

Appendix C:
Advisory Council Questionnaires

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2005 Advisory Council Survey Question Responses – Thematic elements

The process of updating *Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000* started with staff petitioning all 38 Advisory Councils for their input on future direction for programs and facilities. A five-question survey was sent out to the 38 Councils, and staff followed up with one-on-one meetings with 17 of the Councils during the month of October. The following summary was compiled from the responses received. Questions #4 and #5 have been organized following thematic elements, and other than small grammatical changes, responses are listed verbatim.

1. What program(s) are most important to your advisory council?

Alki AC -

- Youth programs are most important to Alki Advisory Council.
- Both the Teen Development Program and the School Age Childcare Program are very large and really needed in the community.

Amy Yee Tennis Center AC –

- All of our programs are important, but they are seriously limited by the lack of available court time. Access to group lessons is limited by lotteries. This fall ('05) we had 2,110 sign-ups for only 1,100 places in our programs. Court reservations fill within minutes each morning at 7:15 AM, six days in advance, month after month. Waiting lists for “general public” court time often exceed 50 in winter months. All programs need more courts available.

Bitter Lake AC -

- Senior programming.
- Teen programming.
- Before and after school programs.
- Maintaining Madison Pool.

Carkeek AC -

- Salmon in classroom education program for school kids.
- Environmental education and conservation courses.
- Establishment, construction and upkeep of the forest trails.
- Access to public wilderness areas.
- Restoration, sustainability of the beach and the watershed.
- Organized learning and the outdoor classroom.
- Provide environmental awareness.
- The naturalist program.
- The day care program.
- The Piper's Orchard.
- Conservation of water resources.

Delridge AC -

- Before and after school programs.
- Teen programs.
- Late night.
- Computer lab.
- Organized and drop-in sports – all ages.
- Senior and special programs.
- Multi-cultural and multi-lingual programs.

Discovery Park AC -

- Decent education programs.
- Summer nature day camp.
- Adopt an Area.
- Habitat Restoration Program.

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Garfield AC -

- Programs that are intervention based.
- Most City programs are prevention based, day camps, teen camps, adult and senior classes that maintain the status quo.
- Our advisory Council would like to see programs that reach participants and populations out of the mainstream.
- Programs that are outside the box.

Green Lake AC -

- Those that give the public the best quality of life: fitness and arts.
- The community center and Evans Pool need a new facility and ADA access to outside restrooms.
- Pottery, programs for teens, sports programs, team play.
- Swim lessons (public, private, and ADA), water aerobics, deepwater swim classes, master's swimming, triathlon training, open water swimming, and marketing swim supplies.

Green Lake SCC AC -

- Canoe/Kayak.

Hiawatha AC -

- Programs that provide a safe and friendly environment for families and the community.
- Before and after school program, summer day camp, summer wading pool, youth sports programs, Teen programs and the Senior Adult programs.

ID AC -

- Programs that benefit the community, ESL, drop in basketball, youth leagues. The programs that draw youth and adults to use the gym are important in that they show use of the facility.

Japanese Garden AC-

- All of our Advisory Council programs are essential to our function in providing public enhancement in the garden.
- Our four key events are supported by the many smaller events that are scheduled throughout the Garden's season. The revenue generated at these events is critical to maintaining and expanding the program offerings in the Garden. Another role is to provide informative tours and planning/marketing for the programs.
- An emerging function of our Council is fundraising for capital improvements in the Garden. In this context the Pro Parks Levy is vitally important to us as it provided funds for a consultant to design a gatehouse for the Garden.

Jefferson AC -

- Kids sports, youth development, and child care.
- Evening adult programs.
- Teen sports and teen room.
- Computer lab.

Magnolia AC -

- The preschool programs and before and after school programs as well.
- Teen and youth programs are important and the activities for seniors make a well rounded community center for all to interact.
- A center that serves all ages is vital.

Magnuson AC -

- Youth programs – tots, kids, teens, sports, enrichment, home-school, arts and special events.
- Adults.
- Seniors.

Meadowbrook AC -

- Keeping a variety of programs in sports, arts, child care, education and environment.

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Montlake AC -

- Summer day camp programs.

Mt. Baker AC -

- Rowing – Junior Crew, Masters, all rowing programs. These programs are the mainstay of our facility. They do well and they provide opportunities for youth and adults to continue to participate in programs at the facility for many years.
- Sailing – learn to sail and continuing sailing programs, open sailing, and sail boarding. These programs are newer than the rowing programs, but they do well. This is an area that the council would like to promote and expand.
- Outreach – programs that bring in at-risk kids.
- We would also like to focus on programs that will serve a wider spectrum of the community – family boating, kayaking, adult and senior fitness, etc.

Queen Anne AC -

- Programs to address the needs and interests of the diverse populations on Queen Anne are most important to us.
- We are doing a fair job for most age groups except elementary school aged youth and young to middle aged adults.
- The pool has a wider scope but is hampered by limited pool time and space to meet the demand for lessons of various types.
- We have lost some good programs at the center because Parks changed the rules about how outside providers could function within the center and pay for the privilege. The rule change drove out several music and dance programs for preschoolers and youth. It also cost the council major revenue, which will hamper our future efforts. A "template" for the relationship with outside providers was promised a long time ago but has not been forthcoming.

Rainier AC -

- Youth development: before and after school (Kid Zone), Square One (middle school youth), teen programs.
- Project Compute (computer lab): serving pre-school to senior citizens.

Rainier Beach AC -

- The programs that are the most important are those that best meet the needs of the community: the computer lab and any educational program associated with it, recreation programs for youth, including track, basketball, swimming, and after school/summer programming, and activities to coordinate with other important neighborhood programs, including the coalition that puts on the Back to School Bash, the Beer Sheva Park Committee, the Rainier Beach Family Center, etc.
- Programs that provide direct service to youth, for example programs such as after school and day care. Programs that support teenagers.
- Existing and new programs for youth, families and adults.
- All programs that benefit the community. Programs that involve parents and kids.
- The computer lab is key for our community. We do not have our own space for the lab.
- Fitness programs are helpful and needed for women and older users.
- Track and summer sports programs for kids.
- Families are always asking for free programs for them and their children as they cannot pay fees. Some of these can be provided in collaboration with other service providers in the area if we had more space for them. For example, the Parent Child Activity Time that the Rainier Beach Family Center does on Wed. mornings.
- Holiday programs are very important also.
- Computer Lab:
 - Technology training for youths, adults, and seniors with an emphasis on employability.
 - Free access to the Internet.
 - Academic support.

Ravenna Eckstein AC -

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- Before/after school care/summer camp.
- Teen programs.
- Extracurricular and enrichment programs for youth.
- Senior programs.
- Special events for all ages.
- Toddler programs.

Senior Adult AC -

- Classes for new skills, e.g., computer.
- Classes for fitness, e.g., dance, aerobics, PACE, stretching, yoga.
- Activities for fitness, e.g., walks, trips.
- Activities for social interaction, e.g., meals, movies, bridge.

Special Populations AC -

- Specialized Programs for developmentally disabled youth and adults.
- Special Olympics, including sports training programs and teams.
- Adaptive/therapeutic PE programs for at-risk city youth.
- Various Wheelchair sports Programs / Partnerships.
- For many participants the Special Programs are the only recreation available to them.

South Park AC -

- The teen program, which provides leadership roles for our teens within the community. The strong leadership of our teen leader, Carmen Martinez, has provided our teens opportunities outside of our isolated community that has resulted in rich learning experiences and a better understanding of the world around them.
- The technological lab, which provides a multicultural, intergenerational exchange of learning opportunities.

Yesler AC -

- Youth serving programs and special events for youth and families.

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2. Do your existing facilities need improvement to meet your program needs?

Alki AC -

- Existing space must be updated to bring the facility up to the standards established at Parks' newer facilities and to provide much needed space for programming.
- The center needs to be larger so as to provide adequate storage space, better customer service and staff planning areas, better traffic patterns, and to provide an area for the centers large teen program.

Amy Yee Tennis Center AC -

- We need more indoor and outdoor courts.
- Adequate space for changing, warming up, and viewing.
- Workers need office space.
- With room for retail services, we could create a revenue stream to enhance program development.

Bitter Lake AC -

- Pool skylights are single paned and need to be replaced.
- The pool was opened in 1971 and has many physical challenges; one being that it needs a new bottom.
- The former Family support Center space needs to be revamped so it is usable. The council would like to see this space be used for a toddler room with designated toys etc (for daily use). We would also like to see another part of this space is used for parenting classes with a one way mirror so we can observe the toddlers playing.

Carkeek AC –

- Trail maintenance and forest restoration groups could use tools, plants and more specialized equipment.
- The outdoors classroom needs more maintenance support.
- Staff quarters are cramped.
- The acoustics in the ELC are deplorable. A portable sound system might help.
- The solar power system is not effective now as it is placed on the grounds.

Delridge AC -

- Equipment and chairs for the computer room.
- Emergency preparedness (plans and supplies).
- Current bathrooms do not meet ADA requirements.
- Need expanded facilities for future demand.
- Swimming pool.

Discovery Park AC -

- Lighthouse and surrounding buildings.
- Update very old maintenance equipment (40 year old tractor crucial to Discovery grounds staff).
- Limited grounds staff and equipment.

Garfield AC -

- The computer labs need more equipment and furniture.
- Our facilities on the campus could do with more cleanups, more custodial hours.

Green Lake AC -

- The existing facilities (fieldhouse and pool) need total replacement – the pool is 50 years old. An 'L' shaped pool could sustain more programs throughout the day.
- Need a better entry area so patrons can easily see – program options, display cases, etc.
- Need upgraded electrical infrastructure,
- The community center is too small – there are only two rooms for activities and a small all purpose gym – these facilities cannot support all the programs that could be run.

Green Lake SCC AC -

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- While the club (GLSCC) has made a concerted effort to reduce the number of unused boats in our inventory, we are still very pressed for adequate storage space. The very little free space in the boathouse makes it difficult to maneuver the boats in and out of the facility without damaging the equipment.
- GLSCC - We do not have adequate space for changing facilities, but the members make do with the small rooms available. This is particularly challenging during the late autumn and winter months.
- The Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club is committed to providing the best possible facility for our members and we would be very interested in working with ARC in any way to improve our facility.

Hiawatha AC -

- There are several repairs and increased space needed to meet our program needs - the lobby and kids room floors were not repaired sufficiently. The stage area could use some repairs to make it programmable. More storage space, including shelving areas is needed as well. And of course we would always use more room space to implement more programs! There is also a need for additional parking for program patrons and rental groups.
- Parks needs to create a field for the West Seattle community that is multi-use, like the complexes that are being built at other locations.
- The Hiawatha facility needs renovations of the lobby and kids room floors, and the bathroom plumbing and ventilation issues need to be addressed.
- We would like to see Parks create more opportunity for teens, especially in the area of life skills.

ID AC -

- The facilities are great, just need more space and equipment so that we can respond to the needs of the community – workout equipment and space – so the addition of the small space could make a big difference.

Japanese Garden AC-

- The council would like emphasis to be on the garden maintenance, the collection, programs and facilities. Immediate needs include repair of the irrigation system and waterfall, and building an expanded gatehouse to include the space needs identified below. The longer term need is funding to construct a pavilion.
- Currently the facilities in the Japanese Garden do not meet the needs of the public, the staff, or the program offerings. The wonderful garden cannot be fully utilized due to the lack of basic services.
- The most critical need is sufficient restroom facilities. The current 'port-a-potties' are badly out of character and mar the otherwise wonderful cultural experience found in the Garden.
- The drinking fountains do not work.
- The next critical need is for staff facilities.
- The ticket booth and the gardener's areas are overcrowded and well worn. They both are awkward in terms of useable and functional space.
- Beyond that we need to provide facilities to allow us to expand programs and make better and fuller use of the garden which Parks maintains well.
- Needs include a new gatehouse, pavilion, bathrooms, gift shop, meeting rooms, repair (not a short term fix) of the existing irrigation system and waterfall, providing drinking water fountains. This is especially important to complete prior to the 50th anniversary.
- The Advisory Council is considering using the azumaya for future programming. This part of the garden is inconsistent with the beauty of the rest of the garden. It needs pressure washing, the initials that are carved into it need to be sanded out, the fence behind it sandblasted, and the dirt planted.
- Tacky garbage cans need to be replaced.

Magnolia AC -

- "Yes!" is the immediate and overwhelming response.
- It would be nice to have the heating/cooling environment working consistently through all the seasons and possibly our own system instead of relying on the school for our heat.
- Leaks in the roof would be the next issue. A new roof would be a desirable and much needed item.
- Presence of hazardous materials.
- Inadequate electrical service.
- Non-conforming ADA accessibility.

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- Aging facilities and continuing O&M expenses.
- Less than desirable utility expenses.
- Congested parking.
- In general, a new facility would be a wonderful idea. With the park-like setting available on this property, weddings should be possible on sunny summer afternoons, outdoor movies in the summer, music in the park events, Christmas caroling, amphitheater-like seating built into the side of the hill could double for sports viewing, social gathering, and variety of entertainment events. There could be interior/exterior rental spaces for larger family/social groups, arts and crafts festivals, etc., in addition to all existing sports that occur there now.

Magnuson AC -

- Racquetball courts need refinishing.
- Pool opened.
- Expanded multi-purpose room.
- Kitchen is currently not usable.

Meadowbrook AC –

- Maybe more parking,

Montlake AC -

- We are about to undergo a major remodel/expansion which we're very excited about. We'd also like to cosmetically improve the Tudor Bldg. – paint, etc. on the inside.

Mt. Baker AC -

- Our programs have been extremely successful and we have reached and exceeded program capacity in our current facility.
- The council is actively pursuing a plan to expand the existing facility to add more program capacity. Approximately \$1.9 million of the \$2.3 million for Phase I of the construction project has been raised. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in April, 2006.

Rainier AC -

- Youth sports (track and field) in southeast Seattle need an additional track in order to practice year round. At this point there are three strong citywide programs at Rainier, Rainier Beach, and Van Asselt – serving almost 500 youth together on inadequate facilities at Franklin HS is an issue.

Rainier Beach AC -

- We need expansion and renovation of our facilities so it is more inviting and welcoming to the community. We share a small space with Seattle Public Schools which limits resident and local community group use and opportunities to increase capacity of existing programs.
- This is a large center with the least amount of programmable space. Need to provide space that can be expanded. We cannot rely on the school district to provide us space all the time—they have their own needs.
- Our facility needs renovation to include more space for the center.
- It would be fabulous to figure out a way to utilize the north end of the block that is now just wasted concrete and parking lot.
- Rainier Beach needs more meeting space and a better air condition for the summer time.
- The baseball fields need to be upgraded meaning the backstop, and the pitchers mound and more parking so that park users do not have park on the street.
- The center only has two rooms that we can program for services. One of these rooms serves as our only large room for programs. The other rooms double and triple as places to house kids.
- There is no separate room for teens, thus they must compete for room space from other users. Lack of space results in some teen programming occurring offsite or not at all.
- The lack of room on the community side means that we cannot expand services and guarantee space for any new service. We need more space to provide more programs for the community.
- We need air conditioning as I had to cancel my computer classes for the summer as it was unbearable in the room and not conducive for any learning.

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- We could use a more welcoming reception area also. There is no place for participants to sit down and wait their turn for registration – they end up just standing and getting into everyone’s way. It makes us look unorganized and causes stress.
- More storage for program supplies and more equipment for a toddler tumbling time.
- Computer Lab:
 - We need our own room with our own ventilation system.
 - Standardized network cabling for the computers.
 - More up-to-date computers
- Need to update kitchen.
- Add family changing rooms, spa/sauna and a second floor in the pool area.
- Get more parking or some way to enforce only community center or pool users in designated areas. Senior and teen activity rooms need to be added.
- We need a game room, casual hang out space.
- More rooms so we can expand programming and rental opportunities.
- We need a lobby area with seating.
- Ventilation for computer room and office areas.

Ravenna Eckstein AC -

- More space for teens is needed.
- Playground needs updating.
- Resurfacing of the basketball court.
- More indoor space for programs.

Senior Adult AC -

- Some need better lighting. Queen Anne has parking issues – many seniors say they won’t go to QA because of the parking.

Special Populations AC -

- We could use additional office space for managing the growing needs of Specialized Programs but what is more important to us at this time is funding for additional staffing. This Special Programs AC is able to raise funds for program equipment, supplies, and scholarships, but we need the additional staff to facilitate those programs.
- We use outside facilities (community centers, pools, and schools) for of our programs.
- Need more special program employees as programs are limited due to the budget allowing for additional staff.

Jefferson AC -

- We could do with more space. Open hours are inadequate for program and community needs.
- A larger community center with renovated/expanded rooms - teen room, senior room, computer lab, weight room, etc.
- A second gym.
- More parking.

Queen Anne AC -

- Both facilities need considerable improvement or replacement.
- Both locker rooms have been rebuilt, leaving very small facilities for showering and changing. One captured space is now the baby/toddler room and the other is the weight room.
- In the course of these changes we have lost the computer facility.
- The stage has been transformed into a teen center.
- The two upstairs rooms have gone from general purpose for classes, community meetings, and rentals to a preschool, which is not usable for much else because of all the gear and the afterschool room, which has stuff pushed back around the edges so that its other functions can be satisfied.
- Except for the lobby and the upstairs hallway, there is no available space to develop any further.
- The building has had an elevator installed to meet ADA requirements but the restrooms are not disabled accessible.
- The kitchen struggles to meet standards.

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- The physical plant (at the pool) has had repeated failures, most recently a beam failed for the second time. Air quality is often in question, the water heaters are cranky and the back wall shows signs of leaking at the floor level.

South Park AC -

- We need to build a teen center to adapt to our growing numbers in the community. We have outgrown the community center building space due to expanding numbers and the increase in programming requests.

Yesler AC -

- More program staff for the public to use our facility to its capacity.

3. What are your advisory council's main areas of concern or focus over the next 5 years?

GLSCC AC -

- Growth in the number of (canoe/kayaking) participants: The past few years have seen steady increases in our membership numbers. We would like to see this trend continue.
- Continued development of masters and youth (canoe/kayaking) teams: The SCKC won USACK National Championships last month. We hope to continue to develop high-level competitors of all ages as well as providing a safe, healthy activity for children and adults in Seattle.
- Enhancement of our sport on a national level. Thanks to strong volunteer participation and the support of the GLSCC staff, SCKC hosted one of the most successful USACK Nationals events in recent history. This success has put the club in a position of leadership within the US paddling community, and we hope to bring Nationals back to Seattle within the next 2-3 years. The Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club is considered to be one of the top two spots in the U.S. for the sport of sprint canoe/kayak (sharing the honor with the former Olympic Racing center in Lanier, GA).
- Increased corporate involvement / support of the club. We hope to partner with local businesses like REI to support the programs of SCKC, and will work with organizations with a similar focus to bring in new participants to our programs.

Senior Adult AC -

- Budget issues.
- Reaching more of the senior population and engaging them in activities.

Yesler AC -

- To deliver a scholarship program for low-income families to access our childcare programming.
- Secure funding and staffing for summer playground program.
- Form partnership with outside organization that will assist our youth in successfully passing the state WASL exam at all levels.

ID AC -

- Community outreach, expanding the user base, programs that are specifically designed for this community.
- Funding, always need to generate more revenue to fund staffing concerns and provide greater service. The challenge will be to identify what programs will resonate with the people we serve.

Ravenna Eckstein AC -

- More outreach to teens.
- How funding changes will affect programs at the center.
- How will money be spread around the entire community center system.
- Adapting to the changing role within the modernization process.
- Teen activities and development.
- Updating the playground.

Hiawatha AC -

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- Space for future growth population and how we will support it.
- Our fiscal responsibility to the community.
- Maintaining a cohesive partnership with Parks.
- Maintaining formal or direct relationships with the local schools.

Discovery Park AC -

- Restoring Capehart housing.
- Dogs off leash in park.
- Resolution of King County Mitigation funds.
- Historic district.
- Kiwanis Ravine restoration and daylighting Wolf Creek.

Amy Yee Tennis Center AC –

- We need more courts and support spaces. To improve facilities, we are working to secure funds for capital improvements including expansion of indoor and outdoor courts.
- To support access by diverse populations, we need to enhance revenue through donations and possibly through public-private partnerships that bring in money through retail sales and hosting more tournaments and exhibitions.
- More courts mean more programs.

Alki AC –

- The Council's main focus will be to work with the neighborhood, and the City to see that a completely new or renovated and expanded center is built.

Bitter Lake AC -

- Marketing our programs, events and resources is a top priority for Bitter Lake Advisory Council.
- Keeping the website updated and current with all events listed for Bitter Lake.
- Flexible schedules for programming.
- Offering hours at the community center when it's most needed in the community (i.e. weekends).

Meadowbrook AC -

The Parks goal to standardize will eliminate the need for creative thinking and programs.

It is also eliminating the need for Advisory Councils and the desire of its members.

It will take away the individuality of each community center by centralizing funding of all community center programs.

Carkeek AC -

- Maintenance – one full-time employee cannot keep up with the work.
- Volunteers are restricted in the use of power tools – they need training so more equipment is available to them for outdoor classroom tasks such as trail maintenance.
- Stability of management. The constant shift in program supervisors takes a toll on the enthusiasm of volunteers and on the Parks staff. It is also difficult for the Advisory Council to “educate” the new supervisor on the history of the council and its effort and the council's needs and concerns.
- Restoration of salmon habitat in Pipers and Venema Creeks.
- Removal of invasive plants and planting of native vegetation.
- Repair of playground equipment.

Special Populations AC –

- Our constituency of both youth and adults with disabilities is growing due to population growth and closure of county funding and programming. In order to serve the numbers we are turning away and to be able to expand programs, we are looking at a budget increase necessary to hire additional staff.
- Providing opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities to be active in the community and provide some social activities for them.
- To be able to continue special programs and be able to add more activities. Special Programs needs more day time activities for adults with special needs.
- The DDD community is growing by leaps and bounds – need more staffing dollars.

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Montlake AC -

- Our center will be expanded and reopened in 2007. We'd like to keep pace with renewed programming and support the staff in their work. We anticipate having to build up some programs again after attrition from being closed for one year.

Rainier Beach AC -

SPACE, SPACE, AND SPACE!!!! We desire the center to be a hub of activity for the Rainier Beach community to include educational programs, meeting spaces for community groups and events, and areas for residents to access much needed social services.

- Providing programs for the community and offering better facilities to use, baseball programs are part of the plan to provide grassroots baseball programs to every youth in the community and not be turned away for lack of payment.
- Providing a computer program where youth and adults can learn the basic computer skills.
- Providing pool programs to teach youth and adults about swimming and life saving techniques.
- Space is our #1 priority.
- Second is the need to support our computer lab and find a place for it.
- Third is to provide stronger programming for diverse youth including those who are at risk.
- Fourth, expand programming for seniors and others including those with developmental disabilities.
- To add on more space or build a new center.
- To provide more affordable and/or some free programs for the community which would therefore increase participation.
- To improve the "bad perception" residents have of the community center.
- To increase membership in the advisory council.
- To increase fund raising events (if we increase membership we could do this).
- Increase visibility with businesses in the area. Have them donate goods or services for events more than they do now.
- Access- language barriers.
- Expand programming (with more rooms) and increase revenue. Staffing and recruitment of participants
- Money!!

Japanese Garden AC-

- Raising money to meet the needed improvements as outlined in (2) above,
- Working successfully with a variety of organizations with perhaps differing objectives and policies,
- Making the necessary additions/improvements to provide a world class garden,
- Expanding our services within reasonable constraints of personnel, budget and policy differences.
- The council is focused on the implementation of a new Gatehouse facility that addresses the concerns stated in questions two.

Garfield AC -

- Ensure that the programs that are being served reflect the populations in the neighborhood.
- It is important that communities that are on the lower end of the economic scale are not priced out by high fee based programs.
- Our Advisory Council is concerned with the quality of the programs.
- Programs must be relevant to the community.
- Resources being shared across the board.

Magnolia AC -

- Keeping programs and costs in good shape is important. We would like to continue, maintain, and build on all of the great work that has been done in the past that has created the wonderful Community Center that we already have.

Rainier AC -

- Sustainable funding for all center programs including the computer lab
- Financial efficiency, planning and accountability, i.e. all programming running in black, staffing correctly, & enhanced customer service
- Offering programs that meet the needs of residents in the community.

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Mt. Baker AC -

- Complete Phase I (building expansion) and Phase II (finish upstairs meeting room) of the facility expansion project.
- Continue to increase the visibility and knowledge of programs being offered
- Continue to cultivate the donor database that has been established as part of our expansion project.
- Establish an annual endowment fund.
- Develop a strategic business plan for the council.
- Recruit new active council members.

Magnuson AC -

- Serving a larger and inclusive population and providing outreach.

Jefferson AC -

- Planning for opportunities to expand facilities to meet demands with the expanded park
- Building our child care programs.
- Participating in monitoring Jefferson Park redevelopment.

Delridge AC -

- Maintaining a sustainable budget.
- Recruiting new advisory council members.
- More programs for seniors and a dedicated community senior coordinator.
- More cultural programs – diversity and the arts.

Queen Anne AC –

- Continue to meet the recreational, social and cultural needs of the various constituency groups.
- The neighborhood is changing very rapidly and is not now represented by the 2000 census data. There are many more children under the age of five.
- Seniors living in retirement facilities are steadily increasing.

Green Lake AC -

- Having an adequate and updated facility that is user friendly & visible from the path around Green Lake.
- New community center and updated computer labs

South Park AC -

- We need to build a teen center.
- We have outgrown the community center building space.
- Getting quality instructors and staff – being able to sustain them.
- Safety issues, lighting, parking.
- The limited hours of operation.

4. What future programming/facilities should Seattle Parks and Recreation emphasize?

Facilities –

- Parks should develop facilities and programs which can flexibly address the needs of our very different communities. The one size fits all approach (for example, uniform hours of operation) cannot do that. Fair distribution of resources is necessary but precisely similar application is not.
- Development of spaces that can be used for lifelong recreational activities should be a focus. While playing fields have their place in a "team" dominated society, most of us will not be involved in team sports for the vast majority of our lives. Good urban walking places, individual sport venues such a golf, tennis, or rowing, and ready access to pools and community centers where affordable activities are offered should be a priority.
- Community centers should provide one stop shopping where community resources and information are available in a family friendly format and where life long learning can occur. Facilities and programs

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should be expanded to reflect major urban development and keep up with technology. A computer lab with at least one full time employee should be a component of every facility – computer labs, sound equipment and the use of natural light. Overall, more high-tech-for-daily-use training programs: newer cell phone, I-pod, etc. for the over 30 crowd.

- Accommodate growing numbers of participants - Increase staffing for more hours/days of operation and full time youth development leaders, provide skateparks in each sector of the city, tie new facilities to light rail and bus routes, provide more ADA accessible facilities and programs for the disabled community.
- Parks should support expansion of indoor tennis court facilities in Seattle, first at Amy Yee Tennis Center, and then, possibly later, in North Seattle.
- Skateparks in each sector of the city and use of the Sand Point facility for roller hockey and skating.

Pools -

- There is a great need for more swimming pools- particularly outdoor.
- A swimming pool in the International District.
- We also feel the Southwest area of Seattle could use another public indoor swimming pool.
- Expand pool to compete with “water fun” complexes with water features/fountains and outdoor water play center.

Programming –

- Balance among many different programs is essential, make some focus on specific sports, some on specific communities/cultures, some on p-patches, some on environmental education, some on community groups maintaining parks--ivy pulling, etc., some on education of all sorts.
- Active lifestyles are an integral component in promoting and maintaining the health of our citizens. Sports and recreation (again, particularly lifetime sports) help students perform to their fullest potential in schools, lower the cost of health care for our area’s employers and businesses, and greatly improve the quality of life here in Seattle. Focus on healthy, family-oriented activities that can be developed in partnership with Schools and community groups.
- Give emphasis to marketing support for events in the park system to enlighten public awareness and reach a broader segment of the populace, including more cooperation between Parks and other public entities.
- Develop ‘sister’ partnerships between community centers where cross-town programming would exist
- Increase in cultural programs at the community centers.
- Bilingual programs.
- Programs that have equal access to all.
- Affordable child care.
- Affordable classes.
- Computer Lab: Technology education and training for low income residents.
- Training for future jobs.
- Creating opportunities in the park for the under-representative users.
- We continue to lose PE and other sports programming/funding in the public school setting – let’s be mindful not to lose it in the parks and the rec center programming as well.

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- Parks needs to continue to provide the support necessary to provide quality programming for the arts at Alki Bathhouse.

Special Programs -

- More special programs for swimming – more volunteers to help ‘special program’ staff.
- Specialized Programs is very established in Seattle central and north neighborhoods. We need to continue to expand programming to reach clients with disabilities in south Seattle neighborhoods also.
- Special Programs is a very unique program. People like Nick Bicknell, Iris Swisshelm and past staff have been the ongoing structure of all special programs.
- It is important to offer more programs for the special populations group. With the tight budgets we are always finding staffing to be a problem.

Seniors -

- Most seniors are not interested in coming out in the late afternoon or evening for activities. The community centers should be open in the morning hours.
- More programs to address the needs and interests of an aging population.
- Travel journals.
- Family history with before and after school children
- Added hours of operation to provide more opportunities for seniors/toddlers.
- Grandparents program.
- Art classes such as watercolor painting, oils.
- Tutoring/mentoring program.
- Resource center for sharing information with our senior population.
- Game and dessert night.
- More programs to support senior and disabled clients.
- Cross generation programs.

Family -

- Programs that promote and enhance family cohesiveness.
- More family programming – family camping weekend, movie nights, parenting classes, more cultural family programming.
- More programs for families to participate in together and programs for older adults.
- Outreach programs.
- Fitness programs for all ages, possibly combined with health information, screening tests, etc.

Youth/Teens -

- Increase Teen Leader program hours and stop pulling staff from center teen programming to the Late Night program.
- A place for kids aged 12-18 to be after school with constructive programming. There is no place for them to meet now.

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- More youth and teen programming.
- Teen life skills programming.
- Education enhancement: SAT, College Prep, WASL.
- Workforce development: job skills building, resume writing, interview techniques, dressing for success.
- Expand youth and community-based programming. We need to do as much as possible to support youth in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. By many standards, Rainier Beach is currently a failing school. Anything the community center can do to support the students that attend the school, as well as the staff and community members working to improve the school, should be priority.
- Seattle parks should consider a Rainier Beach Jackie Robinson baseball program that would include all the community centers where youth can play recreation baseball and not be turned away for payment. All play would be against the different community centers, beginning in May 2006.
- We want to put together a baseball program for the kids in the various day care programs where kids can play and practice while in day or after school care.

Recreation –

- Ultimate Frisbee.
- Sports matches.
- Pools.
- Tennis.
- Rock climbing.
- Adventure sports
- Theatre.
- Skateparks

Environmental –

- Enviro-Care – how individuals and business control their waste and consumption of goods.
- The education of public on environmentally sustainable choices.
- Environmentally sustainable choices for parks.
- Habitat recovery.
- Environmental education programs - more urban hiking trails, rope courses.
- Lighthouse programming

5. What do you see as emerging recreation trends for Seattle?

General –

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- Lifetime sports for families and seniors. Seattle is already one of the most active communities in America. We believe that the trend towards development of more low-impact lifetime sports such as paddling, rowing, cycling and swimming will continue to put pressure on our community leaders to provide safe and adequate venues for these activities.
- Continuing emphasis of family oriented activities that connect them to PNW attractions: deeper knowledge of our environment and our connectedness to it, protection & conservancy of that environment, utilizing existing facilities for hiking, boating, etc.
- Increased density in the city and increases in the cost of gas will result in heavier use of all open spaces, community centers, and use of existing parks to provide a broader spectrum of experiences to a wider range of Seattle's citizens.
- Shortened hours have made it difficult to meet the needs of the community. All centers need adequate funding and leadership to meet this goal, not just a select few related to socio-economic needs.
- The recreation desires and wide range of interests of Seattle citizens requires Parks to provide the needed broader spectrum of recreational experiences.
- Some trends we see emerging are outdoor activities such as roller-blading, bicycling, running, exercise classes such as yoga and Pilates, outdoor sports such as lacrosse and rugby, and indoor cycling classes or spinning classes.
- Current medical findings discuss the problems of increased obesity and lack of fitness among Americans. More fitness programs will be needed and possibly nutrition programs (for kids and adults) Youth sports also are growing in some areas (soccer particularly).
- Seattleites are increasingly embracing vigorous sporting activities like tennis, soccer, running, cycling, and rowing.
- Adult and youth league sports are being stunted by the lack of lighted facilities that enable games and practices to go on during our long months of early darkness.
- Tennis, in particular, needs indoor space because it can't be played in the rain. Despite the dearth of facilities, 100,000 came to the Tennis Center in 2004, and interest is intensifying.
- Family fitness centers. There should be an emphasis on Outdoor Ed with neighboring schools.
- Need to provide nutrition training and support to youth, families and elderly.
- Family-centered activities, game nights, cooperative video games with centers competing over internet.
- Family programs and events.
- Family focused recreation.
- Increased teen, adult, and senior programming.
- Fitness training for both young and old.
- Exercise programs specific to an activity or group.
- The interest in a health gym for those on-going diet-conscious people throughout Seattle.
- Senior and youth fitness, programs to combat obesity.
- More facilities for adults. Adults are a big part of Seattle and will need to be placed higher on the priority list if Parks wants to capture this audience. Not all of them can afford the high priced clubs.

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- Adults without children programs.
- Healthy living.
- Wellness and health education.
- Fitness programs.
- Exercise – dance, sports, weight rooms, etc.
- Off leash areas.
- Dogs (more off leash areas are needed)

Outdoor –

- Walking/bike paths.
- Health conscious activities such as walking clubs.
- Soccer continues to be a growing sport.
- Hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, stuff that's easier on joints for the aging community activists.
- Development of Open Space areas.
- The trend for more natural spaces as the number of users increases due to the conversion of single-family dwellings into apartments and large condos complexes.
- Beach combing and other uses of the beach.
- Bird watching.
- Outdoor sports activities.
- Finding and watching urban nature (example: bird watching).
- Invasive plant identification and removal.
- Environmental education.
- Adventure sports.
- Fencing.
- Ultimate Frisbee.
- Rock climbing.
- Kite flying.

Seniors –

- As the population ages, we need to keep them active – physically, mentally and socially. Coming up is a whole generation that has been much more active physically than preceding generations. Their transition to senior activities should be seamless.
- Aging populations will result in more interest in passive recreation, but interest in health and increase in obesity will result in more interest in walking and movement.
- Senior exercise programs – PACE, arthritis classes, water aerobics, and water jogging.
- Senior programs

Special Programs -

- We have a new crew program (rowing) for our DD clients which is really taking off this year. Our rosters are full at 3 rowing clubs.
- We had a Seattle swimmer on our NW Wheelchair Sports team who went all the way to the ParaOlympics in Greece in 2004. It is no doubt these programs are viable!
- Last year, Bio-Fit, a national organization, sponsored athletes with disabilities events in Chicago, Memphis, and Seattle. In 2005 they will sponsor only Seattle! This event will highlight specifically swimming, soccer, golf, and martial arts for disabled athletes. These are the emerging trends.

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- It seems that Special Programs remains the same year after year – this program is very important and should be allocated a larger budget for expansion.
- More and more degrees of disabilities are seeking program – need more staff/hours/monies to offer needed programs for families whose budgets are already stretched due to financial demands of raising an individual with a disability.

Modernize –

- One stop recreation – a place where you can swim, grab a bite to eat and be ready for the day – multiple needs facilities.
- A more expanded view of Community Centers as Community Villages – not just ‘sports’ facilities
- Integrated family space – kid, teen and adult programming in one spot – multigenerational experiences.
- Keep thinking modern.
- Need to modernize compared to the neighborhood around us.
- CLASS: cross- center registration / on-line registration. Reaching new consumers who will benefit from Parks programming.
- Fund raising.
- Program sustainability.

Cultural –

- Provide more cross cultural outreach to blend in new populations.
- More cultural programming for youth, families and seniors.
- An ongoing increase of cultural awareness in our diverse city calls for events in culturally appropriate settings.
- Dancing of all sorts. Social dancing appeals to people of all ages and Seattle is a huge dance town. The choices are broad, from ballroom, salsa, waltz, swing, Cajun, ballet, tango etc. The health benefits of dance has been well documented, and it's stress reducing benefits make it an ideal senior activity. Young people as well as middle age people are also drawn to the activity.

Skateboarding/Youth –

- There is a need for programs for turnkey youth as the number of families with both parents working grows.
- Providing a safe, healthy place for youth recreation after school, evenings and weekends.
- A place for kids age 12-18 to be after school with constructive programming.
- There is continued growth in interest in skating, skateboard, and rollerblading activities in the neighborhoods.
- Jogging, skateboarding, Ultimate Frisbee, Disc Golf, physical computer games.
- Skateparks.
- The rise in the interest of skateboarding.
- Skateboarding.