

Survey Report

OVERVIEW

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District launched an online survey to gather input from the community regarding priorities and desires for the design of the new neighborhood park at Crowell Woods in Aloha. The survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey.com and was open to the public for nearly six weeks between the dates of January 4 and February 13, gathering a total of 181 responses. It was promoted with posts on THPRD’s Facebook page, an email announcement sent via THPRD’s listserv, and a postcard mailed out to 685 patrons. A Spanish translation of the survey was also made available; however this survey only gathered one response, despite being promoted on the postcard.

The survey questions are attached as an appendix to this document.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ABOUT PARKS

Question 3: Which park uses would you be most interested in?

The first two survey questions asked about where the respondent lives, and will be discussed below. Question 3 was the most important question in the survey, asking the respondent to rank, in order of most to least interest, four categories of park uses.

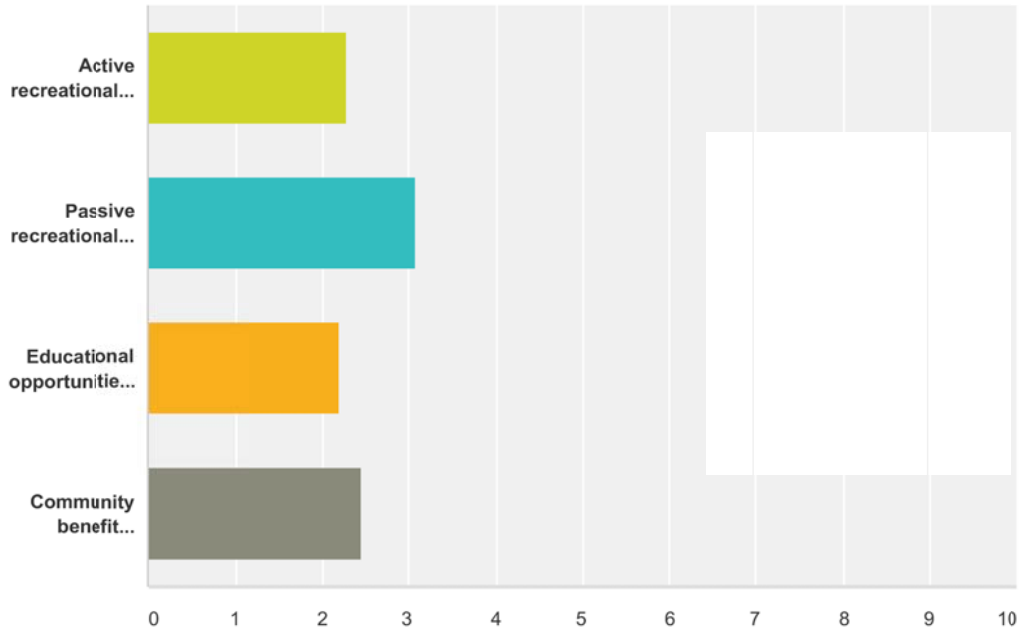
These categories included:

- *Active recreational activities* — for example: multi-purpose sport courts, sport games (bocce, horseshoes), playground equipment, exercise equipment, etc.
- *Passive recreational activities* — for example: open grassy lawn areas, pathways for walking and hiking, natural areas, benches for sitting, etc.
- *Educational opportunities* — for example: interpretive signage, classes, wildlife viewing, natural areas, etc.
- *Community benefit opportunities* — for example: community gardens, shelters for picnics and gatherings, trails for connecting neighborhoods, etc.

The passive recreational activities category was the most highly ranked option in terms of weighted average (as shown in the chart below) and also in terms of distribution (49% of survey respondents ranked it at #1).

Q3 Which park uses would you be most interested in? Rank your choices from 1 (most interested) to 4 (least interested).

Answered: 162 Skipped: 19



Differences of opinion regarding active recreational activities

The other three options show fairly similar support in terms of weighted average. However, active recreational opportunities generated a polarizing response: 43% of respondents chose it as their “least interested” category and 27% ranked it “most interested”. People who live close to the park, and who would be more likely to be impacted more by active uses, are less enthusiastic for this category than people who live farther away. Of the 25 respondents who said that they live adjacent to the park site (one or two blocks away) and answered this question, 20% ranked this category first and 56% ranked it category last. Among the 113 respondents who live a half mile away or farther and answered the ranking question, 40% ranked it last. Both of these groups agreed on passive recreational activities; this category was the most popular first choice among nearby neighbors and those who live farther away. Interest for the active category declined with age. Among the 18–34 age group, those ranking it first slightly outnumbered those ranking it last; respondents of age 35–54 were slightly more likely to rank it last than first; and among the 15 respondents in the oldest age category, 55–74, nine ranked it last while only two ranked it first. Respondents who live with children under the age of 18 in their home were more likely to be interested in active recreational activities than respondents without children at home. Those with children at home were slightly more likely to rank the category first than last, while those without children at home were about twice as likely to rank it last than first.

See table below for a detailed analysis of how respondents ranked the four categories.

	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Active recreational activities — for example: multi-purpose sport courts, sport games (bocce, horseshoes), playground equipment, exercise equipment, etc.	27.16% 44	16.67% 27	13.58% 22	42.59% 69	162	2.28
Passive recreational activities — for example: open grassy lawn areas, pathways for walking and hiking, natural areas, benches for sitting, etc.	48.77% 79	23.46% 38	14.81% 24	12.96% 21	162	3.08
Educational opportunities — for example: interpretive signage, classes, wildlife viewing, natural areas, etc.	9.88% 16	27.78% 45	33.95% 55	28.40% 46	162	2.19
Community benefit opportunities — for example: community gardens, shelters for picnics and gatherings, trails for connecting neighborhoods, etc.	14.20% 23	32.10% 52	37.65% 61	16.05% 26	162	2.44

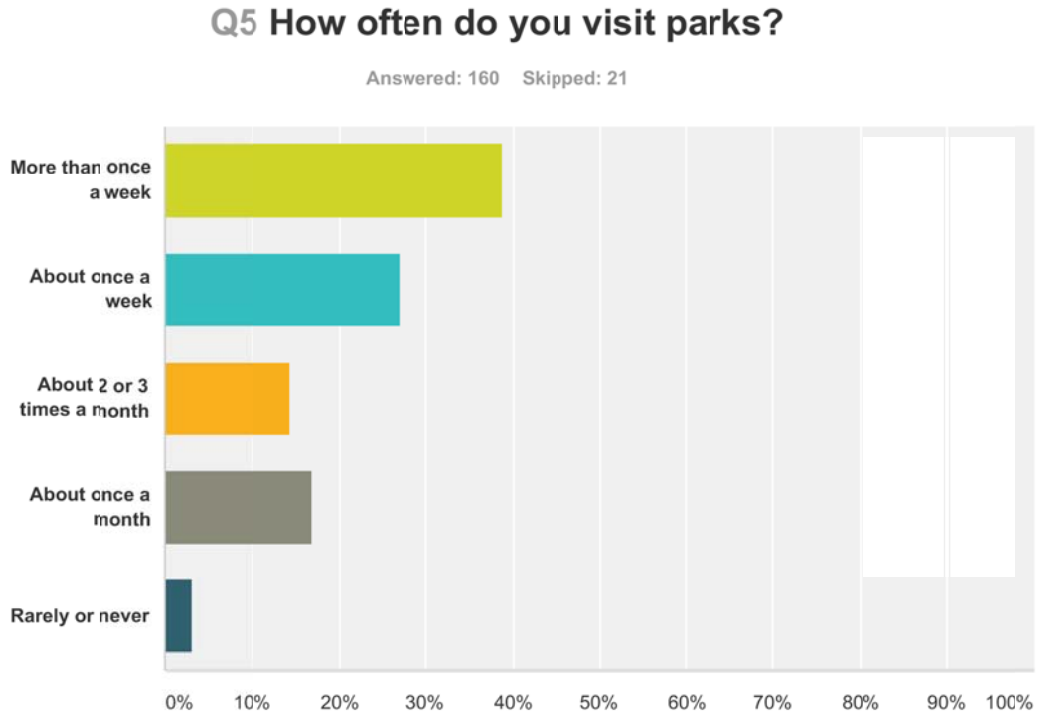
Question 4: Thinking more broadly about your community, what park uses would make a welcoming place for people in the neighborhood?

Survey respondents answered this question with suggestions for the amenities and attractions that they believe their neighbors in the community would like to see in the new park. After categorizing the open-ended responses, walking trails and paths emerged as the most popular category with 35 responses including mention of such features, followed by playgrounds and dog-friendly facilities. See the below table for a list of the most frequently mentioned park uses.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Responses</u>
Walking trails/paths	35
Playground	29
Dog facilities	17
Natural areas	13
Picnic area	13
Accessibility	7
Shelter	6
Peace & quiet	5
Safety	4
Garden	4
Skate/bike park	4
Lighting	3
Signage	3
Lawn/open area	3
Nature play	3
Sport court	3

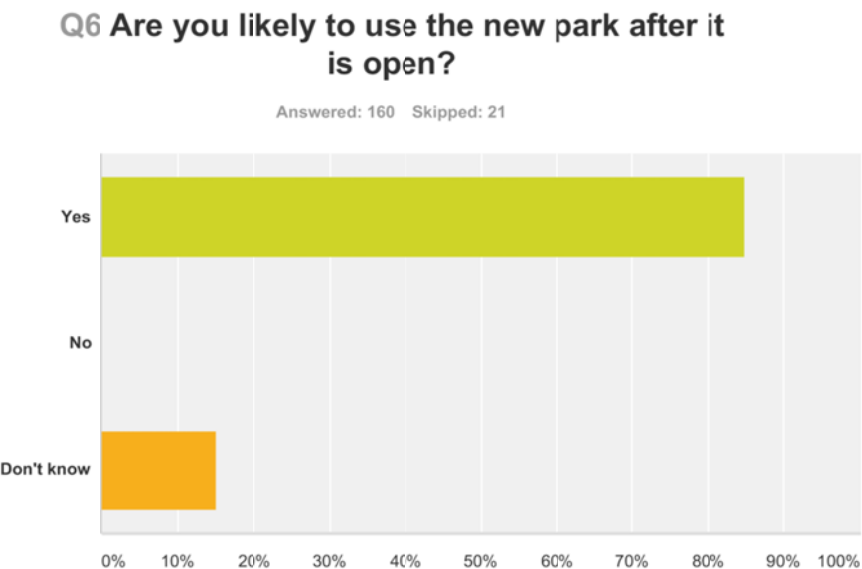
Question 5: How often do you visit parks?

Survey respondents are frequent park users. Two-thirds of them reported that they visit parks about once a week or more frequently.



Question 6: Are you likely to use the new park after it is open?

The large majority (85%) of respondents said they would be likely to use the new park, 15% said “don’t know,” and none said “no.”



Question 7: What is your favorite park?

Question 8: What about the park makes it your favorite?

In response to this pair of open-ended questions, Tualatin Hills Nature Park emerged as a clear favorite. Trails and hiking were mentioned as reasons for liking all of the most favorite parks, except for Magnolia Park which is liked for its water play area. The table below lists the top six most mentioned favorite parks, and the reasons given for what makes it a favorite.

<i>Favorite park</i>	<i># of mentions</i>	<i>What makes it favorite</i>
Tualatin Hills Nature Park	32	Trails, wilderness feeling, education center, wildlife viewing, seclusion
Cooper Mountain	8	Play areas, trails, shelter, restrooms
Jenkins Estate	6	Trail, playground, peaceful, picnicking, parking
Forest Park	6	Hiking, trees, uncrowded, mountain biking, wildlife
Magnolia Park	5	Water play area, bathroom
Noble Woods	5	Trails, trees

Question 9: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Most respondents interpreted this open-ended question as a prompt to express what features and amenities they desire in the new park. Themes from responses to this question mainly reinforced and echoed the answers given to previous questions about preferred park uses. Some of the most prominent themes that emerged include:

- Value existing trees and natural serenity of the site as a retreat from the city
- Trails for passive recreation, biking, and neighborhood connections
- Dog play areas, dog-friendly trails, and facilities to keep the park clean
- Gathering spaces, including shaded seating areas and shelters
- Privacy, quiet, and security for neighbors who live adjacent to the park
- Accessibility for people of all ages and abilities
- Both support and opposition to sport courts and parking
- Incorporating natural materials into the park design

CONTACT INFO AND RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The remaining questions on the survey asked about respondents' location in relationship to the park site (Questions 1–2 and 14–15), contact information (Questions 10–13), demographics (Questions 16 and 17), and if their home has a yard or greenspace (Question 18).

Respondents' location

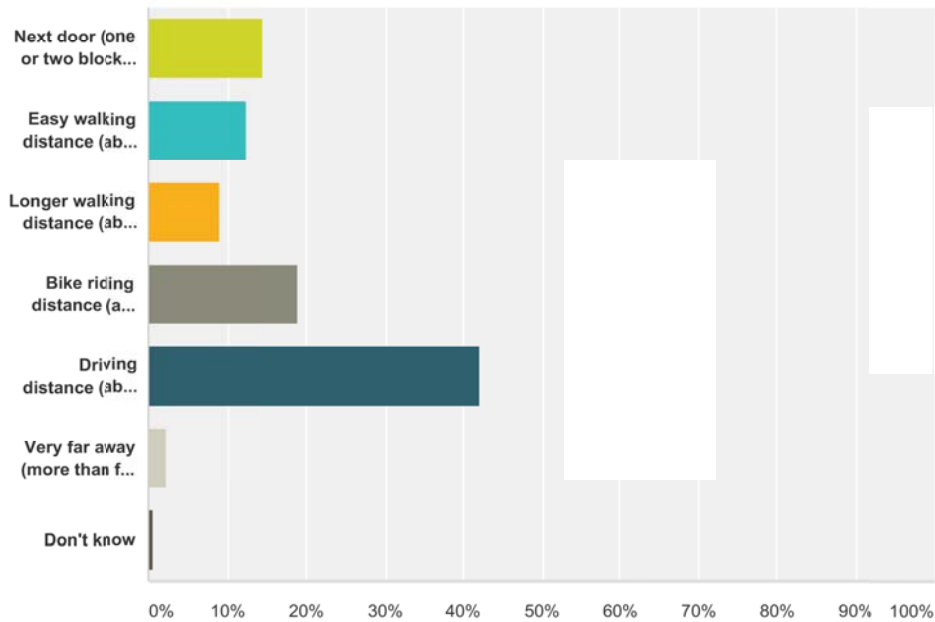
Question 1: How far do you live from the new park site?

Question 2: Which direction do you live relative to the new park?

The most frequently chosen answer to Question 1, at 42%, was “Driving distance (about two to five miles)”. About a quarter of respondents report living about a mile away or closer. In Question 2, respondents reported living to the south of the park more than other directions.

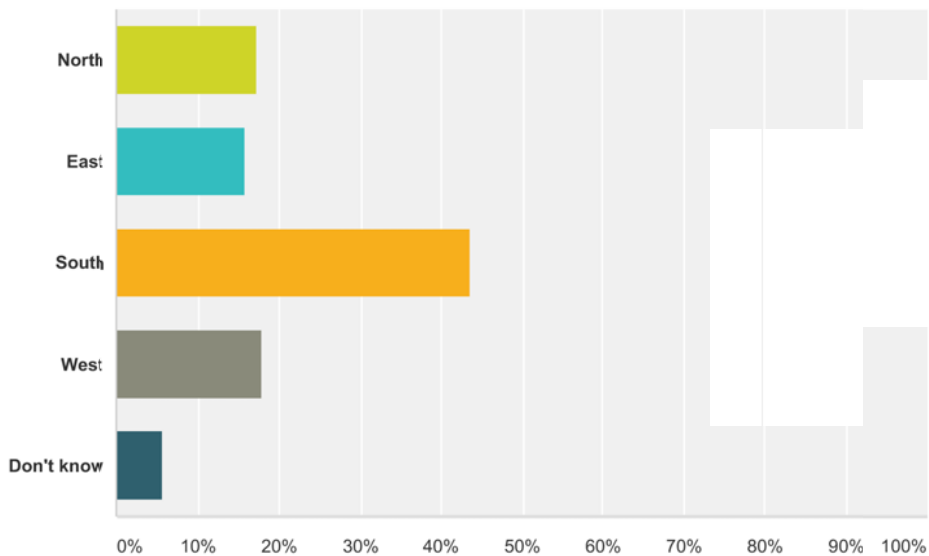
Q1 How far do you live from the new park site?

Answered: 178 Skipped: 3



Q2 Which direction do you live relative to the new park?

Answered: 179 Skipped: 2



Question 14: What is the ZIP code where you live?

Of the 146 respondents who provided a ZIP code, the majority reported living in 97003 or 97008.

<u>ZIP code</u>	<u># of responses</u>
97003	58
97008	42
97078	17
97229	15
97005	7
97124	7

Question 15: What street do you live on?

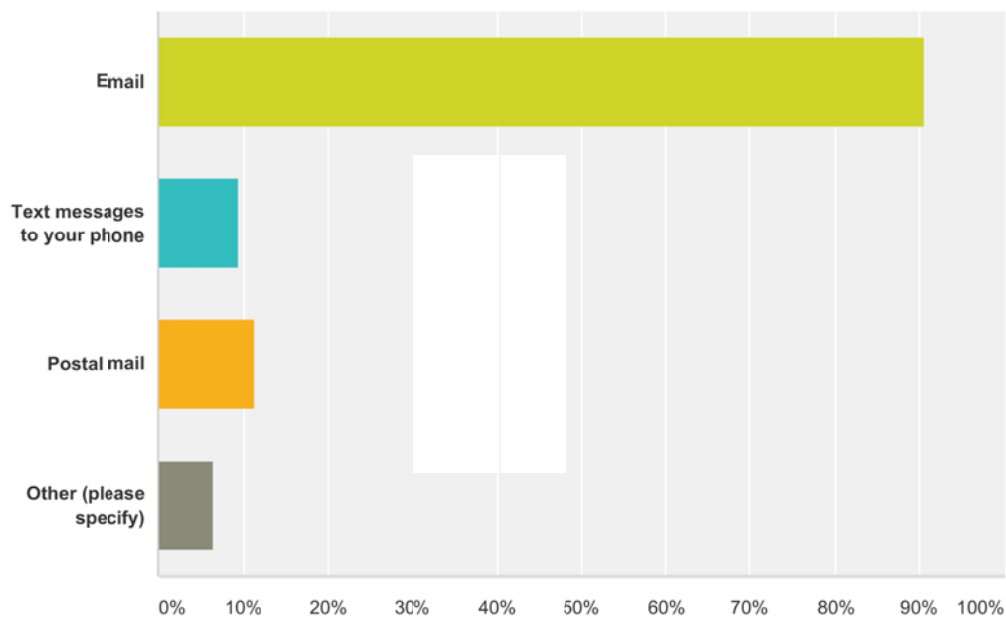
In response to Question 15, three streets were named by three or more respondents: 10 said Beaver Court, and three each said 173rd Court and 192nd Avenue.

Question 10: What are the best ways to communicate with you?

Of the 107 people who answered this question, the vast majority said that email was the best way to contact them. Email addresses, cell phone numbers for texting, and mailing addresses were provided in response to Questions 11–13.

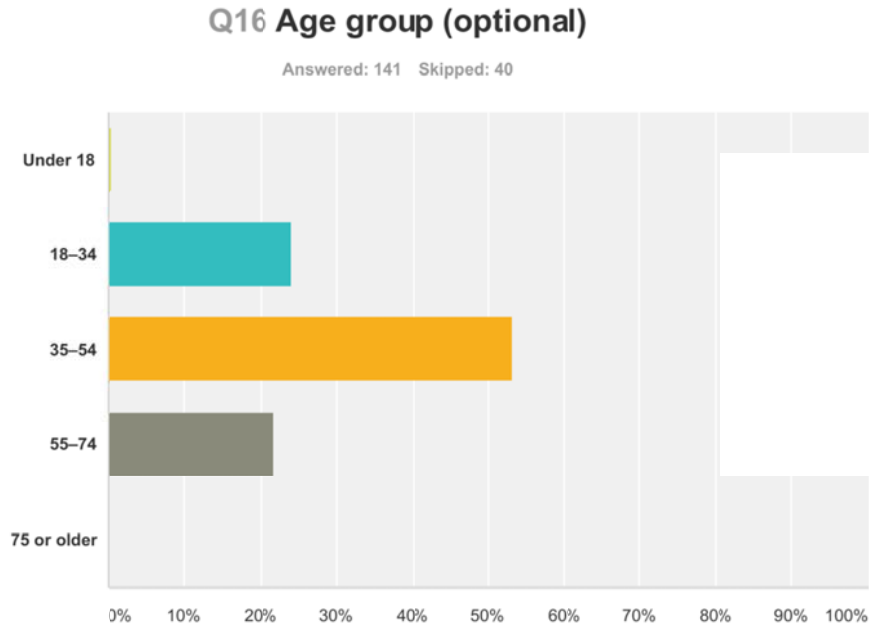
Q10 What are the best ways to communicate with you?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 74



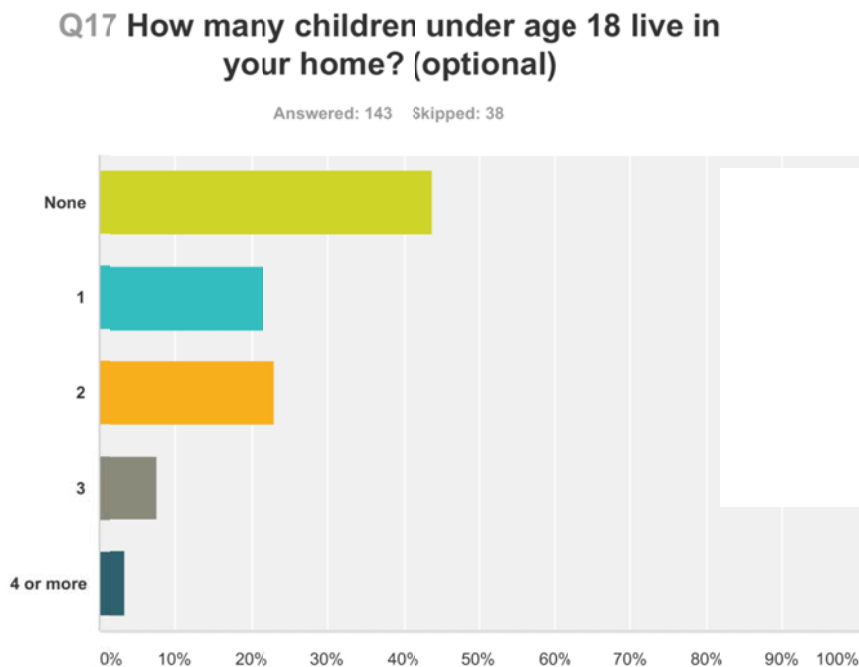
Question 16: Age group

The majority of respondents who answered this question fall in the 35–54 age group, with the remainder split in half among older and younger.



Question 17: How many children under age 18 live in your home?

Nearly half of the 143 respondents who answered this question report that no children live in their home.



Question 18: *Does your home have a yard or shared greenspace?*

Question 19: *Do you rent or own your home?*

The large majority (88%) of respondents say that their home does have a yard or shared greenspace. A similarly large majority (83%) said that they own their home. These results suggest the survey may not have reached many of the residents of the apartment and townhouse complexes that are adjacent to the park site.

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

The remaining questions asked about languages spoken at home, race and Hispanic origin, immigrant/refugee status, and gender.

- Nearly all responses indicated that English, or English in combination with another language, is spoken at home.
- The reported racial diversity of those who responded to the survey does not quite match the diversity of the Aloha area — about 90% are non-Hispanic white.
- Only five respondents indicated that they identify as a refugee or immigrant.
- Of the 127 respondents who reported their gender, women outnumbered men by more than a 2-to-1 margin.

See the attached survey analysis report for further details about responses to Questions 20–24.

Appendix

Survey questions

Survey analysis output from SurveyMonkey