

after 5:30PM on Weekdays and after 11AM on Saturdays due to Middle School Sports. Each year the Middle Schools request more time for their own programs so our resources shrink each year. We do get access to the Elementary School fields, however many of them are quite small due to schools being built out and only work for younger age team practices.

Although the cost per player is low, the fields have additional cost and limitations. At any time of the year, they can revoke our use on a given day with almost no notice if the field is requested by the school or there is a need for parking. In addition, unlike baseball and football, we provide all of our own equipment (goals and lining equipment as well as storage) and have to pay someone to line our grass fields and move the goals on and off the fields every Saturday and Sunday before games for the whole season. We share the Middle School fields with football and softball and often have to lay our fields out so as not to disorientate the school teams. We have given up using the football fields because they won't allow any lines other than their own even in a different color. In addition, baseball infields are cut into all of the fields which creates other difficulties in setting up fields (the dirt needs chalk rather than paint) and hazards (mounds, bases and backstops) which limit our ability to use the fields to their full potential not to mention the fact no one wants to play on baseball infields.

In summary, I believe that for our current FALL program we could (and would be interested in) using as much synthetic surface fields as is available (at a cost proportionate to the current MCSP cost) up to approx 5 full size fields.

This usage doesn't include the need for space for a Spring Soccer program as well. Spring soccer is requested every year and is quite successful in Marysville and Edmonds. The need could be about 30-50% of what we would use for our FALL season and would probably be mostly in-house (i.e. mostly local teams playing each other within our club).

In addition, we offer our players the least amount of time for practice during the week. Some of the surrounding clubs offer up to 3 hours per week of practice (50% more than our kids) but we don't have the space. Note that our kids only get 2 hours per week (at all ages 7 and older) for practices which is much lower than baseball and football.

Lastly, as I mentioned on the phone, the only situation where we wouldn't use the synthetic surface fields is if they cost too much (e.g. Lincoln Field in Everett).

I believe Evergreen would also use another 2-3 fields if they were available as the fields are very hard to get at Kasch Park and they often have to put 3 or 4 teams on a field for practices and in the fall there are often games at 7PM on weekends due to field limitations.

## Silver Lake Athletic Association

### **Does your organization primarily serve Mill Creek residents or, is it part of a larger county or state entity?**

*Most of our kids come from the Mill Creek, Silver Firs, Gold Creek, Silver Lake areas. The vast majority are within the Everett School District*

### **Local membership in 2009? What age groups?**

*Fall Youth 6-14 year olds Football and Cheer: 260*

*Spring 2009 Youth Lacrosse: 45*

*Spring 2009 Arena Youth Football: 35*

*2010 projections: 100 Lacrosse, 45 Arena Football, 300 Fall Football and Cheer*

### **How many years has your organization existed in the Mill Creek area?**

*Formerly the Silver Lake Football Association, Silver Lake Athletic Association has been in existence nearly 15 years.*

### **Over the next five years do you expect your membership to grow or reduce in size?**

*Unless the economic climate declines dramatically, we expect participation to grow.*

*Lacrosse across the United States has been growing almost exponentially. In Washington State, lacrosse added 8 teams (20+ players/ per team) to the 2010 HS league and there are nearly 70 youth lacrosse organizations. Silver Lake wishes to expand into youth wrestling and girl's lacrosse.*

### **Which months is your group most active?**

*August through November for Fall Football. Arena Football and Lacrosse are both spring sports.*

### **What times are your activities scheduled?**

*Practices are normally from 5PM to 7PM, five nights a week until school starts then three days a week after that. Games are all on Saturday's. Arena and Lacrosse are the same since they take place during the school year (practice three nights per week and games on Saturday's)*

### **What recreation sites, parks or other facilities does your organization currently use?**

*Whatever is available. This is our biggest problem in managing the organization. There is a huge demand among the youth field sports and the school districts are getting increasingly difficult to schedule facilities. In a nutshell, before school starts we use a combination of county, city and community parks. After school starts, we have limited access to middle school fields, primarily Heatherwood, Gateway and Eisenhower. Sometimes we get Jackson softball fields and most of the time we have to put a team out at Cascade High School. Our game days are conducted at Mariner, Glacier Peak and Snohomish High Schools. There are a total of eight game days, all on Saturday's. Our Lacrosse teams practice at a couple of Church facilities and games are at Walter Hall Park in Everett.*

**Does your organization have a need for additional facilities?**

*We will need additional facilities as our Lacrosse program grows. What we need most for Fall Football is certainty practice field availability and at an affordable rate. The Everett School district has the most expensive venues for game days, nearly three times what the Snohomish school district charges for stadium rental and nearly twice what the Mukilteo school district charges. My board of directors is considering the move of our "Home Field" currently at Goddard Stadium at Mariner High School to Memorial Stadium at Snohomish High School. It's a shame that we don't have a competitively priced home field in our own community. All other franchises in the Northwest Junior Football League do! (Richmond has Shoreline, Ballard has Loyal Heights, Lake City has Nathan Hale, Eastside Crusaders has Eastside Catholic, Burien has Kennedy High School, Mukilteo has Kamiak (until this year where we had to share Goddard Stadium with them) and Interbay has Interbay Playfield.*

**What type of outdoor facility does your group require? Dimensions, artificial turf, etc.**

*Soccer, 110 yards by 60 yards, and Football, 53.3 yards by 120 yards, would be most helpful*

## **TyneCastle FC (select soccer)**

**Does your organization primarily serve Mill Creek residents or, is it part of a larger county or state entity?**

*TyneCastle is a select soccer league and is part of a larger statewide group. Participants are about 50% Mill Creek Residents.*

**Local membership in 2009? What age groups?**

*7 years old to 18 years old  
Select teams play all year  
Approximately 275 participants  
Both boys and girls*

**How many years has your organization existed in the Mill Creek area?**

*2008*

**Over the next five years do you expect your membership to grow or reduce in size?**

*Expect to grow to approximately 600 – 700 participants.*

**Which months is your group most active?**

*Year round but a little slower December to January with holiday breaks.  
Compete with Lacrosse for fields at Kasch Park  
Tend not to play local tournaments*

**What times are your activities scheduled?**

*4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on week days – could play until 10:00 p.m. with a lighted field.  
Weekends 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

**What recreation sites, parks or other facilities does your organization currently use?**

*Kasch Park  
City of Shoreline Stadium  
Forest Park in Everett  
McCullum Park*

**Does your organization have a need for additional facilities?**

*Yes*

**What type of outdoor facility does your group require? Dimensions, artificial turf, etc.**

*Full size to practice for age 10+.  
65 x 100 – minimum legal size for league play. 70 x 110 – Seattle Sounders size field. 85 x 120 – ideal size.  
Game parking 100 to 150 spaces needed.*

## Mill Creek Little League

**Does your organization primarily serve Mill Creek residents or, is it part of a larger county or state entity?**

*Mill Creek Little League serves the greater Mill Creek area*

**Local membership in 2009? What age groups?**

*We served close to 1000 players ages 5-18 years old*

**How many years has your organization existed in the Mill Creek area?**

*15 years*

**Over the next five years do you expect your membership to grow or reduce in size?**

*We expect to grow*

**Which months is your group most active?**

*March through July*

**What times are your activities scheduled?**

*4:00PM – 10:00PM week days*

*9:00AM – 10:00PM weekends*

**What recreation sites, parks or other facilities does your organization currently use?**

*Freedom Field (City of Mill Creek)*

*Chopper Park (MCAA)*

*McCollum Park (Snohomish Co)*

*Willis Tucker (Snohomish Co)*

*All schools in the JHS service area (Everett School District)*

**Does your organization have a need for additional facilities?**

*YES!*

**What type of outdoor facility does your group require? Dimensions, artificial turf, etc.**

*We are in need of more artificial turf baseball and softball fields. As our league grows the demand for active use baseball and softball fields grows. It is important that these fields are artificial turf so we can play on semi-rainy days.*

## **Appendix**

General Public Survey Questionnaire

Sample Calendar Showing Potential Athletic Field Use

Responses from Open House