

Emails received at PKS_SPRStrategicPlan@seattle.gov August 27 - September 12

Date Received	Topic	Email Body
8/27/2021	More off-leash areas, more public restrooms	<p>Hi, I just took the survey for the strategic plan, and it failed to address some of the issues that are most important to me.</p> <p>One of my primary forms of recreation involves exercising my dog, and we are woefully short on off-leash areas. Why do we have so many playgrounds and so few off-leash areas? Don't we have more dogs than children in Seattle?</p> <p>Also, why is it so hard to find a public bathroom in this town? Every single park should have one, and it should be kept clean. Yes, that means some will have to be cleaned multiple times a day. So be it.</p> <p>Also, the Olmsteds had a great idea to connect our parks with pleasant parkways, which have now all turned into commuter raceways. Can we get those back, please? And since we're a bigger city now, with new parks, can we add new walking and biking paths between more parks?</p>
8/27/2021	Protect habitat from children's nature program activities	<p>Please vet the vendors who offer outdoor children's nature programs and make certain that their curriculum does NOT include building semi permanent structures from harvested deadwood (both fallen and standing) and live branches, ferns, and other vegetation. There is at least one group doing this in Seward Park. Their activities over the last number of years have utterly destroyed a good deal of valuable native habitat, and without any observable consequences they are now moving their activity into still intact areas.</p>
8/27/2021	Homelessness	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>Just saw your post asking for feedback! The absolute number one thing you can do is to remove homeless encampments from parks. I've observed drug deals, people with guns, people shooting up drugs, violence, tents on fire and have been harassed. The damage done by the encampments is severe in some cases and I no longer feel safe in many parks. The main focus of your efforts should be making parks safe again and repairing the damage that's been done.</p>
8/29/2021	Pickleball; reopening facilities	<p>I play outdoor pickleball 3 times/week at Miller playfield. Often 30 or more people show up to play on the very limited available courts which are available for only two hours.</p> <p>Before Covid I played indoor drop-in pickleball at Queen Anne, Ballard, Magnolia - all are locations much closer to my home and NONE of them are open. Why?</p> <p>Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US and ideal for all ages, seniors in particular. The number of Indoor and outdoor pickleball courts must be significantly increased to accommodate the hundreds of players seeking to participate.</p> <p>I know that SPR has received this message many times. Please show us that you are acting on it.</p>

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8/30/2021	Homelessness/safety	<p>My list is pretty basic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe park at all hours...I don't want to worry about or be attacked (see Golden Gardens bathroom attack near dog park) • No homeless people overnighing in my local parks • No dead people on the beach (seriously....my morning run has encountered this and it's not a good way to start the day) • No needles or extensive trash (garbage ideally picked up so it's not overflowing...this is the default ALL THE TIME at Sunset Hill pocket park) <p>This seems like the basics and it is....but it's not our reality these days. I hope you can make it happen. Right now, this city really has taken an SERIOUS nosedive. I'm a native Washingtonian and resident of Seattle since 1988. It's as bad as it's ever been and the parks are only the tip of the iceberg. They should be a safe haven, not a refuge for drug use, overdoses or homeless. Fix it.</p>
8/30/2021	Homelessness	Please no more homeless encampments.
8/30/2021	Seeking survey link	Hi/ I read the article today in Seattle times but can't find a link to the survey/ can you send it to me? Thanks
8/30/2021	Alki concerns: graffiti, mow grass, foxtails	Please remove graffiti on Alki park and beach monument stairwells accessing the water. I have written, called, sent photos of the same graffiti for the past 6 months without any action taken by the parks department. Also please mow the grass on the Alki park section at 64th Ave SW and Alki. Finally address the foxtails that are spreading everywhere along the sidewalks, embedding their barbs in our dogs paws, resulting in fatal infections of our furry companions.
8/30/2021	Homelessness, add grass and water fountains	The main things I want is unimpeded access. No one living there. I want them clean, safe for people and cars, and safe, clean restrooms. Grass is nice as are water fountains.
8/30/2021	Homelessness	Banning overnight camping is the single most important thing you can do. This is a no brainer!
8/30/2021	Homelessness	Please remove all the homeless people from the parks and keep homeless people out or sell all the land to developers to build affordable housing. Considering any of the other options described in the Seattle Times is a complete waste of time.
8/30/2021	Good Job SPR	I just want to say thank you for all you do. The parks have been so important during the pandemic. The only safe place to go. I would be in the loony bin by now if I didn't have access to them.
8/30/2021	Homelessness	Over 19 months our parks have been in total shambles with tent cities. Environmentally ruining them with trash, urine, feces. There are drug users and dealers, with the added bonus of harbored weapons thrown in the mix. School children's play fields & parks are also encroached on, rendering them cesspool's of filth and preventing people the ability to enjoy community...sports, exercise, picnics, or just simply a walk. The homeless have held us hostage to enjoy what should be for all, without fear of mentally ill Individuals confonting us. Push the city council to get off their butts and return the police presence, and decampment crews!!
8/30/2021	Homelessness	<p>Hello</p> <p>I want to be able to go to the park and feel safe. I want the removal of tents and homeless encampments.</p> <p>I want to be able to go to the park and enjoy myself and not worry about my safety or the safety of those who are with me.</p>

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8/30/2021	Park cleanliness	<p>How about parks without trash, tents, spray paint, drugs and filth.</p> <p>Going to our parks has stopped being enjoyable but an embarrassment. Please bring us back what we have lost.</p> <p>Maybe also suggest to refund the police and replace all the city council who have massively failed in their job to govern. Any other profession they would all have been fired.</p>
8/30/2021	Find it Fix It - reduced maintenance, seeking explanation	<p>I love our parks. I am always sending in Find it Fix it items. I even called multiple times to ask for new plants to replace our dead ones at Constellation park in Alki</p> <p>And so my suggestions go unanswered. No one calls me back and now you want me to fill in an online survey to ask what I want??!</p> <p>Our neighborhood has been requesting new plants, graffiti cleanup, more trash cans. That's what the survey says.</p> <p>Is this just busy work? Survey theater? You know exactly what we want already. Please save time and our money and get to that 'to-do list we gave you</p> <p>Thanks for letting me vent</p>
8/30/2021	Bathrooms at Seward Park	Why are the bathrooms closed?
8/30/2021	Green Lake-specific improvements	<p>Having lived near Greenlake park and trails for almost 7.5 years, I would love to see a few improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) day lockers for your stuff or paddle board bags while out on the lake. Maybe near the boathouse and rec center? (2) wider trail for walking. The park use has increased significantly and it's hard to manage walkers, runners and wheels during prime time. (3) more dedicated pickleball courts (this goes for the whole city- we need more dedicated pickleball courts!!!!) (4) better trash and waste pickup (dog, bird and human) (5) removal of homeless encampments growing on the west side (along with RVs) and around the rec center. (6) can we bring back the floating concert stage at the SW side of Greenlake? How fun would that be with the stands there and would encourage more use of the park (7) limit parking to 24 hours max or no overnight parking in the lots or along the road current blocked off. (8) maybe take some part of Woodland Park or Greenlake for a tiny home village for unsheltered? I'm fine with these villages as long as they are managed and don't allow drug use.

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>General strong concerns about the safety of the Green Lake Park neighborhood.</p>	<p>I just took your online survey.</p> <p>Please listen to the Green Lake residents and people who use Green Lake Park and Woodland Park and do something about the homeless encampments that are taking over.</p> <p>We do not feel safe taking our children to the park. We do not feel safe exercising in the park. We know neighbors who have been physically attacked by homeless people in the park. We have homeless people coming up onto our front porches at 4:30am in the morning and ringing our doorbell non-stop and will not leave when we ask them to. We have homeless people who have vandalized our neighbor's property in the middle of the night. We have homeless people who use our water and electrical outlets on our private property at all hours of the day and night. We have homeless people who come up on our porches and steal our packages. We have homeless people who come up to our doors and will not leave when we ask them to. All of these homeless people are living in Green Lake Park.</p> <p>This is so out of control. The cross-country school teams cannot practice or have meets in the park because it's deemed unsafe. So why doesn't the city do something about fixing this problem?! Why do they let the homeless people stay in the park and kick the students and children out? That is so backward!</p> <p>Please, make this the #1 top priority that needs to be addressed.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Montlake residents has submitted a few Find It, Fix It requests for overgrown vegetation on SPR property in his neighborhood.</p>	<p>I live in Montlake.</p> <p>This is not exactly regarding what you are seeking info about but I thought I would take the time again to ask.</p> <p>I have turned in two find it fix it issues with the sidewalk on Boyer Ave E. Got case numbers and the city assigned to the park department.</p> <p>I am 6'2 and I can walk up the street without ducking and off onto the grass that the park mows</p> <p>DUE to overgrown vegetation.</p> <p>I could do the work in less than 2 hours. Really easy work.</p> <p>the park actually mowed the other day but did not due the maintenance to make the sidewalk walkable. Why?</p> <p>the customer service team at city says that the parks operate on their own agenda and that they can turn in cases all day long but the park will do what they want to do and when.</p> <p>So, how can I get this resolved?</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Concerns about taxes and graffiti, encampments, and drug use citywide.</p>	<p>It's time for adult supervision. Those of us who pay exorbitant taxes to live in Seattle are tired of our money going to clean up after the irresponsible. I just drove I-5 and saw the massive amounts of graffiti along the highway as well as garbage strewn everywhere. If the unhoused, non working , drug addicted residents of our city want services, they need to step up and take responsibility for the messes they create.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>General concerns with homelessness and illegal use of parks in Green Lake/Lower Woodland neighborhood. Would like to also reach out to partner organizations that we work with on this issue.</p>	<p>I'm a millennial who has lived in seattle for 7 years I wanted to express my opinion that parks should not be a homeless shelter or a space for overnight tent camping. The parks are supposed to be closed from sundown to sunrise so I'm not sure why people are allowed to stay in for weeks, months, years. I find it disrespectful to local taxpayers that we allow trash and crime to build up in these previously beautiful and relaxing spaces. Please consider removing homeless encampments or lobbying with groups who have power to do so. There's a build up of criminal activity going on by woodland park and south green lake. This should be investigated and removed. There are local churches and community programs where these folks can stay for free and have access to better facilities and resources to get back on their feet. We should be directing people to those programs and not letting them stay alone on public property where they harm themselves and others.</p> <p>Please consider, or direct me to whoever is in charge of this initiative, thanks</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>General concerns about unsheltered folks and camping in parks.</p>	<p>There are any questions in the current survey. However, I'd like to emphasize that the most pressing issue right now is removing homeless encampments and the accumulated trash, feces, and needles from public spaces. This is the sole change that will go furthest toward making parks safer and more enjoyable.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Three parts: Concerns about park camping. Hire attendants or security to tend to restrooms facilities, and Honey Buckets are not suitable. Please reduce greenhouse gases by assigning staff to the location closest to where they live.</p>	<p>1) No camping inside or within any distance that makes it unsafe for general public use. The only exception should be for existing park operated camping facilities, such as Camp Long. Parks need to be for everyone to enjoy, but no one is allowed to destroy park property by setting up residences on or near public parks. The wildlife that utilizes the parks shouldn't have to deal with habitat destruction from illegal camping.</p> <p>2) Hire attendants or security for the restroom facilities to insure they are clean and safe to use. It would deter homeless people from destroying them for everyone. (That is what happened at Miller play field during the Covid closure while the facility was still open for showers.) Porta Potties or Sanicans are not a suitable replacement for restroom facilities. Also, maybe install a donation box or machine in restrooms to provide patrons an opportunity to donate to the parks to keep them open and safe, since there doesn't seem to be any interest in investing in our parks by the politicians who decide how much is spent on them.</p> <p>3) Regarding staffing, please try to reduce greenhouse gasses by making sure that staff are assigned to a park that is closest to where they reside. It would help align parks with the city's 2011 Resolution 31312, putting the city on a path towards reducing Seattle's net green house gas emissions.</p> <p>Thank you receiving my suggestions.</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Various concerns about unsheltered and mentally ill folks in our park. Sadly the title was misleading; no silver bullet was offered.</p>	<p>I understand that Seattle Parks and Rec. wants to get public input on making parks more enjoyable and accessible. I want to say that that almost feels insulting. Seattle Parks are unusable if there are homeless encampments on them. I was in Ballard the other day near Ballard Commons Park, and that area has become extremely unsafe. I had watched a video of a man smashing every car window and headlights on the street by the public library there, and then when I was walking by the other day that man was still there!</p> <p>I understand this isn't the feedback you are looking for, and that isn't the responsibility of parks and rec, but it seems silly to try to do anything else with the parks while they are in that state.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Various concerns about unsheltered and mentally ill folks in our park.</p>	<p>I would like parks that do not have drug abusers and needles strewn about.</p> <p>I would like parks that do not encourage people to live in squalor in them. That is a sickening way to treat a fellow human.</p> <p>I would like parks that address those in "mental crisis" screaming profanity and threatening its users.</p> <p>I would like to have a parks department that does not normalize the above and insult its residents by seeking input on any activities until the parks are returned to a civil state.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Remove the homeless. Install more climbing walls and fixtures fo children to engage in strength training.</p>	<p>I would like all homeless removed from our public parks, more climbing walls and fixtures for kids to improve strength and conditioning.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Concerns about encampments, drug use, and human waste at Lower Woodland and Ballard Commons. Very large font.</p>	<p>Thank you for asking for our input regarding the use of parks and public spaces. The survey didn't directly address the biggest concern about our public spaces and access by families. Our parks are overrun by aggressive, abusive homeless. There is too much trash, used needles, condoms and human feces precluding the use by the public. Unreal that 60 illegal campers prevent thousands of cross country runners from using upper Woodland or the Ballard spray park. It's clear where our cities priorities are and it's not with tax payers!</p> <p>Camping should be banned in our parks. Illegal camping should be dealt with immediately and services offered to help with mental health and addiction. We are sick and tired of spending hundreds of millions with little to no positive impact.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Green Lake park is no longer safe: encampments, inebriation, people harassing neighbors in the middle of the night. Flee to the suburbs.</p>	<p>would like to voice my extreme displeasure at how Green Lake Park is being managed! Homeless encampments everywhere, inebriated individuals wandering the park at all hours, and the City of Seattle is no where to be found! I have a neighbor who had one of the "park homeless people" bang on her door in the middle of the night and insist on coming inside! The neighborhood does not feel safe and also feels that the city is ignoring the problem!</p> <p>The conditions that currently exist at the park are the kind of issues that make residents flee to the suburbs! Strategic plan? What the hell? You need to manage what currently exists and make it usable to the neighbors and park visitors!</p>

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8/31/2021	Off-Leash Area Request: Would like an option on Capitol Hill	I live in Capitol Hill with my dog. Currently there are very few off leash options that don't involved a 20 minute drive across town. I would love to see some of the nearby park spaces used to designate dog friendly areas. A central dog park in Capitol Hill would be a dream come true! Seems though it could be possible at Cal Anderson?
8/31/2021	Homeless encampments and one-way tickets to Miami	Clear out the homeless encampments and keep them out. Consider one way tickets to Miami. I'm not joking. When I worked with homeless people, seattle would be on the receiving end of various cities giving homeless individuals, often c a dual diagnosis, a one way ticket to Seattle. And many of those people are still here, likely occupying psychiatric beds or stealing to support their drug addictions.
8/31/2021	Concerns will illegal camping in Lower Woodland. Plus, our strategic plan is doomed.	Any hope for the future of Seattle parks has to start with this fundamental rule: No Overnight Camping. Enforced, consistently and uniformly, promptly, without exception, regardless of any other circumstances (pandemics, etc.) Seattle's homelessness issues have to be addressed in other ways entirely, without the destruction of one of Seattle's greatest historic benefits. The city government has sacrificed an enormous amount of public goodwill and support by tolerating camping during the past year plus. This will show up in any future levies, guaranteed. Our most liberal friends are beyond frustrated by the tolerance for camping in Woodland Park and other Parks Department managed areas. Any strategic plan that doesn't start with this fundamental realization is doomed.
8/31/2021	Concerns with illegal camping and dumping in Lower Woodland park, and general public safety.	I really appreciate the SPR taking the time to ask about what we want. I live in the Green Lake neighborhood across the street from Woodland Park. My biggest priority is having the city uphold existing laws (no camping/dumping) to allow Seattle families to USE both parks without worrying about being attacked or having my kids exposed to harmful behavior. Based on how things are in Woodland Park, I wouldn't take my children through it. We used to walk through the park to get to Phinney, it is no longer a safe place, taken over my homeless camps. People in my neighborhood are physically attached by these people, woken up at 4am and homes vandalized and stolen from and to top it all off, we don't feel safe using the park because of these same criminals. All the other services offered by the parks are great and I am sure will work out eventually but the use of a park is a fundamental basic thing that has slipped away from all of us who live in this area.
8/31/2021	Convert wading pools to spray parks	Hello, I moved here from Tacoma 6 years ago with my daughter, now 9. One thing we really miss from Tacoma was the wonderful variety of spray parks there. One suggestion we have is that the wading pools be turned into spray parks. You could use the same footprint, retrofit it, and save on the lifeguard you have to hire to watch the kids all day and monitor the ph levels. Thanks for listening!

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>I've lived in Seattle specifically the Lake City area for 45+ years. I am a retired teacher, a parent and a grandparent. I've appreciated everything your department has accomplished and understand how important parks and community centers are to families through the city. BUT with the tolerance of homeless camps everywhere presenting challenges for families to have safe, drug free experiences we have left visiting Seattle parks. Our family and some neighbors frequent the parks in Shoreline. We did frequent the Virgil Flam park when our grandkids were little. We were pleased when the new skate park opened. We were pleased to watch minority families engage their kids in soccer, etc or come for picnics but no longer. For years there has been a camper which was and is famous for drug dealing. This park is not safe. We can't let our grandkids go there alone or even with adults. Shoreline, Edmonds, Montlake Terrace offer much more attractive, safe parks. Why is that????? The top priorities for city parks should be kids, families, and activities that engage this population. Currently the homeless which I do think need services have been allowed to desecrate and often pollute our parks with trash, drugs, and other illegal activities. We pay our property taxes, I donate month to Food Lifeline but currently don't feel safe going to our neighborhood parks. The schools, running organizations have to apply for permits to use Woodland Park but the homeless don't. What sad lessons for students. Some have to Follow rules,while others are allowed to be lawless. These people are impacting our parks, policies and future.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>Stop allowing all illegal activity in the parks.</p>
8/31/2021	<p>More spray parks to combat climate change; homelessness</p>	<p>I love the idea of more pools/spray parks to combat climate change heat but my number one concern is stop allowing camping in parks. Please clean up Greenlake! If is not safe for our kids to play. Cross country meets are canceled this year due to homeless encampments in Lower Woodland Park- this is not OK!! Please make our parks safe for our kids again. Clean up trash and stop allowing people to camp in parks!</p>
8/31/2021	<p>More pickleball courts on the south end</p>	<p>Hello- My husband and I recently started playing Pickleball. We live in Columbia City and we are so frustrated by the lack of Pickleball courts on the south end. I mean nice, dedicated more than one Pickleball courts. There is not one on the south end of Seattle. If it weren't for Pickleball, I am not sure we would have been able to survive these last few years during lockdowns due to covid. It's great Exercise, social and so much fun! Please with your strategic plan build some dedicated courts in Seattle in the Columbia city, hillman or rainier beach neighborhood. The benefits will be endless!</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness (pro)	<p>My recommendation for the parks is to turn them all into homeless camps for children and/or adults. The amount of homeless children in Washington state has doubled over the past 10 years.</p> <p>I'll never understand why the richest country in the world lets people die if they are poor. Society is judged by how it takes care of its most vulnerable.</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>More disc golf</p>	<p>I am an avid disc golfer. I play 2-4x/wk. I play at Lakewood and Seatac (I live on the West Seattle Island).</p> <p>Prior to the disc golf community being active at the park in White Center – the park was a mess. It was a place to pick up drugs and there was always paraphernalia laying around. Then... disc golf caught on. Now the park is clean and full. I can't say it's a great place to relax if you are not playing disc golf – there aren't very many open spaces for things like picnics – but dang it's used a lot by golfers. On any given afternoon there's a lot of people using the park.</p> <p>Seatac – similar. If you walk through that park there's very little garbage. Walkers and disc golfers are friendly to one another. There's always someone in the park.</p> <p>Neither park has been overrun by the homeless. I am guessing they are run out of both parks quickly.</p> <p>All in all, we could use more disc golf courses. The DG community is active and willing to put the work in. They parks where courses are installed are being used at high rates. The community puts in the hours making sure the park is clean and welcoming. I profess enough love for the sport and the community.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Open Green Lake; respond to homelessness</p>	<p>our city's parks, and I hope you will consider my input. My wife and I live two blocks from Green Lake - Woodland Park, and use it very frequently for walking, fishing, and we took our children there often when they were small. Frankly, the park does not need to be reimaged at all. Rather, what it needs is blatantly obvious, and the same is true for many other parks that we see in the city, though we know them less intimately.</p> <p>First, get SDOT to open the short stretch of road along the southwest side, so that the many commuters can drive through there. We always had good bike lanes (I bike!) and lots of room for people to walk, so there was no reason to block that road off in the first place. Nobody uses it! To make matters worse, three parking lots have been inaccessible so folks who must drive to the park now cannot park there. This means that people not able to afford to live near the park have less access to it. Check it out - parking lots have been totally blocked off for a year and a half! What a terrible, perverse idea, which benefits nobody.</p> <p>The result of blocking off parking lots (those along this short route, and also the one on the south side of Woodland Park, near the tennis courts) is an imposition on the people who live in the area. People do not stop driving - they just drive through neighborhoods, and take up parking on the streets. This seems so obvious that I cannot fathom who approved such foolishness in the first place.</p> <p>So, just open the road and the parking lots (which would cost very little, basically undoing the prior mistake) and I will be very pleased, as will thousands of other people who live around the park, use it, drive or bike to work, etc.</p> <p>Second, neither Green Lake, Woodland Park, nor any other city park should be a camping ground for homeless people or people who just want to camp for free.</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>The most important thing is getting rid of homeless encampments In the parks. Nobody wants to let their children use the parks with homeless people living them, and if children don't use the parks then as adults they won't either. I think that people doing drugs and using alcohol should be arrested. You will do them and us a favor by drying them out and then telling them rehab or jail. A lot of these people seem to be mentally ill and should be being housed in state facilities for the mentally ill. As a taxpayer I would rather see my tax dollars going to jail and state hospital construction to care for these people than the various ineffective social programs that the city and state keep funding. The only people that are helped by these programs are the bureaucrats working for them, a real make work program for useless social workers. As a citizen I am no longer voting for anything to do with the homeless unless it includes these options. Enough with offering people hotel rooms to be trashed instead of jail or supervised housing.</p>
8/31/2021	Replant grass at Rodgers park	<p>Please replant the grass. The formerly lush, green oasis is now just dirt. Bare dirt and dried up fox tails that she so dangerous for dogs. I understand the irrigation system is broken. The neglect started last summer when the irrigation system was still working but not used. Please stop planting trees and then neglect watering them so they eventually die.</p>
8/31/2021	Increase number of large, regional parks	<p>I filled out the parks survey http://sprstrategicplan.infocommunity.org/ but I would like to make one more statement.</p> <p>Long term, I think we need to increase the number of large parks we have. We have a pretty good distribution of small parks, e.g. 1/2 block or even smaller, but we have very few large parks, e.g. Discovery, Seward.</p> <p>The large parks are essential for our residents as our population grows. It takes a long time to drive or otherwise leave the city to get to nature. Small parks do provide outdoor space but they are hardly "natural" with mostly just open space and still bombarded by city noise. Large parks provide natural forest detritus and a quiet, meditative escape. And there just is no substitute other than making a day journey way out of the city.</p> <p>Real estate in the city is terribly expensive, so amassing new large parks is difficult. Yet, I think this should be part of the plan. It could be done as a combination of land swaps and sales. Perhaps a few small parks could be sold to buy more aggregate space. As well, unused city property owned by other departments could be, somehow, worked into the financial picture.</p> <p>A final word: Vancouver BC appears to have (I haven't researched this) more large parks per capita and per area than we do. I'm jealous.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>Remove tents from parks</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>Me and my family live in the Seward Park area (zip code 98118), and previously lived in Capitol Hill (98122) and Ballard (98107). Seattle's parks have always been an important and beloved part of our experience living in Seattle.</p> <p>I think we're in a fortunate situation with parks in Seattle, in that we don't need big strategic re-imaginings to have a great park system. We just need a few small things to change.</p> <p>We need to be able to enjoy parks that are clean and safe, which means free of tents, discarded needles, trash, and human waste. Many of our dearest parks are unusable because the City of Seattle is content to allow individuals to monopolize the space for their private purposes. The whole point of a parks program is to keep land open and available for public enjoyment -- if we aren't keeping them open for that they might as well be sold to developers. If we wouldn't allow a billion-dollar corporation to put a skyscraper in a park, we shouldn't allow the unhoused to use it for their private purposes either.</p> <p>That's it. That's the one thing we want from our Parks Department.</p>
8/31/2021	Restrooms, homelessness, bicycle theft	<p>adequately covered in the survey. As a retired person, I know that I am lucky to be able to use our local parks more than others. Some issues have really concerned me during the pandemic that I wasn't able to express in the short survey. First, when restrooms were closed for such a long period of time, it made parks basically unusable. If you have to travel to a park, you have to build in how much time you can stay before you would normally need to use a restroom. In our local park, we saw people relieving themselves in the woods and along trails as the restrooms were locked and closed. Perhaps this was safer from the standpoint of the pandemic, but horrific for our parks. You should have instituted protocols for covid safety without closing the restrooms, like requiring masks and having one person at a time go into a restroom. I think had rules like that been posted, people would have been happy to follow the rules so that restrooms were available.</p> <p>Second, much has been said about homeless encampments, but I can't emphasize enough how they have disrupted the use of parks. Accepting that folks were not going to be forced inside, the city should have created places for sanctioned camping. Allowing "camping" in the parks made using the parks unsafe and unsightly. We all have compassion for the homeless. But showing compassion does not mean allowing people to exist in unsanitary, unsafe conditions for a year and a half. Compassion means getting them to safe places with sanitary conditions and healthy food. Our local parks are not places for the homeless. The City's silence on this issue despite huge community outcry was shocking.</p> <p>Third, bicycle theft has become rampant. We used to bike to various parks around the city. No more. You can't leave a decent bike anywhere, anymore. Organized gangs of bicycle thieves quickly help themselves to bikes and use visible and known "chop shops" in local encampments to sell those bikes. No one is punished and no attempt is made to stop this theft. I suppose in the scheme of things, as no injury to</p>
8/31/2021	Desire to see survey results	<p>As a concerned citizen, I'd like to view the raw results of the Seattle Parks Survey. Not the interpreted results, but the raw results.</p> <p>Do I need to fill out a request for the data, like a FOIA form?</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>aware that regardless of race, class, or gender everyone in this city just wants access to safe, clean parks. The biggest issue facing the parks, across the entire city, are the homeless encampments. I am a huge climate change and social equity advocate, and regularly work with organizations to provide solutions. While concerns about climate change and access to park programs is very important currently and in the future, Seattle needs actually address the homeless encampments that have overtaken the parks. People are extremely disappointed and upset that until a major incident occurs, ie getting raped in a courthouse bathroom, nothing is being done.</p> <p>I do not think sweeps are the answer, and neither is making encampments illegal and throwing all these people in jail. Seattle has been spending insane amounts of money for years to address the issue and it's only gotten worse. Maybe taking a look at actually policy, housing prices, and cost of living increases due to tech companies is a place to start. I understand the issue is not an easy solve, but this survey is completely tone deaf, and is liable to upset more people than actually help.</p> <p>Zoning laws are a great place to start while looking at the housing crisis, along with empty buildings that can be converted to housing with mental and addiction services. I come from a major city back East, and they have been able to work with the populations in understanding major issues and needs, and then coming up with a complete solution that made both the people affected by homelessness and housed people happy. Throwing obscene amounts of money with no plans to address the fundamental issues never works, and often exacerbates the primary issue at hand.</p> <p>Again, I understand these are complicated issues, however, the survey is so tone deaf I felt the need to reach out.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>as a frequent user of green lake park, I would very much like to implore you to clean up the tent encampments that have grown astronomically around the lake. It is a highly utilized park and such an amenity for Seattle. It is a shame to have these eyesores all around the lake making people feel unsafe and unwelcome. Please please clean up green lake!</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>I am a lifelong Seattle native living in the relative luxury of the Magnolia neighborhood, zip code 98199. What I want most from the City of Seattle in reopening and rebuilding our city parks is CLEANLINESS! Which means NO HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS. None. The city parks are for the use of tax payers and families, not for derelicts and drug addicts to despoil with filth, needles and garbage. Second to that would be more trees for more shade. But that takes a very distant second to sweeping the homeless out of our city parks.</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>I submitted the survey to give my opinions about what needs to happen with Seattle parks, but there was no where to add additional comments and there was also nothing on the survey address the actual issue with the current situation at the parks and city green spaces.</p> <p>The only thing I want out of these spaces is the ability to use them without fear. Currently, I cannot let my kids play freely at many of the parks because there is human feces, used needles, and unconscious, unpredictable people residing there. Walking around Greenlake is devastating. I had to explain to my three year old why there were 4 people “sleeping” in the middle of the park at noon on Tuesday. The city of Seattle has prioritized people who are not contributing to society (or the city’s budget) over law abiding citizens who pay their taxes. More city sponsored programming at the parks do us no good of the parks are not safe places to be.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>The most important factor for me when visiting our parks is safety! In the past I was a weekly visitor to Cowan Park (Ravenna), Green Lake, and numerous other Seattle parks, but with the homeless occupying the areas around our parks, I do not feel safe and thus have stopped using them. It is sad that many of us have stopped using and might I add supporting our parks as they have too many safety violations! Thank you for any effort to rectify this situation.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>WHY DON,T YOU GIVE THE PARKS BACK TO TAX PAYERS AND KICK ALL THE DERANGED PEOPLE OUT FOR GOOD.</p> <p>LET THE CAMP IN THE CITY COUNCILS MEMBERS YARDS.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>The main problem with Seattle parks are the unsafe and unsanitary conditions created by lawlessness and homelessness. The Ballard splashpad is essentially a public toilet and my kid picked up a used needle at Georgetown park. I am afraid to exercise alone at the parks. I am so sad for a generation of kids who cannot use parks or outdoor spaces safely because the city allows such inhumane and unsanitary conditions created by homelessness to exist.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>What do we want from our parks? In my opinion, Seattle parks should be safe and clean for all ages at any time. Can we please have our parks back?</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>Why not simply enforce the law against camping in a park? My next door neighbor can’t take his kids to the park because there are discarded dirty syringes all over the place and a filthy drug infested encampment a very short distance from the playground equipment. You don’t seem to care about the citizens and especially their kids getting some outdoor recreation during the pandemic. I think you should change the park administration to people who actually take care of the parks.</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Street closures, homelessness, park closure times</p>	<p>Thank you to SPR for your hard work and perseverance through the pandemic! The parks have been essential to maintaining our physical and mental wellbeing. Our family uses several Seattle parks regularly, and we really appreciate how SPR has worked to keep the parks open and accessible.</p> <p>I have two comments for consideration during the current SPR planning effort.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please bring back the closure of park streets to vehicles and open them to pedestrians and bicyclists! I really enjoyed the opportunity to walk every day up and down Golden Gardens Drive without fear of being hit by a vehicle. It is a really lovely route, and best appreciated on foot or on a bike. When the road was closed, this part of Golden Gardens Park was transformed into a truly peaceful retreat. We need more quiet places like this in the city. 2. In order for the parks to be accessible to the maximum number of Seattle residents, the parks must also be safe and secure. As much as I empathize with the challenges of the homeless, city parks are not campgrounds. Camping creates unsanitary conditions, and my family has personally experienced crimes associated with homeless encampments in Seattle parks. Please devote the resources necessary to prohibit camping in parks. I know that it is a difficult problem to address, but the majority of Seattle residents should be able to feel safe and secure when they use city parks. 3. Please close the parks at a reasonable time in the evening. The nighttime activity and noise at Golden Gardens Park after dark are out of control. Very loud, amplified music and explosive fireworks at all hours, not to mention the occasional gunfire, are disturbing to both people and wildlife. <p>Again, many thanks to SPR.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Maximizing park uses</p>	<p>My name is James Prince and I live across the street from Ravenna Park in Seattle. I saw your forum and loved the idea of maximizing how Parks are used going forward. I currently practice Anesthesia at Swedish hospital and therefore am very in tune with the effects of Covid 19 in our community and our lives. The truth is that this pandemic is going to be around for a long time and utilizing our outdoor spaces is going to be of the utmost importance. I love the idea of solace pads for children. These will allow for kids to beat the heat during the hottest months and the leveled surface can double as a space for outdoor dancing (I saw this in Victoria BC), also it would be amazing to explore options to incorporate small businesses along the Burke Gilman. How nice would it be to simply walk the Burke Gilman and buy fresh flowers, eggs, fresh fruit and veggies, grab an espresso or a cold beer. This would promote community health and function as a way to avoid indoor crowding. Thank you for your time.</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>I have lived in the Roosevelt neighborhood for 13 years. We have a five year old who is scared to go to Froula park a block away because of the campers and the various demented and/or drugged individuals who have frightened him for the last few years.</p> <p>Two other families with young children are selling their homes and moving to the Eastside.</p> <p>If pushing families out is the plan, it's going well. If serving them is the plan, then the plan is going very badly.</p> <p>The only thing you should be focusing on is reclaiming parks for the non-threatening, non-vagrant citizens of this city.</p> <p>To emphasize: THE ONLY THING YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON IS MAKING PARKS SAFE AND USABLE FOR ORDINARY CITIZENS AND THEIR CHILDREN.</p>
8/31/2021	Seeking survey link	<p>I just followed the link to the Strategic Plan page to take the survey talked about in today's (8/31/21) Seattle Times article: "Seattle City Hall asks for input on the future of public parks." I did not find a link to be able to take a survey. I would like to do so. Can you please provide information as to how I get to the survey? Where is the link to it, or button, or whatever, to take the survey? It didn't seem to be on the sprstrategicplan.infocommunity.org page.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
8/31/2021	Additional open space	<p>Feedback – create more open space in the urban core of Seattle. Example would be; there are 3 small triangle lots off of Denny and at the west corner of Denny Park at 6th, 7th Ave. The city purchasing (in some form) these unique pieces of land would be a natural extension of Denny park. This is an area of increased residential growth. Connection to the “green street” of Bell. These opportunities are rare.</p> <p>One of the empty lots is the old Pink Elephant Car Wash.</p> <p>Thanks for your time.</p>
8/31/2021	Add open-ended questions and focus groups; move faster	<p>I filled out the survey--which was a bit of a "push poll" because it drove people toward pre-ordained choices. I recommend that you do some open-ended surveys as well, and perhaps focus groups.</p> <p>Big picture, this strategic planning process is scheduled to take FAR too long, but I suppose that's consistent with the Seattle style of talk-talk-talk, take a long time, and get very little done. Sigh.</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Reopen pools; add early swim; address homelessness</p>	<p>want to offer these specific comments and suggestions.</p> <p>I have lived in Seattle since 1986. I love our parks and pools! The past 18 months have been hell for those of us seeking recreational opportunities in Seattle. The Parks Department abandoned us during COVID, when we needed you most.</p> <p>It has been nearly 18 months since our community centers and pools were closed on March 13, 2020. Only a few pools have been reopened, though I understand that more will reopen in September and October. The pools that are open now offer very limited hours, and are mostly inaccessible to people who work during normal business hours, except on weekends.</p> <p>While Seattle has offered few or no parks services, the City of Lynnwood opened its pool and recreation center in June 2020—15 months ago. They believe it is a priority to provide recreational services during the pandemic because people are so stressed and need recreational outlets. Mental health is important too! Lynnwood found a way to offer lap swimming and other essential recreational services safely during COVID. I am thankful they welcomed nonresidents to their beautiful facility! It is a long drive to Lynnwood (20 minutes each way), and I can swim only once a week on a weekend, but that is better than nothing. Seattle has offered nothing.</p> <p>I live in north Seattle, and the Seattle pools that have reopened are farther from me than driving to Lynnwood. North Seattle has been abandoned by the Parks Department during COVID. People who work during business hours have been abandoned by the Parks Department during COVID. We have worked hard, followed the COVID rules, gotten vaccinated, and paid our taxes. We have received no parks services in return.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Consider adding ethnicity options for white people</p>	<p>I did find the question regarding my ethnicity rather selective in its choices. Is it standard to list out a number of different countries/regions, then have one check box for 'white'? I think the culture of a Ukrainian, a Greek and a Scot are different. As different as the culture of a Eritrean and Somali.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>I read in the Seattle Times that the parks department wants to know what citizens would like from our parks. I really just have one basic request - can we make them safe again?</p> <p>I have two small children and we live across from Green Lake park. Which is not filled with tents, trash and drug addicted homeless people. Not only do they make the park unsafe for our children, they also wander into our yard, leave their trash, sleep in our car and steal whatever we leave in the yard. So what I want from our parks is for the City to move out the tents. I get they don't like "sweeps" but they could sweep them to places other than parks.</p> <p>As a law abiding taxpayer, I'm over our parks getting ruined by the homeless issue. Please pass that along to our communist city council.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>Hi - did the online survey and just wanted to add a plea for ending camping in the parks. I support the homeless through DESC and appreciate their plight but tents in city parks are not the answer. Please make it stop.</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>I want it free of drug addicts, needles, human feces and Tents nicer than anything my working class family owned. I don't want my park to be a drug den/pawn shop fueled by the things stolen from the surrounding community. Those who abuse the park should be given an option to get help and if they refuse they should be evicted on the spot!!!!</p> <p>I simply want my park back!</p>
8/31/2021	Sponsor more events to attract women to golf	<p>Jackson, Jefferson and west Seattle are well used by a diverse group of citizens. They pay for themselves and are valuable environment-sustaining green space. Golf is a great sport for women and the parks department should sponsor events that attract more women to the game.</p>
8/31/2021	Add pickleball courts	<p>Dedicated Pickleball courts</p>
8/31/2021	<p>Reduce amplified music, add sidewalk cafes, reduce car impacts, improve restrooms (learn from Asia), add security cameras</p>	<p>Although covered by your survey, please consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ban vendors, including vehicles, blaring recorded music. Totally intrusive. 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add more sidewalk cafes in selected parks: Major parks can really benefit from small café options, provided the selections are well-curated and kept spic and span. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Think small tables, espresso and bakery items from Macrina, Bakery Nouveau, Sea Wolf etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Even clean food trucks, occasionally, are OK—provided they don't run generators. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not all parks are suitable. But some are, esp the larger ones. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Note: So many current concessionaires are tacky. Careful curation is important. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce car impacts within parks: Slow down traffic in major parks by, for example, adding speed bumps or better signage. Ban commercial vehicles. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve Park bathrooms: Generally, our Park bathrooms are dark, ugly, dirty, graffiti-full and feel unsafe. Learn from Europe and Asia (think Singapore, HK & Tokyo) for how to fix this. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce car prowls and improve security at Parks parking lots: Add security cameras focused on parking. *Consider* posting urls where we can view the security footage ourselves—in case of break-ins.
8/31/2021	Reopen pools; add early swim	<p>I live in Shoreline and really miss the Shoreline Pool. It's a mile from me.</p> <p>In over 40 years I've logged over 13,000 miles in different pools, starting with Helene Madison.</p> <p>I've been swimming at the Mountlake Terrace Pool as it's the closest but would prefer Helene Madison.</p> <p>Also hope that an early morning lap swim, say starting at 5:30AM, will be offered when it opens mid September.</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>I have been a resident of Seattle for 25 years. I have been incredibly discouraged by the takeover of our parks by homeless encampments. These encampments endanger children, and they generate needles, human waste, and large amounts of trash. In short, they ruin the parks for everyone. This issue is the single most Important issue to be solved by your strategic plan.</p> <p>Parks are part of the public realm. Encampments represent a private takeover of the public realm. This is intolerable.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness, address off leash dogs, additional swimming options for aging populations	<p>what seattle residents want out of the parks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) homeless camping and trailers forbidden & garbage picked up. 2) a feeling of personal safety when in the parks 3) no drug trafficking 4) no off leash dogs 5) for swimming pools open for aging populations who have more limited access to outdoor activities like running tracks, biking, basketball/tennis courts, soccer & other playfield activities the parks maintain.
8/31/2021	Address off leash dogs; add off leash areas	<p>Dear SPR, I love our parks. My daughter and wife love our parks. We love to walk in them, play in them, ride our bikes in them.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there are so many people who feel that it is ok to have their dogs off leash and loose in the parks for whatever reason that we are often unable to use the parks.</p> <p>Maybe we need some more off leash areas, because otherwise the whole park becomes an off leash area, and that means the dogs win, and we can't use the park spaces.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>Do not allow ANY TENTS or homeless people stay in and leave their garbage in our parks. Keep the parks safe for residents to be able to enjoy safely. Keep the parks clean and maintained.</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness	<p>This is the first time I am writing to you to give you my thoughts and opinions as a Seattle resident for the last 40 years.</p> <p>I have appreciated going to many beautiful parks in Seattle and am sure that those parks make Seattle a beautiful city and sanctuary.</p> <p>I have been so dismayed in seeing these parks filled with homeless encampments and all their trash and unsightly images that transform these parks into hostile places for the regular neighbors and usage.</p> <p>City leadership seems to be faltering in developing and implementing effective plans to keep our parks clean and maintained for the city residents instead of turning the parks into homeless encampments. We clearly need to remind everyone including homeless people that we all have to respect our parks and green spaces for our well-being. I would like Seattle parks to nourish all of us, not just homeless people. We need City leadership to do what is difficult but the right thing to do to preserve our parks for the public enjoyment. Homeless situation cannot be resolved by allowing homeless people to encamp in our parks that are not designed to have people camp and live there.</p> <p>Please give our beautiful parks back for our sanity and respite from our crazy world.</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Address illegal park uses (off-leash dogs, drone use); kudos on Alice Ball and Gemenskap</p>	<p>The strategic plan survey didn't reflect my concerns about parks so I am emailing. I have essentially lost use of our public parks, and so it's frustrating to answer questions about programming, etc--I just want basic safe access to parks! I live closest to the west side of Green Lake and Woodland Park which is a no-go zone due to the encampments. I used to love Discovery Park but I see illegal behavior there that impacts my visits every single time I go, so I've stopped going. Reckless drone use/drone racing (on the south meadow in particular) and off leash dogs (that harass my leashed dog) are the most common. There is zero patrol or enforcement. The Discovery Park office has told me to call the police, but I'm sure you will agree that is unlikely to solicit a response. Even if you just had staff without true enforcement capability that could walk around and ask people to leash their dogs or put their drones away, that would really help. I think our city has become too big to get away with no enforcement anymore.</p> <p>On a more positive note I think Seattle Parks did a great job with Alice Ball Park--it's small but people seem to really enjoy it! And I know it isn't new anymore, but I am still so pleased with Gemenskap Park--it is such a better use of space, and so badly needed in that area, than the old parking strip. I hope you can extend this park down 14th!</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Early swim at Meadowbrook;</p>	<p>Even though I live in Bothell, I have utilized Seattle Parks and Rec facilities for many years. I've been a regular at the early morning lap swim at Meadowbrook for many years. My recreational and commuting bike rides take me through Matthews Beach and Interlaken Parks. I've also visited Seward Park twice in the last two months. Here are my suggestions for the strategic plan.</p> <p>I would like Meadowbrook to resume the early morning lap swims, starting at 5:30 or 5:45. This time fits best with my work schedule. Although Medgar Evers is near my work place, their 6:30 "early morning" time isn't a good fit.</p> <p>Although I recognize the need for distributing scarce resources to historically marginalized areas, facilities north of the Ship Canal were entirely shuttered during the pandemic. North Seattle is a socio-economically and ethnically diverse community as well.</p> <p>Thanks in advance for considering my input.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>Hello. Thank you for offering the survey. It would have been nice to have some space to offer a comment or two. If so, I would have added what's below.</p> <p>While all of the SPR's goals are laudable, the fact is, parks these days are no longer inviting. While I used to go to ones in Ballard, Wallingford and Green Lake to relax and exercise and play with my kids, that is no longer the case.</p> <p>The homeless encampments overshadow and undercut any efforts you might make to improve them. The trash and unsanitary conditions remind me of traveling in poor nations. The city's passiveness in the face of it is not a plan, nor compassionate.</p> <p>Part of what made Seattle great -- all its parks and open spaces -- are no longer places to enjoy. I honestly no longer wish to live here.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>none - blank</p>	<p>intentionally blank</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>I did not enjoy your survey design. No one cares what amenities a park provides if it's not safe enough to use.</p> <p>It was really discouraging to keep having to fill in "other". I can't use one of my closest parks (Ballard Commons) because it's turned into a homeless encampment. The next closest park (Golden Gardens) had shortened hours starting just as the heat wave arrived due to safety concerns. West Woodlawn and Greenlake are not safe either.</p> <p>I doubt Seattle will ever be able to build enough public shelters or housing in King County, given the other cities lack of enthusiasm. Because of the high number of people who come into Seattle from the County, State, and around the country, encampments will always be in the Parks as long as it's allowed. Even if shelter is provided, when favored programs like JustCare have a 33% failure rate because they can just go back to the park if they don't like the rules, it will remain a problem. The Ballard Locks, the Arboretum and suburban parks enforce no camping rules. It can be done.</p> <p>Seattle Parks and Recreation is failing it's core mission: Seattle Parks and Recreation provides welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community, and promotes responsible stewardship of the land. We promote healthy people, a healthy environment, and strong communities.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness (Ballard Commons)</p>	<p>As someone who lives in a small studio apartment in Ballard with no yard space, I would appreciate being able to use my local park, Ballard commons. It is the only park within close walking distance. Right now it should be called Ballard Commons Campground because it is so full of tents and trash that it cannot be used by the public. Mentally ill and drug addicts have harassed me, are threatening, and it is not compassionate to let these people live outdoors left to their own devices in squalor and filth because their brains are not capable of choosing treatment/services right now.</p> <p>When this space becomes an actual park again, please have police patrols to enforce the city laws to prevent camping. It is so dangerous right now I don't feel safe walking next to the park in afternoons and evenings. It would also benefit from some taller trees/shade, bushes, plants, flowers and more benches for taking a pause in nature and having the mental health benefits of being in nature. Something else that would really activate the park would be a small dog dog park with non-dirt ground (linoleum or similar) so the many small dog owners can bring their dogs here and gather as a community.</p> <p>I really hope we in Ballard can have access of our park back very soon.</p> <p>Thank you for reading,</p>

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Add spray parks; focus on built environment and community cohesion</p>	<p>Before moving back to Seattle last year I spent 12 years in NYC experiencing and working on heat waves (at health dept). For all the literature, we never found HVIs helpful except as an investment map for features and cooling centers consistently failed (only people who go there everyday use them in a heat wave). However, water features like sprays and wadding pools are universally popular and effective, especially in neighborhoods without many ACs or who can't afford to run it. Would love to see SPR invest so there are water features in every neighborhood and help community groups develop plans for checking on the vulnerable during heat waves. It would be a great way to build community trust and ensure that people get checked.</p> <p>Wanted to share because NYC's experience could help Seattle not make the same mistakes. I am sure NYC Parks would be happy to chat if you don't already discuss with them. Heat plans are designed by NYC Emergency Management and Health, but as the data person I can tell you focusing on the built environment and community cohesion is by far the most effective method (and fits what Chicago and Paris did after their heat waves to some extent) and incorporating active living design would benefit our post-pandemic bodies. Million Trees Seattle!</p> <p>Francoise</p> <p>P.S. I would also love to see more civic design events like the one at SLU a few weeks ago. It helps build an understanding of the design elements of community space and would love SPR to promote more of those events to help residents think about active design more broadly (it's not just bikes). I'm a native, just with new eyes since moving back.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness (Ballard Commons)</p>	<p>I'd like my Asian American wife and 16 year old daughter to be able to walk near Ballard Commons and not have anti-asian racist and sexist slurs yelled by the homeless you've allowed to take over the park. They've stopped going north of market street because of what you have allowed to happen at the commons.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>Thank you for seeking community input. The most pressing issue for our beautiful parks & public spaces is removal of the tents and all the associated junk & trash. I no longer feel safe walking trails that have provided much enjoyment in the past. No one has the right to live in our parks, destroy vegetation, cover areas with trash, & threaten safety of park visitors.</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Consider adding ethnicity options for white people</p>	<p>This is a screenshot of your online survey. It strikes me that having a single category for white people in this survey is problematic because so many distinctions are drawn for other ethnicities. Why not include more categories like Northern European, Eastern European, UK, Southern European, etc. As is, your survey conveys that you are not terribly interested in white people.</p> <p>Just a thought.</p>

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8/31/2021	Homelessness (Greenlake)	<p>Please remove all of the homeless people form our parks. I found a needle when I was walking recently with my 5 and 3 year old in Woodland Park. They keep trying to pick up the trash- as we practice pack it in, pack it-out. So when I say “please don’t pick that up” they’re very confused.</p> <p>Do something.</p> <p>I don’t have the answer, as that isn’t my job. I do pay my taxes, and donate to our parks- I’d like that money to pay someone to DO SOMETHING.</p> <p>Also please open West Green Lake Way N back up to cars. It’s ridiculous that it’s still closed. Again, my tax dollars were spent to re-do the intersection at East Green Lake Way N, however that intersection is only partially in use. It was great during the first part of the pandemic.. again, I have young kids and enjoyed letting them learn to ride bikes on a closed street. However that time is over. Please open the street back up to cars. If you aren’t going to do that then dig the road up and plant grass and call it a park. Maybe then the needles and trash from homeless people will be more spread out?</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness (Greenlake)	<p>We need to clear all homeless camping from all of the Seattle parks. The Ballard Commons has been destroyed by the homeless over the past several years. I appreciate the clean-up efforts. Taxpayers paid for parks that are no longer clean or safe to use. The city of Seattle and the region needs to set up emergency shelters or jail, and clear the parks ASAP. I’m tired of waiting!!!!</p>
8/31/2021	Campness (Hills Park)	<p>As part of your strategic planning it would be great If you address the growing homeless Camp at 7 hills Park.</p> <p>I have tents within 20 ft of my front gate, have had trespassing issues with a homeless person high on drugs knocking on my front door and making my wife fear for her safety.</p> <p>My next door neighbors worry about their college aged daughters based on how the homeless residents of the park look at them, while my other nearest neighbors are afraid to use their front gate and only exit through their garage at the back of the house.</p> <p>The Camp continues to grow along with the garbage and damage to the park including the cherry blossom trees and community gardens.</p> <p>We feel abandoned by the city and like our personal safety doesn't matter. We fear this problem won't be addressed until someone gets hurt</p>
8/31/2021	Homelessness, open community centers	<p>Please so something..... anything so my neighbors don't live in fear.</p> <p>Hello. I think it is awful that more effort hasn't been made to get the pools open. My kids need swimming lessons!! It is very frustrating that for 1.5 years there was nothing done about helping young kids learn to swim. Why, you could have offered outdoor lessons at a local beach for goodness sake. That is my main beef. The other one is that you need to get tough and reclaim our parks from the homeless encampments. It is really not ok to have to watch out for needles, folk screaming obscenities or pooping randomly or other behavior that makes us scared to go to certain parks. WE ARE PAYING FOR THESE PARKS!!!! Thank you</p>

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8/31/2021	Planness (Out Of Touch With How Parks Are Working)	Why does the SPD Strategic Plan survey not include options around supporting basic park functions. It feels very out of touch that the parks department is asking me if they should expand into "Wellness and mental health programming" or spen money to "Shifting from natural gas to electric heating systems" when memeber of my family no longer feels safe to go into Upper Woodland, my 8 year old daughter encountered a camper masterbating in the picknick area at Meridian park she trying to do a school project and was almost urinated on while playing in the stream at Revena Park. We also felt compelled to leave Cowen Park when we encountered what appeared to be a crazy guy running at another person with a hatchet. The parks near our home are becoming scary for members of my family and it seems very out of touch that the parks department wouldn't focus on these issues (or at least give people survey options around them).
8/31/2021	Homelessness (Greenlake)	What do I want from Seattle Parks? I want to feel safe; have a clean place to put down a blanket, sit on a bench or on the grass; a clean area for the grandkids to play; a working, clean bathroom that is open, unlocked; a garbage can that is not overflowing; and, the smell of freshly cut grass. I don't visit Seattle [Parks] anymore because I don't feel safe, for myself or my grandchildren, as there are too many homeless, aggressive and pushy; there is trash all over, used needles; filthy tents, bad smells; and dirty sometimes locked, non-working bathrooms. /judyd – Redmond, former visitor.
8/31/2021	E.comeoesmailess	Remove tents from all city parks They're not campgrounds What if I decided I wanted to hunt squirrels with bow and arrows Would that be ok? Why not? Dangerous? Open pit cooking
8/31/2021	use liberating structures in meetings, telephone reporting	How do I complete the survey described in today's Seattle Times? I would like to provide input.
8/31/2021	weness (Parks Request)	What I'd like to see for Seattle's open spaces is to make them more accessible again. The closed "Stay Healthy" streets seem to have met their goal when the pandemic was in its earlier phase. It's time to make the streets drivable again and allow folks to use and access those spaces again. Specifically, the Stay Healthy streets in West Seattle are the ones I'm most familiar with and think have run their course. The closed street off Beach Drive near Alki is especially needed to return to normal. There are precious few public beach access points for all of us who don't own beachfront property. We need to make sure they remain accessible for everyone and not just the landowners there. It becomes an equity issue for all of us. So many elderly and those with limited mobility can't walk far enough to use this space if they can't drive up to the access points. Let's reopen this street and the others to get Seattle moving and back to normal.
8/31/2021	ofness (Part That Benefits All)	These are the kind of parks needed in Seattle (and all across the USA) to help people become healthier. YouTube video of a fantastic public park in Ukraine, used by all ages, https://youtu.be/A-UsiOD0U1A

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<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>Parks, trails and degradation of trails</p>	<p>Park was recently cancelled due to homeless encampments, and the accompanying lack of safety and damage to the park. My daughter participated in this event for several years while in high school. It was a wonderful event that attracted cross country teams from throughout the region. It was exactly the kind of event that parks should be encouraging.</p> <p>Instead our city prioritizes campers who violate multiple laws in the park including NO CAMPING and NO DRUG and ALCOHOL laws, illegally tap into its electrical supply, spread trash and graffiti throughout the park and intimidate people who go there. When did the city decide that homelessness is the top priority of our parks system, and that the homeless do not need to follow any of the rules that apply to the rest of us, and finally, that they can willfully destroy park facilities?</p> <p>I love the City's natural parks. In the past year, however, due to homeless encampments, trash, needles, graffiti, feces, cigarette butts, shopping carts, stolen bicycles and other forms of desecration, I have stopped going to three city parks: Green Lake, Woodland and Cowen. Ravenna Park has become marginal; I'm not certain how much longer I will want to go there. This is sad, because we originally moved to our neighborhood to be close to Ravenna Park. Our real estate agent closed the deal on our house in the park with us 36 years ago.</p> <p>Nowadays, I pick up ten gallons of trash weekly in Ravenna and Cowen Parks. Seattle Parks is clearly not keeping up with the maintenance of either of these parks. I use the Find it Fix it App multiple times per week. Park maintenance should not be up to senior citizens like me. It needs to be done by Seattle Parks Department staff more often and more thoroughly.</p> <p>Seattle Parks should follow its own rules and to be available to all people in the city</p>
<p>8/31/2021</p>	<p>E.cometesmailess</p>	<p>I was wondering if there were any plans to add a skatepark to Miller play field as was outlined in the last Seattle skatepark master plan? The park is central to Capitol Hill, central district and montlake. All neighborhoods which do not currently have a skatepark.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Egmail.comelesets@gmail ess</p>	<p>As of 6 a m September 2, 2021 164 people on this FB Link responded to the Seattle Times article someone posted about your survey. Please read these valuable comments.</p> <p>I will add my comment here. Like almost everyone who commented The Seattle parks and Recreation needs to clean up the parks from homeless encampments, needles, filth, unsafe conditions etc.</p> <p>I would also add that I would like to know how to contact the Park Arborist for more information on saving tree canopies in my Central District neighborhood.</p> <p>Here is the FB link to comments</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/38472826214/posts/10159501036001215/?d=n</p>

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<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness, open community centers</p>	<p>I was disappointed by the tone deaf nature of your survey. What the parks need desperately are basic services like trash removal. Woodland/Greenlake park are a mess. Each morning illegal campfire smoke drifts across trash-strewn parking lots (which are closed for some reason.) Trees are cut down. Holes are being dug. Picnic shelters have become permanent dwellings. What we want from our parks is relatively simple: ample space to play in safety.</p> <p>You also mention courts, and pools and community centers- but not playing fields. How about some open-access playing fields that are not for rent? So that groups without the resources to pay \$150/hour can enjoy them for pick up soccer, ultimate, or just running around?</p> <p>Reading your survey made me sad because it showed me how out of touch you are with the reality of the parks today.</p> <p>Noah Tannen</p> <p>I sent this from my phone so please excuse brevity and typos.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness (7 Hills Park)</p>	<p>Last night someone tore up the community hardest removing several of the planters from the patch</p> <p>On Tue, Aug 31, 2021, 8:10 PM Robert Antolin <robertantolin@gmail.com> wrote: As part of your strategic planning it would be great if you address the growing homeless Camp at 7 hills Park.</p> <p>I have tents within 20 ft of my front gate, have had trespassing issues with a homeless person high on drugs knocking on my front door and making my wife fear for her safety.</p> <p>My next door neighbors worry about their college aged daughters based on how the homeless residents of the park look at them, while my other nearest neighbors are afraid to use their front gate and only exit through their garage at the back of the house.</p> <p>The Camp continues to grow along with the garbage and damage to the park including the cherry blossom trees and community gardens.</p> <p>We feel abandoned by the city and like our personal safety doesn't matter. We fear this problem won't be addressed until someone gets hurt</p> <p>Please do something..... anything so my neighbors don't live in fear.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Emsn.comedesler@msnes</p>	<p>Thanks for asking for feedback on Seattle parks. I am a lifelong Seattle resident and active voter. The biggest challenge with the parks is not enforcing laws on camping. Some parks I used to use have illegal campers blocking trails, littering, destroying vegetation and creating poisons that pets then ingest. This is not the right approach for the homeless or the general public. This is the elephant in the room and needs to be your primary focus.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness, open community centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety, Safety, Safety - clear encampments - make park safe and usable again for the city tenants - area and space for recreation - space for children to play

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<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Implementationness (Off Leash Dogs)</p>	<p>strategic plan implementation. One thing I noticed about the survey was that it does not address my primary problem with Seattle parks; the abundance of illegally off-leash dogs and the lack of enforcement of such criminal activity.</p> <p>I live across the street from Volunteer Park. I have a toddler. Dogs are not permitted to be off-leash in Volunteer Park. My family and I also regularly visit Cal Anderson Park. Similarly, dogs are not permitted to be off-leash in Cal Anderson Park. And that makes sense. The CDC estimates that Americans suffer from over 4.5 million dog bites a year. Of these millions of dog bites, tens of thousands of them require hospitalization, and about 30 of them result in fatalities. Doubtless to say, few dog owners expect their precious canine companions to bite others. Nonetheless, it is a fact that they do on a regular basis. There are also a plethora of other issues involving off-leash dogs, including but not limited to the following; they make dogs who are on-leash feel threatened, it is not possible to know where in our parks they defecate (and therefore not possible to ensure that their feces is at least attempted to be cleaned up), they chase, scare, and often maim or kill local wildlife, they trample and harm natural flora and fauna, and they destroy grass meadows.</p> <p>Despite the foregoing, scores of entitled folks who think that leash laws shouldn't apply to them because their dog is different and they are special let their dogs off-leash in Volunteer Park and Cal Anderson on a daily basis. I walk through Volunteer Park every day on my way to and from work, and there are usually at least seven or eight dogs off leash at any given time. I'm happy to supply photos if requested. Cal Anderson is not quite as bad but illegally off-leash dogs are there almost constantly as well. I cannot count the number of times I've had to run to pick up my toddler as an off-leash dog (who we don't know and have no idea about its temperament) barrels toward him at full speed.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Stick with core programming / fitness and recreation, expand park infrastructure</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to listen to our concerns.</p> <p>My overall feedback for your survey is that I would appreciate more focus on your core concern.</p> <p>Several questions were not relevant to the job of the Seattle Parks Department. Please correct me if I don't understand your function.</p> <p>But, I thought that the core concern of any Parks Department is to ensure that existing park spaces and facilities are maintained and usable for recreation. Programs related to fitness and recreation are nice to have once the core concern is 100% satisfied. Programs unrelated to fitness and recreation (e.g. childcare) should at least be funded by the appropriate department (e.g. Human Services) and should not distract from the core concern.</p> <p>Improvements or expansion of park infrastructure would be wonderful but only after satisfaction of your core concern.</p> <p>Concerns which can only be addressed at State and Federal levels such as climate change should only impact on the Parks Department in terms of compliance with those State and Federal decisions.</p> <p>So, my feedback is please FOCUS.</p> <p>Until kids and adults can safely run in Woodland and every other park, the Parks Department is failing its core concern.</p>

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<p>use liberating structures in meetings, telephone reporting</p>	<p>use liberating structures in meetings, telephone reporting. Allow community members to help maintain parks</p>	<p>Thanks for the survey.</p> <p>I was born in Seattle and lived here most of my almost 80 years</p> <p>I love Seattle Parks 😊🌳</p> <p>Suggestions</p> <p>Have staff utilize Liberating Structures technology internally, and in community meetings.</p> <p>Enable Neighborhood organized community groups and individuals to help maintain parks</p> <p>Do you have a telephone reporting line like w Seattle Dept of Transportation? Text and recording please</p> <p>Help for park near Seattle Yacht Club and the shooters problem where tree wasn't killed adequately.</p> <p>Priscilla is super helping beautify the park!!</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness (Greenlake) safety</p>	<p>I just finished the survey, and it made me laugh bitterly.</p> <p>The survey asks about what programs would be good to have at the parks, while the most fundamental issue is not getting addressed.</p> <p>I DO NOT FEEL SAFE at Greenlake Park.</p> <p>I've had my children yelled at by mentally unstable inhabitants of the encampment, it's been over a year since I have even considered going to Woodland park, I bring pepper spray whenever I need to go by W Greenlake Way. I have encountered needles and human excrement. I had people from the encampment in my yard at different times the middle of the mental health episode or catatonically stoned.</p> <p>There is one thing that I want from my parks: I want them not to have people living in them. Other things are great, but what we need most of all are clean safe spaces. It's like Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs - until the safety needs are met -- nothing else matters.</p> <p>I realize that the Park Department's ability to address those issues is limited but hopefully at least it can relay the message of how fed up the residents are with the current situation.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>I just read of another public use being shut down due to safety concerns. I am talking of the cross-country at Greenlake/Woodlawn park. This is just the latest closure due the mentally ill and drugers that camped in the public parks. Clean them out now and return the parks to the law bidding public.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness, open community centers</p>	<p>It is time for the parks to be open to everyone not just the homeless, who seem to have mor rights than the rest of th population. A cross country program is now in limbo because it is not safe at Greenlake-Woodland Park because of the homeless encampment. This program serves hundreds if not thousands of local children. It is time to move the homeless whether they want to or not.</p> <p>Community Centers should be open to serve the entire city, not just a few. Classes should be restarted with everyone wearing a mask. Stop dragging your feet!</p>

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<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Wayfinding, trails and degradation of trails</p>	<p>plan, I recommend placing a much greater emphasis on it. Doing so would create a much-needed, fresh stewardship boost to our beleaguered park system. It would encourage the public to return.</p> <p>Seattle Parks have miles of poorly marked and/or unmarked social trails. They degrade habitat, make it easy to get lost, and discourage people from entering or using our parks.</p> <p>One of the barriers to using parks is a lack of comfort with wild places. Poorly marked trails discourage people from exploring parks, and heighten their worries about getting lost or being unsafe.</p> <p>Good wayfinding makes it easier for everyone to navigate and feel more comfortable in the park when they know where they are going, and how long it will take. Having loop trails with distances provides added appeal to people on fitness walks. Adding interpretive natural and cultural history signs would further enhance our park experiences.</p> <p>What is needed: A system-wide wayfinding set of trail names, signs and distances. Loop trails should be designed with appealing names and distances on them. Doing this would encourage constructive use of our parks and make them safer. We should also close off unmarked social trails and restore them. They cause habitat destruction, erosion and lead to drug use, encampments, theft, graffiti and dumping.</p> <p>Example of good wayfinding: The Red Rocks Open Space area in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It has excellent signage with trail names, maps and distances. Consequently, it is well-used by people and the trails are clearly-defined and well maintained. At every junction you can find a map that tells you where you are.</p>
<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness (Greenlake)</p>	<p>What do we want from our parks? We want them BACK! We want them SAFE! We want them CLEAN of tents and trash and urine and feces! Get the tents and RVs out of the parks and into designated areas where they can't use the lake to dump urine and feces. I moved to my Green Lake neighborhood 14 years ago to be near the lake and now I can't enjoy it. I am sickened by what I see at the park now. I do not feel safe there. It is so sad. PLEASE SAVE GREEN LAKE!</p>

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<p>9/1/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness (7 Hills Park)</p>	<p>Today included our park residents tearing down no parking signs in the neighborhood, and pulling additional metal items from the garden to scattered around the park.</p> <p>On Wed, Sep 1, 2021, 6:43 AM Robert Antolin <robertantolin@gmail.com> wrote: Last night someone tore up the community hardest removing several of the planters from the p patch</p> <p>On Tue, Aug 31, 2021, 8:10 PM Robert Antolin <robertantolin@gmail.com> wrote: As part of your strategic planning it would be great If you address the growing homeless Camp at 7 hills Park.</p> <p>I have tents within 20 ft of my front gate, have had trespassing issues with a homeless person high on drugs knocking on my front door and making my wife fear for her safety.</p> <p>My next door neighbors worry about their college aged daughters based on how the homeless residents of the park look at them, while my other nearest neighbors are afraid to use their front gate and only exit through their garage at the back of the house.</p> <p>The Camp continues to grow along with the garbage and damage to the park including the cherry blossom trees and community gardens.</p> <p>We feel abandoned by the city and like our personal safety doesn't matter. We fear this problem won't be addressed until someone gets hurt</p> <p>Please so something..... anything so my neighbors don't live in fear.</p>
<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>Open Parking Lot at Lower Woodland</p>	<p>Please open the parking lot at lower Woodland. The limited access has reduced use and made access more challenging for people who dont live nearby.</p>
<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>Request Lake City CC become a full service CC</p>	<p>Over the past 3 years, Lake City has lost its vibrancy. There are more apartments than ever and much increase in housing density, but a clear lack of activities and services. Lake City Way is becoming a scary place to walk or visit local business. Many businesses have closed including the long standing Chase bank about ready to close.</p> <p>We have a community Center building but we really need this to be a full service community center. There are housing opportunities for families, low income and seniors, lets get a full community center going.</p> <p>Like other neighborhoods across Seattle, the homeless issue has created a problem with crime and violence. Community Centers that can engage all people is one cog in the system to prevent loss of stability.</p> <p>Please consider helping our Lake City community.</p>
<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>Request Pocket Park a 8605 35th Ave NE</p>	<p>For over a decade members of the Wedgwood neighborhood have worked to complete plans for a pocket park at 8605 35th Ave NE. Time and again, Parks has made excuses as to why this project cannot go forward. The project was "waiting in line" but there was always some reason given why "our turn" had not yet come up. I want to see Parks show some integrity by finally coming through after many broken promises and excuses.</p>

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<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>SPR Unresponsive to issues with Andrews Bay, racial equity</p>	<p>SPR leased Andrews Bay for 30 years, since 2018. This aquatic park has no plan, no management. Instead of 80 boats we have up 200 - 300 and amplified sound battering the community. It is chaotic, aversely affects the quality of outdoor and even indoor life and we have seen an increase in drownings and helicopter rescue attempts. This is negligence. SPR has been unresponsive to our may attempts to engage on this.</p> <p>I believe this is also an equity issue. I do not believe this would be allowed by the City in, let's say, Laurelhurst for example. And yes, I am alluding to racial diversity here in 98118 compared with other parts of the City.</p>
<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>Duplicate</p>	
<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>proposing Park Use Rainier Beach Link2lake park</p>	<p>I've been a part of the Rainier Beach Link2Lake park renovation/restoration committee for the past 4 years. In addition to working to develop community support and ideas for the restoration of Be'er Sheva Park, we've gotten input from a broad community of people on subjects that should be impacting Park's planning in other areas nearby like Pritchard Beach, the neighborhood walking trails, safe bike paths, the Henderson Boulevard (originally an Olmsted project), finishing off elements in Be'er Sheva that we haven't been able to get funded (yet), opening up the Urban Farm to the community, and others. At the request of the Seattle Parks Foundation, I've summarized several of them.</p> <p>I have attached several of these proposals. Please consider them in your planning process. This neighborhood developed the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update in 2012, and these come from that and similar community developed documents.</p> <p>And Rachel, could you please send these along to the Park Board and the Park District Committee?</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness * responding to generic email sent</p>	<p>I'm thrilled that you're listening to me and many others who would like to use the Parks as they were intended, natural and recreational spaces for everyone. While COVID protocols made the encampment problem much worse, I have been asking Parks and Recreation to enforce the rules against camping since at least 2016, without success. Intermittent enforcement is useless. As long as people have an expectation that they will be allowed to stay and/or return, they will take up residence in the parks. According to the MDARs, in effect since 2015, any camping in a city park is an obstruction and can be moved immediately. Allowing them to build up to environmental social disasters first simply makes no sense at any level.</p>

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<p>9/2/2021</p>	<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>I just took the survey for thoughts on the upcoming strategic plan, but there was not really a good option to address the problem of our neighbors being unhoused and having to live in the parks.</p> <p>The survey simply asked if we considered the impact of homelessness in parks not important, important, or very important- well, I haven't talked to anyone in Seattle for whom that isn't incredibly important. However, ideas on the root of the issues and how to address it are very different.</p> <p>I do not want to see people homeless in the parks because I want to know they are safe in a permanent home. I don't want to see their few worldly possessions stolen and taken to a dump somewhere, I don't want to see their cars- the closest thing to a house they have- towed and auctioned off, I don't want to see them pushed from one park to the next. That is important to me.</p> <p>Please create a plan for SPR that provides comfort, safety, and stability to our unhoused neighbors.</p>
<p>9/3/2021</p>	<p>Increase park maintenance</p>	<p>area you neglected to include: Basic park maintenance and rehabilitation.</p> <p>For over the past two years, park maintenance and the improvement of park infrastructure have suffered horribly, especially in regard to the smaller parks and pocket parks in the system. Examples I can point to in our area (Alki & Seaview south of Alki, include Constellation, Cormorant Cove, Weather Watch and Me-Kwa-Mooks Parks, the Charles Richey Sr and Emma Schmitz Memorial Viewpoints. For example, previously maintained beds at the south end of Constellation Park and the beds at Cormorant Cove now hold primarily dead or dying plants and weeds. Weather Watch Park at Beach Dr SW & SW Carroll has never been properly maintained and there does not seem to be any landscape plan or maintenance for Me-Kwa-Mooks Park or for the Emma Schmitz Memorial Viewpoint.</p> <p>The above mentioned locations are small parks, but are utilized by citizens from all areas of Seattle and elsewhere in the region. They also are often used by Seattleites to show visitors the beauty of Puget Sound or to visit the beach at low tide...if they can look past the blighted park environments.</p> <p>I contrast the lack of park maintenance in Seattle with an experience my wife and I had in Tacoma last week when we visited Pt. Defiance Park, a well maintained park space. We were chatting with a Tacoma Parks employee about my frustration with the lack of small parks maintenance in Seattle. She indicated to us that Tacoma had a similar problem during the pandemic, but had dealt with the situation by focusing all park maintenance personnel on the small parks for a several day period of intense maintenance and rehab. Seattle and Tacoma are similar in many ways... Perhaps several days of intense focus on small park spaces is a solution Seattle should try.</p> <p>Take away: the aims of the Parks survey are noble and contemporary, but don't</p>
<p>9/3/2021</p>	<p>closure of Meadowbrook Pool</p>	<p>My husband has had a stroke and a hip replacement and was just beginning a Tuesday-Thursday swim exercise class at Meadowbrook when everything shut down. We are confused as to why the pool hasn't opened up. I understand other pools are open to make appointment to use the pool, etc. This is a form of exercise that many older people have been missing for the past year and a half.</p>

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9/3/2021	Use parks for health food access	It seems that many Seattle Parks are natural sights for farmers markets and food access hubs. Any way that public land can provide the necessary staging space for getting local healthy food to the most Seattle residents would be a good priority going forward.
9/3/2021	Update on New Green Lake CC and Pool	<p>Could you update on the following:</p> <p>Status of New Green Lake Community Center and Pool</p> <p>Why fitness (weight and cardio) rooms are not open, when other indoor activities are such as pickle ball and fitness classes are</p>
9/4/2021	Homelessness	<p>My priority for you is to remove tents and homeless from our parks! This is the most important thing you can do for our parks. I have not walked in some of our parks for years because of all the homeless who have taken over. I miss them so much, especially with the pandemic continuing to force us to isolate and avoid indoor activities. Please follow the advice of the Seattle Times Editorial column on Sept. 2: KEEP SEATTLE PARKS FREE OF TENTS AFTER REMOVALS.</p>
9/4/2021	Encroachment issues	<p>There is no portal or link to be able to provide feedback on the website. Here is my suggestion. Many of us around the city have spent years writing and calling about encroachment on to parks property. This is NOT about homeless encampments but rather about privileged landowners stretching the boundaries of their properties and claiming parks property as their own. Again, this is about homeowners bordering parks land and encroaching with buildings, fences, what have you.</p> <p>From a July letter from Lise A. Ward after having written to the SParksD for over a year about an encroaching neighbor: "One of the priority goals of the Parks and Recreation Department is to remove encroachments"...."we are implementing a City wide Encroachment Resolution Program".</p> <p>Do this, don't just talk about it. I think it works well with your new theme of equity. Think of it as retributive justice for taking land that is not theirs.</p> <p>Please forward this to the proper department if this is not correct and make your website available to the feedback you are asking for.</p>

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<p>9/5/2021</p>	<p>condition of parks, health and safety in parks, homelessness, address climate change in park planning</p>	<p>comment further. I feel that Seattle Parks Department is trying to fill too many roles in the community while ignoring the basics like just adequately maintaining the parks we have. I am so dismayed by the disheveled state of our parks particularly in the 98116 zip code of Alki and West Seattle. I live near Constellation Park which has not seen ANY maintenance of ANY kind since BEFORE the pandemic. It is full of weeds and mostly dead plants now, the “grass” beaten down into dust and weeds. Other small parks in the neighborhood have not seen ANY maintenance since before the pandemic either.</p> <p>Last week my husband and I were in Tacoma at Point Defiance Park and were embarrassed for Seattle as we saw how well maintained that park is, including the entire approach along Ruston Way. If they can maintain their parks through the pandemic, so can Seattle.</p> <p>It is my opinion that the role of local government is to attend to the basics first, of what makes a city livable before pursuing sexy and adventurous projects and programs. Health, safety and pride in the condition of a city go a very long way to making it a livable and enjoyable place.</p> <p>I have lived in Seattle for 38 years and am questioning whether or not I will live here much longer. I am concerned about the inability of the city to address our homeless problem to the degree that the health, safety and livability for the rest of us is threatened. I am tired of worn out infrastructure and streets in 3rd world condition, and parks that are poorly maintained, even though the voters continually approve road and park maintenance levies. The pandemic is not the excuse for the parks being in such poor condition. This has been the trend for the 38 years I have lived here. In the past 5 to 10 years though it seems to have become worse, especially here in West Seattle. I feel like our neighborhood is the poor stepchild of Seattle in</p>
<p>9/5/2021</p>	<p>indoor fitness at pools, all gender swims</p>	<p>I answered the survey including requesting indoor fitness at pools. Within that category, PLEASE prioritize monthly all-gender swims. They were hugely important to my family and we missed them during Rainier pool’s construction and then the pandemic.</p>

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<p>9/6/2021</p>	<p>equity and social justice, apposed naming in Chinatown and 8th & Dearborn, challenging naming of library</p>	<p>justice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I attended all meetings regarding the CC in Chinatown on 8th & Dearborn before it was built. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community wanted the name to be Chinatown ID CC to align with City Ordinance 119297. •We were denied and backwards name prevailed against community wishes. 2. Library name is backwards, too: ID Chinatown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I was told at the time: "That's what the Mayor wants." • 3. We have a letter from Mayor Nickels saying what he wants, which is against City Ordinance 119297 4. Library naming policy says libraries are to be named after geographic location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •City Ordinance 119297 says name is Chinatown International District <p>In order to restore equity and race and social justice, the community center and library names must be corrected to Chinatown International District Community Center and Chinatown International District Library.</p> <p>Preferably, the name should be Chinatown since it's in Chinatown and in the National Register Chinatown Historic District.</p> <p>I've attached documentation for you to examine. The District is Chinatown International District, within which are the three neighborhoods of Chinatown, Japantown, and Little Saigon. My colleague Brien Chow, chair of the Chong Wa Benevolent Association Outreach Committee and I are happy to meet with you or any SPR.staff to answer questions or discuss above further.</p>
<p>9/7/2021</p>	<p>homelessness and camping in parks,</p>	<p>Hello, I participated in the City Hall Park Survey but wanted to add that I do not support the idea of maintaining homeless camping in our city parks. This is not what our parks are intended for and, even with facilities added by the city, it creates health and safety issues for everyone. I know the following will sound bad, but the truth sometimes does: Homeless campers in parks are typically low-barrier individuals with addiction or mental health issues. It seems reckless and ironic for the City to allow camping by these individuals in parks enjoyed by children, minorities, and the elderly. The City needs to find other locations for homeless campers where they can have the facilities they need without endangering safety and health of the diverse citizens that want to enjoy the parks that their tax dollars pay for.</p>

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<p>9/7/2021</p>	<p>mowing/maintenance on Lake Washington Boulevard; erosion of Lake Washington shoreline; vegetation trimming between Mount Baker Beach and Seward</p>	<p>I'm all for government action and strong regulations addressing climate change, but that's not in the scope of the Seattle Parks department. Besides being more energy efficient and using electric vehicles, etc.</p> <p>There's one problem, and one problem only, that needs to be solved, before you should even think about anything else: Homeless encampment and associated trash, safety issues and loss of space for ordinary citizen and families to enjoy the Parks. Art classes??? The f-ing house is on fire, and you want to know whether to paint the wall white or sage green.</p> <p>Personally, as a 49 year old white male who can outrun almost anyone, I'm not too afraid for my safety, but large parts of parks department property have become too dangerous for families, and for (especially female) runners and walkers.</p> <p>Shutting down major Parks last year during the pandemic was stupid then and is something that will likely never happen again. At least I will ignore any future closure unless you station uniformed, armed police officers at the park entrance.</p> <p>Before you start any new grand projects, invest in maintenance of what you have. Here are a few examples:</p> <p>1) the greenstrip on Lake Washington Blvd South, north of I-90 and South of Charles St, used to be partly mowed twice a year. A few years ago it went to once a year, and blackberries started to take over. This year? Nothing. Blackberries growing into the street (a major bike route) and reducing the effective road width by 3 -4 ft. And if I hadn't spent about 2 hours with my personal hedge trimmer cutting back blackberries in June it would be much worse.</p> <p>2) erosion of the Lake Washington shoreline. The trail along the Lake just North of Genesee Park has a major gap due to shoreline erosion. It started last year and by now 15ft of trail are gone.</p> <p>3) every year I cut off a bunch of branches off trees along the lake between Mt Baker Beach Park and Seward because they are so low over the sidewalk anyone taller than</p>
<p>9/8/2021</p>	<p>desire for additional emphasis on environmental education at Green Lake & elsewhere</p>	<p>I just completed the survey via the Online Open House. I didn't see any option to give additional feedback so that is why I'm emailing you. One of the things I'd like to see at Seattle parks is more emphasis on environmental education. There are a lot of opportunities for educating the public on park ecosystems, animals, plant ecology, and climate change. For example, whenever I walk Green Lake, I always notice an array of wild birds. Yesterday I saw a large woodpecker. I regularly see eagles and blue herons. Other birds that I've seen include osprey, king fishers, owls and migratory ducks that only visit the lake in winter. What a golden opportunity to have a naturalist there on weekends to educate people about these birds and why they are drawn to the park. Although the parks department sees them as pests, Canadian Geese are wild birds and stay at the park only because people feed them. So, this is also an opportunity to teach people how to interact with wildlife, including why it's important not to feed or disturb wild birds.</p> <p>I really hope that you'll consider adding environmental education and naturalists as part of the Park Department's strategic plan for education. Besides Green Lake, I could see this type of program at other large parks in the city. This is such a great opportunity for children and adults to learn about urban nature.</p>

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<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>maintain & upgrade what we have rather than building new (e.g., Magnuson)</p>	<p>I would like if the parks department would consider budgeting maintenance and upgrades to existing Parks rather than building new parks. I spend a fair amount of time at Magnuson Park and it is very run down and seems to receive little to no maintenance. The bathrooms are gross, the striping in the parking lot is not clear vehicle break-ins are frequent. I would suggest a camera or police presence. Garbage cans tend to be overflowing and overall I would give it a C to D grade as far as a city park goes. I would be surprised if other parks are in much better condition except those that are new and I tend to believe those go downhill quickly due to lack of maintenance, staffing and care.</p> <p>I suggest that parks department to go to Bellevue or Redmond to see what a well-maintained park looks like, pleasant and inviting.</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>separate off-leash areas for large and small dogs</p>	<p>I'm new to the state and I am having a REALLY hard time finding a park that has BOTH large and small dog areas. I cannot ever allow my small dogs to play with a dog 3x their weight because of all the things that could go wrong. Please, add more separate off dog leash areas. Dog parks alone here are very spaced out and I have to drive 7 minutes just to find one in my neighborhood. Please show some more love to the animal lovers out here.</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>improved maintenance in Queen Anne boulevard; homelessness</p>	<p>First and foremost, maintain the parks we have evenhandedly. I see large amounts of tax dollars being spent on the new Queen Anne Playfield turf on 3rd W, yet the traffic island at the corner of Nob Hill and Wheeler St N went unmowed for well over a year with the curb and gutter loaded with leaves and trash. It appears that someone (perhaps local residents) finally cut the grass but there is still a large tree branch littering the ground. What would it take to get a couple of people out there with a mower and a pickup truck for 1-2 hours and clean the place up. This is part of the Queen Anne Boulevard greenway and the responsibility of Parks. The island just south at Nob Hill and McGraw St seems to get mowed for some reason.</p> <p>And Parks has not come around in years to clean up the fall Chestnut leaves (a very poor and messy choice for a street tree, by the way) along Bigelow (again, the QA Blvd) which used to be done twice every fall. Occasionally we see a street sweeper rumble around aimlessly, but without advance notice to residents, it just drives down the middle of the street getting nothing since on-street parking doesn't allow sweeping at the curb where it is needed. What an enormous waste of our tax money. Advance notice to residents of sweeping activity might allow us time to move cars to allow a properly efficient job. Other cities seem to have been able to figure that out.</p> <p>Finally far too many of the parks have been lost and are no longer safe to visit. This city needs to stop working on band-aid solutions to homelessness and calling it compassion and actually DO something to FIX the problem. That would be true compassion. When we moved here 20 years ago, this was a mid-sized exceptionally livable yet world class city, It is now a cesspool.</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>inquiry about status of Green Lake/Evans redevelopment and indoor fitness</p>	<p>But inside pickleball is allowed, why not the fitness rooms?</p>

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<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>suggestion to require vaccination cards for drop-in use of indoor facilities</p>	<p>Registered programs (pickleball being one of them) are allowed because we can collect information on who is using the program, have them agree to requirements before they attend, and have a limit to how many people will be in the building.</p> <p>With drop-in programs like the weight room it would take more planning and procedure to make sure we knew the contact info of all who came in and to be able to limit usage. We are exploring ideas of how we can do virtual sign up for drop-in so that we can have the same safety standards in place.</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>follow-up on service request via Find It Fix It</p>	<p>I do have to say though at some point people got to stop using Covid for lack of service. I'm just saying.</p> <p>Lots of business been operating and this being outdoors should be right up the parks alley.</p> <p>The CSB said that parks never does the requests that people submit and they certainly never communicate with the citizen saying the job was completed. So only one thing can come to my analytical mind and this Parks district with endless tax dollars got the department not interested?</p> <p>I am off my rant.</p> <p>Here is what I sent to CSB and they forwarded to parks. 49 days ago Ticket 21-00161170</p> <p>35 days ago Ticket 21-00171297</p> <p>The app find it fix it is I think programmed to find an address and there is no address to this location. I am not very good with directions so here is what I say.</p> <p>The last house on Boyer going towards 24th Ave E is 1931 Boyer ave E.</p> <p>It is the entire hillside at the sidewalk that need to be brutally cut back and the overhang of trees growing overhead.</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>additional follow up regarding proof of vaccinations</p>	<p>Thanks for listening</p> <p>They are limiting access to seahawk games People have to show their vaccination card to get in Baseball and hockey too</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>request for path to gain traction with skate park project</p>	<p>I was part of the Miller park neighborhood committee a few years ago and this was a project that we were trying to move forward with at the park. It ultimately got shelved because of the construction of the daycare at the park. The targeted area for the skatepark was needed for staging for construction. Now that that construction is done what can we do to have this project gain some traction again?</p>

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<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>thanks for follow-up</p>	<p>I hear you. Sometimes it's good to hear from people or people like me.</p> <p>We all have to live in this collective society and get along.</p> <p>I was feeling ignored and day by day thinking what's going on?</p> <p>Communication and action are tangible and measurable.</p> <p>The curb grass was mowed after my requests but the hillside not touched/ that's when I called back to CSB asked them what gives? If a crew or even 1 staff there mowing-then get a weed eater and loppers and do the sidewalk requests</p> <p>So I am very happy to hear that you are going to resolve this.</p> <p>I never had used the app before and was hesitant because I'm not a trouble maker.</p> <p>I could do the work in 2 hours.</p> <p>Take care and stay in touch!</p>
<p>9/9/2021</p>	<p>seeking funding for Westpoint Lighthouse at Discovery Park for maintenance and programming</p>	<p>I have heard that the Westpoint Lighthouse lost funding through budget cuts. As part of the park's strategic plan, I'd like to request funding for programming and maintaining the Westpoint Lighthouse. The lighthouse is currently in need of maintenance and would benefit from this funding. There is rust and windows are boarded up. Graffiti has been painted over by paint that does not match the original paint.</p> <p>Furthermore, funding should be used to provide educational activities at the lighthouse with an emphasis on the history of the lighthouse and Discovery Park, park flora and fauna, and the native connection to the land.</p> <p>The lighthouse was given to the city via the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and I believe Seattle is obligated to make sure the building is maintained and used for cultural, educational or historic purposes.</p> <p>I plan to attend future strategic meetings to make sure this stays in the forefront.</p>
<p>9/10/2021</p>	<p>desire for clean, safe parks</p>	
<p>9/10/2021</p>	<p>reiteration of desire for clean, safe parks</p>	<p>Why do I need to take a survey to tell you that we would like our public parks to be safe and clean? What do we want from our parks? In my opinion, Seattle parks should be safe and clean for all ages at any time. Can we please have our parks back?</p>

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<p>9/10/2021</p>	<p>improved maintenance on Interurban and Burke-Gilman trails</p>	<p>The fact that nothing was mentioned about the Burke-Gilman and Interurban trail in the Parks Strategic Plan survey speaks volumes about how poorly this is supported by Seattle Parks and Recreation. There should have been some direct items about these vital components and connectors to the other park facilities.</p> <p>The Burke-Gilman on the north side of Seattle is very out of date. The trail width is too narrow. The surface quality is degraded. The vegetation overhangs the trail. There should be something in the strategic plan about modernizing this 30 year old facility!</p> <p>There is no decent connection from the Burke-Gilman to the InterUrban Trail on the south end. There should at least be a signed route between the two. Better yet, there InterUrban should be completed down to the Burke-Gilman.</p> <p>There has been no significant maintenance on the Burke-Gilman in 2 years. Last year a 100' repaving around 125th St NE was all that was done. This year, a couple potholes were filled. It was nice to see the drainage area cleared on the west side of the trail, but that does nothing to improve the trail.</p>
<p>9/11/2021</p>	<p>desire for swim lessons at Mounger</p>	<p>When will swim lessons be offered at Mounger? My 11 year old has missed 2 years of swim lessons because of CoVID closures. We are restricted to weekend lessons due to work schedules. He also does not tolerate the noise/echos well at the indoor pools. I have always signed him up for lessons at a Mounger in the summers because we live in North Seattle. I took your survey but did not see any place to comment. I am concerned that he is missing out in developing an important life skill.</p>
<p>9/12/2021</p>	<p>support for improved maintenance of Burke-Gilman</p>	<p>thanks I will also send them an email. Seattle Parks has been a NO-SHOW on the BGT. Simply an abject failure to their community.</p>
<p>9/12/2021</p>	<p>support for sanitation services for homelessness, desire for more outreach services and sustainable alternatives; general support for parks system</p>	<p>Dear Seattle Parks and Recreation, I just completed my survey-thank you for providing me with an opportunity to give input. I love Seattle Parks and consider them a huge asset in our community. I wanted to follow up with a note about the explosion of people who are experiencing homelessness in Seattle Parks. It is overwhelming and has made some of our parks, such as our crown jewel Green Lake, a very uncomfortable and unsafe place to be. I've had people come out of tents and scream at me; my friends son will no longer allow her to bring her grandchild to Green Lake; the closing of encampments at two of my neighborhood parks in Lake City has increased people who are homeless coming to Meadowbrook.. My local community center (MCC) has provided showers throughout the pandemic. That's been a fantastic and appropriate service for people (although I am excited about getting our pool back soon!). Turning parks into homeless encampments and letting them continue to grow is not appropriate nor is it safe for anyone.</p> <p>Please prioritize bringing outreach services into the parks, no longer allowing anyone to camp in the parks, moving people who are homeless out and sustaining it both in parks that are cleared as well as nearby parks.</p> <p>I want our parks to be for everyone again, as they are meant to be.</p>