



City of Washington & East Washington Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan
Public Open Houses Summary
Wednesday, October 5th and Thursday, October 6th 2011

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1. Public Survey Station

Attendees of the meetings were asked to complete the public recreation survey. 159 were completed at the two meetings, with an additional 31 completed at the Washington High School Open House on Wednesday, October 12th. The results of the survey are attached. Highlights include:

77% live in Washington; 17% in East Washington

65% feel recreation is important

58% feel recreation is inadequate

Washington Park is visited the most often

Reasons why people go to that park:

- 13% Picnics/Pavilions
- 13% Playgrounds
- 12% Swimming
- 10% Ball Fields

58% have not participated in any programs/activities

Reasons why not:

- 28% Not well publicized
- 17% Not interested in what is offered
- 11% Times inconvenient
- 11% Other (transportation, busy with other commitments, etc.)
- 11% Fees too expensive

33% feel that adolescents (ages 6-12) are underserved; 23% youth (13-18)

Washington Park needs improved:

- 6% Playgrounds
- 6% Picnic Areas
- 6% VCN Sportsplex

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Washington Park needs more/new:

7th Ward needs improved:

7th Ward needs more/new:

Household demographics:

The pool should offer the following:

- Activities/programs
- Swim lessons and/or free/reduced lessons
- Night swims
- Longer hours
- Improve baby pool slide

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2. Facilities and Programming Station

A map depicting the parks and recreation areas within the City and Borough was available and attendees were asked to provide any additional comments they had regarding parks and recreation needs. The following is a summary of the comments collected:

Parks/Facilities:

- Need facilities in northern end of town
 - Purchase property near Sammy Angott for park
- Small neighborhood parks
- VCN Playground
 - Hours? Always locked
- Need new facilities:
 - Dog park
 - Skate park
 - Destination playground
 - Miniature golf course
 - Shuffleboard
 - Ice rink

Washington Park:

- Very under-utilized October thru April
 - Is the park is under-utilized because of what's there?
 - Is the park under-utilized because of the condition of what's there?
 - Is the park under-utilized because of what's not there?
- 80% of park usage occurs May thru September and is related primarily to ball fields, pool, tennis courts, picnic shelters and trails; park has potential for more usage by more groups
- Consider that Washington has an aging population - many seniors
- Limit development in wooded areas and on steep topography
- Consider funding sources for development and maintenance of new recreation facilities; perform cost/benefit analysis
- Involve those groups that use, sponsor and support existing park facilities (i.e.; Boys Baseball, Twist, Historical Society, VCN); identify and engage other groups that would use, sponsor and support alternative forms of recreation
- Make certain that future maps show the existing walking trails

[illegible]

- ### Washington Pool:

- ### East Washington Borough Park:

- Activities/Programs:**

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- Develop more trails
- Need bike trails/paths
- Nature trails
- Trails behind Faith Christian (exist, need maintained)
- Improve/maintain trail behind Washington Park School

- Improve park maintenance
- Condition of roads in Washington Park

Two family pool passes and four gift baskets were raffled off to those who participated in the recreation portion of the open houses. The pool passes were mailed and the baskets were either taken home by the winner that night or made available for pick up at City Hall.

Everyone who provided a mailing address was added to a database and will receive notification of any upcoming events/meetings for the Washington/East Washington Parks and Recreation Plan.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.