

Olympia 2045 Parks, Arts and Recreation Chapter Public Survey

(self-selected, not statistically representative random survey)

Q1. How familiar are you with the services that Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation provides?

Options	Responses (94 responses, 0 skipped)	
Very	21	22.3%
Moderately	42	44.7%
Somewhat	27	28.7%
Slightly	2	2.1%
Not at all	2	2.1%

Q2. Draft "values" statement

"Olympians value the role parks, open space, recreation and art play in our lives; as these contribute to our sense of community, and to our physical, spiritual, economic, environmental and emotional well-being"

The draft "values" statement above incorporates input received from an earlier public survey. How do you feel about it?

Options	Responses (93 responses, 1 skipped)	
Great as written	72	77.4%
Needs some work	21	22.6%
Needs a complete rewrite	0	0.0%

Q3. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (21 responses, 73 skipped)

11 out of 21 responses were related to grammar, punctuation or sentence structure. The other 10 comments were about adding or emphasizing specific values, activity or focus areas. There wasn't any trends or themes that showed up.

Q4. Draft "vision for the future"

"A healthy, fun and enriching place to live for all Olympians."

The draft "vision for the future" statement above incorporates input received from an earlier public survey. How do you feel about it?

Options	Responses (93 responses, 1 skipped)	
Great as written	61	65.6%
Needs some work	28	30.1%
Needs a complete rewrite	4	4.3%

Q5. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (30 responses, 64 skipped)

Themes in responses were around adding safety (5), diversity/inclusive/accessible (9), and climate/nature/trees (5) language to the “vision for the future.”

Q6. Draft introduction paragraph

"Olympia's great parks, vibrant arts community, and many recreation and activity programs enrich our lives and strengthen our connection to the community. City of Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation stewards 53 parks, which serve as community gathering places, contribute to a neighborhood's character and sense of place, and make positive impacts on our environment. We offer hundreds of recreation classes, camps, and programs each year, which build community, improve individual health and support the local economy. We make investments in public art that contribute to a creative, vibrant community, with Olympia's bi-annual Arts Walk events celebrating the arts as a defining characteristic of our community."

The draft introduction paragraph above was based on the recently adopted 2022 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan. How do you feel about it?

Options	Responses (93 responses, 1 skipped)	
Great as written	62	66.7%
Needs some work	29	31.2%
Needs a complete rewrite	2	2.2%

Q7. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (31 responses, 63 skipped)

Many responses focused on the sentence structure, grammar and punctuation as having flaws. Some themes were – remove “Arts Walk” from the paragraph (too specific), add more about access and inclusive events/facilities and climate.

Draft Challenges and Opportunities

The following draft statements regarding challenges and opportunities that Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation will face over the next 20 years are based on the adopted 2022 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan. Please tell us how you feel about each.

Q8. Public needs to feel safe and secure in parks and facilities

"While strategies enacted since the last plan have been effective in reducing the incidence of unsafe behavior in parks, facilities and services, there is still work to do to create a welcoming environment where all visitors feel safe and that they belong."

How do you feel about the above statement?

Options	Responses (92 responses, 2 skipped)	
Great as written	66	71.7%
Needs some work	24	26.1%
Needs a complete rewrite	2	2.2%

Q9. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (26 responses, 68 skipped)

Majority of responses were not satisfied with the statement due to vague, unrealistic or interpretation or use of specific words. A common topic in the responses was around houseless individuals and how this statement applies to their situation.

Q10. Public demand for new parks and arts exceeds resources

"Many of the most desired new park projects in Olympia will each cost tens of millions of dollars. These "mega projects" include Percival Landing reconstruction, completing the final two phases of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, developing West Bay Park and Trail, developing the Armory Creative Campus, and developing a community park at the Yelm Highway park site."

How do you feel about the above statement?

Options	Responses (92 responses, 2 skipped)	
Great as written	64	69.6%
Needs some work	24	26.1%
Needs a complete rewrite	4	4.3%

Q11. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (25 responses, 69 skipped)

Respondents want clarification on how/why these projects became a priority and why there isn't funding for them. Some concern around raising taxes. 5 comments around adding athletic/sports facilities. 3 were general, 2 were specific (Aquatic/pickleball).

Q12. Population growth creating demand for new park land

"Population is a key factor used to project needs for future parks, arts and recreation programs and facilities. As our population increases we will need more parks and open space to meet current service standards, yet less land and fewer large parcels are available."

How do you feel about the above statement?

Options	Responses (90 responses, 4 skipped)	
Great as written	63	70.0%
Needs some work	24	26.7%
Needs a complete rewrite	3	3.3%

Q13. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (26 responses, 68 skipped)

There is a clear desire to have some solutions built into this challenge. Ideas around evolving or being innovative to address the needs. Inclusion of programs and facilities too.

Q14. Climate change impacts and action

"Climate change is impacting Olympia's parks and recreation activities. From sea level rise to frequent extreme weather events, we must mitigate these impacts and build a climate resilient parks system that will serve generations to come."

How do you feel about the above statement?

Options	Responses (92 responses, 2 skipped)	
Great as written	77	83.7%
Needs some work	13	14.1%
Needs a complete rewrite	2	2.2%

Q15. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (15 responses, 79 skipped)

Some thought this was too vague or might push people away. A few comments were around specific examples such as preserving forested areas and properly designed facilities.

Q16. The immediate need to undo institutional injustice in Parks, Arts and Recreation services

"Equity, inclusion and belonging needs to be centered in parks, arts and recreation. We recognize our equity journey will present challenges and we commit to the responsibility to face these challenges while building the capacity and accountability resources to embed equity, inclusion and belonging in our daily practices and decision making. We will continually analyze the political, economic, sociodemographic, technological, legal, and environmental challenges facing our work. This will require continually developing solutions and mitigating strategies for the challenges."

How do you feel about the above statement?

Options	Responses (87 responses, 7 skipped)	
Great as written	55	63.2%
Needs some work	20	23.0%
Needs a complete rewrite	12	13.8%

Q17. What would you change, remove or add?

Responses Summary (30 responses, 64 skipped)

The comments were mostly focused on wanting clarity and specific language. Many people thought the statement was a collage of buzzwords and not sincere.

Q18. Please prioritize the following 5 challenge areas within Parks, Arts and Recreation with 1 being the highest priority, and 5 being the lowest priority.

Options	Response (93 responses, 1 skipped)
Increased safety in parks and facilities	2.5
Acquiring new park land for future growth	2.87
Climate resilience and mitigation work	3.12
Development of “mega projects”	3.12
Equity, inclusion and belonging work	3.37

Q19. Do you feel like you are welcome and belong in Olympia parks, arts events/programs and recreation facilities and activities?

Options	Responses (93 responses, 1 skipped)	
Yes	81	87.1%
Not always	12	12.9%
Never	0	0.0%

Q20. Please describe what a park, arts event or recreation program would look like to foster a sense of belonging for you?

Responses Summary (12 responses, 82 skipped)

Themes around inclusivity and accessibility. Specifically called out for low income, disabled, non-gender specific sports, Latino, alternative schedule.

Q21. Do you feel safe in Olympia parks?

Options	Responses (94 responses, 0 skipped)	
Yes	49	52.1%
Not always	44	46.8%
Never	1	1.1%

Q22. Please describe where you do not feel safe and what would make you feel safer.

Responses Summary (41 responses, 53 skipped)

Common locations mentioned Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, Percival Landing, Capitol Lake, Watershed and Yauger. Majority of concerns are around unhoused people, encampments and drug use.

Q23. What role do you feel Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation should have in addressing climate change? (Select all that apply)

Options	Responses
Education	57
Reducing carbon (electrification, carbon sequestration)	67
Urban agriculture	49
Other	20

Overall Summary:

Overall the themes and trends that were in the written portion of the survey were around safety, homelessness, accessibility and access, climate, equity, diversity, nature and sports facilities. Other consistent comments were related to punctuation, grammar and syntax. Some of the comments expressed a distrust of government, goals and policies.