

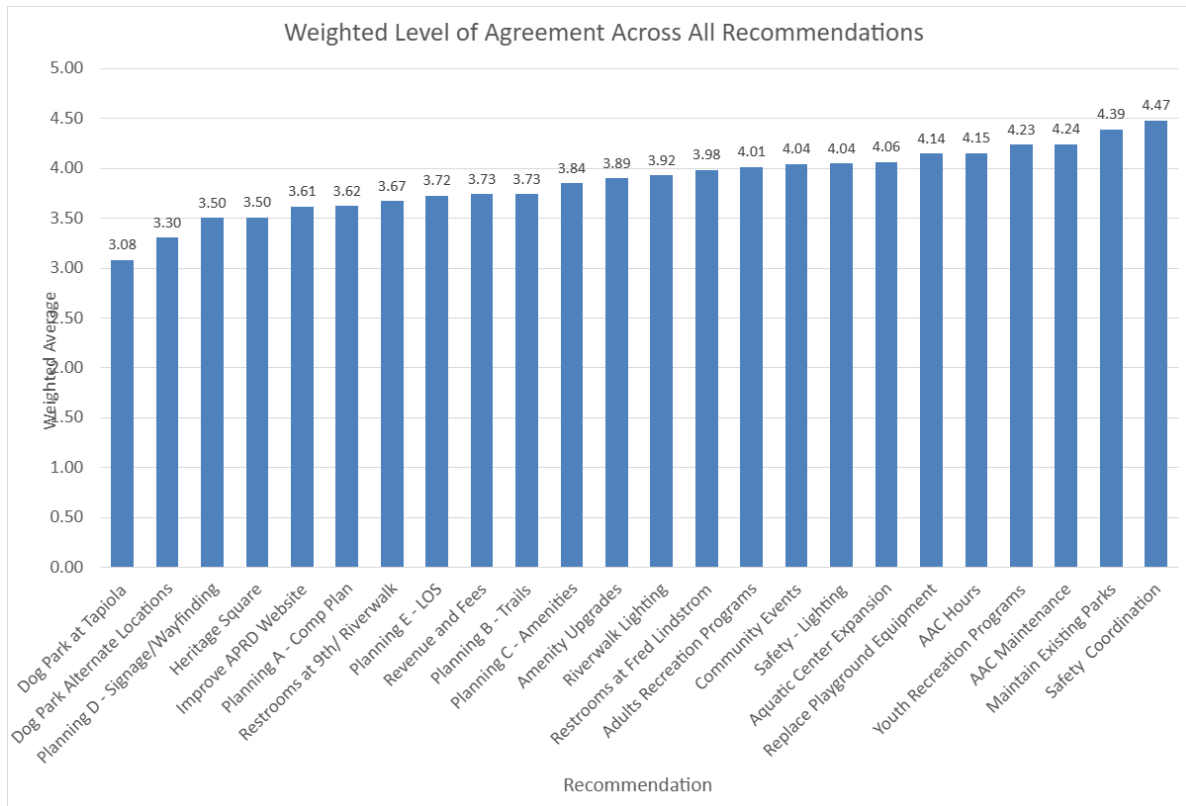
**DATE:** April 8, 2026  
**TO:** Astoria Parks and Recreation Department (ARPD)  
**FROM:** Ian Sisson, Mackenzie  
**PROJECT NAME:** Astoria Parks Master Plan Update  
**PROJECT #:** 2250168.00

**SUBJECT:** Summary of Input from Online Survey #3

### SURVEY RESPONSE DETAILS:

- Survey open from March 7-March 18, 2026.
- **631 Respondents.**
- 72% survey completion rate.
- 184 email sign-ups for project updates.

### OVERALL SURVEY THEMES AND TAKEAWAYS

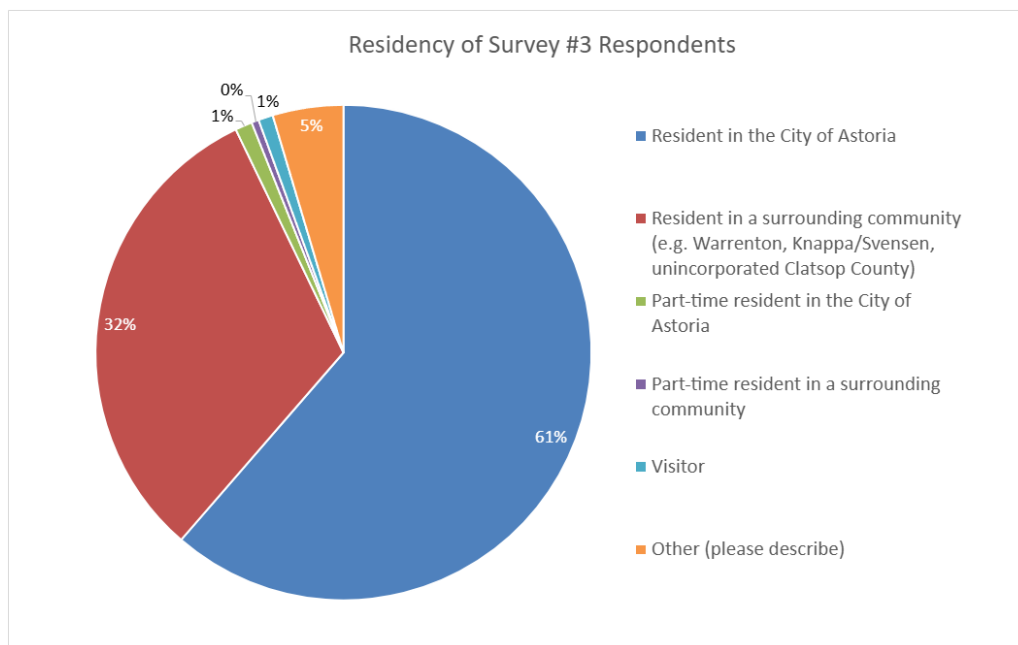


Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with draft Master Plan recommendations using a 5-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree). The recommendations were grouped into three categories: Operations and Maintenance; Programs; and Capital Projects.

- There was general support for each of the draft recommendations, with weighted average scores ranging from a low of 3.1 to a high of 4.5.
- Recommendations with the highest scores were:
  - *Safety* - “Coordinate with the Astoria Police Department and other local agencies, service providers, and non-profit organizations to address safety issues.”
  - *Parks and Trail Maintenance* - “Prioritize maintenance and repair of existing parks, trails, and recreation amenities.”
- Recommendations to establish a fenced off-leash dog area at Tapiola Park and/or within other existing parks had the lowest scores.
- Open-ended written responses provided additional context:
  - 23 written responses expressed appreciation for Astoria Parks and Recreation Department, parks and facilities, and Master Plan public engagement efforts.
  - 58 comments were specific to the Aquatic Center. 36 of these comments expressed desire for longer hours. Additional comments requested improving communication with the public regarding temporary closures and changes to operating hours.
  - Children’s Park and Fred Lindstrom Park were identified as specific sites for improved maintenance, play equipment, and lighting.
  - 31 comments stated the department should prioritize maintenance of existing park sites, which aligns with much of the public input received throughout the planning process.

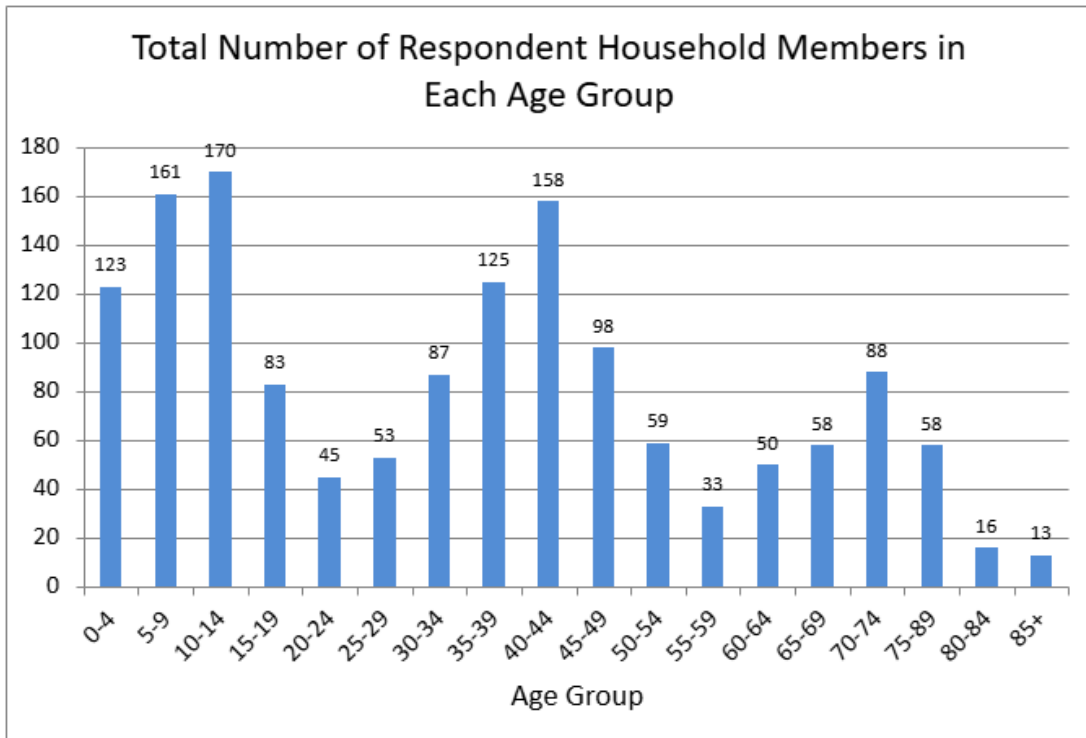
## QUESTION BY QUESTION SUMMARIES

### Question #1 - “I am a...”

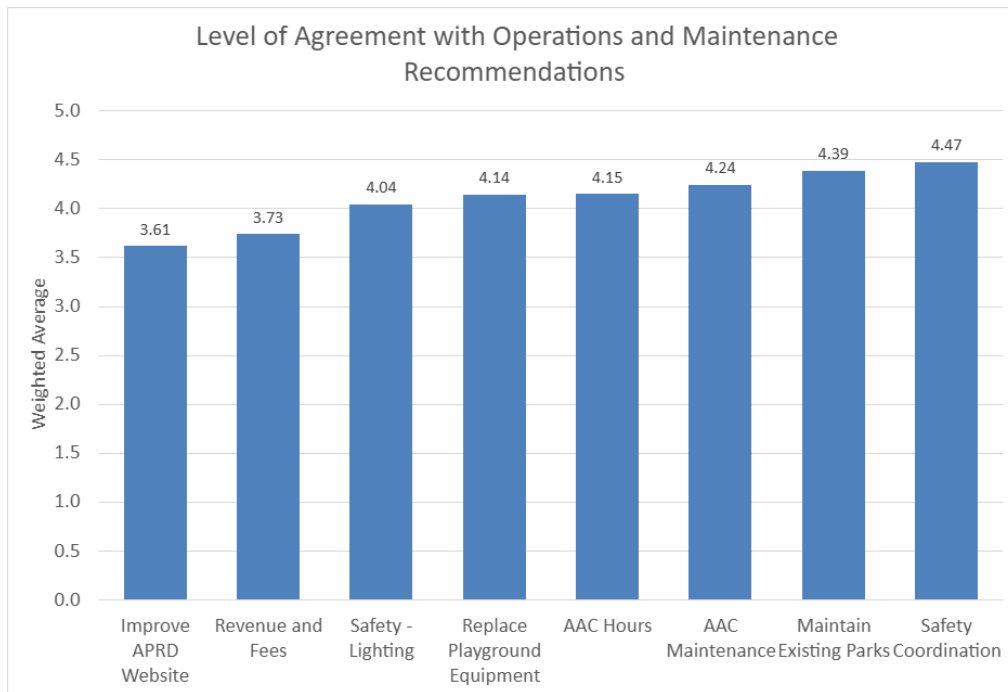


“Other” responses included Long Beach, WA (2), Ilwaco (2), Warrenton, OR (1), Seaside, OR (2), Naselle, WA (1), Clatsop County (1), Chinook, WA (1) and other miscellaneous descriptions of residency, ex. “Process of moving back” and “long time homeowner” (19).

Question #27 – Including yourself, how many members of your household are in the following age groups?



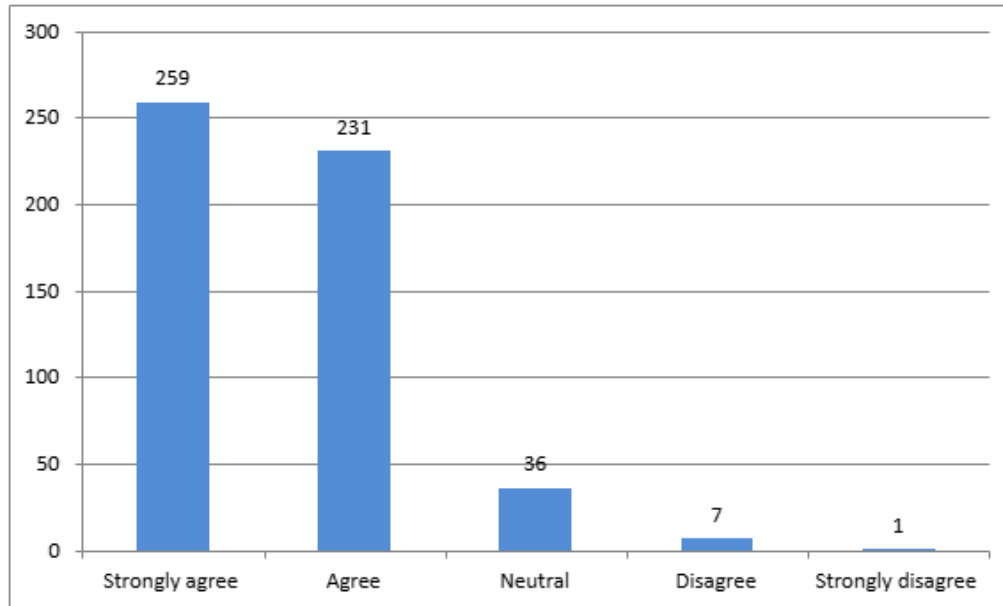
## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS



### Question #2 – Park and Trail Maintenance

- A. Prioritize maintenance and repair of existing parks, trails, and recreation amenities.
  - i. Enhance maintenance at highest-use parks and trails.
  - ii. Increase frequency of trash pickups where appropriate.

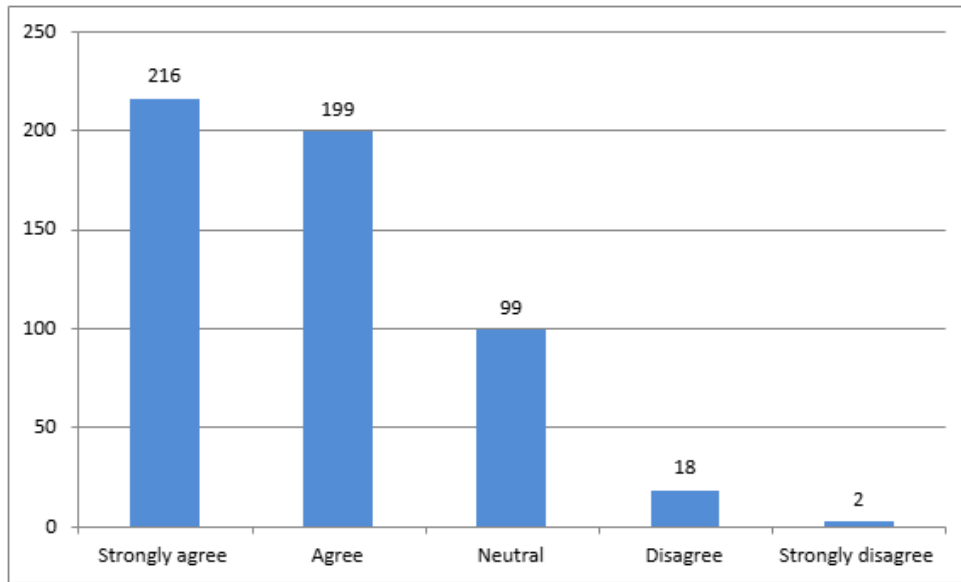
- iii. Invest in improvements to sport courts and fields (e.g. resurfacing, drainage, specialty training infrastructure, and irrigation).



- Total written comments = 28
  - 13 comments were in support of maintaining existing parks and trails. Tapiola Skate Park, Children’s Park, the baby swing at Fred Lindstrom Park, the Riverwalk, trails, and the Aquatic Center pool were mentioned specifically as places needing maintenance and repair.
  - 7 comments were made about adding new amenities such as pickleball, indoor/covered play area, bike/walking trails in Tapiola, wayfinding, and restrooms for those experiencing homelessness.
  - 2 comments were made in opposition to expansion of the Aquatic Center.

*Question #3 – Park and Trail Maintenance*

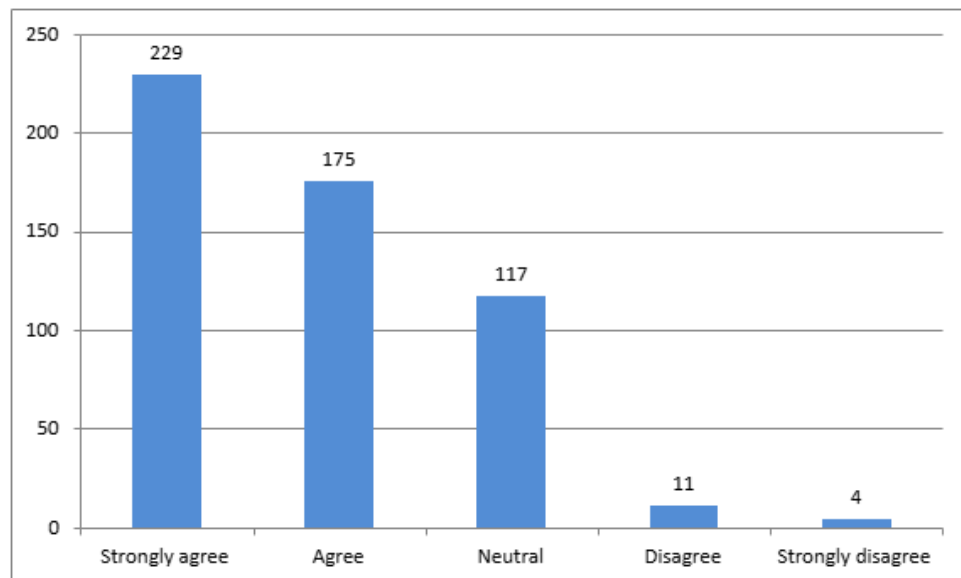
- B. Replace aging playground equipment.
  - i. Establish priorities based on park use levels, safety considerations, variety of options for different age groups and ability, and neighborhood Level of Service.
  - ii. As part of this effort, incorporate accessible and inclusive play equipment to increase opportunities for people with disabilities.



- Total written comments = 26
  - 7 comments were made about the replacement including support for equipment to serve a greater age range and replacing equipment at Children’s Park, 14th and Grand, and Fred Lindstrom Park.
  - 2 comments about improving accessibility and inclusivity.
  - 2 comments about staying within funding limits.
  - 2 comments about improving safety: fully fencing a playground and encouraging safe scooter/e-bike usage.

*Question #4 – Aquatic Center Operations*

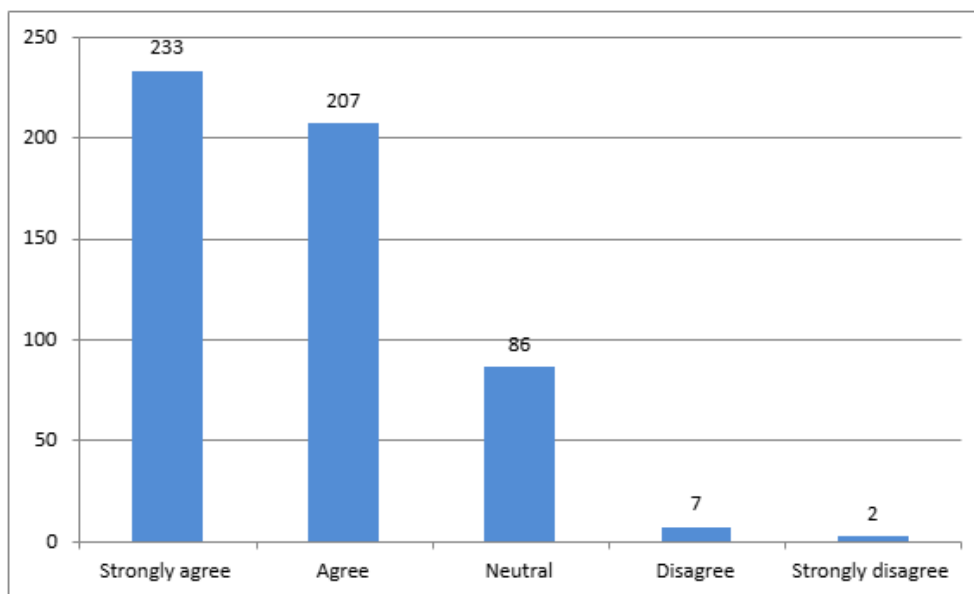
- A. Hours / Days of Operations
  - i. Evaluate staffing needs to accommodate expanded hours and days of operation, including compensation, budgetary impacts, and recruitment challenges.



- Total written comments = 54
  - 32 comments were made about the Aquatic Center days and hours of operation, requesting the facility to be open on Mondays and to extend morning and evening hours generally.
  - 7 comments on Aquatic Center operations including a desire for more swimming lesson offerings.
  - 3 comments on financing and accessibility. Respondents expressed desire for low/no cost passes for locals.

*Question #5 – Aquatic Center Operations*

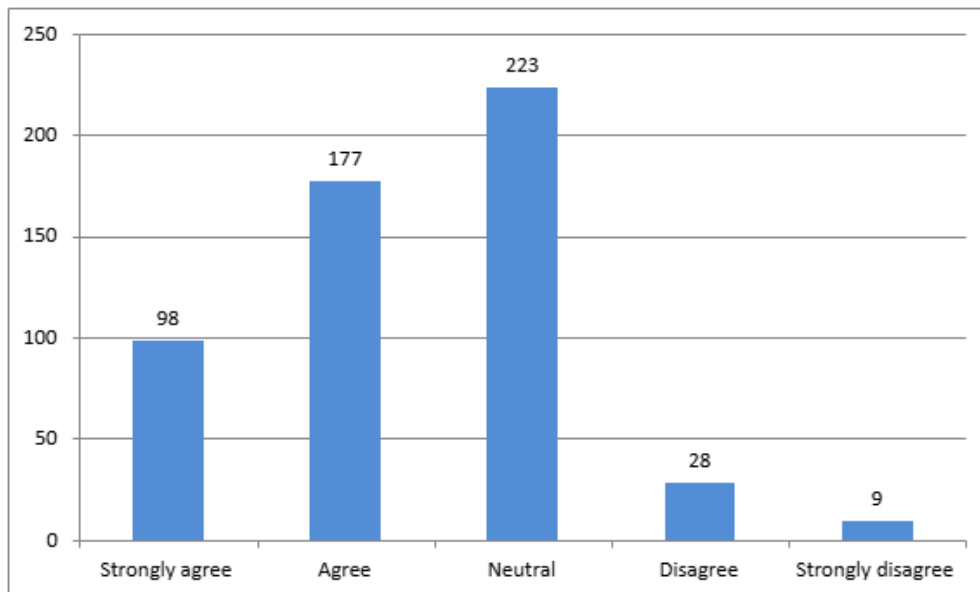
- B. Maintenance
  - i. Address concerns with deferred maintenance, safety, and cleanliness.
  - ii. Continue investment in updated mechanical/operational systems to improve patron experience and increase efficiency.



- Total written comments = 29
  - 8 comments on improving the cleanliness of the facilities.
  - 4 comments expressing general support for increased maintenance.
  - 4 comments on staffing including retaining staff and concern over management and lack of response to feedback.
  - 3 comments on facility operations including increasing pool temperature and using saltwater instead of chlorine.

*Question #6 – Communications and Marketing*

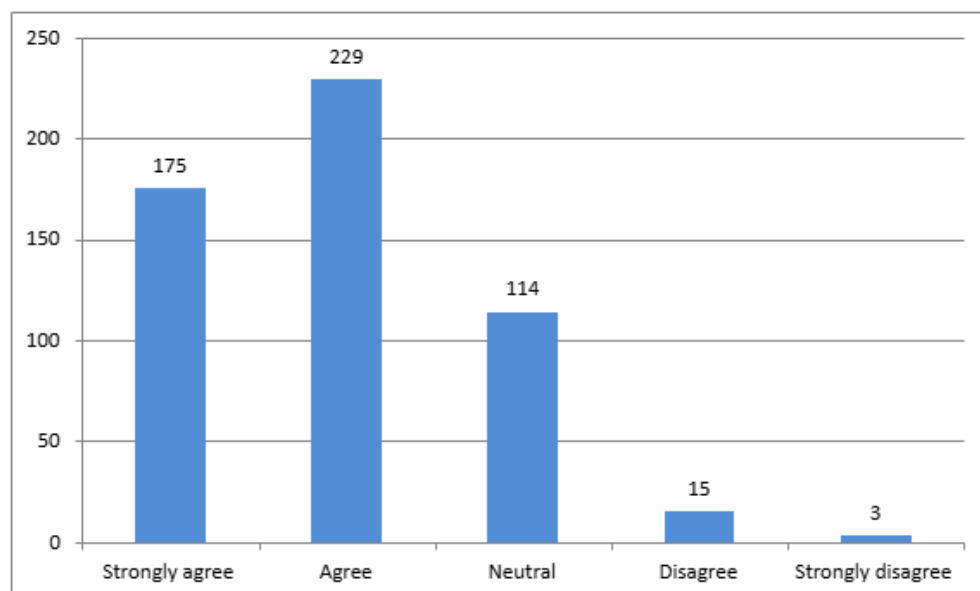
- A. Improve the Astoria Parks & Recreation Department web page.
  - i. Enhance overall user interface.
  - ii. Provide easy access to information and registration opportunities for upcoming community events, youth recreation programs, and adult recreation programs.
  - iii. Provide easy access to an interactive map of parks, trails, and indoor recreation facilities.



- Total written comments = 20
  - 10 comments expressed general support for improving the department web page, citing difficult user interfaces and inaccurate information.
  - 4 comments expressed that this is a low priority.
  - 3 comments were about improving access to the web page.

*Question #7 – Safety*

A. Provide additional lighting within parks where appropriate.

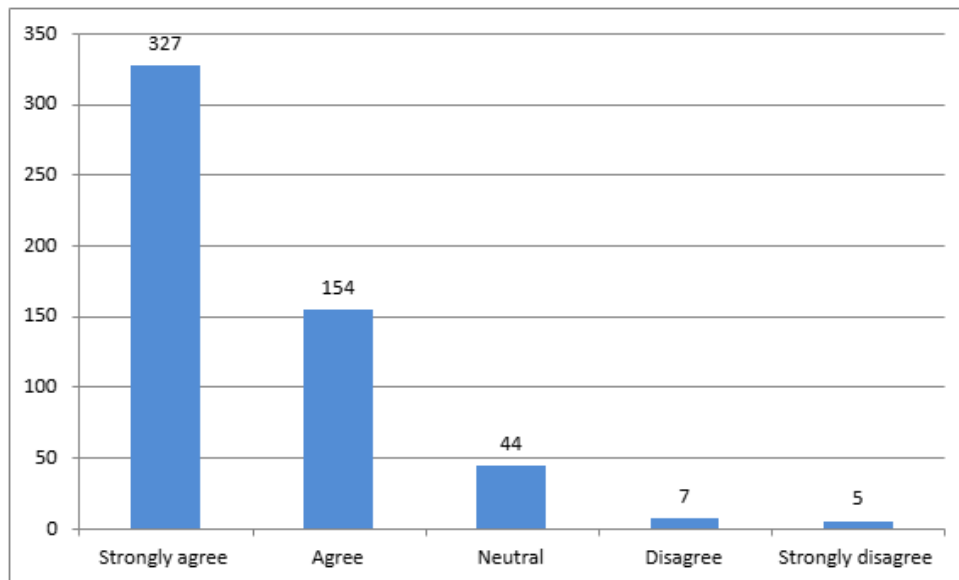


- Total written comments = 21
  - 5 comments expressed general support for this recommendation.
  - 5 comments expressed concern over the impacts of lighting on wildlife.

- Fred Lindstrom Park, the Riverwalk, and Children’s Park were identified as specific locations to add lighting.
- 4 comments expressed that this is a low priority or should be based on availability of funding.

*Question #8 - Safety*

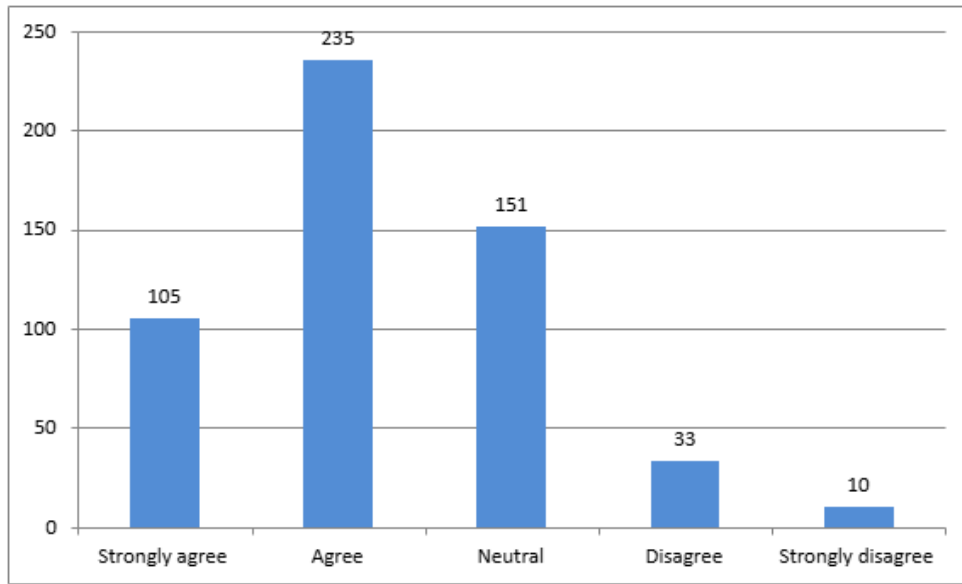
- B. Continue to coordinate with the Astoria Police Department and other local agencies, service providers, and non-profit organizations to address issues related to illegal camping and accumulation of waste and personal belongings at public sites.



- Total written comments = 30
  - 8 comments were made about the role of the APRD. These respondents felt it is not APRD’s responsibility to address.
  - 8 comments were about addressing houselessness generally. Most comments recognized the complexities of the issue.
  - 5 comments expressed general support for this recommendation.

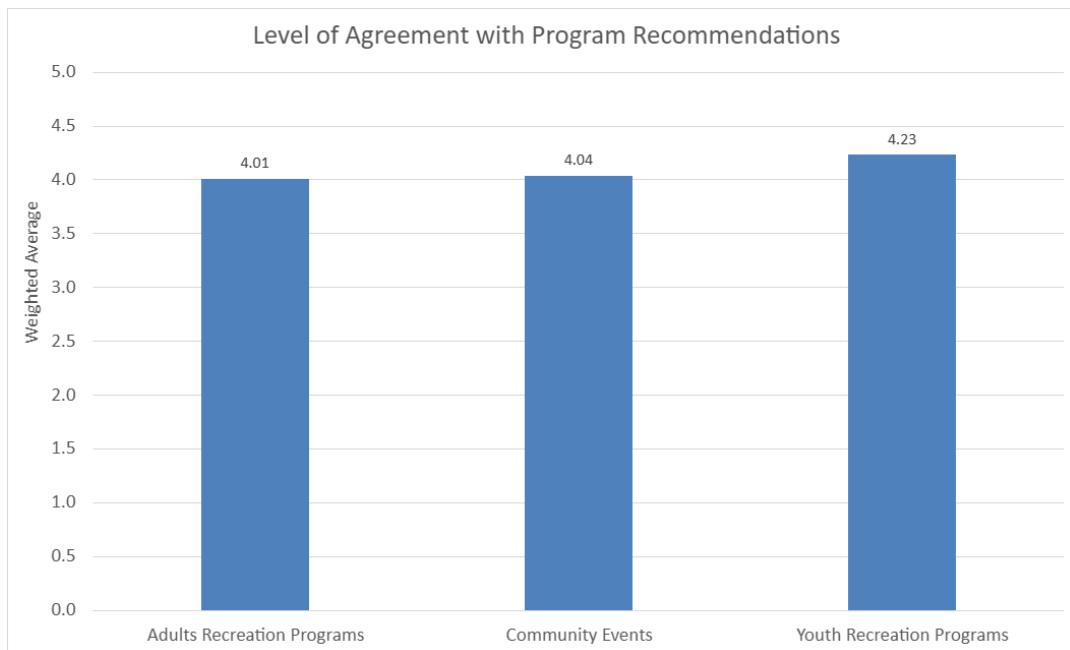
*Question #9 – Department Revenue and Fees*

- A. Ensure sustainable revenue generation by reviewing user fees and operating expenses annually.
- i. Consider working with outside consultants as appropriate.
  - ii. Evaluate appropriate timing for any planned increases to user fees.



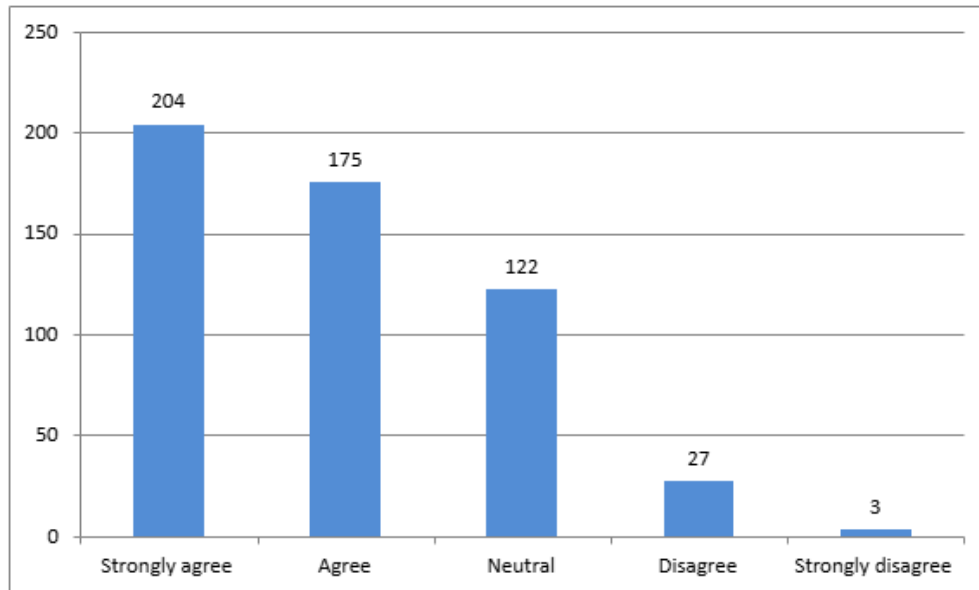
- No written comments.

### PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS



#### Question #10 - Community Events

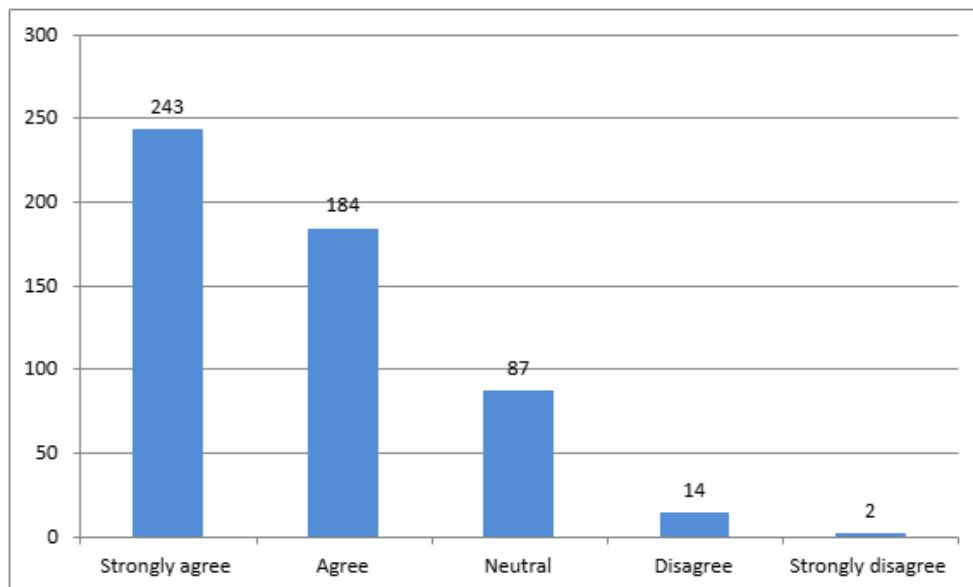
- A. Increase free and/or low-cost events (e.g., movies in the park, festive occasions, and fun runs).



- Total written comments = 14
  - 6 comments were in general support.
  - Two comments mentioned specific events such as Easter Egg Hunt, Dances, and monthly teen events.
  - 3 comments expressed that this is a low priority.

*Question #11 – Youth Recreation Programs*

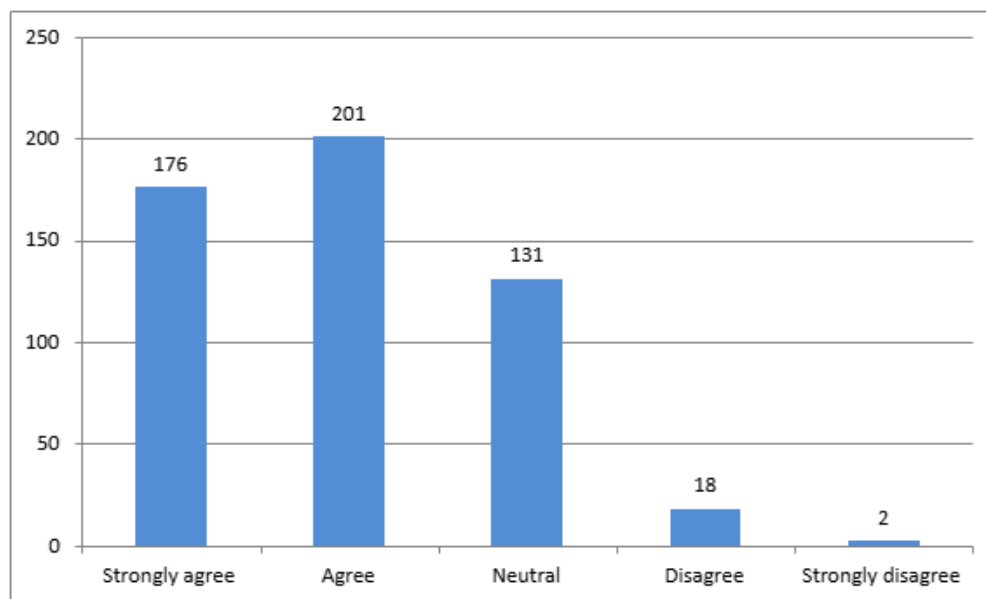
- A. Increase swimming lessons and opportunities for advanced techniques and competitive programming.
- B. Increase athletics programs for K-5 age range.
- C. Provide non-sports activity programs for K-5 age range.
- D. Provide non-sports activity programs and indoor recreation opportunities for teens.



- Total written comments = 37
  - 10 comments were about the Aquatic Center including increasing hours and increasing available swimming lessons.
  - 8 comments were about providing programs for pre-K, K-5, and teens.
  - 4 comments about improving accessibility for those with disabilities, those experiencing financial hardship, and for working families.
  - 4 comments were about providing an indoor/covered play area.
  - 4 comments were in general support.

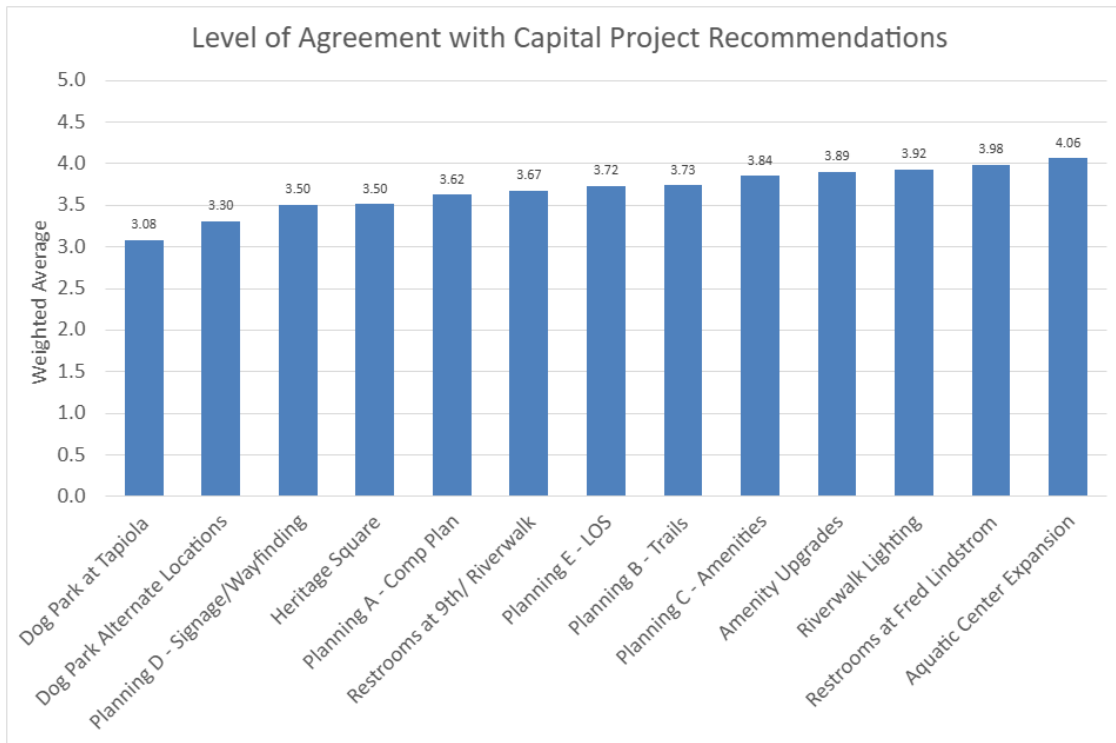
*Question #12 - Adult Recreation Programs*

- A. Increase quantity and variety of fitness classes (e.g. spin, barre, and aquatic-based programs).
  - i. Explore opportunities for collaborations with Clatsop Community College marketing, value-added services, and increased engagement.
  - ii. Improve offerings by investing in high quality equipment and certifications and training for instructors.
- B. Provide drop-in indoor recreation (volleyball, basketball, pickleball, etc.).
- C. Provide league sports (volleyball, basketball, softball, etc.).
- D. Provide non-sports classes and activity programs.
  - i. Explore opportunities for collaborations with Clatsop Community College marketing, value-added services, and increased engagement.



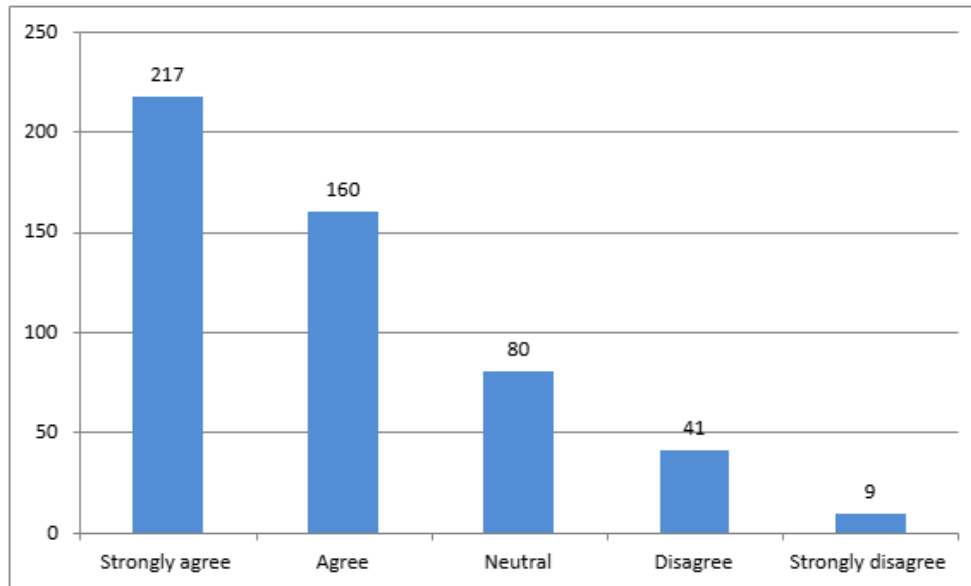
- Total written comments = 47
  - 22 comments were about programs in general (10), for seniors (4), for adults (5), and for youth (3). Suggestions included senior softball, soccer league, after school programs, yoga, tai chi, pickleball, volleyball, general fitness classes, and weather neutral offerings.
  - 6 comments about accessibility including costs, providing adaptive swimming options, and free programs.
  - 5 comments were in general support.
  - 2 comments about partnerships. Specifically, not competing with Clatsop Community College.
  - 2 comments about the desire for an indoor play space.

## CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS



### Question #13 - Aquatic Center Expansion

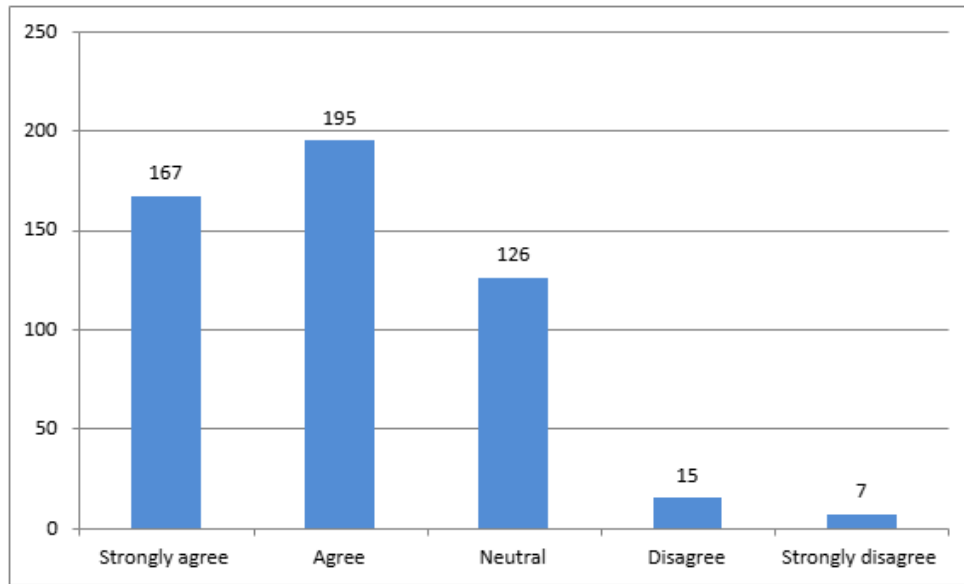
- A. Provide flexible indoor recreation space that can be used for play, organized sports (e.g. pickleball, volleyball, basketball), fitness programs, and community events. Refer to concept plans by Scott Edwards Architecture (2024).
- i. Evaluate how to design and implement the expansion without substantial increases to staffing or other associated operational costs.
  - ii. Prioritize proactive communication with the public about project costs, funding sources, and ongoing staffing, maintenance, and other operational considerations.



- Total written comments = 42
  - 4 comments were about project funding, particularly that support for the expansion was dependent on project costs.
  - 5 comments in general support.
  - 6 comments were in favor of maintaining existing assets or expressed that the expansion is a low priority.
  - 7 comments about providing specific amenities such as a rock-climbing wall, pump track, racquetball, shuffleboard, sauna, and soccer fields.
  - 8 comments expressed desire for an indoor/covered play area and that an expansion would provide a community asset.
  - 2 comments about cost barriers to access, including for seniors.

*Question #14 - Public Restrooms*

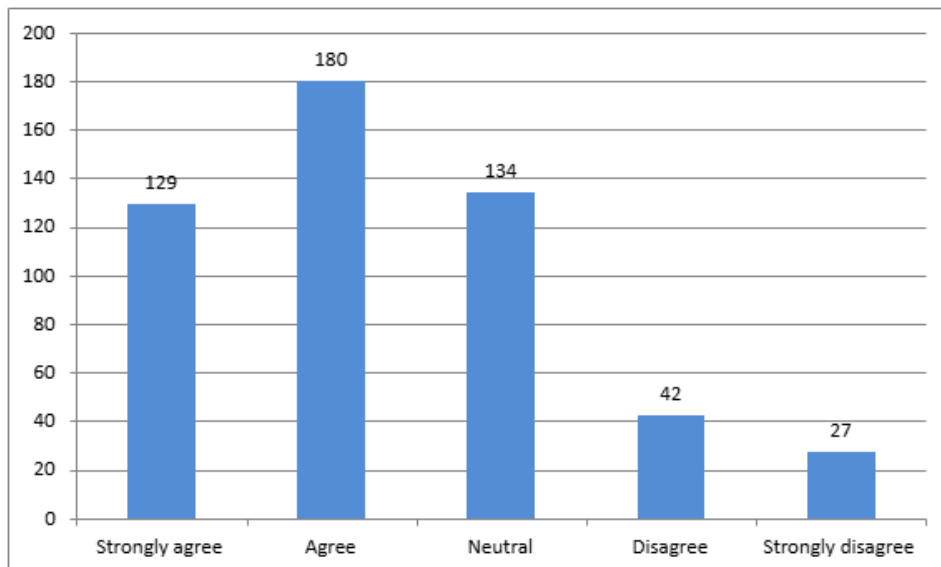
- A. Fred Lindstrom Memorial Park
  - i. Determine appropriate facility type, placement, and utility connection needs.



- Total written comments = 17
  - 4 comments expressed concern about bathrooms being used by those experiencing homelessness.
  - 2 comments were about the importance of providing safe and clean restrooms.
  - 8 comments were in general support.

*Question #15 - Public Restrooms*

- B. Riverwalk at 9th Street
  - i. Determine appropriate facility type, placement, and utility connection needs.

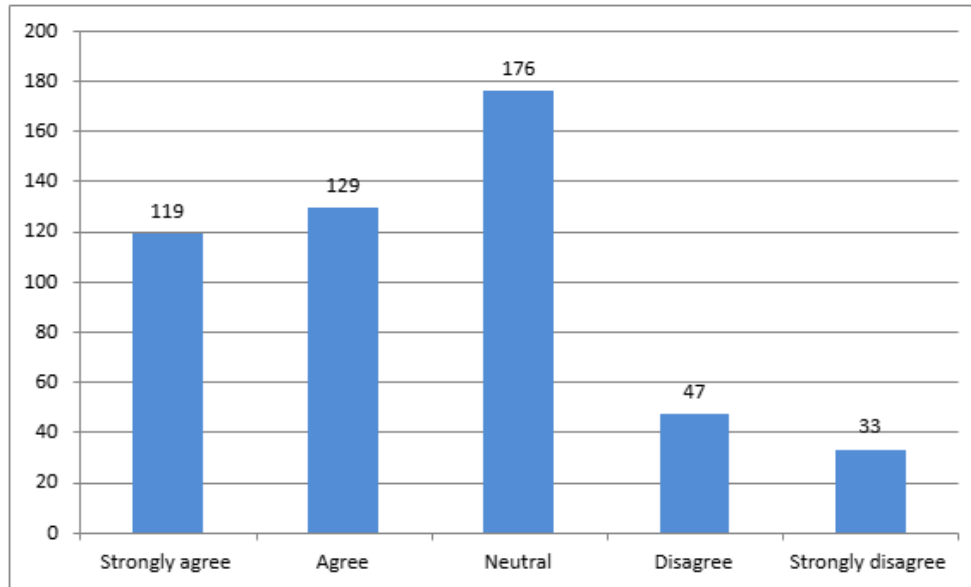


- Total written comments = 21
  - 14 comments expressed concern that restrooms would be inaccessible due to use by those experiencing homelessness.
  - 4 comments were in general support.

- 2 comments noted the public restrooms on 12th and Exchange need increased maintenance.

*Question #16 - Heritage Square*

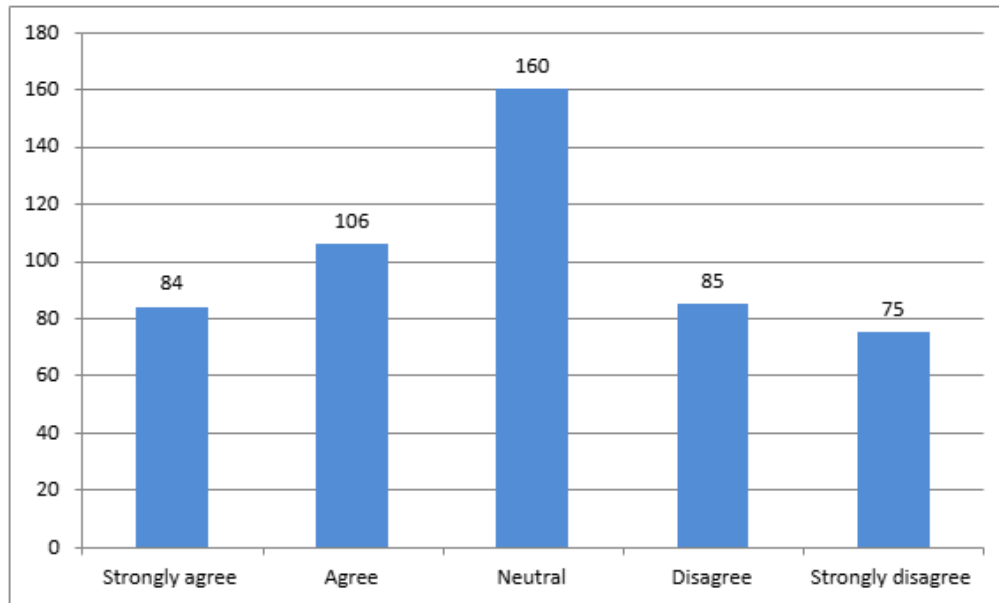
- A. Develop a flexible, multi-use community gathering space. Refer to Heritage Square Place Guide (2025).



- Total written comments = 28
  - 6 comments expressed that the space should be used for parking.
  - 4 comments expressed that the space should be used for housing.
  - 1 comment was in opposition, 1 comment was split on support, and 5 comments were in general support.

*Question #17 - Dog Park*

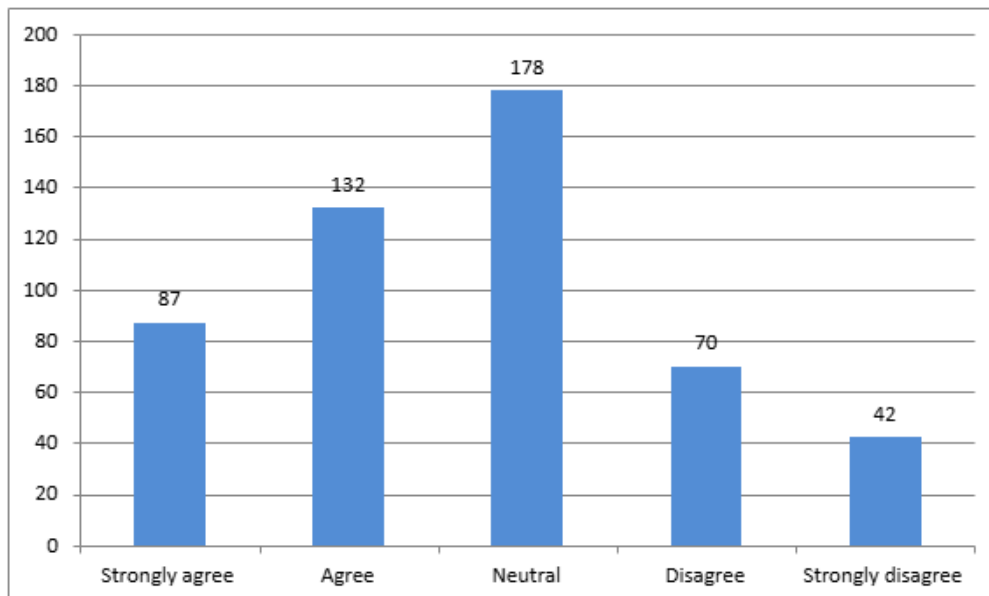
- A. Establish an off-leash dog area within Tapiola Park.
- Provide a ±1-acre fenced area with double gates at entries and segregated subareas for large dogs and small dogs.
  - Consider amenities such as signage with posted rules and etiquette; waste bag stations and trash receptacles; water stations; benches; rain/shade shelter; and lighting.



- Total written comments = 34
  - 17 comments in opposition cited safety concerns, desire for a different location, and general opposition.
  - 6 comments were in general support, but 3 noted caveats such as the location being unsafe for children or far from a central location.
  - Alternate locations noted include Children’s Park, Fred Lindstrom Park, and Shively Park.
  - 4 comments noted that this project is a low priority.

*Question #18 - Dog Park*

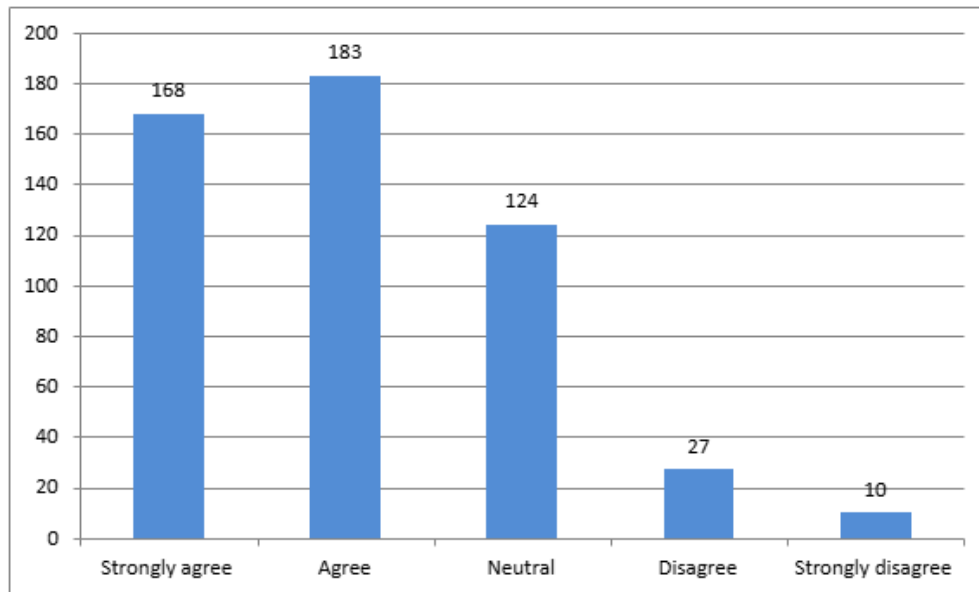
- B. Consider additional locations within existing parks that may be appropriate for fenced off-leash dog areas.



- Total written comments = 25
  - 7 comments suggested alternate locations including Alderbrook Natural Area, an unspecified elementary school, Children’s Park, Shively Park, and McClure Park.
  - 8 comments were in opposition citing cleanliness and safety for children.
  - 4 comments were in general support.

*Question #19 - Riverwalk Lighting*

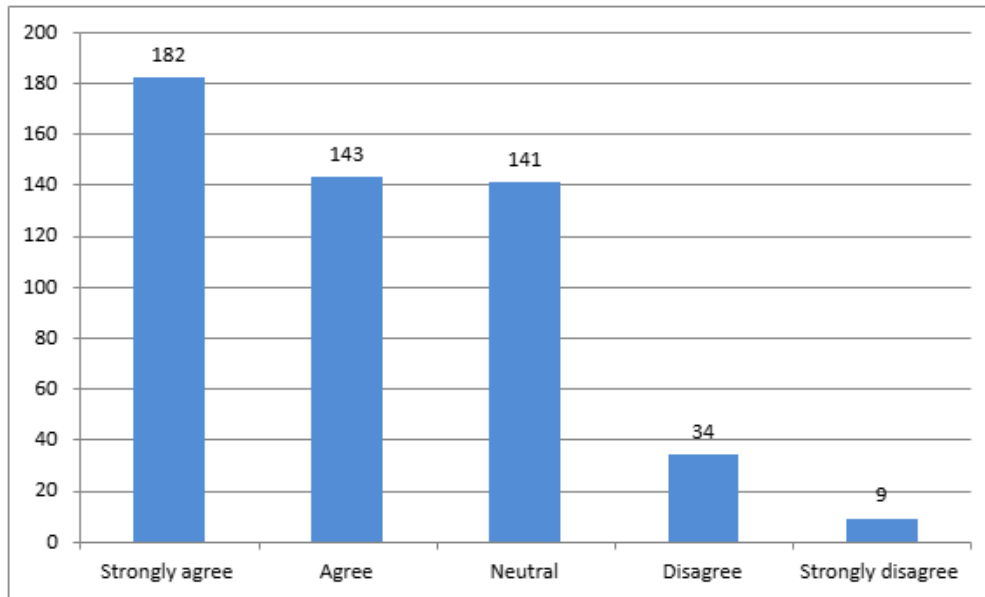
A. Complete lighting along the Riverwalk (east of 35th Street).



- Total written comments = 21
  - 5 respondents were concerned about impacts to wildlife.
  - 3 comments indicate this is a low priority.
  - 13 comments were in support and expressed that this should be a high priority to increase safety, particularly past East Mooring Basin and to Peir 39.

*Question #20 - Sport / Recreation Amenity Upgrades*

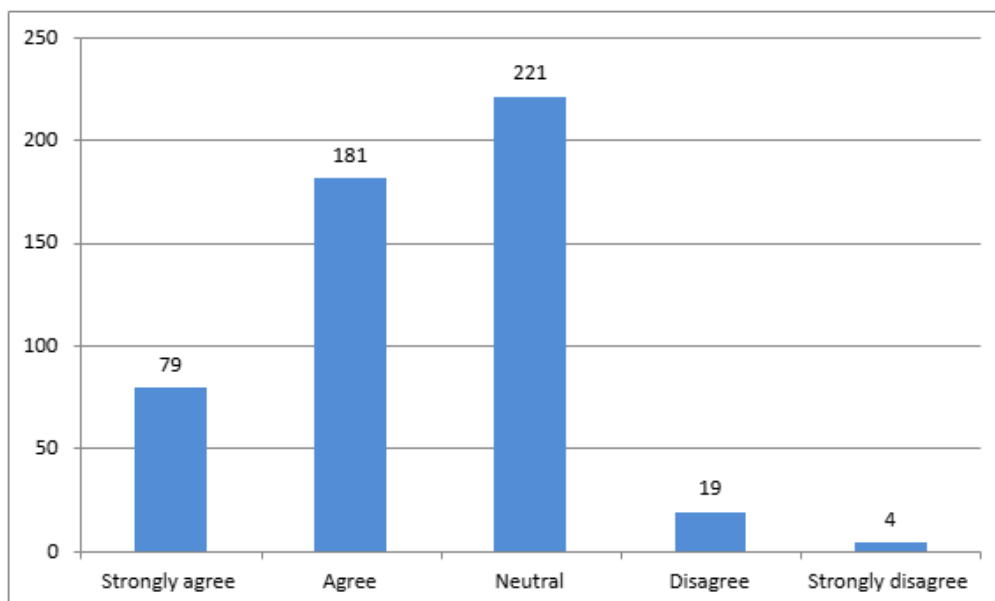
A. Add open-air shelter for existing play areas and/or sport courts (e.g., Tapiola Park basketball courts Niemi Field batting practice area, Lindstrom Park Pickleball/Tennis Courts, etc.).



- Total written comments = 36
  - 17 comments were in support. Respondents feel Astoria needs more covered play areas because of the rainy weather.
  - 4 commenters viewed this as a low priority.
  - 3 comments were concerned about use by those experiencing houselessness.
  - Other comments were regarding financial burden (opposed) or incorporating amenities like shuffleboard and pickleball (supportive).

*Question #21 - Planning Initiatives*

- A. Update Astoria Comprehensive Plan policies and maps related to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space element.

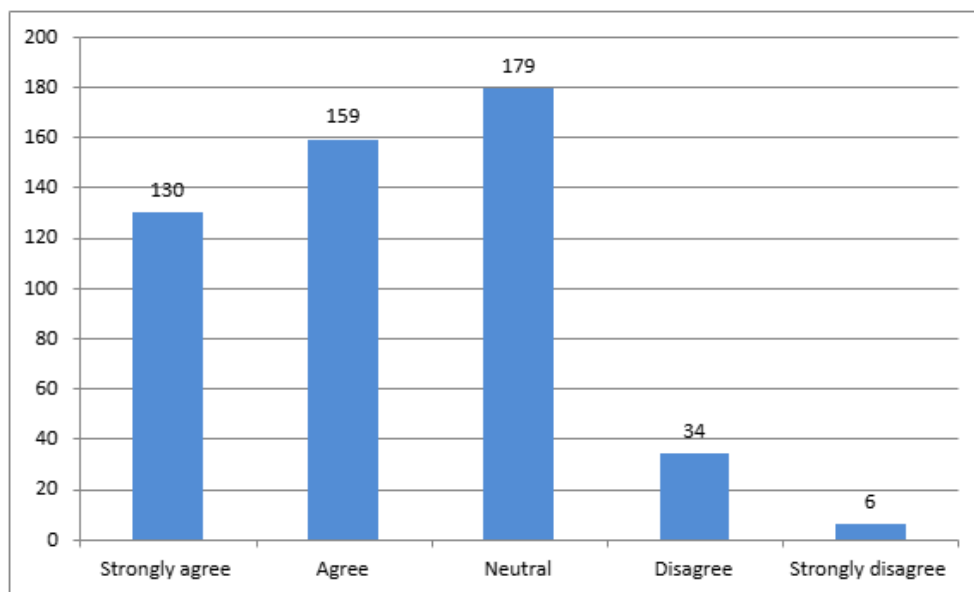


- Total written comments = 13

- 2 comments were in general support.
- 3 commenters were unsure what the recommendation meant.
- 6 comments were about funding or resource allocation. These respondents felt current employees should do this task, questioned how funding was being allocated, and were not supportive of using consultants.

*Question #22 - Planning Initiatives*

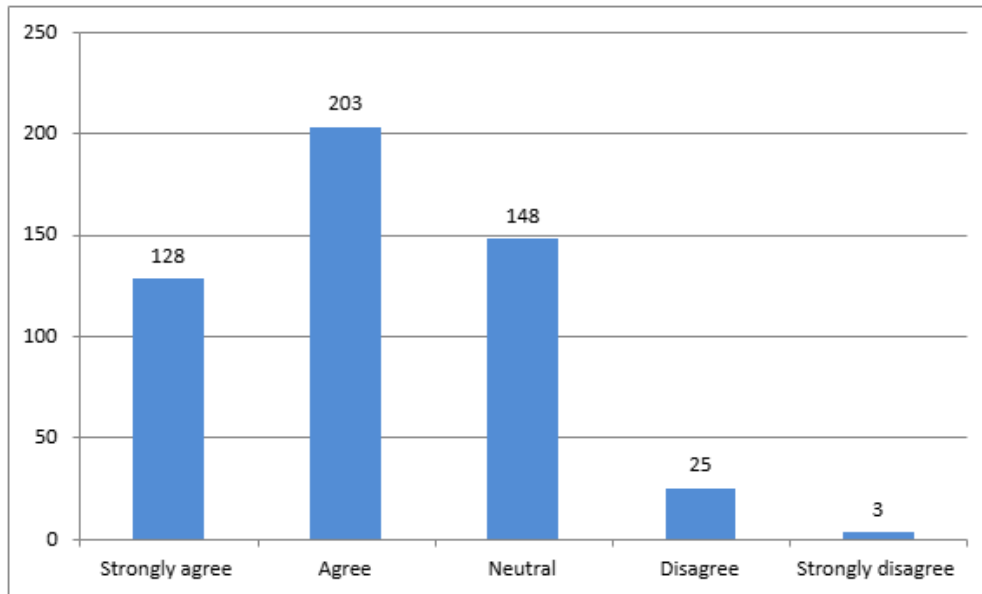
- B. Update 2013 Trails Master Plan.
- i. Evaluate potential new trail locations.
  - ii. Consider how to improve system-wide connectivity between parks and trails.
  - iii. Evaluate the feasibility of mountain biking trails in the City's Land Reserve areas surrounding Pipeline Road and Cathedral Tree Trail.
  - iv. Determine how to enhance signage at trailheads and trail connections.



- Total written comments = 22
  - 3 comments were about prohibiting bikes from trails.
  - 9 comments stated that this is a low priority or that the department should maintain existing assets first.
  - 4 comments were about investing in trails.

*Question #23 - Planning Initiatives*

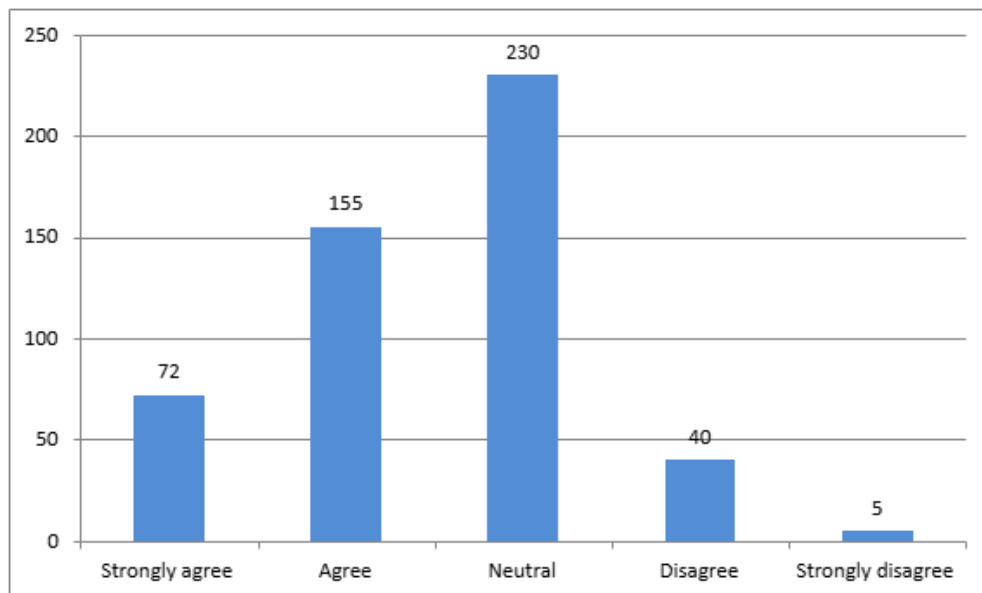
- C. Evaluate park and trail enhancement opportunities.
- i. Assess opportunities to enhance existing park sites and trails with additional amenities such as disc golf baskets, fitness stations, small skate park features, accessible play equipment, and picnic tables/shelters. As part of this effort, consider the specific needs and interests of older youth and teens.
  - ii. Ensure new amenities are maintenance friendly and do not require substantial effort beyond current maintenance levels.



- Total written comments = 17
  - 3 comments expressed a desire for disc golf.
  - Other comments stated that no additional enhancement is needed, were concerned about funding, expressed support for trails, and mentioned the Riverwalk specifically as needing benches or general enhancement (2).

*Question #24 - Planning Initiatives*

- D. Develop a comprehensive, system-wide wayfinding and signage plan.



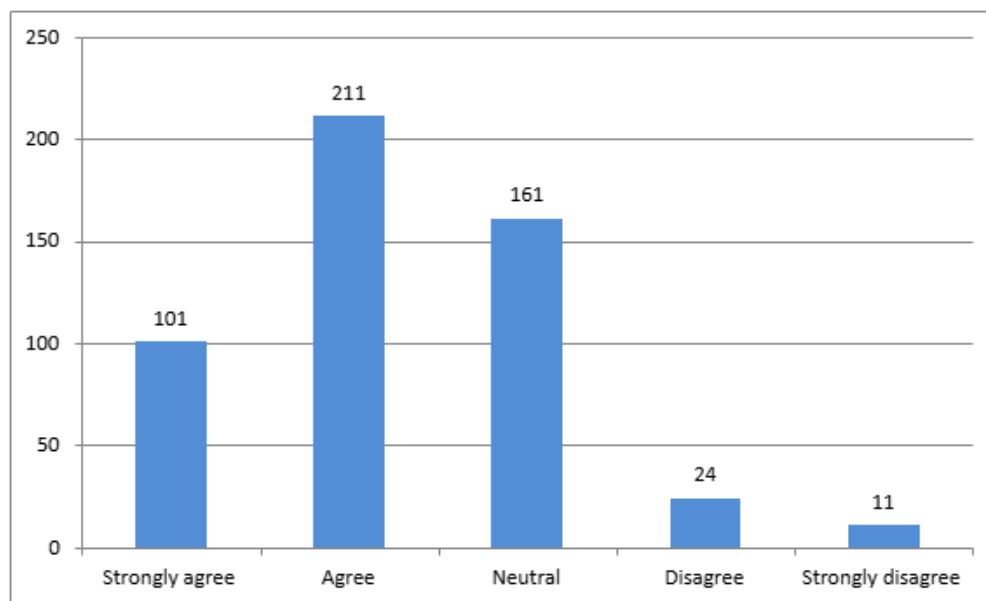
- Total written comments = 12
  - 8 comments stated this is a low priority.
  - 2 comments were in support and 1 noted new Title II regulations. Title II is a part of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and mandates that state and local governments,

including parks and recreation departments, ensure equal access to their programs and services for those with disabilities. Recent updates include web content, mobile apps, and digital documents in this requirement.

- 2 comments were about being careful with resource allocation.

*Question #25 - Planning Initiatives*

- E. Evaluate opportunities to improve Level of Service.
- Assess opportunities to improve access to parks and recreation for geographically underserved areas, including: 1. Emerald Heights. 2. South Slope (southeast portion).
  - Assess opportunities to improve ease of access to parks, trails, and recreation facilities city-wide: 1) Pedestrian access, including ADA; 2) Bicycle access and parking; and 3) Vehicle parking.



- Total written comments = 13
  - 3 comments cited Emerald Heights specifically (2 noting that Emerald Heights has parks, 1 noting It needs updated equipment).
  - 3 comments stated this is a low priority.
  - Other comments expressed that improving pedestrian safety is important, that more parking is needed, and that there is enough access (1) or more access would be beneficial (1).

*Question #26 - Do you have any additional thoughts or questions about the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update that you'd like to share? (143 responses total)*

- See Appendix, Table 1 for all written comments.
- 22 responses mentioned the need for indoor or covered recreation areas.
- 14 responses were about amenities, including playground amenities, sports amenities such as disc golf, climbing, skating, and table tennis, and access to dog waste bags.
- 11 general comments about accessibility including access for those with disabilities and affordability.

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- 11 comments were about the establishment of a dog park, with 2 being opposed for safety and cleanliness reasons, and 9 in favor. Those in favor noted possible alternate locations such as the baseball field at McClure Park and leasing waterfront commercial areas.
- Other topics included Aquatic Center hours and operations, Aquatic Center expansion, Heritage Square, houselessness, safety, parking, programs, volunteer maintenance, tourism, Port of Play, lighting, and funding.