

Community Survey Results

The following is a summary of information taken from two community meetings held in which citizens were asked to indicate priorities for services and amenities that would be of benefit to the District. The format involved creating a master list of items and then asking citizens to decide which were of greatest importance. After this selection process, groups were formed to set priorities under selected headings. The items were then used to create a list of short-term and long-term District priorities and recommendations (see Input Summary and Recommendations, pages 9-10).

NWPRD2 Community Meeting NOTES (9.22.08 & 10.2.08 + subsequent emails)

Arts: Christina Alexander, Cathy Taggett, Sharon Swanson, Marg Reichardt, Pam Free, Roy Harris

- Arts and Recreation Center: ex: Roeder Home
- Exhibit Museum and Gallery
- Extended Art Statuary in Birch Bay
- Murals

Agency Partnerships – School District, City of Blaine, County, Birch Bay Steering Committee, etc: Yvette Pratt,

- Maintenance Schedule – stairs, signs, upgrade
- Adopt-A-Park Program
- Revive train station
- Sensitive to private sector
- Public Camping
- Work with School District for land/facility use
- Sustained Plover Funding
- Enhance business district
- City Hall Usage
- Improved Public Transportation
- Cooperative Services with City of Blaine and District
- Grassy Spot- City Center- Commercial District
- Scheduled Maintenance for existing park services
 - All parks- specifically referenced Monfort
 - Possible neighborhood oversight
- Maintained beach and saltwater access – open and clean
- City/County Recycling in Public Areas
- Collaborate with Developers
- Local business incentives

Community and Educational Outreach and Activities– Kelly Pfeil, Connie Caldwell, Lisa Bailey, Burt Caldwell, Ron Snyder

More suggestions can be found in the March 29th meeting notes

- Solicit Donations
- More events for family and senior citizen participation
- Identify demographics – identify needs, sustain communication
- Blaine and Birch Bay celebration
- Youth Representation-senior project, community service with schools
- Regular Community Updates
- Educational Programs – Photography, Cooking, Sewing, Financial Class for children and young adults, ballroom dancing, dog obedience, gymnastics, unicycle, ceramics, computers
- Equipment Rental
- Retail Outreach
- Public Posting Bulletin Board – neighborhoods
- Bocci Ball
- Respect Property Owners
- Accessible
- Composting facility
- Land Stewardship
- Concert Series
- Event Planning – outdoor concert series, battle of bands, Senior Grad night, Family Bike Ride, Teen Dances, Dog show
- Activities – Bocci ball, open gym, volleyball, basketball, bike rodeo, scooter race, skateboard contest, YMCA bus, casino run, excursions

Land Acquisition & Facilities Development: Kelvin Barton, Pam Free, Darrel Clark, Tony Chaudhry, Christie Rector, Patti Barton, Sue Sturgill, Amariel Holz, Penny McKay

- Search for indoor existing properties
- Remote Control Park
- Billiards Room
- Community Garden
- Blaine Fields-population centers
- Large open air covered area
- Restroom – Salishan
- Impact Fee Program
- Land Acquisition
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- BMX Park – Lincoln Park
- Kids Water Park – Lincoln Park
- Saltwater Recreation Center – Boat, Canoe, Sailing, Kayak
- Airport land for Pool, Tennis, Recreation, and Trails
- Teen Center
- Ice Skating Rink
- Sports Complex with fields and gymnasiums

- Skate park – new and improved
- Birch Bay playground and sports fields
- Bathroom/Changing Room at Birch Bay
- Park for Kids in Birch Bay
- Community Arts Building
- Develop existing open space as green space and landscaped gardens

Saltwater Access: Ron Snyder, Joan Clark, Angus Pratt, Robert Swanson, Michelle Vinall, Jim Jorgense, June Auld, Janet Pickard, Karen Winqvist, Nancy Hobberlin, Doralee Booth, John Yost, Graham Hunter, Ron Snyder, Jim Jorgensen

- Waterfront stairs
- Water Access- Blaine
- Boat launch – Berg Shipyard, Dakota Creek
- Birch Bay Berm Project- Shoreline Enhancement Project
- Waterfront – clean-up concrete/rebar and add sand
- Changing room/restrooms at Birch Bay

Trails – multi-modal connectivity: Patrick Madsen, Carolyn Andersen, Linden Denny, Marla Tuski, Josh Smith, Julie Adams, Pauline Nefcy, Ken Hertz, Tom Vuyovich

- Signage – interpretive / directional
- Trail – Birch Bay to Blaine
- Trail Map Connection
- Shared biking
- Off-leash dog trails
- Running Trails
- Interpretive Trails
- Peace Portal hiking – water side

TASK FORCE PRIORITY RESULTS:

(Short-term and Long-term sticker placement - October 2 & November 17, 2008)

SHORT TERM

- 6 Bell Road/Blaine Road Bridge pressure for multi-modal access
- 6 Partnership w/ Drayton Harbor Maritime and Sailing to create Saltwater Recreation Center at the east end of the Sem. Spit in an existing building (one story sheet metal near plover landing)
- 3 + 6 specific emails Children's Playground – Birch Bay
- 3 Green Space with Garden Space
- 2 Marine Park Improved Water Access
- 2 Purchase old Berg Shipyard and develop shoreline in same location
- 1 Access Blaine-Birch Bay- including Drayton Harbor
- 1 Activities – including Arts
- 1 Arts Facility
- 1 Community Center-Bay Horizon Park
- 1 Educational Classes – including Arts
- 1 Event Planning
- 1 Existing Space for art activity
- 1 Mitigation Fees
- 1 Transportation
- 0 Shoreline Enhancement- Berm Project w/ Trail
- 0 Acquire Property in Blaine and Birch Bay
- 0 Blaine Rd Trails-South
- 0 Eastward Trails- H St.

TASK FORCE PRIORITY RESULTS:

(Short-term and Long-term sticker placement - October 2 & November 17, 2008)

LONG TERM

- 9 Acquire Property in Blaine and Birch Bay
- 8 Purchase old Berg Shipyard and develop shoreline in same location
- 4 Access Blaine-Birch Bay- including Drayton Harbor
- 4 Shoreline Enhancement- Berm Project w/ Trail
- 3 Arts Facility
- 1 Blaine Rd Trails-South
- 1 Educational Classes – including Arts
- 1 Kids Park – Birch Bay
- 0 Activities – including Arts
- 0 Bell Road/Blaine Road Bridge pressure for multi-modal access
- 0 Community Center-Bay Horizon Park
- 0 Eastward Trails- H St.
- 0 Event Planning
- 0 Existing Space for art activity
- 0 Green Space with Garden Space
- 0 Marine Park Improved Water Access
- 0 Mitigation Fees
- 0 Partnership w/ Drayton Harbor Maritime and Sailing to create Saltwater Recreation Center at the east end of the Sim. Spit in an existing building (one story sheet metal near plover landing)
- 0 Transportation

Northwest Parks and Recreation District 2 - Demographic Information

(Source Wikipedia & City-Data.com)

Total Population: 10,743
White Population: 9,775
Black Population: 109
Hispanic Population: 454
Asian Population: 254
Hawaiian Population: 33
Indian Population: 115
Male Population: 5,344
Female Population: 5,399
Median Age: 39.9
Median Age of Males: 39.2
Median Age of Females: 40.5
Average Household Size: 2.4 people

Education:

No High School: 317
Some High School: 445
Some College: 2587
Associate Degree: 610
Bachelor's Degree: 1729
Graduate Degree: 989

Household Statistics



NORTHWEST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT 2 FEE POLICY FOR PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Cost recovery philosophy and policy is the key component for maintaining financial control, equitability, pricing offerings, and identifying core programs, facilities and services for **NWPRD2**. It is built upon a very logical foundation, using the understanding of who is benefiting from the parks and recreation services of the district to determine how that service should be paid for. The criteria for this, is to fulfill the mission of the District.

A pricing and cost pyramid system is to be used by the district to clarify its fee policies to the District residents. The parks and recreation services of the district are built on a strong supporting base of core services, and enhanced with more specialized services and programs.

The pyramid system contains five levels of services and these are from the foundation on up:

1. **COMMUNITY BENEFIT** – It is the foundation the programs, services, and facilities that benefit District residents as a whole. Examples of these services include the existing community and parks and recreation services, the ability for youth to visit and enjoy facilities on an informal basis, development and distribution of marketing brochures, low income scholarship programs, park and facility planning and design, park maintenance, and research by others.
2. **COMMUNITY /INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT-** The second level represents programs, facilities, and services that promote individual physical and mental well being, and provide recreation skill development. Program and services at this level will be partially subsidized by the District (community benefit) and the balance by the participant (individual benefit). Examples of these services could include the ability of youth and adults to visit facilities on an informal basis, interpretive programs, and beginning level of instructional programs and classes, etc.
3. **INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY BENEFIT** – The third level represents services that promote individual physical and mental well being, and provide an intermediate level of recreational skill development. It provides more individual benefit and less community benefit. The individual fee is higher. Examples of these could summer recreational day camp, sport leagues.
4. **MOST INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT** – The fourth level represents specialized services generally for specific groups, and may have a competitive focus. The programs and services are priced to cover full cost, including direct and indirect costs. Examples of these services would include specialized programs and classes.

5. **HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT** – The fifth level of services represents activities that have a profit center potential, and could fall outside the District’s mission. The programs and services are to be priced to recover full cost plus a designated profit percentage.

It is the responsibility of the District Commissioners and staff to set the fee structure at each level based on the District’s mission, citizen input, funding and other circumstances. The Commission should review the fee structure annually.

**NORTHWEST PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT 2 FEE SCHEDULE
FOR
PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMS/SERVICES**

Establishing a fee schedule for park and recreation programs/services should reflect on who benefits from them. It is important that we ask these questions: Who benefits? Who pays? How does it affect the whole community?

At the bottom or the foundation of the fee policy is **COMMUNITY BENEFIT**. These are the activities that benefit the District as a whole. Do we offer these services at a minimal cost or no fee? The activities offered by the District that fit into this category at the present time or in the near future are: community campfires, bicycle rodeo, community bike rides, low income or scholarship programs, playgrounds, trails, and athletic fields.

The second level is **COMMUNITY/INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT**. They are the traditional expected services and beginning instructional programs. The activities that have been offered by the District are: soccer camp for ages 5-6 and beginner tennis lessons. The question is, what percentage of the program should be covered by the District to account for the community benefit? Do we want to offset 75%, 60% or 50%?

The third level is **INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY BENEFIT**. These would be activities that promote individual well-being and provide an intermediate level of recreational skill development. The fee structure should reflect on the individual benefit as compared to community benefit. I do not believe that the District has offered programs at this level. Future activities could be summer recreational day camp, sports leagues, etc. Generally the individual fee is higher for the participant. The District's contribution could range between 10 – 30%.

The fourth level service is **MOSTLY INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT**. This level generally represents services for specific groups. At this level programs may be priced to cover full cost. Present activities offered by the District at this level are: belly dancing, painting, photography, drama, etc. Should the District cover full cost or the larger share of the cost?

The fifth level is **HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT**. The activities at this level have a profit center potential and may not fit into the District's mission. They should be priced to cover full cost plus a designated profit percentage. At the present time, the District has not offered these programs nor does it have the potential to offer them. Activities that fit into this category are individual golf lessons, food concessions, company picnic rentals and other facilities.

Implementation Roadmap

The Road Map is designed to provide the Board of the Northwest Parks and Recreation District 2 with a step-by-step action plan that will lead to the full implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

- STEP 1: Meet With Partners:** Upon plan adoption, schedule meetings with both Whatcom County Administration and the City of Blaine. Have these discussions within 30 days.
- STEP 2: Job Descriptions:** Prepare a job description and begin recruiting a part time Parks and Recreation Director. Align the job description to someone who has extensive experience, can assist the Board to get programs operating, and handle the negotiations (with the Board) and the other jurisdictions. Do not hire a traditional director, you will need someone who can organize the community and begin implementation of the Master Plan. Plan to have staff support in place within 60 to 90 days.
- STEP 3: Create Citizen Action Groups:** Utilizing the Master Plan, appoint a citizen's action group to build a plan of action leading to a renewed levy or bond issue for the construction of high priority facilities. Appoint the group and two Board members to assist. Have this group, as a first priority; develop two projects that can be used in Step 6 for immediate development. Complete the work within 120 days.
- STEP 4: Joint Meetings:** Meet in joint session with the Blaine Parks and Recreation Board to begin to integrate plans, activities and decision-making. Hold this meeting within 120 days.
- STEP 5: Inter-Local Agreements:** Begin the development of Inter-local agreements with Whatcom County Parks and City of Blaine as well as the Blaine School District for shared use of facilities, project development, joint programs, funding and other operations. Complete this within 150 days.
- STEP 6: Cooperative Projects:** Based on the discussions for joint projects outlined in Step 5, use District funds to build projects in both sections of the District. Use of land already publicly owned will create the quick potential plus signal citizens of the ability of the District to be quickly affective. Complete projects and hold dedications by August 15, 2009.

MAPS

The attached maps provide an overview of facilities both existing and planned within the NWRPD2. Further information on facilities and future development can be found in the City of Blaine Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan 2004 and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (updated 2008). A brief summary of the information that can be found on the maps is as follows:

The Master Plan Overview Map functions as a general outline of the boundaries of the park district and the amenities to be found within it. The map includes existing parks, parcel ownership, existing and proposed trails, bike routes and beach access points. References to proposed facility additions and improvements as defined by the citizen directed Master Plan process are also indicated.

The Neighborhood Park Planning Map provides location information about existing neighborhood boundaries in both the Blaine and Birch Bay areas. Existing park facilities and proposed locations for future neighborhood park development are indicated with ¼ mile radius circles. Existing neighborhoods within the park district are identified. Park and trail categories are defined and levels of service outlined.

The Community Park Planning Map provides location information about existing community park facilities and indicates proposed locations for future community park development. A 1 mile radius circle is used to loosely define existing and future needs. Park and trail categories are defined and levels of service outlined.

Full size maps are available for use/review. Contact the District office for information.