

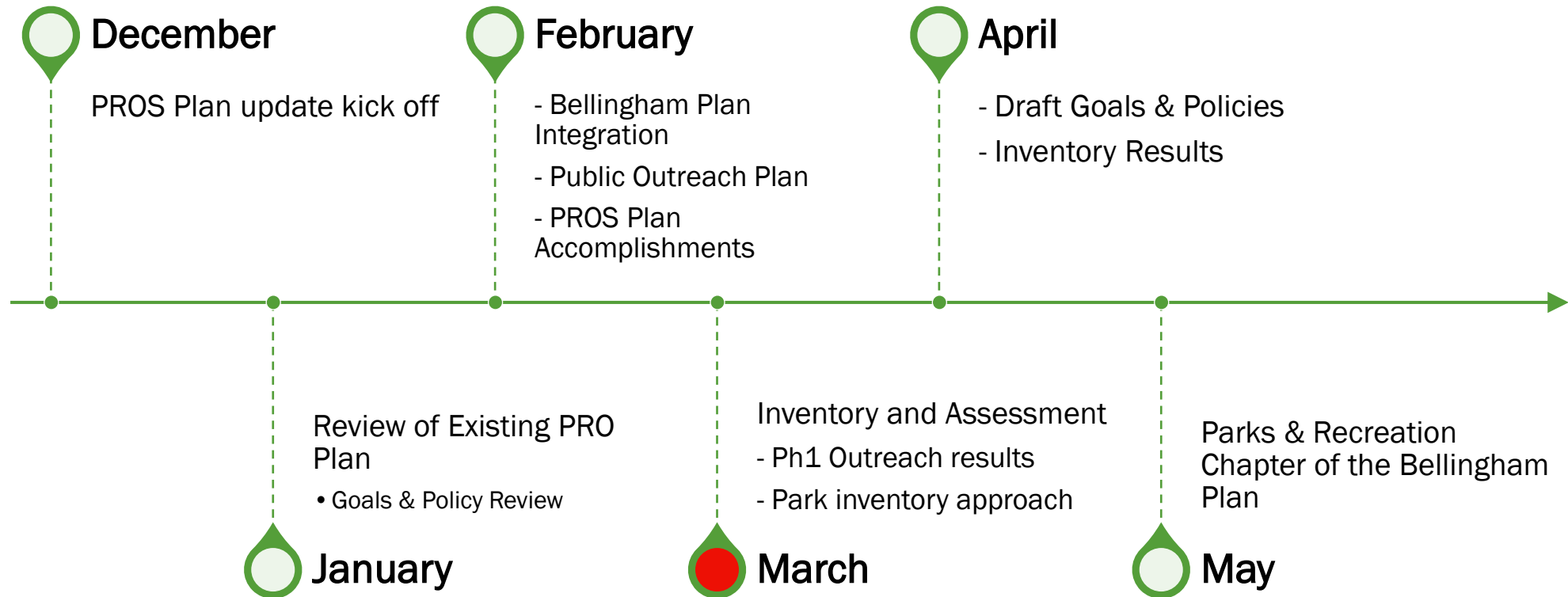


PROS Plan Update

March 2025



PRAB Review– Parks Chapter (Phase I)





Phase I Open Houses PROS Plan 2026

February 13 – Cordata Pavilion
February 18 – Fairhaven Pavilion



- What is the PROS Plan
- How to stay involved

~ 80 Members of the public

Straw poll – Most important Goals for the next 20 years

Straw Poll Results – Parks & Rec Goals

COUNT	POTENTIAL GOAL
24	Support health, wellness, and play with recreational facilities and programs
23	Interconnect the City's parks and open spaces with trails, greenways, and multimodal street facilities
15	Provide high-quality facilities and services that are accessible and inclusive
15	Ensure that parks and trails are equitably distributed across the City
14	Connect and unify the community with a sense of place and social connections
12	Preserve diverse habitats and steward natural systems
11	Support and expand local collaboration and partnerships
10	Manage Bellingham's parkland, facilities, and programs effectively, efficiently, and sustainably
7	Foster a sense of safety within the park system
6	Contribute to a vibrant recreation-based economy
4	Reduce emissions and mitigate climate impacts

PROS Plan Community Survey is Complete

Survey Distribution:

- Facebook, Boosted on Instagram
- Parks eNewsletter +/- 4,000
- Inside Bellingham Newsletter
- Bellingham Plan mailing list
- Park Volunteers email

2,005

Total Responses.

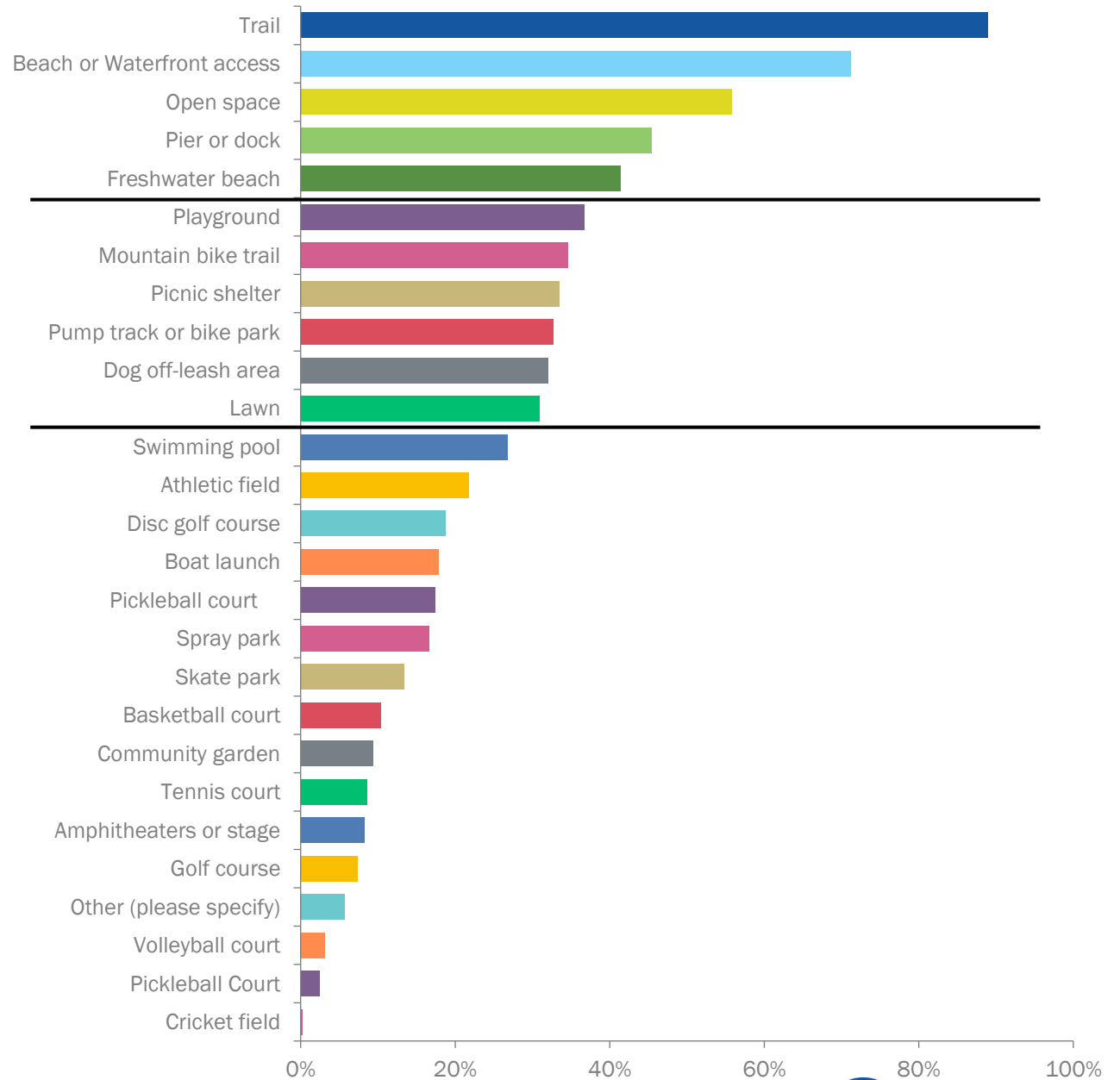
Open from January 29 – March 2

78% Completion Rate

+524 PROS mailing list

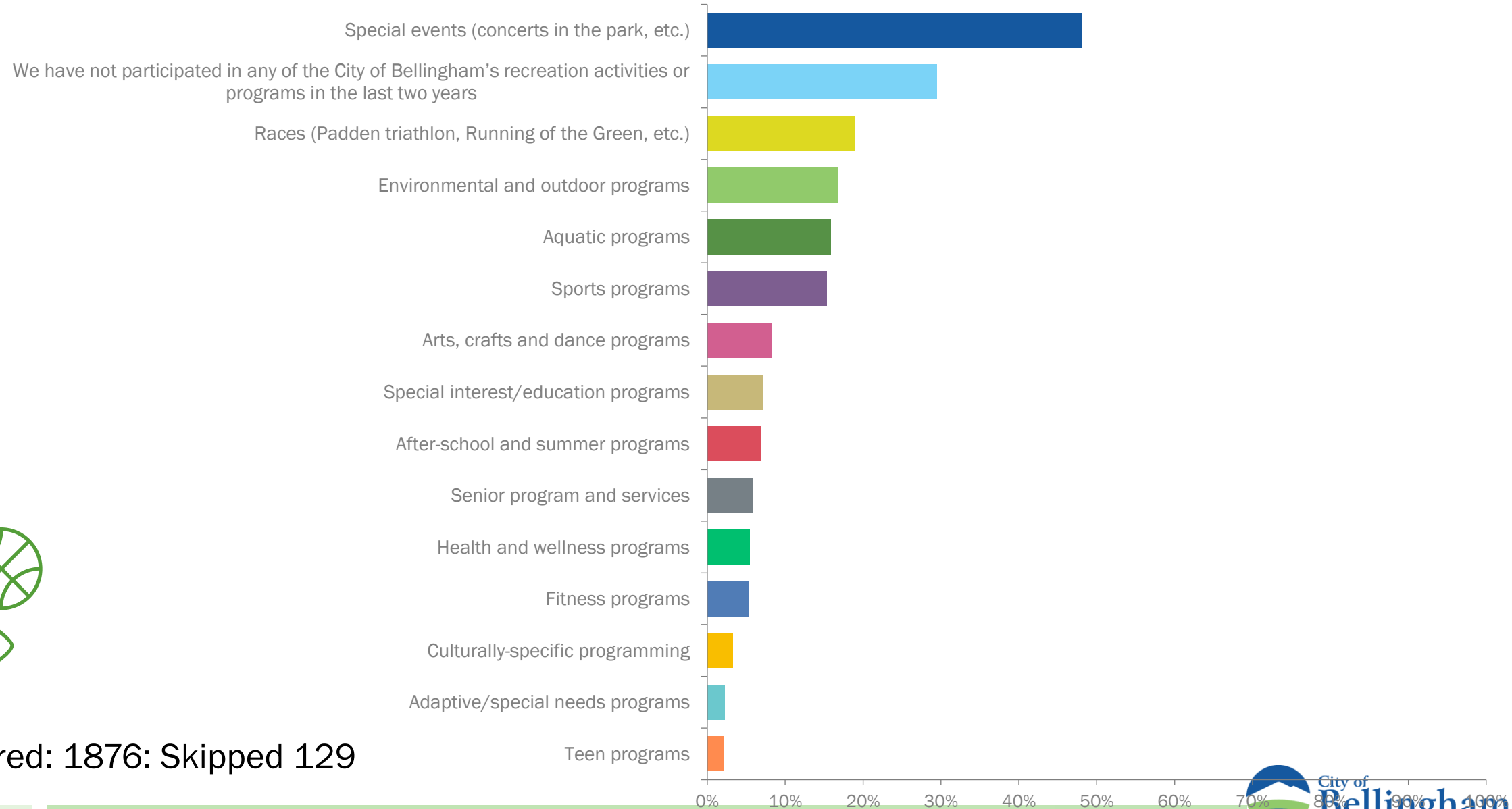


Q7: Which of the following features have you or someone in your household used in a City-managed park, trail, or open space in the last year? (Check all that apply)



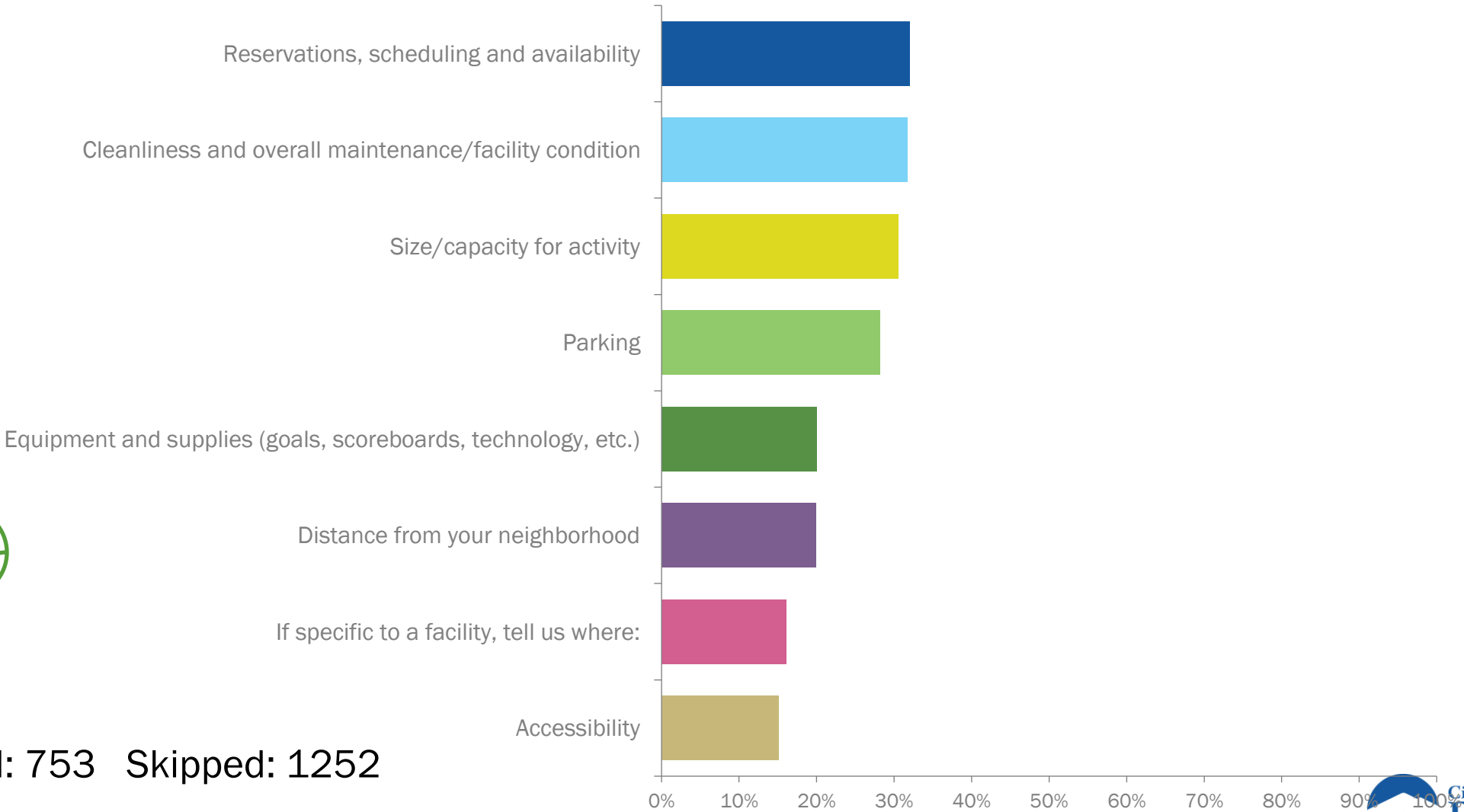
Answered: 1876; Skipped 129

Q8: Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Bellingham's recreation activities or programs in the last two years?



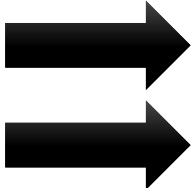
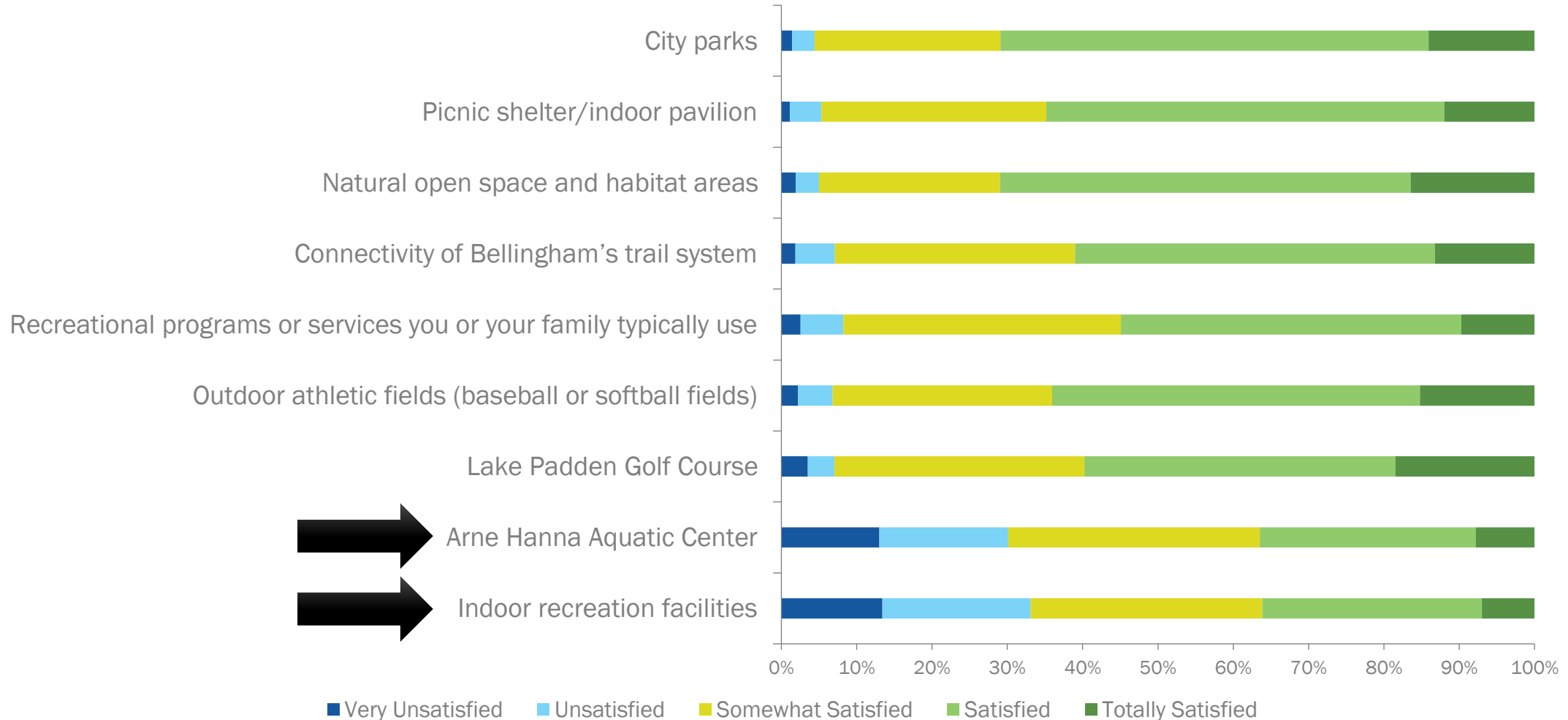
• Answered: 1876: Skipped 129

Q9: If you or a member of your household participates in an activity that occurs in a school, senior center, church or other non-city owned facility, what could be improved? Check all that apply:



• Answered: 753 Skipped: 1252

Q11: The City manages parks, trails, open spaces, and special use areas. How satisfied are you with the following parks and recreation services or features?



Answered: 1677; Skipped 328

Q12: Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about how the City maintains parks, trails, and recreational amenities?

I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of developed parks, such as garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.

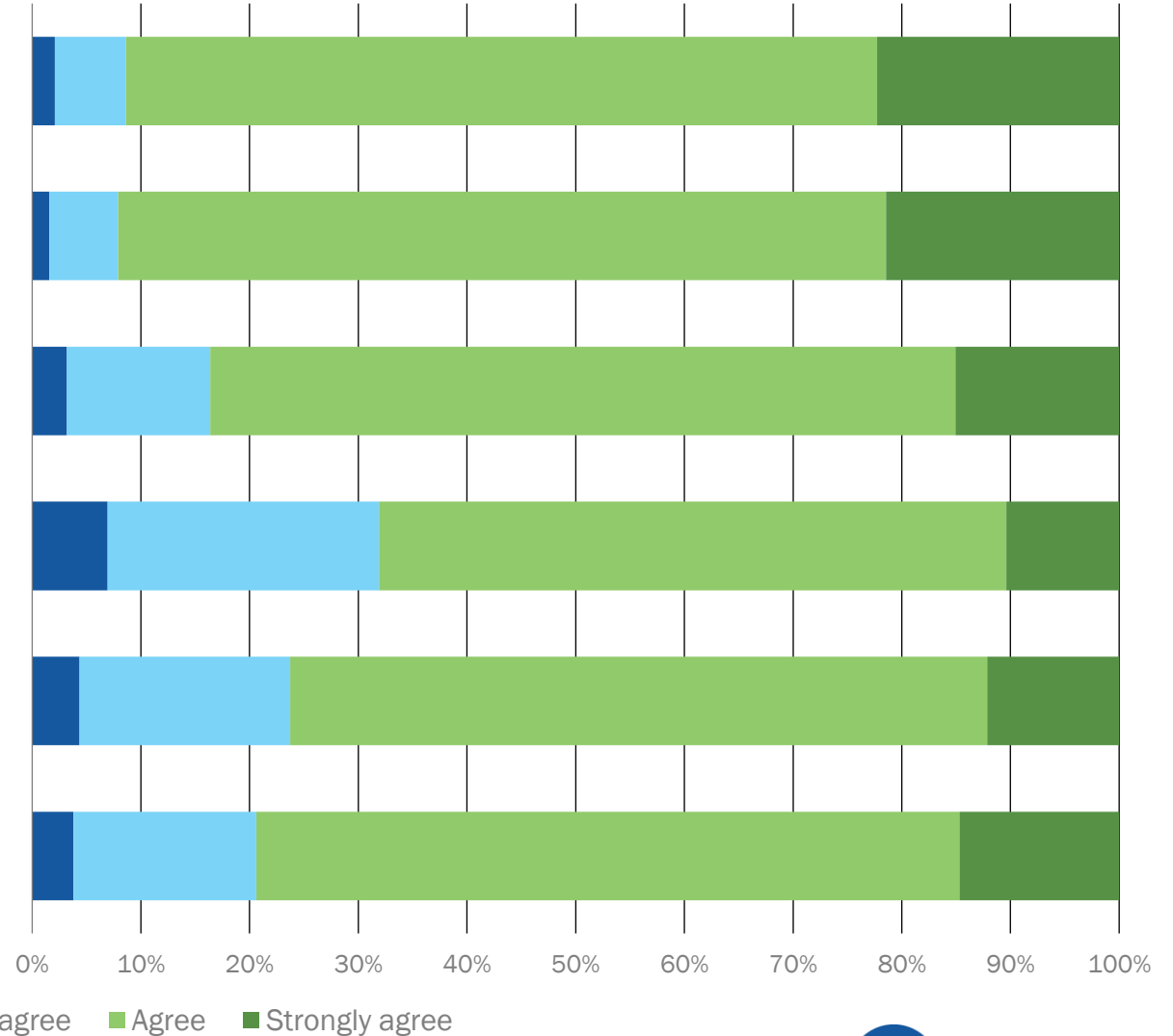
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of trails and open space lands, like Samish Crest or Connelly Creek.

I am satisfied with the level of maintenance at buildings, shelters, and sports fields.

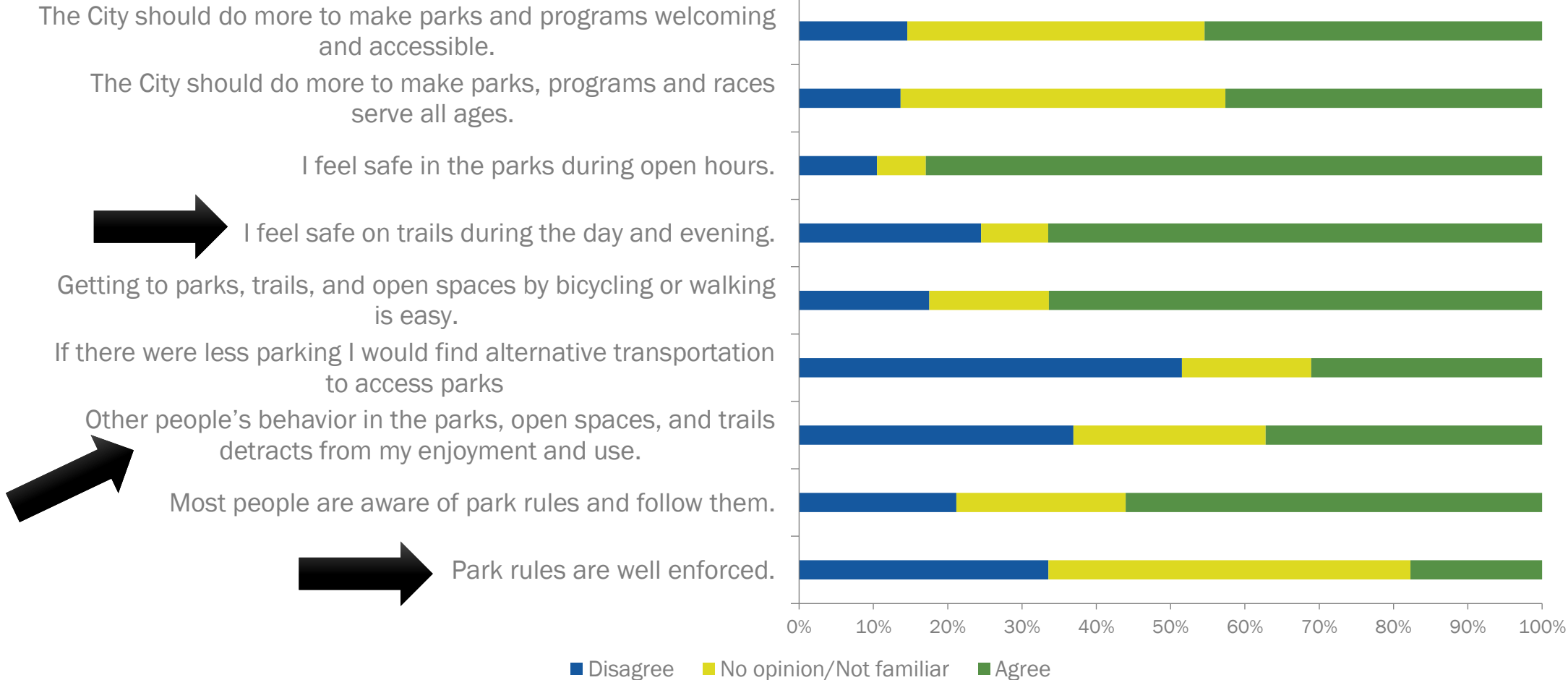
I am satisfied with the number of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and open spaces.

I am satisfied with the level of improvements such as trash bins, restrooms, benches, and lighting at parks, sports fields.

I am satisfied with the level of improvements such as wayfinding signs, benches, and lighting at open spaces, trails, and trailheads.

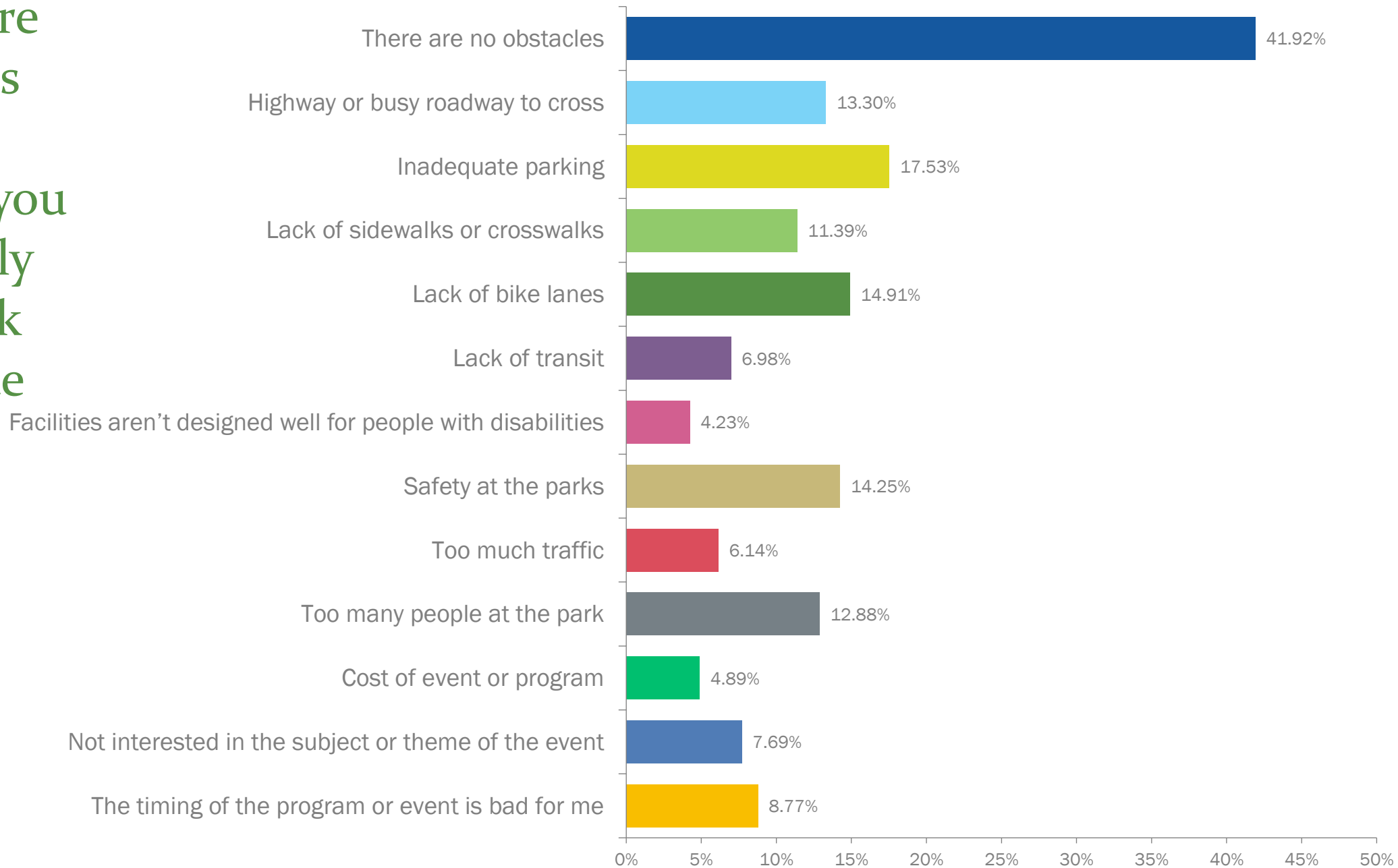


Q13: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Bellingham's parks and recreation system?



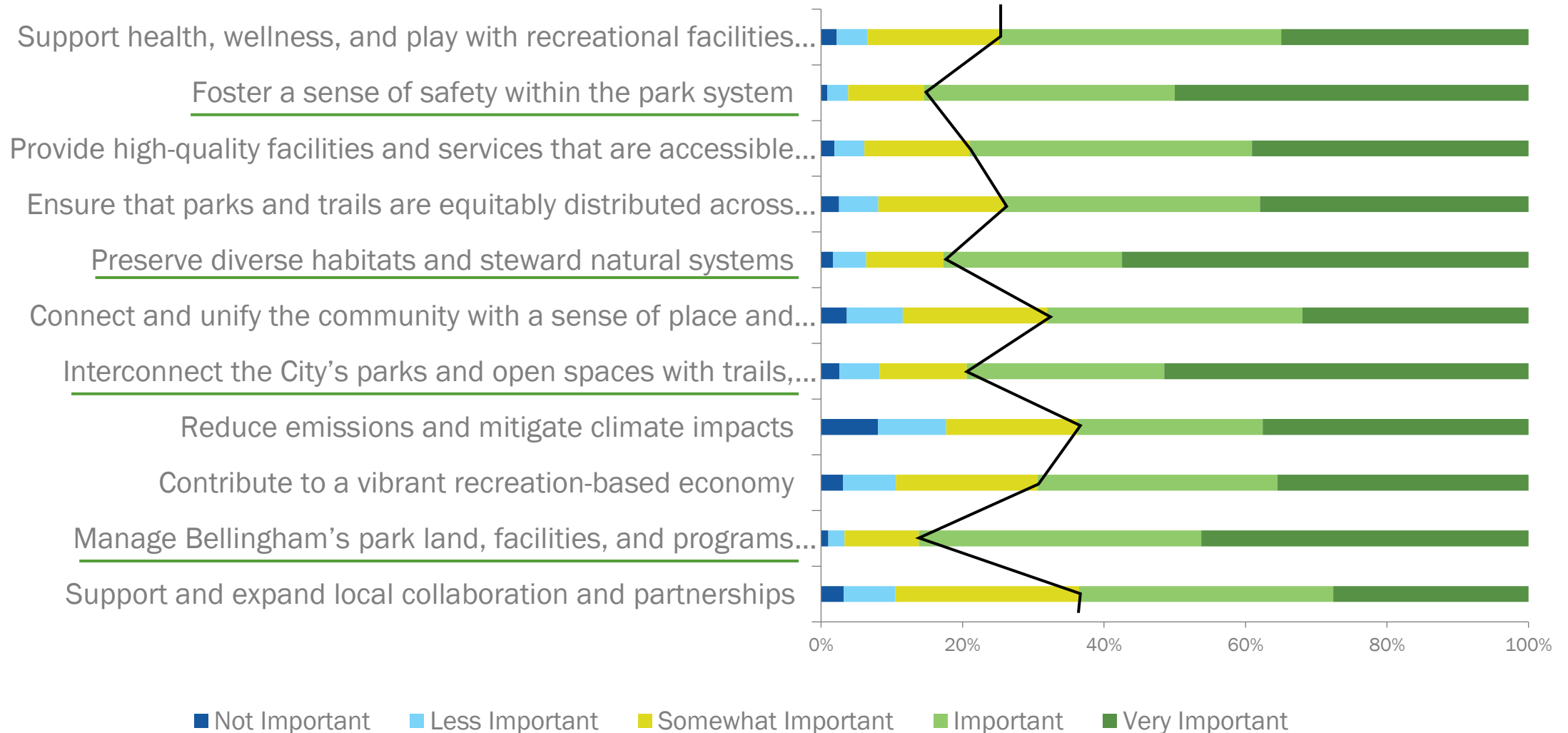
• Answered: 1677: Skipped 328

Q15: Are there any obstacles that make it difficult for you or your family to visit a park or participate in a park program or event?



• Answered: 1677: Skipped 328

Q16: With the update to the PROS Plan we will set new goals for our park and recreation system. Please rate the importance of each of these goals.

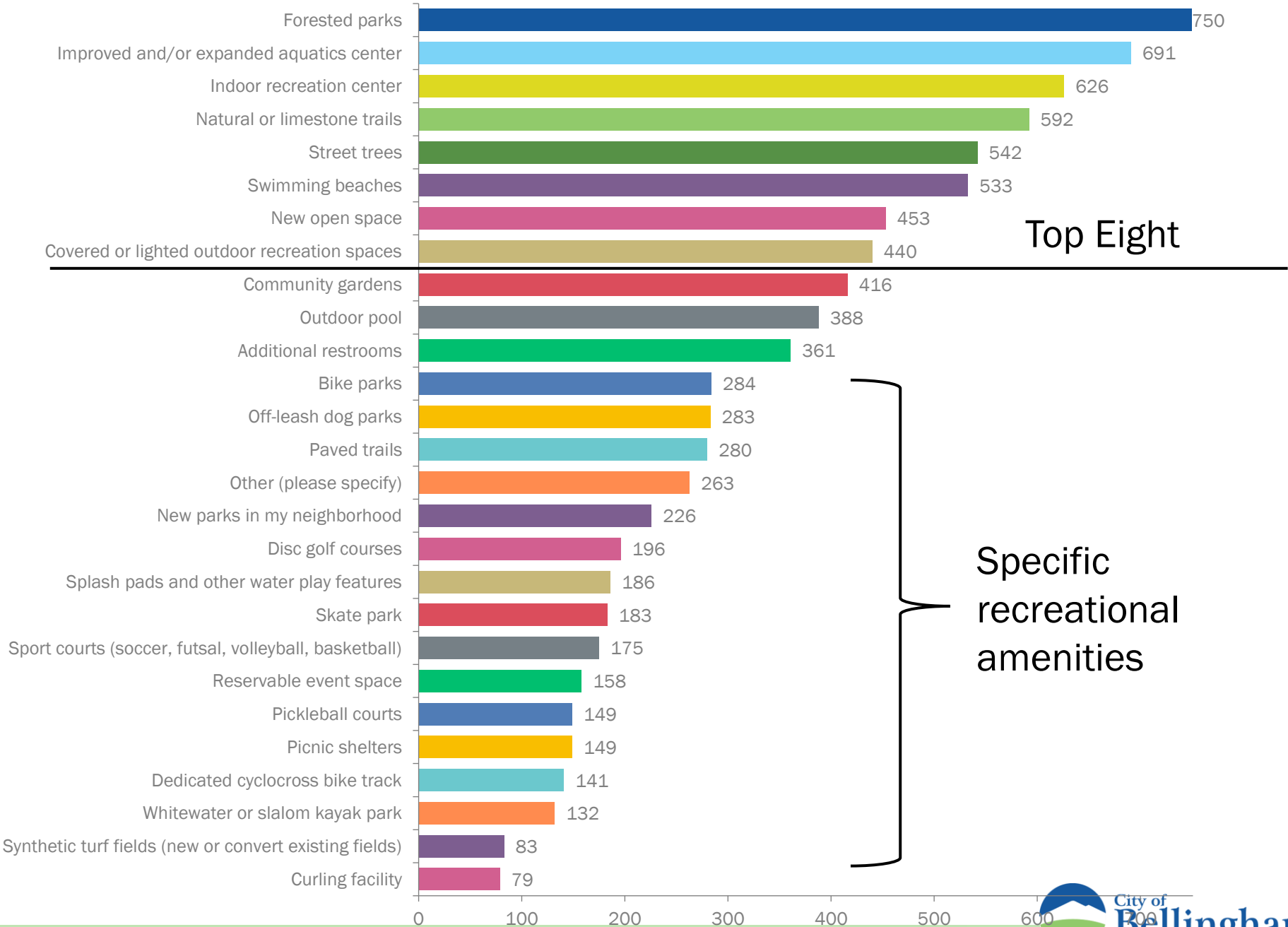


Answered: 1568: Skipped 437

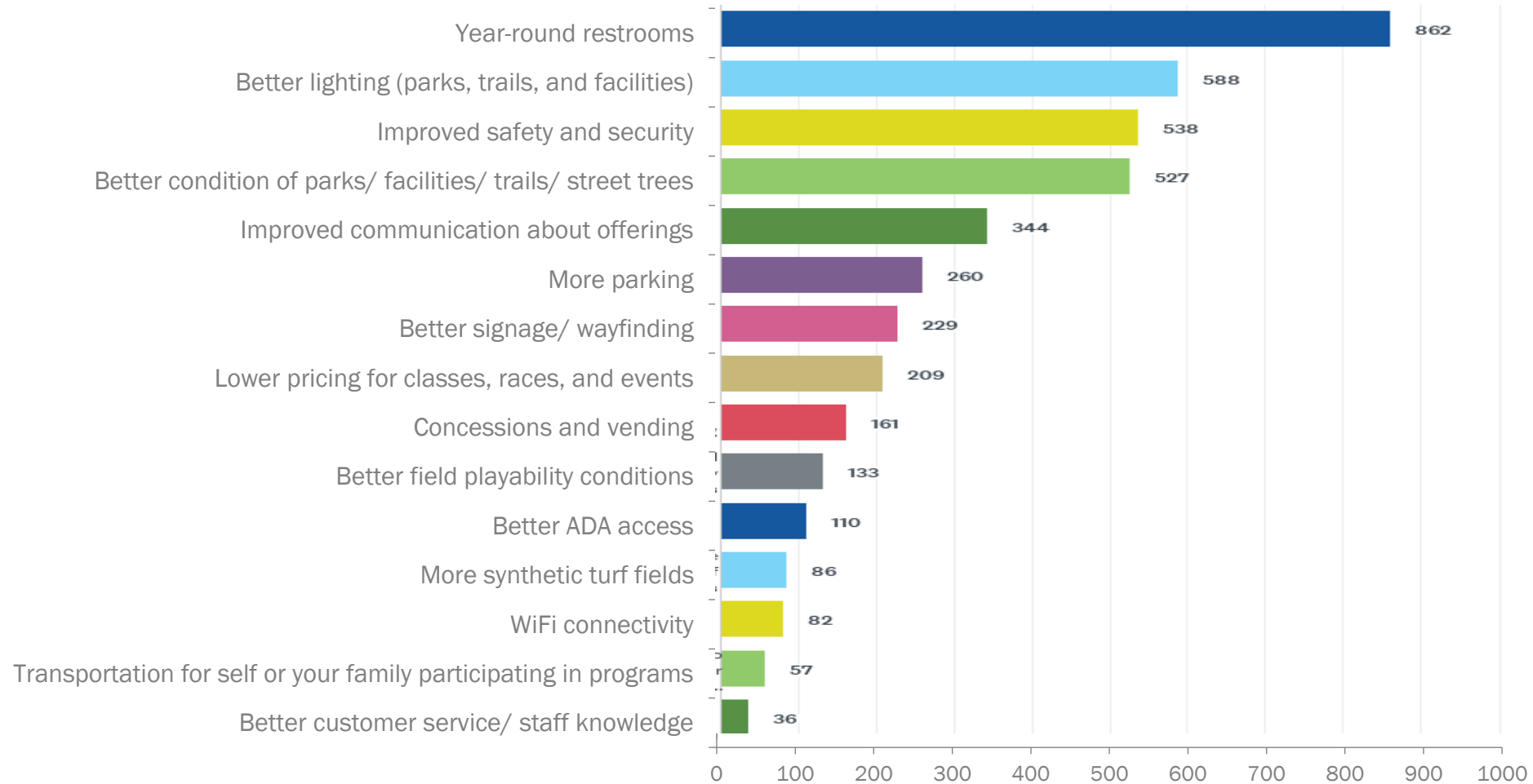
Q18: What do you think are the most important needs for new park and recreation development in the next five to ten years?

(Select up to 8)

Answered: 1568; Skipped 437

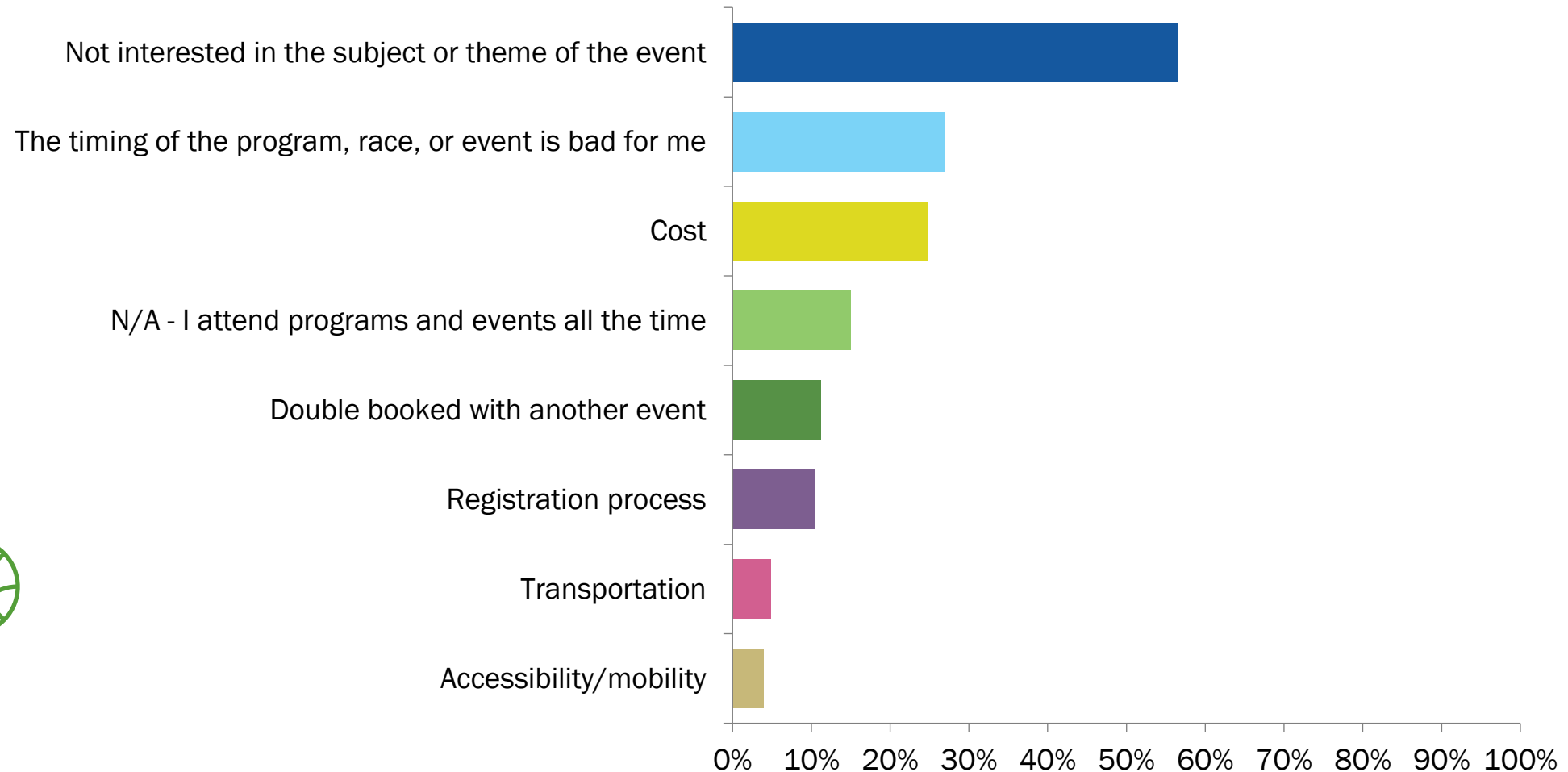


Q19: What are the most important improvements that would increase your use of parks and recreation facilities? (Select 5)



Answered: 1468; Skipped 537

Q20: What holds you back from attending a paid program, race, or event? (Pick as many answers as you'd like)



- Answered: 1453: Skipped 552

PRAB Survey January 8, 2025

The most important thing that Bellingham Parks & Recreation offers to the public is:

Accessible & Affordable Recreation

Community Connection & Events

Safe & Inclusive Outdoor Spaces

Nature Access & Exploration

Identify Top Maintenance Needs

Park & Trail Maintenance- trash, graffiti, Cornwall, Sportsplex

Water Quality & Shoreline Protection – Lake Padden, beaches and rivers

Safety & Accessibility Improvements-Eyes in parks, bathrooms, stop drug use, paved parking

Trail Upgrades & Multi-Use – Signage, bikers/walkers, 100 Acre Wood upgrades

Sustainable & Climate-Resilient Parks

Identify Top Recreation Priorities



Indoor & Covered Recreation Spaces - skate park, community center



Expanded Kids & Inclusive Programs – North Bellingham and low income



Trail Connectivity & Safety – Trail loops,



Aquatics & Sports Facility Expansion – Ice, overcrowded pool



Community Events & Gathering Spaces – bike events, Cyclocross

Identify Top Development Priorities



Trail Connectivity & Development – Urban trail system, Bay to Baker, beach trail



Water & Beach Access- Lakes, Changing areas at Padden



Recreation & Sports Facilities – Ice, cyclocross park,



Civic Complex & Public Spaces – Revenue generating



Amphitheater & Community Events – Music at Waypoint, Woodstock

Park System Improvements/Goals for the Future

Seamless trail connections – Regional partnerships

More recreation at the water

Measured expansion, maintain, self sustaining budget

Update framework for use fees and insurance requirement's

Indoor community center, cyclocross park, Lockwood

Staffing all year

Data Needs

Background

- Population, projections 20 yr
- Demographics: Income, age, race/ethnicity, kids
- Recreation trends – local and regional
- Staffing trends
- Revenue over time
- Bike and Pedestrian route priorities
- Work orders by location and type

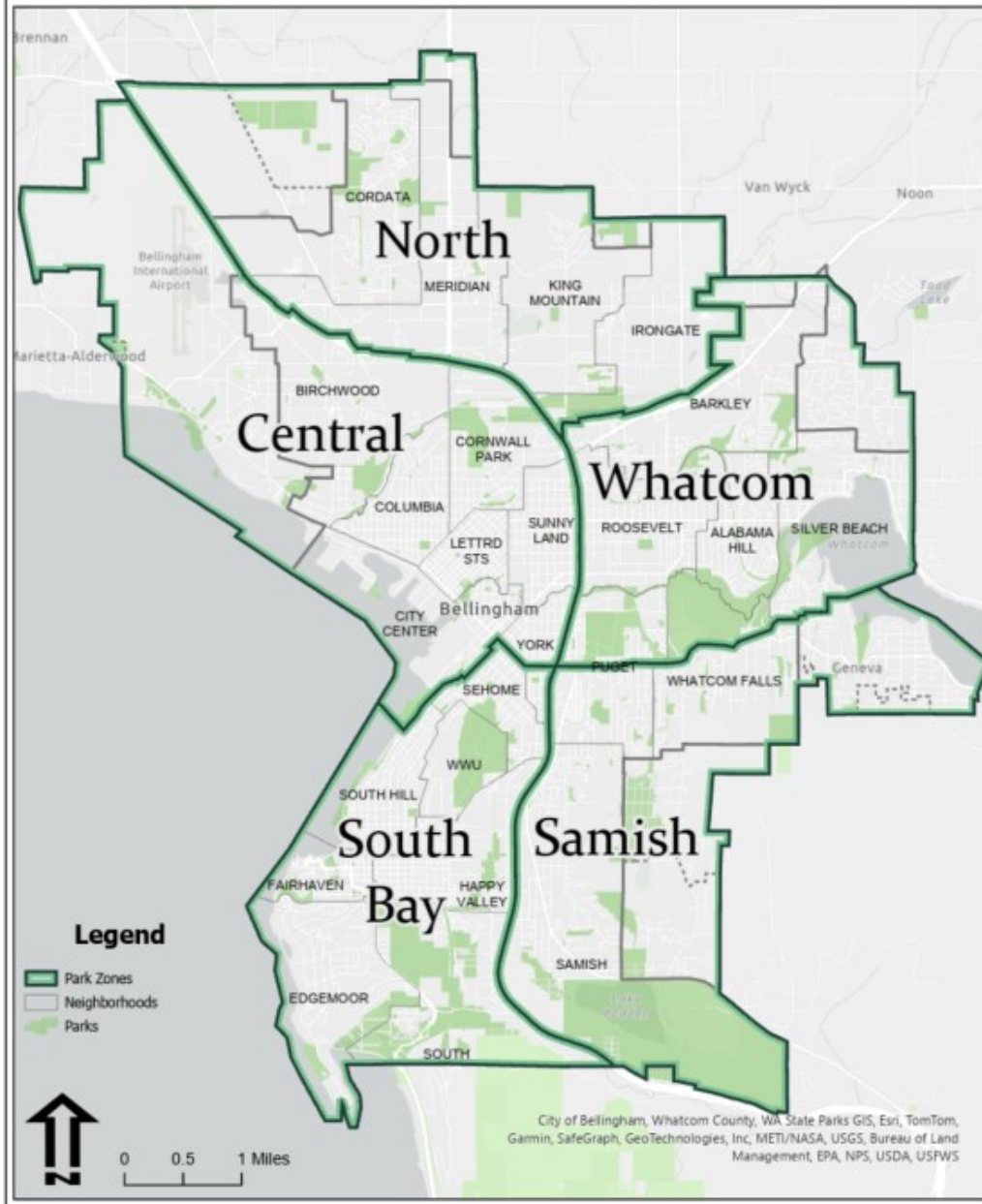
Service and Need

- Walk model
- Social Vulnerability Index
- Community Survey Results
- 2023 Recreational Needs Assessment
- Capital Project List
- Maintenance Project List

Inventory

- Parks and Open Space
- Trail Miles
- Recreation facilities
- Partner facilities
- New canopy cover data UGA+
- Open space mapping
- Reservable facilities list, reservation trends
- Events, trends over time
- Team sports, trends over time
- Class list participation trends

City of Bellingham Park Zones



Park Zones for PROS Plan Inventory and Reporting

Five zones broken at neighborhood boundaries.

Zones are separated by physical barriers, I-5, Mt. Baker Highway, Lakeway Drive

Thank You

