



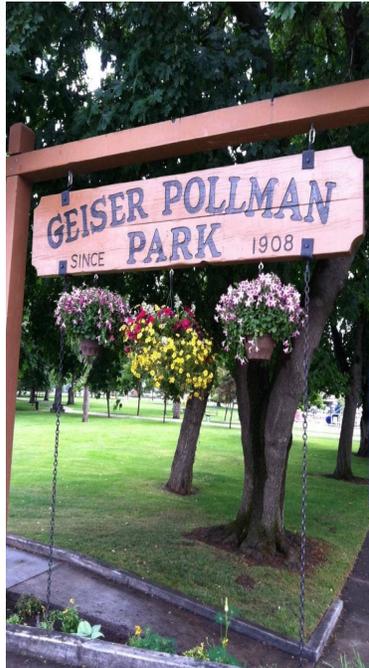
COMMUNITY PARKS AND PATHWAYS SURVEY

BAKER CITY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

June 29, 2012

Survey Background

The Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board asked the Baker City community for input on use, needs, and priorities for Baker City Parks and Pathways. A survey was conducted online through a link on the City of Baker City website. Paper copies were also available at City Hall. Area residents were informed of the survey through the City's weekly news letter, local newspapers, and radio.



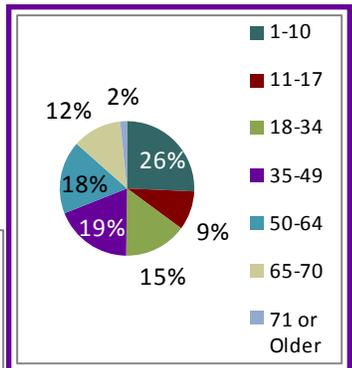
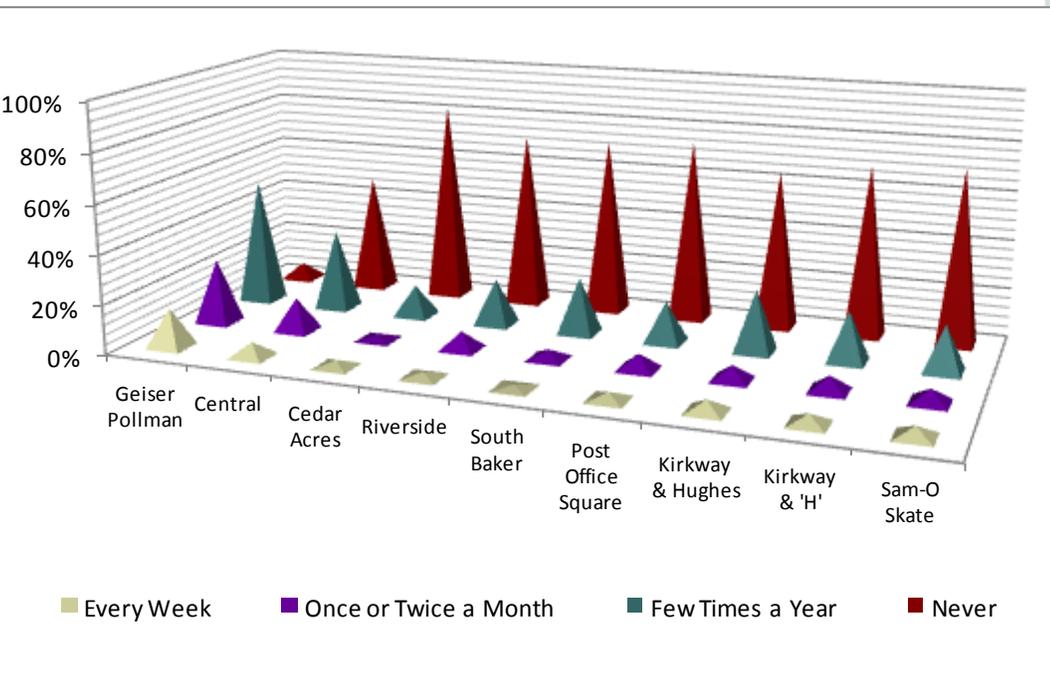
The survey was open from March 1—May 31, 2012. 150 participated in the survey with 139 completing it entirely. Additionally a “mini survey” was conducted by board member Jordyn Aydelotte. She presented the 7 question survey to the students in the history classes at Baker High School. 131 students completed that survey.

SURVEY PARTICIPATION

- 289 citizens participated in the community and high school surveys combined.
- Community survey participants were comprised of 55% women and 40% men (5% did not respond to this question).
- Respondents' residence areas: North 27%, South 20%, East 23%, West 22%, Central 8%, Out of Town 6%
- Ages of respondents' household members:

How often do you or your family visit Baker City Parks?

Geiser Pollman Park is our most visited park with only .7% of survey respondents saying they never use it. 13.3% of High School participants reported never using Geiser Pollman. Central Park, the newest in our system, sees moderate use based on both responses. Our small neighborhood parks all see limited use.



PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

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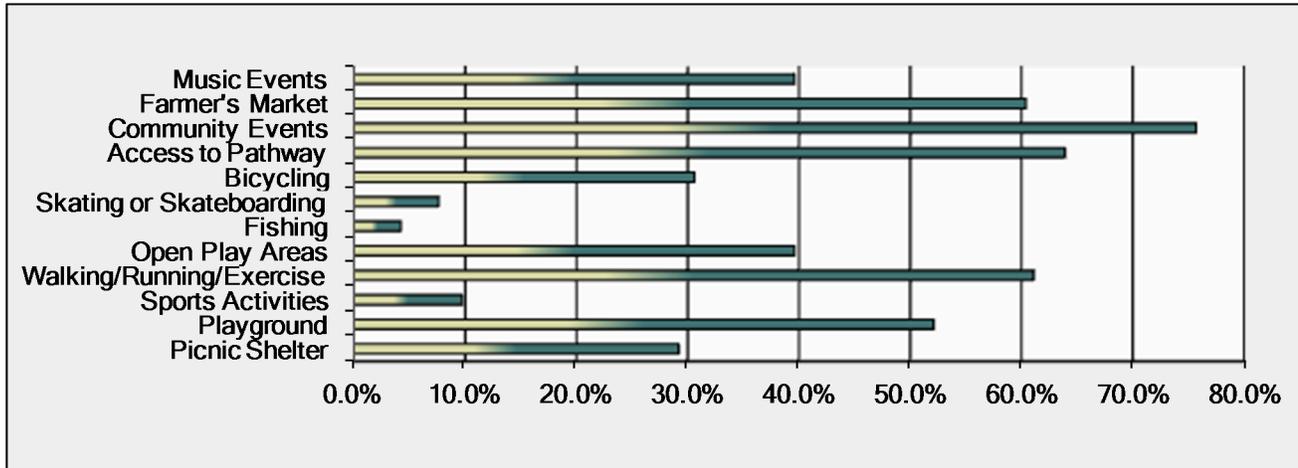
LINDA COLLINS

AL HAUSOTTER

JOYCE BORNSTEDT—STAFF



Why do you visit Baker City parks?



When asked what prevents people from visiting Baker City parks more often these were the top responses: 39.3% listed inadequate restrooms; 38.3% not enough time; 29% not the right amenities (mostly seating); 23% teenagers or other undesirable people, smoking, using foul language, playing inappropriate music, or intimidating children; 15% too far from neighborhood; 13% insufficient parking; 11% too crowded; 8% old or poor condition playground equipment.

How would you rate Baker City park maintenance?

Although nearly 75% of the respondents feel that our park maintenance is good or excellent, there were some suggestions for improvement:

- ◆ “We need new playground equipment that is developmentally appropriate for all ages and is safe for our children.”
- ◆ “The ground beneath most of the playground equipment is dirt and mud. Fresh wood chips would make a cleaner and safer playground. It should be done annually. Baker has a lot more young kids these days and it would help keep the city family-friendly.”
- ◆ “Improve unsafe sidewalks.”
- ◆ “Make city parks non-smoking facilities, and enforce it!”
- ◆ “More lighting and more areas to sit.”
- ◆ “Signage on the Leo Adler trail should identify parks better - it is difficult to tell what park you are at or headed to if you are on the trail.”
- ◆ “One concern, especially after the work on the lower part of the pathway, is going to be weed control. Some sort of spraying program needs to be implemented. If not done this spring its going to be very hard to control.”
- ◆ “I use the pathway/bike trail daily to take my kid and dog for a walk. What Baker City needs is a dog park...It could be donation use or the city could charge a daily fee or membership fee.”

“THE PARK WAS CLEAN AND SAFE AND VERY FUN FOR MY THIRD GRADERS! THANK YOU!”



Parks Priorities

Most participants report that Baker City parks currently meet their recreation needs and most prefer that we improve/develop existing parks rather than acquire new ones.

“I would love to have a dog park!”

“New, safe playground equipment should be the top Priority...”

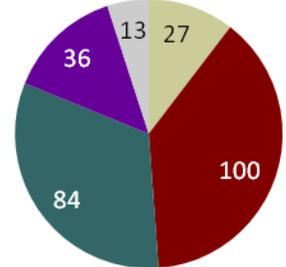
“Parking at Central Park is vital.”

A majority (66% - see chart below) of respondents would like to see more walking and biking trails developed over the next 5 years. Following were playgrounds, picnic areas, and a dog park. When asked what the number one improvement they would like to see in the next 5 years walking and biking trails led the way with 33 votes followed by playground improvements at 22 and dog parks at 21.



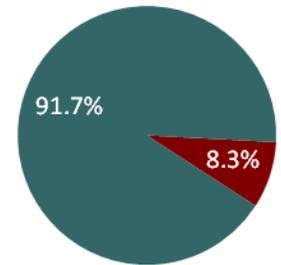
How well do our existing parks meet your recreation needs?

- Completely
- Mostly
- Somewhat
- A Little
- Not At All

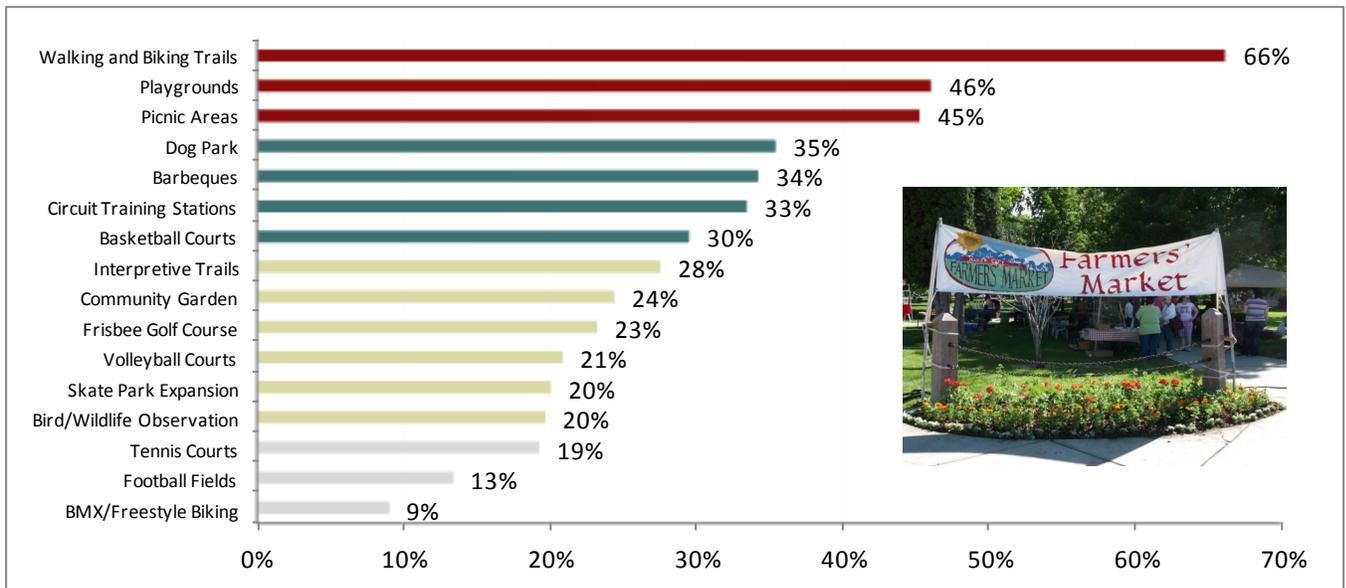


What is YOUR top priority for our parks in the next 5 years?

- Acquire New Parks
- Improve/Develop Existing Parks



Which park amenities would you like to see Baker City develop over the next five years?



Other ideas included a water park, water features, fountains, public art, outdoor theater and year round restrooms.

Pathways

Nearly 70% of all participants use the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway at least once a month. The majority of pathway users are running, walking, biking and dog walking. Most feel it is a safer alternative than streets and sidewalks. Others use it for relaxation, photography, bird watching, fishing and long/skate boarding.

Most (69%) survey participants want Baker City to extend the pathway. Nearly 1/3 would support a nominal impact fee to help maintain/improve parks and pathways.

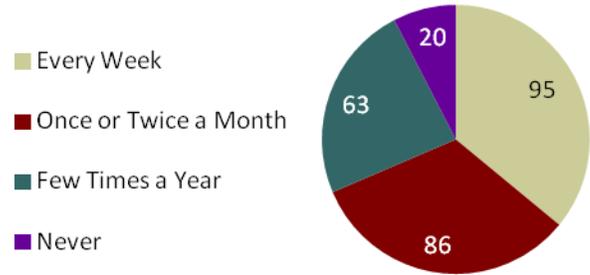
“Parks are important to a city—thank you for making them a priority.”

“The pathway is amazing and accessible to all. It is wonderful that it follows the river.”

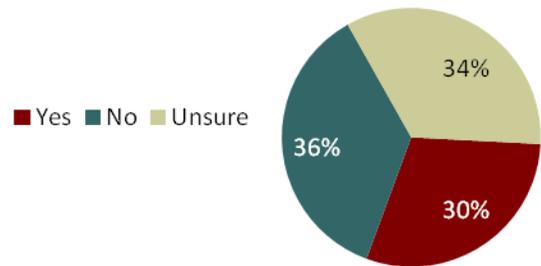
“The workers show pride in their work. It is a total pleasure to live here! Thank you!”

“The parks and pathways are an essential part of the Baker City experience.”

How often do you or your family use the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway?



Would you support a nominal impact fee to use for parks and pathways?



Central Park

THANK YOU to all survey participants. These results will assist us as we develop of a Baker City Parks master plan for our parks and pathways. Answers will help to guide future projects.

We are on the web!
www.baker city.com

BAKER CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT

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“The Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board exists to promote and preserve parks and open spaces which are safe, provide beauty, enhance recreational experiences and are accessible to all members of the community.”

“The Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.”

