7.2 ADVISORY COUNCIL SURVEY REPORT

Metro Parks Tacoma administered an on-line survey through surveymonkey.com to various advisory council and foundation members.

The survey was available from August 14th through September 29th. Twenty-seven (27) respondents completed the on-line survey.

7.2.1 FINDINGS

WHICH ADVISORY COUNCIL OR FOUNDATION DO YOU SERVE ON?

A third of respondents serve on nature and environment followed by 26% serve on other. Nineteen percent of respondents’ serve on business and responsive agency and 22% serve on either active living and community wellness (11%) or arts and heritage (11%). Other responses included:

- Conservatory/Seymour Conservatory (4 respondents)
- Fort Nisqually Foundation (3 respondents)
WHAT ARE THE KEY PROGRAMS OR SERVICES THAT NEED BE ADDRESSED IN THIS STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN? OR, AS DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUE TO CHANGE, WHAT PROGRAMS OR SERVICES DO YOU FEEL WILL NEED THE MOST ATTENTION MOVING FORWARD?

- Maintenance of existing open spaces/natural areas.
- Consider programs for the less abled and for the aging population.
- Population growth/density.
- Facilities Maintenance
- For services I think access for all demographics, finding ways that people of limited means can get to and be able to enjoy the programs. For key programs I think figuring what should be done with Meadow Park, if anything. Should they be expected to turn a profit and if not what should the mission be for that location.
- Public access to all attractions Parking Shuttle services within the park Marketing
- Increased services and programs to account for the large population surge
- Programs that get people of all ages off their couches and into some form of physical activity.
- Expand history and cultural experiences throughout all of Metro Parks facilities to promote diversity and resilience in the next generation.
- Special Events
- I speak from the perspective of a member of a specific Foundation, but in general I would say the areas are education programs and equity of services across the district.
- Collaborations, Senior Programming, Trail Development, Teen / Pre-teen programming
- Service: Better car access from Pt. Defiance entry and future parking needs.
- Youth programs; older adult programs
- I think the key thing that needs to be addressed going forward is equity of program/service delivery across Metro Parks. I am encouraged that MPT already seems to be tuning into this through the Mission-Led Comprehensive Plan.
WHAT ARE THE KEY FACILITIES OR AMENITIES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THIS STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN? OR, AS DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUE TO CHANGE, WHAT FACILITIES OR AMENITIES DO YOU FEEL WILL NEED THE MOST ATTENTION MOVING FORWARD?

- Easier/more access to parks/facilities for Tacoma’s east and south end residents.
- Titlow Park -- more sheltered spaces. Wright Park -- more picnic tables.
- Community centers operation and maintenance- Meadow Park G.C.
- Meadow Park needs. Point Defiance since it occupies so much of the budget.
- Potential growth for the smaller entities within Point Defiance: Fort Nisqually, Owen Beach and the Boathouse
- Increased capacity and more partnerships with Clubs, schools and businesses
- Continuing to develop after school programs for grades 1-12. Ideally these programs would run from about 3 to 5 PM.
- Within Point Defiance Park, improve access to the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum through direct road routing to the museum. Make it easier for visitors to locate all the different MPT facilities with improved wayfinding guides (especially in Pt Defiance.) Increase functionality for self-guided interpretation (via personal mobile devices) for historical and cultural features.
- Another wave pool
- I believe that all of the facilities that were partially supported by the bond passage should be addressed in full as soon as possible with more specifics. The community center work has been outstanding and that should be further developed.
- Trails / Connections, Waterfront
- Better maintenance and some replacement of Fort Nisqually structures.
- Adequate space in facilities with locations easily accessible from all neighborhoods without requiring car. Enough swimming pools and programs to ensure all kids learn to swim and adequate convenient times for lap swimming and water exercise
- I think the key thing that needs to be addressed going forward is equity of facility/amenity delivery across Metro Parks.
IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT METRO PARKS TACOMA OVER THE NEXT SIX (6) YEARS, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

- Work with stakeholders to pull all the derelict piles from Titlow Beach because restoration work in that area is already underway and the momentum is there to remove them.
- Need more staff at “ground level” -- park maintenance, etc. with less reliance on volunteer help.
- I believe the current direction and initiatives are solid. That one thing does not come to mind at this time.
- I don’t think it is necessarily a change but I would like to continue to get the message out of the resources that are already available to the citizens and helping them to find a way to access them to the benefit of the whole community.
- Better direct access through the park. It will cut emissions, lessen the interaction between cars, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Customer service needs to be addressed, the public should be treated as clients
- I would make more of the physical activities free to encourage more participation.
- See prior
- More neighborhood programs and mobile recreation units
- I would like a better communication and the information flow from MPT to foundation and advisory groups. We are often asked for support and need to be pulled in earlier to make that happen. Also, with many organizational changes, it is sometimes difficult to know who can respond, or what might be the correct channels of communication on our issues. This is not a six year issue, it is an ever present issue.
- Waterfront trail from Point Defiance Park to downtown Tacoma
- Honest communication and public process with MPT decisions, better over site of management decisions by Board, more critical thinking by same. Lower commissioners term to 4 years. Require that all upper management to be Tacoma residents (seriously).
- More consideration of wants and needs of residents of all areas/neighborhoods served
- The perception that the big park programs only happen in the North End. I would like other areas within Tacoma to feel increased pride in recurring community events that happen within their areas