

Resident Views on Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces in Washington County 10/29/02

This report describes the opinions and perspectives of the residents of Washington County, Wisconsin, as it relates to parks, park facilities, and park related activities. These opinions and perspectives were obtained through a telephone survey of over 605 randomly selected county residents. The survey was conducted by the Survey Center of the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research in June and July of 2002. The survey was designed by Survey Center and Washington County Planning & Parks Department staff in consultation with the Park & Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee based on a prior survey conducted in 1996. Included in the survey were a variety of questions relating to resident use of parks, their recreational interests, and their preferences for open spaces and expanded parks and park-related facilities. (See Appendix A for survey methodology and Appendix B for a copy of the survey instrument.)

Using Parks in Washington County

Respondents were asked whether they or any member of their household had visited individually named parks operated by Washington County in the past year. If someone in the household had attended the park, the respondent was asked to estimate the number of times the park was visited in the past year. The results of these questions can be found in Table 1.

As in 1996, the parks most often visited by county residents in the past year were Ridge Run Park (45%), Sandy Knoll Park (39%), and Glacier Hills Park (30%). The parks visited least often were Geoden Park (3%) and Family Park (3%). A significant proportion of residents (65%) reported visiting some other park located in Washington county in the past year. A complete listing of these parks can be found in Appendix C. The most often mentioned parks were Raegner (34%) and Pike Lake (28%).

The frequency of park use by those who have visited parks tends to be high for the parks most often visited (4.8-7.1). However, the park with the highest frequency of visits (9.2), Heritage Trails Park, is one of the parks with a more moderate report of visitation. Similarly, Ackerman's Grove has one of the higher frequencies (5.7) and is also a park with moderate visitation.

Table 1

Resident Use of Individual Washington County Parks

	% Visited 1 or More Times 2001	Average Times Park Visited* 2001	% Visited 1 or More Times 1996	Average Times Park Visited* 1996
Ridge Run Park	45%	7.1	36%	5.6
Sandy Knoll Park	39%	5.2	31%	4.5
Glacier Hills Park	30%	4.8	24%	2.8
Homestead Hollow Park	21%	3.5	18%	4.6
Heritage Trails Park	13%	9.2	6%	2.2
Ackerman's Grove	12%	5.7	NA	NA
Cedar Lake Wayside	10%	2.3	10%**	6.1**
Lizard Mound Park	7%	1.4	10%	1.8
Geoden Park	3%	2.5	3%	4.6
Family Park	3%	4.4	NA	NA
Other parks in county	65%	NA	NA	NA

*For those who visited the park one or more times.

**Attendance figures for this park may be inflated. Some individuals may have confused this county-operated park with other facilities which have "Cedar Lake" in the title.

Another way to examine park use is to consider the number of times that county households visited any of the county-operated parks. As was the case in 1996, two thirds (66%) of respondents indicated that they or members of their household visited one or more county parks in the past year. Roughly the same portion of respondents reported visiting one park and two parks (23% and 20%, respectively). Further results can be found in Table 2.

Table 2

Residents Use of County Park System as a Whole

Number of Different Parks	% of Respondents
One	23%
Two	20%
Three	14%
Four	6%
Five or more	3%
None	34%

As was found in 1996, the use of county parks varies by whether or not children under 18 live in the household. As shown in Table 3, the percentage of households with children visited a county operated park more times in the past year in contrast with households without children. Fifty percent (50%) of households with children visited parks once or twice in the past year compared to 37% of households without children. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of households with children visited parks 3 or more times in the past year compared to 19% of households without children. Results are presented in Table 3.

Unlike 1996, park use varies minimally by whether or not the household is located in an incorporated city or village or whether it is located in a town. A quarter (25%) of the households located within a city or village reported using a county park 3 or more times as compared to 22% of households located in towns. Results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3

Residents Use of Washington County Parks as a Whole

	Never 2001	Once or Twice 2001	3 or More Times 2001	Never 1996	Once or Twice 1996	3 or More Times 1996
Families with Children Under 18	22%	50%	29%	25%	18%	57%
Families without Children Under 18	44%	37%	19%	48%	21%	33%
Families Living in Towns	35%	44%	22%	40%	21%	39%
Families Living in Cities & Villages	34%	41%	25%	32%	19%	50%

In a question new to the 2002 survey, respondents were asked whether they felt safe when they were in Washington County parks. The vast majority (97%) reported that they felt safe. Those who said they did not were asked where they didn't feel safe. The few that responded (7) reported not feeling safe at Ridge Run Park, Sandy Knoll Park, Woodlawn Park and places in general after dark.

In another new question, respondents were asked whether they personally benefited from Washington County parks in a variety of specific ways. A significant portion reported that they had. The most frequently cited benefit was that the parks helped in obtaining a greater appreciation of nature. The results for these questions can be found in Table 4.

Table 4

Benefits Obtained from Washington County Parks

	% Benefiting
Helped improve overall health	55%
Helped obtain a greater appreciation of nature	79%
Helped decrease stress level	77%
Improved quality of life	76%
Helped provide a balance between work & play	77%

In another new question, respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very poor and 10 being excellent, how they would rate the quality of Washington County parks. The average response was a very positive 8.

Recreational Interests and Participation

Respondents were asked if they or anyone else in their household had an interest in a set of recreational activities. If the respondent replied in the affirmative, then they were asked if anyone in the household had participated in the activity in the past year. Finally, they were asked where they participated in the activity. Results of these questions are presented in Table 5.

More than half of respondents report participating in hiking/walking (70%), on-road biking (60%) and swimming in pools (51%). In 1996, these 3 activities were also frequently mentioned. As in 1996, participation in organized sports was reported comparatively less. Seventeen percent (17%) reported a member participating in basketball, followed by softball (14%), volleyball (14%), baseball (14%), soccer (10%) and football (10%).

Residents were given the opportunity to list any other outdoor activities not already mentioned. The activities cited most often by the 176 respondents were ATV (13%), hunting/trapping (13%), horseback riding (9%), and landscaping/gardening (9%). When asked where they participated in these activities, the most common locations were home (17%) and up north (12%).

There were several activities where there was a significant difference between the percentage of respondents reporting interest in the activity and the percentage participating in that activity. These were nature education program (48% interested, 19% participating), mountain biking (41% interested, 27% participating), ice skating (34% interested, 18% participating), and canoeing (30% interested, 16% participating).

Table 5

Recreational Interests and Participation Levels by Washington County Households

Recreational Activity	Percent of Washington County Households Where One or More Members Have <i>Interest</i> in the Activity	Percent of Households That Have Interest in Activity and Actually <i>Participated</i> in Activity in Past Year
Hiking/Walking	76%	70%
On-Road Biking	69%	60%
Swimming in Pools	62%	51%
Beach Swimming	60%	45%
Fishing	58%	46%
Picnicking	56%	45%
Camping	54%	NA
Tobogganing or Sledding	50%	38%
Nature Education Program	48%	19%
Off-road Trail Biking	48%	31%
Water Slides/Water Parks	46%	32%
Children's Playgrounds	46%	42%
Driving Through Parks	45%	37%
Mountain Biking	41%	27%
Golfing	36%	29%
Ice Skating	34%	18%
Canoeing	30%	16%
Recreational Boating	29%	23%
Rollerblading/Skateboarding	27%	21%
Dog Training/Exercise off Leash	24%	14%
Baseball	23%	14%
Volleyball	22%	14%
Cross-county Skiing/Ungroomed Trails	22%	11%
Jogging	22%	19%
Football	21%	10%
Cross-county Skiing/Groomed Trails	21%	10%
Snowmobiling	21%	14%
Softball	21%	14%
Basketball	20%	17%
Archery	20%	12%
Tennis	20%	14%
Soccer	15%	11%
Disc Golf	11%	5%
Roller Hockey	4%	1%

The Location of Recreational Activity Performance

Respondents who said that they or a household member participated in a specified recreational activity in the past year were asked to name the various locations where the activity was performed. These locations have been clustered into 13 categories in order to facilitate presentation. The locations include the following, both inside and outside Washington County:

Inside Washington County

- Park Operated by Washington County
- Park or Facility Operated by the State of Wisconsin
- Park or Facility Operated by a City, Village or Town in Washington County
- Lake or River in Washington County
- School in Washington County
- Nearby Street or Neighborhood Area
- Private Home or Yard

Outside Washington County

- Park or Lake Outside of Washington County
- State or National Park Outside of Washington County
- Park in City, Village or Town Outside Washington County

Private Facility

- Private Facility Inside or Outside Washington County
- Retail Facility Inside or Outside Washington County
- Generic Inside or Outside Washington County

Table 6 presents these results for activities presently offered in Washington County Parks. Tables 7.1 and 7.2 present these results for activities not presently offered in Washington County Parks. In addition to the above, Washington County Parks are also presented by individual parks in all tables. Activities are listed across the top of the tables and the locations are listed down the side. Percentages represent the number of times a location was mentioned for a given activity divided by the number of respondents. In other words, it is the percent of time that a particular location was cited for a particular activity by survey respondents.

Respondents were allowed to report multiple locations. Therefore, percentages could total over 100%. Also, at times, respondents reported participating in activities in locations where that particular activity is not offered. For example, pool swimming in Sandy Knoll Park. This is most likely explained by mistaken place names or a misunderstanding of the activity. It is also possible that a respondent participated informally in an activity where it was not formally offered. For example, practicing putting strokes in Geoden Park.

Washington County Parks were reported most often for all but 2 of the activities presently offered in their parks. A city, village, town or facility in Washington County was reported most often for softball and a private facility was reported most often for golfing.

Washington County Parks were reported most often for half of the activities not presently offered in their parks. A city, village, town or facility in Washington County was reported most often for swimming in pools and tennis. A city village, town or facility outside of Washington County was reported most often for water slides or parks and baseball. Streets in or near neighborhood was reported most often for on-road biking. Home or yard was reported most often for archery. Both streets in or near neighborhood and home or yard were reported equally and most often for roller hockey. A variety of generic locations were most often reported for camping.

**Table 6
Locations Where Recreational Activities Were Performed by Washington County Residents - Presently Offered**

	Ice Skating	Cross Country Skiing	Beach Swimming	Canoeing	Fishing	Jogging	Hiking and Walking	Softball	Volleyball	Basketball	Children's Playgrounds	Picnicking	Soccer	Recreational Boating	Driving thru Parks for Pleasure	Golfing
Washington County Parks	44.5%	105.3%	37.1%	72.8%	104.9%	114.4%	44.4%	40.0%	41.6%	58.8%	100.0%	108.7%	53.9%	77.8%	100.1%	7.7%
Lizard Mound	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4.8%	1.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%	0%	0%	1.1%	0%
Glacier Hills	0%	40.7%	0%	9.1%	3.3%	38.1%	12.2%	0%	25.0%	35.3%	11.4%	20.2%	7.7%	5.6%	10.8%	0%
Homestead Hollow	22.2%	11.1%	9.6%	0%	13.3%	19.0%	7.8%	20.0%	8.3%	5.9%	19.3%	14.4%	0%	0%	5.4%	0%
Geoden	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.1%	7.7%
Heritage Trails	0%	0%	.5%	0%	0%	4.8%	1.4%	0%	0%	0%	4.5%	3.8%	0%	0%	3.2%	0%
Sandy Knoll	0%	22.2%	0%	9.1%	23.3%	14.3%	6.7%	20.0%	8.3%	17.6%	23.9%	32.7%	46.2%	11.1%	28.0%	0%
Cedar Lake Wayside	11.1%	7.4%	0%	0%	1.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ridge Run	5.6%	23.9%	26.5%	18.2%	35.0%	28.6%	13.9%	0%	0%	0%	36.4%	29.8%	0%	0%	34.4%	0%
Family Park	0%	0%	.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.1%	1.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ackerman's Grove	5.6%	0%	0%	36.4%	28.3%	4.8%	1.4%	0%	0%	0%	3.4%	4.8%	0%	61.1%	16.1%	0%
State Parks or Facilities in W.C.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
City, Village, Town or Facility in W.C.	32.4%	14.1%	28.5%	3.2%	2.5%	28.7%	21.0%	48.2%	24.4%	34.3%	86.6%	44.8%	53.8%	1.5%	17.0%	14.0%
Lakes/Rivers in W.C.	8.1%	25.0%	34.7%	24.2%	61.4%	0%	18.7%	0%	14.0%	0%	2.0%	17.8%	3.1%	73.0%	21.0%	8.4%
Schools in W.C.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22.4%	4.7%	22.9%	2.0%	0%	7.7%	0%	0%	0%
Streets in near Neighborhood	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	39.1%	18.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.6%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%
Home/Yard	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.9%	0%	1.2%	11.6%	0%	1.2%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%
Parks/Lakes Outside W.C.	3.6%	4.7%	19.7%	13.7%	14.1%	0.9%	3.8%	2.4%	3.5%	2.9%	3.6%	6.7%	7.7%	2.6%	12.5%	10.7%
State/National Parks Outside W.C.	6.3%	9.4%	6.2%	4.2%	0.7%	2.6%	6.1%	0%	3.5%	6.7%	6.7%	4.4%	1.5%	0.7%	12.1%	4.5%
City, Village, Town or Facility Outside W.C.	8.1%	10.9%	4.7%	8.4%	11.2%	1.7%	2.8%	17.6%	12.8%	1.9%	5.1%	7.4%	6.2%	11.7%	5.4%	11.8%
Private Facility	22.5%	1.6%	2.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.7%	1.9%	4.7%	11.6%	9.5%	0%	0.4%	6.2%	0.7%	0%	76.4%
Retail Facility	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Generic	18.9%	18.8%	9.9%	44.2%	15.9%	13.9%	5.9%	3.5%	0%	1.0%	4.3%	0.7%	4.6%	10.9%	9.4%	9.6%

**Table 7.1
Locations Where Recreational Activities Were Performed by Washington County Residents - Not Presently Offered**

	Disk Golf	Camping	Mountain Biking	Off-Road Trail Biking	On-Road Biking	Football	Roller Hockey	Archery
Washington County Parks	60.0%	9.0%	64.8%	33.4%	33.4%	100.1%	0%	0%
Lizard Mound	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Glacier Hills	0%	1.8%	41.2%	16.7%	16.7%	14.3%	0%	0%
Homestead Hollow	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14.3%	0%	0%
Geoden	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Heritage Trails	20.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	28.6%	0%	0%
Sandy Knoll	20.0%	3.6%	11.8%	0%	16.7%	14.3%	0%	0%
Cedar Lake Wayside	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ridge Run	20.0%	1.8%	11.8%	16.7%	0%	28.6%	0%	0%
Family Park	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ackerman's Grove	0%	1.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
State Parks or Facilities in W.C.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
City, Village, Town or Facility in W.C.	3.2%	0.6%	14.1%	7.8%	7.5%	27.0%	0%	14.9%
Lakes/Rivers in W.C.	3.2%	8.3%	11.5%	10.0%	6.4%	1.6%	0%	0%
Schools in W.C.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22.2%	0%	0%
Streets in/hear Neighborhood	0%	0%	7.7%	2.2%	57.8%	0%	50.0%	0%
Home/Yard	6.5%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	23.8%	50.0%	25.7%
Parks/Lakes Outside W.C.	29.0%	22.2%	10.3%	15.6%	5.2%	4.8%	0%	0%
State/National Parks Outside W.C.	9.7%	11.4%	17.9%	20.0%	5.2%	3.2%	0%	2.7%
City, Village, Town or Facility Outside W.C.	58.1%	25.5%	14.1%	27.8%	4.0%	4.8%	0%	14.9%
Private Facility	6.5%	8.6%	0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.6%	0%	21.6%
Retail Facility	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.7%
Generic	0%	33.5%	16.7%	14.4%	13.9%	3.2%	12.5%	16.2%

Table 7.2

Lizard Mound	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Dog Training or Exercising	Water Slides or Parks	Swimming in Pools	Baseball	Tennis	Snow-mobiling	Gross Country Skiing - Groomed Trails	Nature Education Program				
Washington County Parks	60.0%	0%	2.3%	20.0%	0%	66.7%	123.2%	44.4%				
Glacier Hills	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30.8%	22.2%				
Homestead Hollow	30.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30.8%	0%				
Geoden	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Heritage Trails	10.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Sandy Knoll	10.0%	0%	2.3%	20.0%	0%	66.7%	38.5%	0%				
Cedar Lake Wayside	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Ridge Run	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	23.1%	22.2%				
Family Park	10.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Ackerman's Grove	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
State Parks or Facilities in W.C.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	32.3%	0%				
City, Village, Town or Facility in W.C.	14.3%	6.8%	33.5%	8.8%	63.5%	10.7%	1.6%	10.3%				
Lakes/Rivers in W.C.	3.6%	0%	2.9%	1.3%	0%	3.6%	0	12.8%				
Schools in W.C.	1.2%	0%	6.5%	0%	28.2%	0%	0	0.9%				
Streets in/near Neighborhood	7.1%	0%	0%	0%	3.5%	1.2%	1.6%	0%				
Home/Yard	30.0%	0%	23.5%	7.5%	1.2%	6.0%	1.6%	0%				
Parks/Lakes Outside W.C.	6.0%	4.7%	3.2%	16.3%	3.5%	8.3%	1.6%	3.4%				
State/National Parks Outside W.C.	2.4%	0.5%	2.6%	3.8%	4.7%	1.2%	0	9.4%				
City, Village, Town or Facility Outside W.C.	16.7%	85.4%	14.8%	35.0%	9.4%	21.4%	0	5.1%				
Private Facility	10.7%	19.3%	25.2%	6.3%	5.9%	1.2%	12.9%	25.6%				
Retail Facility	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	.	0%				
Generic	13.1%	0.5%	4.2%	8.8%	9.4%	28.6%	29.0%	12.8%				

Locations Where Recreational Activities Were Performed by Washington County Residents - Not Presently Offered

Proximity and Participation in Recreational Activities

Survey respondents were asked if they or anyone in their household would have participated or participated more often in any of the recreational activities listed previously. Fifty-seven percent (57%) replied in the affirmative to this question. These respondents were then asked what activities in particular they would have performed more often (they were allowed multiple responses). The activities most often cited by respondents were pools/swimming (21%), water slide/park (17%) and biking (12%). In 1996 the most often cited were, swimming in pools and hiking/walking. Water slides/parks was much more popular in this survey than in 1996 and the activity of dog training/exercising off-leash wasn't even on the 1996 list. Results for other activities are presented in Table 7.

Table 7

Activities that Residents Would Participate in More Often if Located Closer to Their Home

	% of Respondents 2001	% of Respondents 1996
Pools/swimming	21%	13%
Water slides/park	17%	3%
Biking	12%	NA
Dog training/exercising off-leash	8%	NA
Hiking/walking	7%	12%
Archery	7%	NA
Rollerblading/roller hockey	6%	5%
Camping	5%	3%

N=552

Respondents were also asked whether there was anything that would make it more likely for them or other members of their household to use Washington County parks more often. Twenty-nine percent (29%) answered in the affirmative. These respondents were then asked what specifically would be likely to increase their use of Washington County parks. The most frequent response was a better understanding of what was available (17%). Additional responses are presented in Table 8.

Table 8

Responses to Question of What Would Increase Use of Parks

	% of Respondents
Better understanding of what is available	17%
Closer location	7%
More free time	6%
Addition of facilities	5%
Allow dogs	5%
Nice place for swimming	5%

N=217

Respondent Views on Conservation, Natural Resource Preservation and Recreational Lands

A series of questions asked respondents for their views about land conservation for recreation and environmental purposes, preserving natural resources and open spaces, providing a system of recreational trails to connect county parks, and access to lakes and waterways. Responses to these questions can be found in Table 9.

The first question asked respondents the extent to which they agreed with the statement about land conservation being a good use of public funds. Results for all questions in this section were very similar to 1996. Respondents strongly supported this statement with 52% agreeing and 41% strongly agreeing. The majority also supported, by agreeing or strongly agreeing, that the county should provide a system of recreational trails (52% and 15%, respectively). A majority also agreed or strongly agreed that the county is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open spaces (52% and 6%, respectively) and enough to provide access to lakes and waterways (49% and 4%, respectively). Note, this last question relating to lakes and waterways was new to this survey.

Table 9

Respondent Views on Conservation, Natural Resources and Connecting County Parks

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Conserving land for public parks, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitat is a good use of public funds.	41%	52%	3%	0%	4%
The county should provide a system of recreational trails to connect county parks and other public recreational lands and trails.	16%	52%	20%	1%	11%
County government is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open space in your community.	6%	52%	23%	3%	16%
County government is doing enough to provide access to lakes and waterways.	4%	49%	25%	3%	19%

Possible Future County Initiatives for Parks and Recreation

Respondents were asked a variety of questions regarding future directions for county parks. Results for these questions can be found in Table 10.

As in 1996, strong support was given for the purchase of lands to protect wildlife and preserve natural habitats for public enjoyment (85%). There was also significant support for providing a nature center (70%) and acquiring land to create new parks (58%). The majority did not support the county owning and operating additional golf courses (72%) and improving or expanding facilities in existing county parks (61%). The lack of support for improving or expanding facilities in existing parks was a significant departure from the survey conducted in 1996. In this survey the majority, 61%, did not support expansion, whereas in 1996 most, 50%, did. The level of support for acquiring new land was similar to 1996. The questions about a nature center and golf courses were new to this survey.

Table 10

Possible County Actions to Protect Wildlife and to Expand Parks and Facilities

	% Yes 2001	% No 2001	% Don't Know 2001	% Yes 1996	% No 1996	% Don't Know 1996
Would you like to see Washington County buy lands such as woodlands and wetlands to protect wildlife and preserve natural habitats for public enjoyment?	85%	14%	1%	73%	17%	10%
Would you like to see Washington County improve or expand facilities in existing county parks?	39%	61%	0%	50%	31%	19%
Would you like to see Washington County acquire land to create new county parks?	58%	42%	0%	47%	37%	16%
Should Washington County parks provide a nature center for educational programming?	70%	28%	2%	NA	NA	NA
Should Washington County own and operate additional golf courses?	24%	72%	4%	NA	NA	NA

Respondents who responded affirmatively to the county taking action to protect natural habitats and expand parks and facilities were asked how the county should finance the action. Five options were read to respondents: (1) increased taxes, (2) borrowing money through bonds to be repaid over time, (3) fees charged to users, (4) a combination of these three alternatives, and (5) something else. Results of these questions can be found in Table 11.

Unlike in 1996, where user fees were the overall preferred financial mechanism, the preferred financial mechanism for expanding wildlife habitats and park facilities was a combination of taxes, bonds and user fees. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents preferred the combination for purchasing land to protect wildlife and preserve habitats, 51% preferred it for improving or expanding facilities in existing parks and 66% preferred it for acquiring land to create new parks. Out of the other 3 options given, "some other way" was most often cited.

Respondents who identified "some other way" were asked to explain that other way. The other way most often mentioned for purchasing land to protect wildlife and preserve habitats was donations (54%). The most common responses for improving or expanding facilities in existing parks were existing taxes/budget (41%) and donations (35%). Finally,

the most common response for acquiring land to create new parks was donations (50%). A complete list of other financial mechanisms can be found in Appendix D.

Table 11

Preferred Financial Mechanisms for Expanding Wildlife Habitats and Park Facilities

	Increased Taxes 2001	Issue Bonds 2001	User Fess 2001	Combination 2001	Some Other Way 2001
Buy woodlands and wetlands to protect wildlife and preserve natural habitats for public enjoyment.	2%	7%	17%	59%	15%
Improve or expand facilities in existing county parks.	6%	7%	17%	51%	20%
Acquire land to create new county parks.	4%	8%	11%	66%	12%

	Increased Taxes 1996	Issue Bonds 1996	User Fees 1996	Combination 1996	D/K 1996
Buy woodlands and wetlands to protect wildlife and preserve natural habitats for public enjoyment.	5%	18%	49%	14%	15%
Improve or expand facilities in existing county parks.	5%	18%	51%	12%	14%
Acquire land to create new county parks.	8%	24%	40%	18%	11%

Respondents who answered in the affirmative as to whether the county should take action to expand facilities in existing parks were asked what activities these expanded facilities should be used for. Responses to these questions can be found in Table 12.

The top 3 activities cited were "other" (36%), hiking/walking (29%), and children's playgrounds (24%). The 36% citing "other" were asked to specify what they meant. The activities most often mentioned were everything (22%), dog parks (9%), horse trails (9%), and updated playground equipment (9%). It should be noted that these responses include activities with facilities not currently offered in Washington County parks. These activities would have been more appropriately noted in the next question presented below. A complete list of "other" responses can be found in Appendix E.

Table 12

Activities Identified for Park Expansion of Existing Facilities

	% of Respondents
Other	36%
Hiking/walking	29%
Children's playgrounds	24%
Beach swimming	23%
Fishing	21%
Picnicking	20%
Golf	17%
Ice skating	16%
Tobogganing/sledding	16%
Jogging	16%
Basketball	16%
Recreational boating	16%
Canoeing	14%
Softball	14%
Soccer	14%
Volleyball	13%
Cross-country skiing/ungroomed trails	12%

N=208

Respondents were asked which of the activities not currently offered in Washington County parks the county should provide formal facilities for. Responses to these questions can be found in Table 13.

Respondents identified swimming in pools (37%) and water slides/parks (31%) most often. Next, cited by one quarter (25%) of respondents, were off-road paved trail biking and "other." Those responding with "other" were asked to specify what they meant. The responses most often given were ATV areas (16%), horseback riding (16%), and disk golf (13%). A complete list of "other" responses given can be found in Appendix F.

Table 13

Activities Identified for New Formal Facilities

	% of Respondents
Swimming in pools	37%
Water slides/parks	31%
Off-road paved trail biking	25%
Other	25%
Camping	23%
Cross-country skiing/groomed	23%
Dog training/exercising off-leash	23%
Rollerblading/skateboarding	22%
Mountain biking	21%
Nature education programs	20%
On-road biking	20%
Tennis	16%
Archery	15%
Baseball	15%
Snowmobiling	15%
Football	12%
Roller hockey	9%

N=342

Respondent Demographic Characteristics

A variety of demographic questions were asked of each respondent. The distribution of respondents by residence can be found in Table 14. One quarter (25%) resided in the City of West Bend, followed by Town of Wayne (12%) and City of Hartford (10%).

Table 14

Respondent Place of Residence

	% of Respondents
City of West Bend	25%
Town of Wayne	12%
City of Hartford	10%
Town of Barton	7%
Village of Germantown	6%
Town of Kewaskum	6%
Village of Jackson	5%
Village of Slinger	4%
Town of West Bend	4%
Town of Erin	3%
Town of Trenton	3%
Town of Richfield	3%
Village of Kewaskum	2%
Town of Addison	2%
Town of Farmington	2%
Town of Hartford	2%
Village of Newberg	1%
Town of Germantown	1%
Town of Polk	1%
Other	1%

The majority of respondent households consisted of 2 adults (61%). Three quarters (75%) had one or two adults. The complete breakout is presented in Table 15.

Table 15

Number of Adults in Household

	% of Respondents
1	14%
2	61%
3	17%
4	7%
5 or more	1%

Respondents were asked if they had any children under the age of 18 and, if so, the number in different age groups. The majority (58%) of respondents did not have any children under 18 in their household. The number by age group is presented in the Tables 16 -18 below.

Table 16

Number of Children Under 5

	% of Respondents
0	60%
1	27%
2	12%
3	1%

Table 17

Number of Children 5 - 13

	% of Respondents
0	38%
1	33%
2	21%
3	6%
4	2%
5	0%
6 or more	2%

Table 18

Number of Children 14 - 17

	% of Respondents
0	61%
1	31%
2 or more	8%

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents were women (37% men) and the majority chose not to answer the question about household income. The results for income are presented in Table 19.

Table 19

Household Income Levels

	% of Respondents
Under \$25,000	6%
\$25,000-\$50,000	19%
\$50,000-\$75,000	19%
\$75,000-\$100,000	14%
More than \$100,000	9%
No Answer	33%

Appendix A
Project Methodology

Description of Project Methodology

Questionnaire Design:

The survey was designed by Survey Center and Washington County Planning & Parks Department staff in consultation with the Park & Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee based on a prior survey conducted in 1996. Included in the survey were a variety of questions relating to resident use of parks, their recreational interests, and their preferences for open spaces and expanded parks and park-related facilities.

Sampling

A random digit dialing method was used to obtain the sample of randomly selected respondents for the study. Using this system, every working telephone number in Washington County had an equal probability of being selected for the study. The survey was conducted only of residences; business and other non-residential numbers were excluded from the study.

The sample size for the survey is 605. With a sample of this size the margin of error is 4% based upon a 95% confidence level.

Administration:

The survey was conducted by telephone by staff at the Survey Center of the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research between the dates of June 18, 2002 and July 15, 2002. Surveys were done primarily in the afternoon and evening hours with 39% being done after 4:00 in the afternoon. Interviews were conducted with any adult (person aged 18 or older) who answered or was called to the telephone. A screening question was asked to make certain that the respondent lived within Washington County.

Appendix B
Survey Instrument

Appendix C

Other Parks Visited in Washington County

Other Parks Visited in Washington County

Park	N	Percent
Regner Park	105	23.2%
Pike Lake	85	18.8%
Riverside Park	24	5.3%
City Park (Generic)	19	4.2%
Don't Know	18	4.0%
Fireman's Park	13	2.9%
Dacora Park	10	2.2%
Willowbrook Creek	9	2.0%
Woodland	9	2.0%
Spazland Park	8	1.8%
Washington County Golf Course	8	1.8%
Ziedler Park	7	1.5%
Hartford Parks (Generic)	6	1.3%
Ice Age Trail	6	1.3%
Independence	6	1.3%
Kewaunee	6	1.3%
Washington County Fair Park	6	1.3%
Jackson	5	1.1%
West Bend City Parks (Generic)	5	1.1%
Woodlawn	5	1.1%
Barton Park	4	0.9%
Kettle Moraine	4	0.9%
Kewaskum Parks (Generic)	4	0.9%
Kinderberg Park	4	0.9%
No answer	4	0.9%
Germantown Parks	3	0.7%
Hickory Lane Park	3	0.7%
Kenny	3	0.7%
Mauthe Lake	3	0.7%
Riverwalk	3	0.7%
Silverbrook	3	0.7%
Susnet Park	3	0.7%
Veterans's Park in Hartford	3	0.7%
Haupt Strasse	2	0.4%
Loew's Lake	2	0.4%
Menomonee	2	0.4%
Ridgerun	2	0.4%
Villa Park	2	0.4%
Village Park	2	0.4%
Windgate Park	2	0.4%
Albecker Natural Area	2	0.4%
Albakerkee	1	0.2%

Bridal Trails	1	0.2%
Cedarburg Parks (Generic)	1	0.2%
Centinal Park	1	0.2%
Dretzka	1	0.2%
East Side Park	1	0.2%
Alt Bauer	1	0.2%
Erin	1	0.2%
Farms Park	1	0.2%
Governor Dodge	1	0.2%
Heritage Hills	1	0.2%
Horsemans Park	1	0.2%
Hostoff	1	0.2%
Long Lake	1	0.2%
Merton Parks	1	0.2%
Newfain Trails	1	0.2%
Non-sensical	1	0.2%
Ozaukee Parks	1	0.2%
Park Avenue	1	0.2%
Purple Park	1	0.2%
Richmond Parks	1	0.2%
River Bend	1	0.2%
River Park	1	0.2%
Riveredge	1	0.2%
Riverhills	1	0.2%
Shane Haupt Park	1	0.2%
Shown Loffan Park	1	0.2%
Softball Complex-Quass Creek Park	1	0.2%
Sparta	1	0.2%
Washington County Memorial Park	1	0.2%
Weidenbach Park	1	0.2%
West Side Park	1	0.2%
Totals	452	100.0%

Appendix D

Other Means of Financing Expansions and Acquisitions

Other Financial Mechanisms to Buy Woodlands and Wetlands

	% of Respondents
Donations	54%
Existing Taxes/Budget	15%
User Fees	10%
Borrowing Through Bonds	5%
Sales Tax	5%
Grants	3%
Donation of Land	3%
Volunteer Programs	3%
Raffles/Drawings	3%
Charge Non-Residents	3%
Increased Taxes & Bonds	3%
All of the Above	3%
Federal Aid	3%
Combination & Borrowing	3%
Wisconsin DNR	3%

N=45

Other Financial Mechanisms to Improve or Expand in Existing Parks

	% of Respondents
Existing Taxes/Budget	41%
Donations	35%
Not Tax Payers	12%
Wisconsin DNR	6%
Private Funding	6%
User Fees	6%
Bonds	6%
Golf Course Revenue	6%

N=20

Other Financial Mechanism to Acquire Land for New Parks

	% of Respondents
Donations	50%
User Fees	15%
Sales Tax	10%
Public Funding	5%
Adjust Budget	5%
Charge Non-Residents	5%
All of the Above	5%
People Building New Homes	5%
Bonds	5%

N=20

Appendix E
Other Activities Identified for Park Expansion

Other Activities Identified for Park Expansion

	% of Respondents
Everything	22%
Dog Parks	9%
Horse Trail	9%
Updated Playground Equipment	9%
Bathrooms	7%
Swimming Pools	7%
Bike Trails	4%
Better Security	2%
Better Slides	2%
Boat Launch	2%
Boating	2%
Camping	2%
Fishing	2%
Handicap Accessable Trails	2%
Mini Golf	2%
More Land	2%
More Parks Like Reagner	2%
More Trees	2%
Mountain Biking	2%
Paintball	2%
Parking	2%
Playground for Small Kids	2%
Raquetball	2%
Shaded Areas	2%
Snow Shoeing	2%
Swimming Area	2%
Updated Tennis Courts	2%
Water Fountains	2%
Windsurfing	2%

N=52

Appendix F
Other Activities Identified for New Formal Facilities

Other Activities Identified for New Formal Facilities

	% of Respondents
ATV Areas	16%
Horseback Riding	16%
Disc Golf	13%
Snow Shoeing	8%
Everything	5%
Hunting Places	5%
Shooting Facilities	5%
Bird Watching Area	3%
Dirt Bike Trails	3%
Downhill Skiing	3%
Hiking Trails	3%
Horse Shoes	3%
Rock Climbing	3%
Soccer	3%
Swimming Lessons	3%
Water Skiing	3%
Bocci Ball	2%
Bungy Jumping	2%
Flag Football	2%
Formal Garden	2%
Gun Safety Classes	2%
Kite Flying	2%
Lifeguards	2%
Nature Park	2%
Pit for Skaters	2%
Raquetball	2%
Star Gazing	2%
Wake Boarding	2%
Windsurfing	2%

N=76